



British Pharmaceutical Students' Association
The Official Student Organisation of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society

Violence Against Women Statement

Dear members,

Along with many of you, as an Executive we are shocked and saddened by the tragic death of Sarah Everard which has highlighted the challenges faced by women every day, and the need for change in the world we live in. Our thoughts are with Sarah's friends and family, and those affected by similar situations. Violence against women is a violation of women's human rights. The Association stands with you, and will continue to call out the inequalities within society, as well as work on our policies voted on by delegates at Annual Conferences. We encourage our members to raise further motions on women's rights to help continue to shape the work of the Association. Current motions include:

- This Association believes that Pharmacy Schools should do more to teach students about safeguarding. (2018)
- This Association believes that pharmacy students should advocate for, and be educated on, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. (2019)

We are proud to be members of a profession that has recently stepped up to support domestic abuse victims through launching the 'Ask for ANI' scheme in many community pharmacies, and ensuring that we can provide a safe space with open doors. We also understand that we must continue to strive for a safer society, including one where women feel safe walking the streets.

Over the coming weeks and months, we will assess the work we do as an Association, and evaluate areas in which we can improve to ensure women's rights are included. This includes ensuring all women feel safe at all times at our events which will involve a 'Feel Safe' pledge so that there will always be someone any woman can turn to if they feel the need.

Whilst we strive to create a society where everyone is and feels safe, we also want to ensure all of our members have information to hand if ever needed during a difficult situation. We are working on collating resources and information to run a campaign which will include signposting to services, organisations and emergency help, and information to help men understand what they can do to ensure that women feel safe. Precautions and measures should not be required to feel safe; however, as we work towards a society where this is a reality, the right resources and information being available and well-known could make the difference in saving a life and/or protecting others.

If you have been affected by the recent events or similar situations, we encourage you to reach out to charities and organisations that can offer support if needed. We would like to take this opportunity to highlight the charity Pharmacist Support and the work they do for our members and the profession. More information can be found at <https://pharmacistsupport.org>.

Yours Sincerely,

On behalf of the British Pharmaceutical Students' Association

Sean Brannen
President 2020 - 2021

Bella Shah
Vice President 2020 - 2021