



Statement in Support of Kenyan Junior Doctors from the Junior Doctors Network (JDN) of the World Medical Association

The Junior Doctors Network (JDN) of the World Medical Association (WMA), stands in solidarity with the junior doctors of Kenya during these challenging times. Our commitment is to uphold the dignity, rights, and welfare of all physicians across the globe, and it is within this nature that we issue the following statement.

Current Challenges

For the past month, junior doctors in Kenya have faced undue force from law enforcement officers during the “Medics for Kenya” medical camps and the “Maandamano” demonstration. They have been subjected to intimidation and unwarranted abductions. Additionally, as of 8 July 2024, junior doctors awaiting their compulsory one-year licensing internships have held camps outside the Kenyan health ministry as they await their deployment to their duty stations. Many of these doctors have been waiting for more than one year for this posting, contrary to their medical regulations of a one-month waiting period.

Right to Collective Action

[The World Medical Association had previously expressed its deep concerns about the violence at the protests in Kenya](#) and recognized the right for physicians to participate in collective action, as a legitimate means to advocate for better working conditions, patient care, and the overall health of the communities they serve. Furthermore, the [WMA Statement on the Ethical Implications of Collective Action by Physicians](#) outlines the ethical framework within which such actions should be undertaken, emphasizing the balance between physicians' duties to their patients and their rights as professionals and employees.

Impact on Healthcare

The healthcare system in Kenya, like many others around the world, relies heavily on the dedication and hard work of its junior doctors. Despite their critical role, these professionals face significant challenges, including inadequate remuneration, insufficient resources, and poor working conditions.



These issues not only compromise the well-being and safety of the doctors but also directly impact the quality of care provided to patients.

Call to Action

Junior doctors in Kenya have repeatedly raised their concerns, seeking constructive dialogue and sustainable solutions. Unfortunately, their calls for action have not been adequately addressed, pushing them to strike on the streets. We recognize that a strike is always a last resort and reflects a serious breakdown in negotiations and trust between healthcare professionals and the authorities.

With the aforementioned considered, the Junior Doctors Network:

1. Urge the Kenyan government and relevant stakeholders to prioritize the resolution of this crisis through meaningful engagement with the junior doctors. It is imperative to address their legitimate concerns, including fair wages, adequate staffing, and improved working conditions. Ensuring the health and well-being of healthcare professionals is crucial for the sustainability of the healthcare system and the delivery of high-quality patient care.
2. Call on the global medical community to stand in solidarity with the junior doctors in Kenya. The challenges they face are not isolated but are part of broader systemic issues affecting healthcare workers worldwide. By supporting their struggle, we advocate for a just and equitable healthcare environment for all.

The Junior Doctors Network (JDN) remains committed to advocating for the rights and well-being of junior doctors worldwide and calls for a resolution to the situation. We hope for a swift and amicable resolution to the current stalemate, ensuring that the healthcare system can continue to function effectively and provide the necessary care for the people of Kenya.

About the World Medical Association Junior Doctors Network (WMA JDN)

The Junior Doctors Network (JDN) serves as an international platform for junior doctors to facilitate an open dialogue of global events and activities that are relevant to their postgraduate training and the World Medical Association (WMA). Its mission is to empower young physicians to work together towards a healthier world through advocacy, education, and international collaboration. You can learn more about the WMA JDN [here](#) or contact us on chair.jdn@wma.net.