



Supporting junior doctors in West Bengal Region, India

Message from the Junior Doctors Network (JDN) of the World Medical Association (WMA)

October 2024

The JDN of the WMA stands in solidarity with our colleagues in West Bengal, India, who have begun an indefinite hunger strike. This protest, now in its 15th day, highlights the ongoing demands for justice following the brutal rape and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital on 9th of August 2024. The demands for better safety, accountability and infrastructure within the healthcare system reflect not only the need for immediate safety improvements, but also for systemic reform that ensures the protection and dignity of all healthcare workers.

In the previous JDN message of [support of Indian and Nigerian Junior Doctors](#), the JDN unequivocally condemned acts of violence against health workers, especially women. We reiterate this condemnation in light of the recent incident in West Bengal and emphasise our call for zero tolerance of violence in any form against doctors. The junior doctors' demand for a transparent investigation, enhanced security measures and infrastructure improvements is crucial to ensure a safe working environment for health professionals.

As the hunger strike continues, we urge the West Bengal government to engage constructively with the doctors' representatives and prioritise the urgent resolution of this situation to prevent further harm. We join calls for the immediate attention of local and national authorities to the deteriorating health of the protesting doctors and to respond to their demands with the urgency they deserve.

The WMA and its JDN remain committed to the safety and security of health workers worldwide, and we reaffirm our support for our colleagues in India at this critical time. Together we stand against violence and for the protection of health workers everywhere.