



Medica Afghanistan

Press Release

10/10/2019

There can be no condition that gives the gynecological examinations the scientific and legal basis

Medica Afghanistan is a non-profit, non-governmental Afghan women's organization working to eliminate violence against women. We seek to improve the quality of women's lives by providing legal aid, psychosocial counseling, and public advocacy, while also raising awareness and building capacity in the fields of health, education, and law

Since 2017, Medica Afghanistan started its advocacy to prohibit gynecological examinations and prevent the physical and psychological torture of women and girls.

Such examinations are inherently a form of gender-based violence and a crime of torture, under the Afghanistan Penal Code, as they are perpetrated by public service officers through their acquiescence, consent or silence, and causing severe physical or mental pain. From a medical point of view, these examinations have no scientific basis, and numerous researches have proven that they are unfounded. When these examinations have no scientific or medical basis, then how can the judicial system rely on these examinations and invoke them to convict and punish a person? This is an inhumane act.

To quote one of the victims of these examinations:

"It ended like a rape to me, I'll never forget."

There can be no condition that gives these examinations the scientific and legal basis, neither the consent of the woman nor the judgment of the court.

The judiciary bodies cannot, on their suspicion, resort to such verdicts or order, and cause torture and violence against women and girls, which is itself illegal. In view of the foregoing, such examinations shall be wholly prohibited.

See the link below for more information:

[MA Position Paper- Amendments to Article 640 of PC](#)

[MA Conference Report – Justice for victims of Virginity testing](#)

[MA Amendments to Article 640 of PC](#)