



Royal College of
Obstetricians &
Gynaecologists

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**FACULTY OF
PUBLIC HEALTH**

The Rt. Hon Rory Stewart MP
Secretary of State for International Development
22 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2EG

15 May 2019

Dear Secretary of State,

RE: Reducing global maternal mortality and achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Secretary of State for International Development. We are writing on behalf of The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the UK Faculty of Public Health, to ask that the Department for International Development considers how tranexamic acid can substantially reduce global maternal mortality.

Post-partum haemorrhage is the leading cause of maternal death worldwide and is responsible for 50,000-100,000 deaths per annum. Tranexamic acid, an inexpensive and generic treatment, can prevent post-partum haemorrhage by one third, and is administered intravenously when bleeding occurs.

This treatment is both a cost-effective and practical solution to reducing global maternal mortality. It does not require cold chain storage or transport and has a long shelf life. Its use for reducing post-partum haemorrhage is supported by the WOMAN trial, published in the Lancet in 2017, which recruited over 20,000 women. The results of this trial have been endorsed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and tranexamic acid is included in their treatment guidelines for post-partum haemorrhage.

The success of this trial and endorsement from the WHO now means that governments must act to ensure that this treatment is readily available. Many governments around the world remain unaware of the significant benefits of the use of tranexamic acid leading to a lack of availability in those countries where the need is greatest.

Earlier this week the Faculty of Public Health held its first Bazalgette lecture, which celebrates turning major research into practice. As Secretary of State we hope that you will commit to bringing this issue to the attention of governments worldwide to support the UK's ambition to deliver the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

We would be pleased to provide information and meet with you at your convenience to discuss this issue in more detail.

With best wishes,

Professor John Middleton
President of the Faculty of Public Health

Professor Lesley Regan
President, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
& Honorary Secretary, International Federation of Gynaecology & Obstetrics

Working to improve the public's health

4 St Andrews Place, London NW1 4LB
E: mailto:president@fph.org.uk T: +44 (0) 20 3696 1463 W: www.fph.org.uk
Registered Charity No: 263894