

Petition - PE1517: Scottish Mesh Survivors "Hear Our Voice" Polypropylene Mesh Medical Devices

After more than a decade of campaigning, and eight years going through the Scottish Parliament, we are extremely proud to say that we have finally closed our petition on transvaginal mesh implants after achieving everything we set out to do, and more.

Scotland has effectively banned transvaginal mesh implants, we have secured a promise from Former Health Secretary Jeane Freeman and current Health Secretary Humza Yousaf they will not be reintroduced. We have found our concerns about the effectiveness and safety of these implants have been upheld, and we have secured treatment pathways for injured women who can attend surgeons of their own choice for mesh removal, including overseas to Dr Dionysios Veronikis, with all expenses paid by the Scottish Government.

We have secured agreement that there will be a Patient Safety Commissioner for Scotland appointed, we have secured agreement that the recommendations of the Cumberlege Review will be implemented by Scotland, and that a register will be established so an early warning system is in place to prevent such future tragedies.

To achieve all we have, we have had tremendous support from injured women and their families who gave their time and powerful testimony to protest and tell their harrowing stories.

We have had support from every political party in Scotland, including the incalculable help from our Three Meshketeers; Former Health Secretary Alex Neil, Former Labour MSP Neil Findlay and Scottish Conservative MSP Jackson Carlaw.

We asked the Public Petitions Committee to "Hear Our Voice" and they certainly did. Sincere thanks to all Members, past and present, Former Convener Johann Lamont who never gave up on us, and the Clerks, who kept us informed and guided us. There are two non-Committee Members we owe huge gratitude to; Former Scottish Conservative MSP John Scott who attended every Committee meeting and offered invaluable contributions and Former Labour Senior Researcher Dr Tommy Kane who helped us with our petition, and was always there with supportive words if ever we wavered.

The Sunday Post and the editorial team there have supported us from day one. Without their Chief Reporter and multi-award winning journalist Marion Scott, we would still be voices in the wilderness. Her support, encouragement and friendship has kept us going – she is one of us. Our success is a powerful example of just what can be achieved by ordinary people who have a just cause and are determined to fight for justice.

We have made many wonderful supporters and allies along the way, too many to mention every single one of them, but we must make a special mention of Dr Wael Agur who has been a bright shining light in his determination to find a way forward for treatment without using mesh. We haven't always agreed with him but we have the utmost respect for him. He listened to us and wasn't afraid to put his head above the parapet. Thank you Dr Agur, we wish there were more doctors like you.

Special thanks too to the whole team at Thompsons Solicitors Scotland, Patrick McGuire and Amy Haughton who have gone above and beyond their duties to support and advise us.

Most of all, our thanks to our wonderful families and to the women themselves who have stood in the rain and wind at 7 o'clock in the morning to protest and get our message across and who have sat side by side with us in Holyrood with us on numerous occasions.

We have raised awareness not just in Scotland but also across the UK and around the world. And we hope our determined campaign will change the way women's health issues will be dealt with in future.

Thank you everyone for all your contributions.

Elaine & Olive

“Mesh is an avoidable risk – it is a lifetime risk”

Source: Dr Wael Agur