



SHABANA AZMI
MP - MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
RAJYA SABHA

Dear Colleagues,

The burden of cervical cancer is high in our country – cancer wards are full, yet we know that many women still suffer alone, far from any help our health system can offer. When these women pass away, the loss is community – wide. Although our country has been committed to end this disease for some time, we have not had the appropriate tools, until now.

Today, vaccines for girls, and new and improved screening and treatment for all women, provide the opportunity to realize our commitment. News stories about the new vaccines have spurred widespread interest in cervical cancer in our country – health providers, the media, NGOs and others are all talking about it. We see potential for new partnerships between sectors (health and education) and NGOs (women health, cancer, youth, HIV) focusing on this issue.

We are not naïve about the challenges of improving vaccination and screening in our country, but we share your commitment to find new ways to make this vaccine work for the girls and women of our country. We extend our hope that the WHO, the GAVI Alliance, and others also will do their part so that these vaccines and screening technologies can become accessible in our country as quickly as possible.

We hope to share with you in matching the opportunity of technology with our collective vision and leadership.

Best regards,

Shabana Azmi

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