

**Audience questions from the ICMDA webinar with  
Dr Rachael Pickering - Ethical management of torture & ill-  
treatment cases around the world  
6 April 2023**

1. Rod: Do you find working remotely online throws up more ethical issues, e.g. limited ability to provide emotional support, or working in different legal jurisdictions?
2. Mark: Do you find it harder to address issues of ill treatment in a high income country, or a low/middle income one, when you come across it?
3. Laura: Do you have any further comments on the 'biology of blame' for criminal behaviour, and considerations around ability to consent to other things for persons with brain injury or cognitive challenges? Can medical consent assessments be used as part of advocacy?
4. Anonymous: I just wanted to ask how you personally are able to show Christian kindness and compassion to the perpetrators of torture and ill-treatment without demonising them (as the press and society generally do), mindful that many abusers have been abused themselves and that 'hurt people hurt people'?
5. Anonymous: You have used the phrase "A few bad apples" a number of times. How does this line up with 'supportive culture'? I may be cynical but I'm not sure that in places where these horrible things happen it can be attributed to 'a few bad apples'. Is it not more commonly an endemic problem and if so, is dealing with it on a case-by-case basis likely to be ineffective?
6. Shari: Is female circumcision considered torture? If not, why not?
7. Shari: If saying something about the torture a person has experienced puts them and/or others such as their family at increased risk, how do you balance the ethical issues involved and decide whether to say something or just shut up and pray?
8. Laura: Do you also have any advice on advocating for patients who others may not consider the 'perfect victim' due compassion (sweet and innocent of wrongdoing)?
9. Shari: How do you interpret the Bible's commands to kill those who take another's life if there are 2 or more witnesses, etc. with eliminating the death penalty?
10. Anonymous: What do you answer to Christians in e.g. the USA who with conviction support capital punishment? I have found this personally very troubling: agreement on most of what the Christian faith entails, but profound disagreement on this issue, which, given the enormity of it, makes it very hard to recognise, accept and welcome them as brothers and sisters in Christ IMO.
11. Anonymous: There is intentional harassment to minorities in India, especially the Christians and Muslims. How can international pressure be mounted to stop such persecution in India?