On February 27, 2018, the Nursing Now global initiative launched events around the world, representing more than 30 countries. Nursing leaders, government officials, and professional nursing organizations pledged their support to take action on raising the profile and status of nursing across the globe. The global three-year campaign in collaboration with the International Council of Nurses (ICN) and the World Health Organization (WHO), set to end on the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale’s birth, aims at improving health globally by influencing policymakers and supporting nurses to enhance nursing’s role.

As countries around the globe face challenges in healthcare due to scarce resources, nurses as a critical force, have the potential to be the solution. By the year 2020, the campaign is working to achieve 5 main goals (Nursing Now, 2018):

1. Greater investment in improving education, professional development, standards, regulation and employment conditions for nurses

2. Increased and improved dissemination of effective and innovative practice in nursing

3. Greater influence for nurses and midwives on global and national health policy, as part of broader efforts to ensure health workforces are more involved in decision-making

“Nurses are the answer but we need real investment and support...”
4. More nurses in leadership positions and more opportunities for development at all levels

5. More evidence for policy and decision markets about: where nursing can have the greatest impact, what is stopping nurses from reaching their full potential and how to address these obstacles

In addition, the Nursing Now Campaign has pledged to pursue five main programme activities until the end of its campaign in the areas of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Evidence of Impact, Leadership and Development, The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Sharing Effective Practice. The global nursing campaign launched in London was attended by Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cambridge who will serve as Patron of the initiative.


ICN Singapore 2019

The International Council of Nurses is preparing for the world’s largest international event for nurses. With the theme Beyond Healthcare to Health, ICN 2019 will take place from 27 June to 1 July 2019 at Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Centre in Singapore, hosted by the Singapore Nurses Association (SNA). This international gathering of thousands of nurses will explore the many ways in which nurses work to achieve universal access to health, not only providing health care but also addressing the social determinants of health, such as education, gender equality, poverty, etc. The Congress will provide opportunities for nurses to build relationships and to disseminate nursing knowledge and leadership across specialties, cultures and countries.

“The Singapore Nurses Association is very happy to host the prestigious ICN 2019 Congress in Singapore,” announced Professor Lim Swee Hia, President of the SNA. “It is a good opportunity for global nursing leaders to forge valuable networking, gain new insights, create mind-stimulating experiences, inspiration and strategies. We looked forward to seeing all of you in Singapore!”

Following on from the success of ICN 2017 in Barcelona, Spain, which gathered over 8,000 nurses, ICN 2019 will feature high level keynote speakers, interactive Policy Cafés, symposiums, concurrent sessions, posters and many networking opportunities

The Council of National Nursing Association Representatives, ICN’s global governing body, will convene just prior to the Congress, offering Congress participants who are members of ICN member associations the opportunity to observe global nursing leaders identify the profession’s priorities and future directions.

A Save the Date has been issued and the Call for Abstracts for ICN 2019 will be released in the next couple of months. Further information and regular updates on the Congress programme will be posted on the ICN website, www.icn.ch

UN Global Compact for Migration

On February 5, 2018, the Heads of State and Government and High Representatives, released its ZERO Draft to enhance cooperation on international migration in all its dimensions, and thereby adopting the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. As the first multinational, multi-sectoral effort created by the international community, the Compact was formed after the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants in September 2016.

The Compact, in alignment with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, calls for the facilitation of orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies. Furthermore, the Compact rests on a set of principles that encompass national sovereignty, sustainable development, gender-responsive and international cooperation, to name a few.

The main objectives in the cooperative framework that affect migrant nurses are the ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work, and the investment in skills development and recognition of skills, qualifications and competencies. Ethical recruitment practices are instrumental in the fight against all forms of abuse and exploitation. Additionally, the commitment to invest in more innovative solutions for the recognition of migrants’ skills, qualifications and competencies through the development of global standards and harmonization of National Qualification Frameworks, will permit migrant nurses to contribute to society in their full capacity regardless of their physical location.

For more information of the UN Global Compact for Migration and the latest ZERO Report, please visit: https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/180205_gcm_zero_draft_final.pdf


PAHO Launches New Study on Migration on Health Professionals in the Caribbean

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Region of the Americas division of the World Health Organization (WHO) has launched a new study on the migration of health workers in the Caribbean. The study targets 16 CARICOM countries including, Jamaica, Trinidad, Belize, and Suriname to name a few, and will be conducted over a three-month period.
The study will be used to shape policy on health workforce migration in the region and its relation to the implementation of WHO/PAHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel. Migration and shortages in the region continue to significantly impact health systems and their services, specifically their quality and sustainability. With factors such as better working conditions and higher salaries abroad as the main culprits, PAHO is urging countries to increase investment in their health systems in order to combat the shortage. Currently, PAHO estimates nearly 800,000 shortages of health workers in the Americas Region.


Singapore Launches Fully Sponsored Nursing Programme

The Singapore Ministry of Health in accordance with Workforce Singapore (WSG) and the National University of Singapore’s Alice Centre for Nursing Studies have launched a new degree level programme to help mid-career Singaporeans pursue nursing as a career. The two-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, also known as Professional Conversion Programme for Register Nurses, is aimed at providing mid-career Singaporeans the opportunity to pursue nursing with a prior degree qualification in any other discipline.

The Ministry of Health and Workforce Singapore announced the course fees will be fully sponsored and trainees will receiving monthly training allowances based on their years of prior work experience. Upon successful completion of the degree, a career transition bonus will be provided to the graduate, in addition to a on-the-job training incentive to employers. With a growing shortage in nursing, Ministry officials hope to reinforce their healthcare workforce, and build a strong local core of nurses to combat an aging population and rise in chronic diseases.


The European Federation of Nurses Association Meets EU Commissioner for Health

The European Federation of Nurses Association (EFN) President Elizabeth Adams and EFN Secretary General Paul De Raeve met with EU Commissioner for Health, Vytenis Andriukaitis, to discuss the future work of the EU Commission on the European Pillar of Social Rights in relation to the position of nurses and nursing in the EU. The European Pillar of Social Rights is a set of 20 principles
and rights categorized by equal opportunities and access to the labour market, fair working conditions, and social protection and inclusion. Additionally, the principles will include issues such as the right to fair wages, the right to health care, lifelong learning and gender equality.

The Commissioner, EFN President and EFN Secretary General discussed the overwhelming concern for nurses and the nursing profession in the EU. Under principle sixteen of the European Social Pillar, key priorities such as education, eHealth, wages, workload and nursing research will be addressed. Currently, 3 million EFN represented EU nurses and 6 million nurses in the EU face challenging times.


Number of Men in Nursing Increases with Growing Demand in Industry in the U.S.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the number of men in the nursing field has tripled since the 1970s and men now account for 13 percent of the nursing workforce. Due to predicted shortages in the nursing field, recruitment has increased and increasing continues to include men who are helping re-define a profession once dominated by women. The factors behind the increase of men in the nursing profession are due to nursing growing faster than the average occupation in the U.S., and expanding gender role and a changing economy.


Nursing Disciplines Requiring Advanced Degree on the Rise

Ever since the release of the Institute of Medicine (IOM), now known as the National Academy of Medicine, released its report “The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health” in 2010, nursing professions have required advanced degrees for advanced practice nursing specialties. The report recommends that all entry-level nurses hold a bachelor’s degree by the year 2020 and that the amount of nurses holding a doctorate, double. This has led to an increase in the number of schools of nursing around the United States to launch Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) programs. Many of the DNP programs are structured to path BSN degree holders to DNPs, as well as MSN practitioners to earn their doctorate.