



COMMONWEALTH NURSES AND MIDWIVES FEDERATION

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Botswana's new Mental Health Bill

The CNMF mental health legislation project, funded by the Commonwealth Foundation, involved working with two Commonwealth countries, the Seychelles and Botswana, to reform their mental health legislation

The project in both countries resulted in a recommendation, which was accepted by Government, to write new legislation as the existing legislation was considered unsuitable for amendment. In the Seychelles, new mental health legislation has already been submitted to Parliament.



Seychelles National Mental Health Advisory Committee meeting with the Seychelles Minister for Health.

In Botswana, a series of stakeholder meetings with mental health personnel, members of the judiciary, and civil society organisations, were held in July to finalise the drafting instructions for the new Bill. These drafting instructions have now been submitted to the Ministry of Health and forwarded to the Attorney General's Office for new legislation to be drafted. It is anticipated the new legislation will be submitted to Parliament early 2019.



Members of the Botswana National Mental Health Advisory Committee meeting with the Botswana Minister for Health.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The United Nations on the Convention of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) is the "gold standard" for mental health legislation. The CRPD was adopted by the UN of 13 December 2006, opened for signature and ratification on 30 March 2007, and came into force on 3 May 2008. So far, 177 countries have ratified the CRPD. Has your country signed the CRPD? To find out, go to:

https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-15&chapter=4&clang=en

The CRPD is a legally binding international treaty. Countries which have ratified the CRPD are required to "adopt all appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognised in the CRPD" and to "take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to modify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs and practices that constitute discrimination against persons with disabilities". For a copy of the CRPD go to:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html>.

The CRPD is rights based. It marks a paradigm shift where persons with disabilities are no longer viewed as objects of charity but as active members of society, in control of their own lives, with free and informed consent, and with the same rights to participation, engagement and inclusion on an equal basis to every other person. The CRPD contains a wide range of 'rights' in areas such as health, education, employment, access to justice, personal security, independent living in the community, and access to information.

The CNMF mental health legislation project assesses a country's mental health legislation against the CRPD and makes recommendations for reform if required. The WHO report that few countries have a legal framework that adequately protects the rights of people with mental disabilities, and that policy and practice needs to be based on a sound legal framework. Mental health legislation when formulated according to human rights principles, can address access to care; rehabilitation; integration into the community, the promotion of mental health; and the prevention of stigma, discrimination and marginalisation.



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CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

13th CNMF Europe Region Conference

8-9 March 2019

St Paul's Bay Malta

For further information on 'Call for Abstracts' and registration go to:
<http://www.commonwealthnurses.org>

 **13th European Regional Conference**
The Commonwealth Nurses & Midwives Federation
MALTA Friday - Saturday - 8th & 9th March 2019

The MUMN is pleased to announce the call for abstracts for the 13th Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Conference to be held in Malta on the 8th & 9th March 2019. The organising board invites abstract / poster submissions from midwives and nurses, who would like to share their knowledge and enhance nursing and midwifery skills around the globe.

The conference would be a great occasion for nurses and midwives from the European Commonwealth region and beyond to share their experience with and learn from each other; to meet new and former friends and to establish international connections. The call for abstracts closes on the 30th November 2018.

Abstract Themes for this conference include:

- Nursing / Midwifery Education
- Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing
- Nursing / Midwifery Care and Patient Satisfaction
- Midwifery and Women's Health
- Nursing / Midwifery Teaching Technologies
- Nursing / Midwifery Research
- Clinical Nursing and Practice
- Cancer care and Oncology Nursing
- Cardiovascular Nursing
- Critical Care Nursing and Emergency Nursing
- Geriatric Nursing
- Gynaecology and Obstetrics Nursing
- Paediatric Nursing
- Community Health care
- Governance and Leadership

Abstract Submission Guidelines:

- Title of the abstract must be in sentence case. The title must represent the abstract content.
- Name of the author and co-authors (if present).
- Job title.
- Provide your full name, degree, institution, and email address of the main author / presenter.
- Abstract Theme
- Abstract content must not exceed 300 words. The body of the abstract should describe your research, results and conclusions of your study.
- A short biography of 100 words of the main author/presenter must be included along with abstract.
- All the abstracts must be submitted before the deadlines provided.
- CYNMA, MUMN or RCN membership number.
- Abstract will be reviewed by the committee and you will receive an e-mail notification within 2 weeks of abstract submission.

Please note

- Plenary sessions will be up to 25 minutes in length with a 5-minute question time.
- Each session runs for approximately one hour and may contain more than 1 presentation.
- For Presentation sessions, each presenter has 20 minutes for their presentation with 5 minutes reserved for questions.
- Posters should be available during the local time of the conference.

 