



# COMMONWEALTH NURSES AND MIDWIVES FEDERATION

eNews Vol.8 Issue 1 January 2015

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS 3<sup>rd</sup> Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Conference

London UK 12-13 March 2016



The 3<sup>rd</sup> Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Conference will be held in London UK 12-13 March 2016 (see conference notice on the second page of the e-News). The theme of the conference is: *Toward 2020: celebrating nursing and midwifery leadership*. The conference will showcase and celebrate the work of nursing and midwifery leaders who have followed in the footsteps of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, the first nursing theorists, a great nursing leader and a role model for nurses and midwives everywhere. **Abstracts close 31 May 2015.** Go to: <http://www.commonwealthnurses.org/conference2016> to submit your abstract or email to: [cnf@commonwealthnurses.org](mailto:cnf@commonwealthnurses.org).

## ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

COMMONWEALTH NURSES AND MIDWIVES  
FEDERATION



ANNUAL REPORT  
2013-2014



The CNMF Annual Report for 2013-2014 is available on the CNMF website:

<http://www.commonwealthnurses.org>.

The annual Report highlights the achievements of the CNMF during the 2013-2014 financial year.

## MENTAL HEALTH LEGISLATION REFORM PROJECT

The CNMF is pleased to announce the commencement of a project funded by the Commonwealth Foundation to pilot the reform of mental health legislation in two Commonwealth countries. The project is a follow on from the research conducted in 2013 by the Indian Centre for Mental Health Law and Policy for the Commonwealth Health Professions Alliance which assessed mental health legislation in 45 Commonwealth countries against the United National Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability. The research found that:

- Mental health legislation in many Commonwealth member states is outdated, does not fulfil member states' international human rights obligations toward persons with mental disorders, and is not compliant with the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Many mental health laws reviewed treat persons with mental disorders as needing protection rather than as subjects with rights and as a result, mental health legislation, instead of protecting the rights of persons with mental disorders, is likely to lead to violation of their rights, particularly the rights of vulnerable groups with mental health problems such as minors, women, and minority groups.
- Mental health legislation in many countries is based on an outdated understanding of mental disorders; ignores advances in the care and treatment of mental disorders and denies the capacity of persons with mental disorders to manage their lives. The language of mental health laws in many instances, such as the use of terms such as: 'lunatic', 'insane', 'idiot', 'imbecile', and 'mentally defective', adds to negative perceptions and further stigmatises persons with mental disorders.

The report (available from <http://www.chpa.co>) recommended that Commonwealth member states should urgently undertake reform of their mental health legislation to ensure that the legislation meets their obligations under international human rights treaties, in particular the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The Governments of the Seychelles and Botswana are partnering with the CNMF and the Indian Centre for Mental Health Law and Policy to review their mental health and related legislation against the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability and consider recommendations for reform of their mental health legislation. The project involves the establishment of a National Mental Health Advisory Committee in each country to oversee the project; a communication strategy to highlight mental health issues targeting politicians, health professionals, the media and the public; and the establishment of a website for the project so that progress in the project can be reported and monitored. The CNMF is very appreciative of the opportunity provided by the Commonwealth Foundation for funding for this important project which it is hoped will be a model for other Commonwealth countries.

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Commonwealth Nurses  
and Midwives Federation



## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

**3rd Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Conference**

**Toward 2020:  
Celebrating nursing and midwifery leadership**

12–13 March 2016 London UK

The bicentennial of the birth of Florence Nightingale.  
The WHO decade for a healthy world.

Celebrating the leadership of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, the first nursing theorist, a great nursing leader, and a role model for nurses everywhere.

### Abstract guidelines

The abstracts should demonstrate outstanding and innovative nursing and midwifery leadership to individuals, families and communities in the Commonwealth in any setting where nurses and midwives provide care in the following areas:

- clinical practice
- research and innovation
- education and training
- policy and projects
- management and administration
- legislation and regulation

### Abstract submission

Submit your abstracts (of no more than 300 words) to the Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation by 31 May 2015.

Email submission: [cnf@commonwealthnurses.org](mailto:cnf@commonwealthnurses.org)

Web submission: <http://www.commonwealthnurses.org/conference2016>

The CNMF is a federation of national nursing and midwifery associations in Commonwealth countries.

The CNMF was established in 1973 and is a Commonwealth accredited civil society organisation. The purpose of the CNMF is to contribute to the improved health of citizens of the Commonwealth by fostering access to nursing education, influencing health policy, developing nursing networks and strengthening nursing leadership through in-country education and training; capacity building with standards and regulation; a bi-annual journal; a monthly e-News; a biennial conference; and representing nurses and midwives in Commonwealth forums.



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