



# COMMONWEALTH NURSES AND MIDWIVES FEDERATION

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## CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

The President and Board of the Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation wish those of our members and friends who celebrate Christmas a safe and happy holiday period.



## UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE DAY

12 December 2014



Universal Health Coverage Day is celebrated on 12 December 2014 which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly resolution on universal health coverage. (<http://universalhealthcoverageday.org/un-resolution/>).

Universal health coverage changes the way that health care is financed and delivered – so it is more equitable and more effective. According to the World Health Organisation, one billion people globally lack basic health care and 100 million every year experience poverty trying to access needed health services. The poorest and most marginalised people bear the highest burden of preventable mother and child deaths, infectious diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV and AIDS, and non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, cancer and heart disease.

The WHO constitution affirms that the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is a fundamental human right. Access to quality health care should never depend on where you live, how much money you have, or your race, gender or age.

Research has demonstrated that every \$1 a country invests in health care today can produce up to \$20 in full-income growth within a generation. Countries implementing universal health coverage are seeing the benefits in healthier communities and stronger economies. A healthy nation makes sound economic sense and is a smart investment.

Health and education are the fundamental pillars on which democracy and development are built. Unless populations are healthy they will not be able to participate in and promote peace building and democracy; governance and the rule of law; human rights; economic affairs and trade; or the environment and sustainable development.

### JOIN THE CAMPAIGN

Join the Coalition:

<http://universalhealthcoverageday.org/coalition/>

Advocacy and lobbying toolkit:

<http://universalhealthcoverageday.org/toolkit/>

For further information:

<http://universalhealthcoverageday.org/welcome/>

## UPDATE ON EBOLA



The World Health Organization reports there have now been 18,603 cases of Ebola since the beginning of the outbreak with 6,915 deaths, the largest number in Sierra Leone. Transmission is most intense and persistent in the western and northern districts of the country and includes the capital of Sierra Leone, Freetown. Sadly, the 11<sup>th</sup> doctor in Sierra Leone to die of Ebola was reported recently. A total of 109 health workers in Sierra Leone have now died of the disease. The Commonwealth Foundation is funding the Sierra Leone Nurses Association to continue to provide infection prevention and control training to nurses and midwives.

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## MALTA TO HOST NEXT CNMF EUROPE REGION CONFERENCE



The CNMF is pleased to announce that the Malta Union of Midwives and Nurses will be hosting the 11<sup>th</sup> CNMF Europe Region Conference 6-7 March 2015 on the wonderfully interesting and historic island of Malta. This conference is always an outstanding success with high quality presentations from across the world. Further information is available on the MUMN website (<http://www.mumn.org>) or the CNMF website (<http://www.commonwealthnurses.org>). The CNMF encourages all nurses and midwives to make this conference a must in their diary for 2015.

### 11<sup>th</sup> Regional European Commonwealth Conference

San Antonio Hotel and Spa Qawra Malta  
Friday to Saturday 6-7<sup>th</sup> March 2015

*Building success  
nurses and midwives hold the future*

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

## 18<sup>th</sup> BIENNIAL SCHOOL NURSES INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



The 18<sup>th</sup> Biennial School Nurses International Conference will be held 27-31 July 2015 in London at the University of Greenwich, Old Royal Naval College.

School nurses often work in isolation from their hospital and community peers and the conference provides an ideal opportunity to share information and experience in this interesting and specialised area of nursing with colleagues across the world.

Abstract submissions are invited by 30 January 2015 for oral or poster presentations. Further information is available on the conference website:

[http://www.schoolnursesinternational.com/SNI\\_Conferences.html](http://www.schoolnursesinternational.com/SNI_Conferences.html)



The United Nations General Secretary has released a synthesis report on all the inputs into the development of the post-2015 development agenda and the finalisation of a set of sustainable development goals. The final goals are due for release September 2015. The Secretary General's synthesis report can be downloaded from: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015>.

The draft sustainable development goals are:

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
2. End hunger; achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation.
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development.

The draft sustainable development goals are very ambitious idealistic statements and it is reasonable to ask whether they can be achieved and if so, how. Most of the goals rely on political will within countries and global cooperation between countries and international organisations. These attributes have been sadly lacking in 2014 as the ongoing conflicts and health crisis have clearly demonstrated. Will countries commit in a meaningful way and without specific targets, how will progress be measured?