



# COMMONWEALTH NURSES AND MIDWIVES FEDERATION

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## CNMF PRESIDENT VISITS BRUNEI

Recently, the CNMF was very pleased to welcome the Brunei Nursing Association back into membership. An invitation was extended for the CNMF President, Dr Ramziah Binti Ahmad to visit Brunei as the guest of the National Supreme Council of the Malay Islamic Monarchy and address their 2<sup>nd</sup> National Nursing Conference. Dr Ahmad's presentation about the work of the Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation was very well received.



Dr Ahmad was also provided with an opportunity to meet both the Brunei Minister for Education and Minister for Health to discuss nursing in Brunei and globally. A meeting with the Minister for Health resulted in the following recommendations:

1. That the CNMF will provide leadership training for nurses in January.
2. That the Brunei Government will give a building to the Brunei Nurses Association for their headquarters.
3. That Dr Ahmad will provide advice to Brunei nurses on post-registration education and experience opportunities outside Brunei for example: CNMF Biannual Conference in London or ICN Conference.

Discussions also covered a range of areas where nursing in Brunei might be improved.



Dr Ahmad is welcomed by Brunei nurses



Dr Ahmad presenting at the conference

## DR AHMAD MEETS THE QUEEN OF BRUNEI

Dr Ahmad was honoured to be invited back to Brunei to share the celebrations for the Queen's birthday organised by the Brunei Women's Council and the Brunei Nurses Association and was granted the rare privilege of a photograph with the Queen, Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah-Saleha. While in Brunei, Dr Ramziah had the opportunity to do a home visit by boat with one of the Brunei community nurses.



## UPDATE ON EBOLA



The World Health Organization's latest situation report highlights ongoing intense Ebola transmission in Sierra Leone. The capital Freetown is still the worst affected area and transmission remains intense and persistent in all districts except in the south and west.

Globally, countries are responding by establishing treatment centres and sending health care personnel however supply cannot keep up with demand. The education and training of health workers in infection prevention and control and the provision of appropriate personal protective equipment is a key priority. Safe and dignified burials are also an important element of the response.

Scientific Animations without Borders (SAWBO) creates educational animations and then places them into a diversity of languages by working with volunteers from around the world. Once created, all animations are then made freely available to anyone wanting to use them for educational purposes. The latest animation from SAWBO is about Ebola and can be downloaded from the SAWBO website: <http://sawbo-illinois4.org/ebolaprevention>. It is important that all nurses and midwives are familiar with Ebola infection and prevention. Other animations free to download cover such topics as: Chagas disease; Charcoal water filtration; Cholera prevention; Malaria prevention; Malaria bed netting; Dengue prevention; How to wash your hands; Yellow fever; West Nile virus; Tuberculosis prevention; and Oral re-hydration solution.



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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)

## WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY 18<sup>th</sup> October

The CNMF is pleased to announce that we have been funded by the Commonwealth Foundation to work with two Commonwealth countries to help reform their mental health legislation. In 2013, the CNMF was part of a research project to assess mental health legislation across the Commonwealth against the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability. The Indian Centre for Mental Health Law and Policy conducted the research. The research report was released at the 2013 Commonwealth Health Ministers' meeting. The results were very sobering:

- Mental health legislation in 20 per cent of Commonwealth member states was enacted prior to 1960 before modern medical treatments became available.
- Mental health legislation in only 11 per cent of Commonwealth member states specifically include provisions that state mental health care and physical health care should be provided on an equal basis.
- Provisions for protection from cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment are included in the legislation in only 23 (51 per cent) countries.
- The informed consent of persons with mental disorders for participating in clinical and experimental research is specifically mandated in mental health legislation in only 5 (11 per cent) countries.
- Laws in only 2 (4 per cent) countries restrict involuntary admission of minors with mental health problems, and laws in only 3 (7 per cent) countries ban any irreversible treatments on children with mental health problems.
- The word "Lunatic" is used in the mental health laws of 12 countries; the term "Insane" is used in the mental health laws in 11 countries; the term "Idiot" is used in the mental health laws in 10 countries; 2 mental health laws use the term "Imbecile"; and 2 mental health laws use the term "Mentally defective".

A website will be established for the project and CNMF members and friends kept informed of the countries involved and progress.

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