



May 12, 2022

Re: European Federation of Nurses Associations - International Nurses Day Greetings

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

International Nurses' Day is celebrated around the world each year on 12 May, which marks the birth of Florence Nightingale. This annual event provides an opportunity to reflect on the incredible contribution of nursing and midwifery staff and to recognise the vital lifesaving work they do every day. The need to recognise each and every nurse and midwife this year is all the more important with the ongoing health crisis the pandemic has presented, particularly in the context of decades of under investment and the more recent unprecedented war on Ukraine and the threat to peace globally. History will record nurses and midwife's exemplary humanitarian compassion, expertise and commitment at one of the darkest and challenging times in healthcare and for humanity in recent years.

This year, nurses and midwives through their relentless commitment, expertise, professionalism, bravery, and heroic actions have saved countless numbers of lives while caring and comforting so many through their suffering and onto a path of recovery whilst also providing compassionate end of life care. The EFN recognises the debt of gratitude that is owed to so many selfless nurses and midwives who risk their own lives whilst they also worry for the safety of their own loved ones. Nurses and midwives have proven their vital role in providing health services during this pandemic in every country in the world. There are countless humbling and incredible stories of nurses and midwives' actions, compassionate care and leadership, that demonstrate the enormous contribution of the profession while facing the greatest relentless global healthcare challenge in a lifetime.

In addition, the EFN recognises the exceptional leadership role of all our National Nursing Association (NNA) Members to ensure all nurses and midwives are supported, resourced and protected within their respective countries. The actions of NNAs in neighbouring countries of Ukraine to protect the wellness and resilience of all nurses and midwives has been an essential part of the response to the crisis during this incredibly stressful time. We do not underestimate the challenges that NNAs and many individual nurses and midwives have already faced and the serious and concerning challenges that are ahead for us all.

On the 12 May 2022, the EFN is marking the International Day of the Nurse by standing in solidarity with all of our nurses and midwives. It is with great pride we recognise the individual and the collective efforts of nurses and midwives and humbly commend their selfless commitment, professionalism and bravery to deliver excellence in healthcare to all in need. We know nurses and midwives make a world of difference to people's lives, and it is with humility that the EFN thanks each of you for all that you do.

In Sincere Solidarity,

Elizabeth Adams
President

Nina Hahtela
Vice President

Yves Mengal
Treasurer

Aristides Chorattas
Executive Committee

Pat Cullen
Executive Committee

Phil Ni Sheaghda
Executive Committee

Monika Azman
Executive Committee

Paul De Raeve
Secretary General

