Health is a Human Right

International Council of Nurses launches 2018 International Nurses Day Resources at live-streamed global event

Geneva, Switzerland; 28 February 2018 - The International Council of Nurses (ICN) unveiled its 2018 International Nurses Day resources and evidence at the launch of the Nursing Now campaign yesterday in London. The global event was distinguished by the endorsement of Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cambridge and supported by numerous high-level health experts, policy-makers and nurse leaders who spoke out in favour of a greater voice and recognition for the profession.

ICN, who partnered in the event, took the stage to unveil its annual International Nurses Day (IND) resources, with the theme Nurses: A Voice to Lead – Health is a Human Right. Unique in its field, the report explores the critical role nurses play in delivering Universal Health
Coverage and improving access to quality health care. It features over a dozen case studies sourced by nurses globally, showcasing the invaluable contribution of nurses to healthcare systems as well as their capacity to bring health to all. The IND resources include a website, [www.icnvoicetolead.com](http://www.icnvoicetolead.com), and downloadable document, accompanied by a growing database of case studies updated regularly. They also provide campaigners with posters and logos in various languages.

Speaking from the Nursing Now launch in London, ICN’s President, Annette Kennedy, said, “With the skills, knowledge and passion to care for those in need, nurses all over the globe support the human right to health care. Nursing Now is set to change the way the nursing profession is viewed by our communities, leaders and governments – and ICN is proud be collaborating with Nursing Now and the World Health Organization to create a significant change to the view and value of our profession. Together we will continue to grow the nursing profession to ensure we remain indispensable, visible and valued at the forefront of health care.”

Professor Thomas Kearns, ICN’s Interim Chief Executive Officer, attended the launch in Geneva and said “The 2018 IND resources showcase the many ways in which the nursing profession has been critical to delivering health to all populations. These case studies provide real life examples of how investment in and empowerment of the profession coupled with strong leadership and determination result in positive health care outcomes for our communities.”

ICN student nurses intern, Christian Strømnes, President of the Norwegian Nurses Organisation Student Association, attended the London launch of Nursing Now and had the honour to meet and join in discussions with HRH the Duchess of Cambridge. Julián Vadell Martínez, immediate past President of the European Student Nurses Association, who is also an ICN student nurse intern, attended the Geneva launch along with Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of WHO and Her Royal Highness Princess Muna al Hussein of Jordan.

National Nursing Associations across the globe also joined their voice to the campaign. The Canadian Nurses Association held a breakfast kick-off event at CNA house to watch the ceremonies as they took place in London and Geneva.

ICN’s Tuberculosis/Multi-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (TB/MDR-TB) Project hosted an official launch event of Nursing Now and the IND resources in Durban, South Africa, bringing together nursing leaders from Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda and Zambia. High-level guests and speakers at the event included Thembeka Gwagwa, ICN’s 2nd Vice President, Mr Simon Hlungwani - President of DENOSA (Democratic Nursing Organisation of South Africa), and Dr Carrie Tudor, ICN TB/MDR-TB Project Director.
A launch event was also held at the King Abdullah University Hospital in Jordan where over 200 nurses and nursing students joined health officials to watch the London and Geneva events. A local panel discussion was held to discuss ways in which to empower and enhance nursing development, including the Director General of the King Abdullah University Hospital; the Secretary General of the Jordan Nursing Council; the President of the Jordan Nurses and Midwives Association; the Directors of the Nursing Departments at the Ministry of Health, the Military Royal Medical Services and King Abdullah University Hospital; and the Dean of Nursing at Jordan University of Science and Technology.

Every year, ICN chooses a theme and develops resources for International Nurses Day which is held on 12 May, the birthdate of Florence Nightingale. The tools produced for IND provides practical examples of how nurses can influence health, health policy and health system. The 2018 theme, *Health is a Human Right* goes hand in hand with Nursing Now campaign’s aims to encourage health leaders to listen to nurses and to invest in new models of care that maximise nurses’ potential to help achieve universal health coverage.

The IND resources are available on [www.icnvoicetolead.com](http://www.icnvoicetolead.com)

**Note for Editors**
The International Council of Nurses (ICN) is a federation of more than 130 national nurses associations representing the millions of nurses worldwide. Operated by nurses and leading nursing internationally, ICN works to ensure quality care for all and sound health policies globally.

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