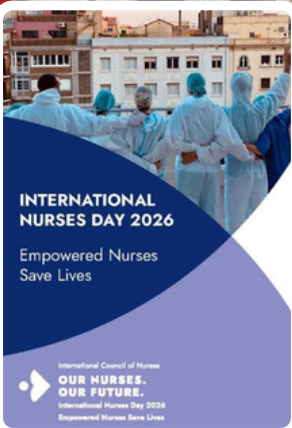


REFLECTING ON IND2026

Celebrating the impact of the seven powers of nursing



International Council of Nurses
**OUR NURSES.
OUR FUTURE.**
International Nurses Day 2026
Empowered Nurses Save Lives



ICN
International
Council of Nurses

Looking back on last month's [International Nurses Day](#) 12 May 2026 (IND 2026), **the impact of this year's theme "Our Nurses. Our Future. Empowered Nurses Save Lives" continues to resonate** across the world. ICN's landmark [IND 2026 report](#) defined seven key powers of nursing and this message has been strengthened with **nurses in every region celebrating, naming, and owning their powers** throughout May.

The response is a reminder that International Nurses Day is not a single event but the start of a sustained, year-round movement for structural nursing empowerment. The strong response to IND 2026 around the world makes clear that **empowered nurses save and transform lives every single day of the year.**

Since IND, ICN has continued bringing a clear message highlighting the powers of nursing and the urgent need to invest for impact and protection into the highest levels of global health decision-making, including our strong advocacy at the [79th World Health Assembly \(WHA79\)](#), our [calls](#) to **protect nurses in conflicts and health emergencies** to G7 leaders, **and our statements on the Ebola outbreak** in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda, and ongoing [#NursesforPeace campaign](#).

ICN President Dr José Luis Cobos Serrano highlighted the sustained global momentum around the IND 2026 campaign, saying:

"This International Nurses Day and beyond, ICN has been bringing the clear evidence that nursing power is real, measurable, and transformative into every space where health decisions are made. Throughout May and June, we have seen the world's nurses continue to use, own, and celebrate their extraordinary powers, showing what empowered nursing looks like in practice, and using the evidence in our report to advocate for change. We will keep amplifying their voices and advocating for the empowerment and investment nurses need and deserve, working to ensure that every nurse, everywhere is supported to use their full powers to save and transform lives."

IND 2026: Nursing power in the spotlight

ICN's evidence-based report ***Our Nurses. Our Future. Empowered Nurses Save Lives*** introduced a new model of seven interconnected powers that demonstrate the full multidimensional impact of nurses as the world's largest health profession and the most trusted, with exceptional reach, closeness to communities, able to deliver evidence-based and ethically-grounded care that transforms lives and health systems at scale.

[Read the report](#) and watch our [#IND2026 video](#) to learn more about the data behind the seven powers of empowered nursing: **The Power of Trust, Power of the Professional, Power of Numbers, Power of Practice, Power of Care, Power of Proximity, and Power of Peace.**



The report gathers data as well as real case studies and nurse stories demonstrating these powers and showing beyond a doubt that empowering nurses and nurse leadership is not a cost: it is a high-return investment in healthier populations, stronger health systems, and more resilient societies and economies. ICN's dedicated IND webpage has been accessed over 35,000 times while the IND report has already been downloaded over 2,000 times and is being used as a tool for advocacy and research by nurses, academics, media, health care leaders, and decision-makers worldwide.

Bringing the IND message to the world

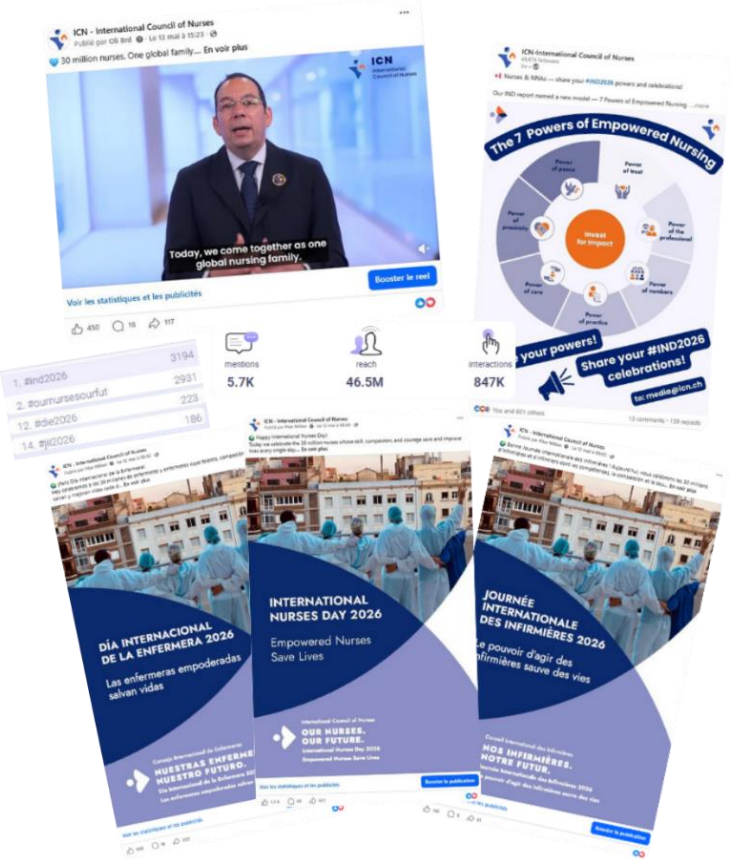
ICN's three global IND webinars on 12 May were attended by almost 2,000 nurses, health policy leaders, and researchers, from every region of the world. As well as launching the IND report, the webinars amplified nursing voices across the regions, with nurse leaders sharing how each of the seven powers is being lived in their countries and regions as well as ICN's President, CEO and Vice President, and WHO's Chief Nurse discussing actions for empowerment.

[\[Rewatch the webinars on the IND webpage\]](#)

ICN's IND 2026 messages reached audiences across and beyond nursing and global health, with strong international news coverage and events featuring the seven powers framework.



ICN's IND theme, *Empowered Nurses Save Lives*, and the seven powers were also widely shared and discussed on social media all around the world. ICN's posts had strong engagement and impact while the global IND conversation reached 46.5 million people, and sparked almost 900,000 interactions (likes, shares, and comments), with over 6,500 uses of IND hashtags.



Global response: celebrating and naming the power of nursing

Following IND, ICN put out a call to nurses and National Nursing Associations worldwide to share their reflections, photos, and stories celebrating IND and the collective power of nursing. The response has been an inspiring, powerful, and moving testament to the depth, reach, and diversity of nursing power across every region and setting.



Eastern Mediterranean region

In the Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMRO), nurses are creating stability even where systems are most fragile. Supported by ICN, NNAs and nursing leaders across Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMRO) published a special [IND E-journal](#) amplifying the voices of nurses working under a range of settings including conflict, displacement and humanitarian crisis. The E-Journal demonstrates the **Power of Peace** as a daily reality: nurses keeping services running through bombardment, completing PhDs under siege, leading mental health and psychosocial support, and maintaining trust with communities when little else holds.

Myrna Abi Abdallah Doumit, ICN Board Member, Eastern Mediterranean Region, commented:

"Across the EMRO region, we are sharing the clear and powerful message that Empowered Nurses Save Lives. This region's nurses demonstrate this in their lived reality every single day. In the face of war, instability, displacement, and unimaginable strain on health systems, they have not stepped back – they have stepped forward. Nurses are the backbone of our health systems, the guardians of health and life, and the force that holds communities together in times of crisis. When nurses are empowered, lives are saved, systems are strengthened, and futures are rebuilt."

The EMR Youth Nurses Initiative (EMR-YNI), now active across 17 countries with 100+ young nurses, submitted a comprehensive flipbook, *Power in Action*, mapping their work onto all seven IND powers, and shared their IND intergenerational dialogue, Empowering EMR Youth Nurses Saves Lives.

Across the wider region, nurses sent stories, photos, and reflections demonstrating what each power looks like in practice. The included the Specialty Hospital in **Jordan**, nurses at TMC Health's Remote Area Clinics in **Saudi Arabia**, who stabilize and transfer patients across vast desert distances, as well as nurses at Abou Jaoudé Hospital working to build awareness and ... of persons with visual impairments, and nurses from **Morocco**, representing the national association of anaesthesia and critical care nurses, celebrating the full spectrum of nursing.



Africa region

Submissions from across the African region brought the nursing powers to life.

National celebrations across the region included **Zambia** (where the Minister of Health called nurses "*the backbone of the health sector*", with nurses from Zambia's only tertiary psychiatric facility represented) as well as **Ghana's** events recognizing and celebrating the profession's nursing power, including the Ghana Registered Nurses and Midwives Association and **nurses at St Elizabeth Catholic Hospital, Ahaf**. Images sent from **Liberia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Somaliland, and South Sudan showed** that empowered nursing is alive and visible across every corner of the region. Nurses from **Mauritania** reflected that the Power of Proximity and the Power of Care resonate most strongly in their context, where nurses are often the only health professionals reaching rural communities.



A regional submission highlighted the **Power of Numbers in the AFRO region**, showing nurses vital roles at the centre of primary care, maternal health, and vaccination drives and calling for action to address resource constraints and urban–rural divides that can prevent nurses from using their powers to the fullest.

Stories sent to ICN showed that continental networks, **PAN-ECO, the G4 Alliance Nursing & Midwifery Working Group, and the GNLI Alumni Council**, amplified emergency, critical and surgical nursing leadership.

Perpetual Ofori–Ampofo, ICN Third Vice President, said:

"This year's IND activities across Africa are a testament to the pride, skill, resilience, and power of the nursing profession in this region. We now need to match the commitment of Africa's nurses with commitment to supporting them. If we want nurses to use their full powers to save lives, every single one of the seven, we must enable them to flourish where they are – through decent work, fair pay, safe environments, leadership opportunities, and equitable workforce recruitment and migration internationally. Leaders must invest in nursing in Africa, and all around the world, as a transformative force for health, equity, and development."

Western Pacific and South East Asia regions

The **Japanese Nursing Association** spotlighted the Power of Care, with a case study of successful **nurse-led integrated care** supporting people with complex health needs to live and recover in their communities, critical as Japan prepares for a sharp rise in over-85 home care by 2040. Stories sent from Canberra, **Australia**, shared reflections on the Power of the Professional, from providing culturally sensitive end-of-life care, to advocating for migrant families' health and social needs, to mentoring the next generation of nursing students with compassion.

Meanwhile, nurses from **India** at Sterling Hospitals Gurukul, Ahmedabad shared stories of their full Nurses Week supporting, celebrating and recognizing nursing power, while the **Maldives** highlighted events by the Oncology Nurse Association and Community Nurse Volunteers, including the first-ever National Nursing Debate (attended by the First Lady), and events centring the urgent need to care for nurses as caregivers.



Megumi Yamaura-Teshima, ICN Second Vice President, said:

"Across these regions and worldwide, we see all of the powers in action, but especially the Power of Care: nurses making care continuous, coordinated, and human in the face of ageing populations, rising chronic disease, and growing complexity. When we invest in nursing's power to deliver person-centred, integrated, primary health care, we transform health systems. It is time to recognize and own the impact of empowered nurses as the foundation of health care."

European Region and Americas

Reflections from **Türkiye** highlighted the power of nursing during the 2023 earthquake response, with delivering care *"in disaster zones, in crisis, in the moments when*

communities are most vulnerable". **Paraguay** sent stories of IND celebrations including at the Universidad Nacional de Asunción, empowering colleagues, nurses, and students alike.



Sineva Maria Ribeiro, ICN First Vice President, said:

"Across Europe, the Americas, and beyond, we see nurses bringing and celebrating their powers in every situation, from crisis response to educating the next generation of nurses and nurse leaders. All around the world, we must now turn the seven powers into seven pathways for change, advocating for the structural change and empowerment that enables nurses and... makes health systems stronger. This year we are showing that IND is not a single moment: it is a year-round movement."

Taking the Powers forward

The Seven Powers is a living, growing framework that has inspired reflection and debate. Nurses across regions sent ICN their thoughts on additional powers, including the **Power of Knowledge and Research**, the **Power of Data**, the **Power of Collaboration**, **Systemic Power**, **Decision-Making Power**, and the **Power of Advocacy**, being the patient's voice when they cannot speak.

Howard Catton, ICN Chief Executive Officer, said:

"The response to this year's International Nurses Day work has been extraordinary. We have seen how nurses in every corner of the world have named, owned, and celebrated the powers they use not only on 12 May but every day in every setting – and how the seven powers framework is already shifting the conversation and being used as a tool for change around the world.

This year we have come together to move the world's understanding of nursing from monochrome to multicolour, and there is no going back. It is time for the world to see nursing in all of its dimensions, to invest in nursing as a high-return strategy for health, equity, and economic stability, and to empower every nurse to use their full powers to save and transform lives."

ICN will continue to use the seven powers framework and the evidence behind it to drive global change, calling for structural empowerment and investment in enabling nursing impact through safe staffing, fair pay, full scope of practice, leadership at every level, and protection from violence in every setting, with the clear message: Empowered nurses save lives.

How you can keep the movement going:

- *Share your story and images at media@icn.ch – tell us what the most impactful powers in your region are and how empowered nursing looks where you work*
- *Use and share the [IND 2026 report](#) and [Seven Powers video](#)*
- *Visit the [IND 2026 page](#) for [webinars](#), materials and resources*
- *[Support #NursesforPeace](#) to stand with nurses in conflict and crisis*