



**ICN Alliance
of Student and Early
Career Nurses**

International Council of Nurses

ICN SECN Alliance Newsletter - July 2026

Executive Message

Welcome to the second edition of the [ICN Alliance of Student and Early Career Nurses \(ICN SECN Alliance\) Newsletter](#).

Before reading this edition of the newsletter, we invite you to reflect on the beginning of your nursing journey. What inspired you to choose this profession? What first sparked your commitment to caring for others? That purpose remains at the heart of everything we do.

This year, as we embrace the [International Nurses Day 2026](#) theme, Our Nurses. Our Future. Empowered Nurses Save Lives, we are reminded that nursing's impact is real, measurable, and transformative. Empowerment does not begin on graduation day. It is built through learning, mentorship, clinical experiences, leadership, and a shared commitment to improving the health of our communities.

This vision reflects the mission of the ICN SECN Alliance: to ensure that student and early career nurses (SECNs) are recognized as essential contributors to the future of nursing. Every classroom discussion, simulation exercise, clinical placement, research project, and community initiative strengthens the profession and prepares the next generation of nurse leaders to create meaningful change.

The first half of 2026 has been an exciting period of growth for the ICN SECN Alliance. Together, we strengthened our global presence through participation in the [79th World Health Assembly](#), planned and delivered our first global webinar, established the ICN SECN Alliance webpage and global [WhatsApp community](#), expanded collaborations with international student organizations in other professions, and contributed to the [International Nurses Day 2026 Report](#). These milestones demonstrate what can be achieved when SECNs are empowered to lead, advocate, and collaborate across borders.

Throughout this edition, you will also discover inspiring stories from ICN SECN Alliance Representatives around the world. Their work in education, research, advocacy, community engagement, and policy demonstrates the diversity, innovation, and leadership that define our global community. While each journey is unique, they are united by a common purpose: advancing nursing and improving health outcomes for people everywhere.

As the ICN SECN Alliance continues to grow, so does our responsibility to strengthen connections, amplify emerging voices, and create opportunities for leadership at every level of health care. This newsletter is more than a collection of updates, it is a platform to celebrate achievements, exchange ideas, learn from one another, and inspire action across our global network.

The ICN SECN Alliance Steering Committee extends its sincere gratitude to the ICN Board, ICN staff, our National Nursing Associations (NNAs), partners, Representatives, and every student and early career nurse whose passion and dedication continue to shape this Alliance. Your commitment is building a stronger nursing profession and a healthier future for communities worldwide.

Thank you for being part of this journey. We hope this edition inspires you to continue learning, leading, and connecting as we work together to shape the future of nursing.

Sincerely,

ICN Alliance of Student and Early Career Nurses Steering Committee

Chair's Report: Representation at the 79th World Health Assembly (WHA79)

Attending the 79th World Health Assembly (WHA79) in Geneva, Switzerland, as a delegate of the International Council of Nurses (ICN) was one of the most meaningful experiences of my nursing and leadership journey. As Chair of the ICN SECN Alliance, I had the privilege of representing SECNs while engaging alongside global nursing leaders, Ministers of Health, WHO officials, policymakers, and healthcare professionals committed to advancing global health.

The World Health Assembly (WHA) is where WHO Member States come together to shape international health policy. Throughout the week, discussions focused on some of the world's most pressing health priorities, including Universal Health Coverage (UHC), primary health care (PHC), immunization, communicable diseases, mental health, emergency preparedness, workforce sustainability, ethical international recruitment, digital health, artificial intelligence, maternal and child health, and the economics of health. Witnessing these conversations reinforced how essential nurses are to every aspect of health system strengthening.

One of the highlights of my experience was speaking during the World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA) side event *Health is Wealth: Why Investing in Health Professionals Pays Off*, where I had the opportunity to share the perspectives of SECNs and the importance of investing in the next generation of the nursing workforce.

Throughout the WHA, I also had the honour of delivering several official ICN statements during *WHO Committee A* sessions. These interventions reflected the collective voice of ICN and more than 30 million nurses worldwide.

On *UHC and Integrated Emergency, Critical and Operative Care*, we emphasized that nurses are central to delivering safe, timely, high-quality emergency and critical care and that stronger investment in nursing is essential to improving access and quality across health systems.

During discussions on the *WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel*, we highlighted that the global health workforce is a global public good and called for collective international action to protect and strengthen the health workforce through ethical recruitment and sustainable workforce policies.

I also delivered ICN's statement on PHC, emphasizing that nurses are central to delivering safe, timely, and people-centred care, and that stronger health systems require sustained investment in the nursing workforce. This message underscored the indispensable role nurses play in achieving UHC and equitable access to care.

Another proud moment was presenting ICN's statement on *Immunization Agenda 2030*, where we reinforced that immunization remains one of the most effective public health interventions and must continue to be strengthened as a core pillar of PHC. We highlighted the critical leadership role nurses play in immunization planning, delivery, education, and community engagement.

Beyond speaking engagements, I participated in numerous high-level meetings, side events, and networking opportunities with global nurse leaders, WHO representatives, government officials, and partner organizations. These conversations explored workforce sustainability, global migration and ethical recruitment, artificial intelligence in health care, climate and sustainable health systems, leadership development, and strategies for strengthening nursing worldwide. They reinforced that although health care systems differ across countries, the challenges and many of the solutions are remarkably interconnected.

One of the most rewarding aspects of WHA79 was witnessing SECNs actively contributing to discussions that will shape the future of nursing policy. Seeing our perspectives represented at the global level reinforced the importance of engaging emerging nurse leaders in international decision-making.

Personally, the experience strengthened my belief that nurses belong wherever health policy decisions are made. It reminded me that leadership begins with service, advocacy, and the courage to speak for those whose voices are not always heard. Standing before delegates from around the world was both humbling and inspiring, and it reaffirmed my commitment to advancing nursing leadership and health equity throughout my career.

I am deeply grateful to ICN, the American Nurses Association, my fellow ICN SECN Alliance Steering Committee members, and the many mentors who continue to invest in the next generation of nurse leaders. Their support made this opportunity possible.

My experience at WHA79 reinforced that every voice has the power to influence the future of health care. Whether through clinical practice, research, education, advocacy, or policy, every contribution helps strengthen the nursing profession and improve health for communities around the world.

To every student and early career nurse, I encourage you to continue saying “yes” to opportunities that challenge and inspire you. Seek mentors, build relationships across borders, share your ideas, and never underestimate the value of your perspective. Representing the nursing profession and SECNs at WHA79 was an incredible privilege, and I look forward to continuing this work alongside colleagues around the world to advance nursing leadership and global health.

Josephine Agyei,

Chair, ICN Alliance of Student and Early Career Nurses



SECN Alliance Updates

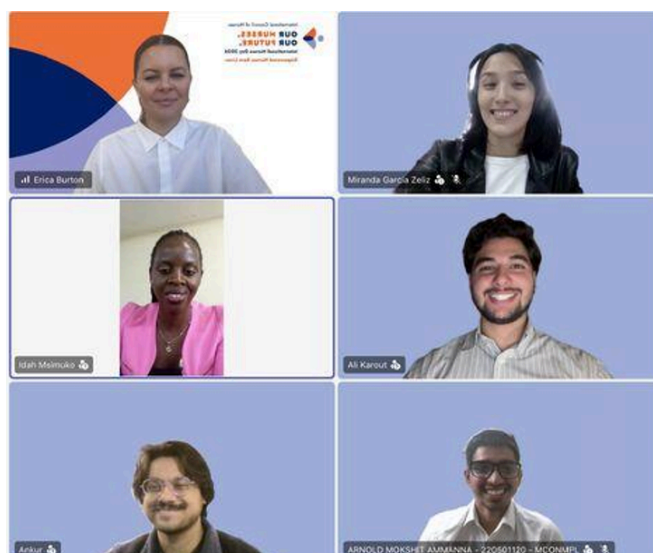
The first half of 2026 has been a period of remarkable momentum for the ICN SECN Alliance. As we continue to lay the foundation for our shared mission, we are proud to share several key milestones that reflect the growing strength, visibility, and influence of student and early career nurses around the world.

It affirmed, once again, that the voices of SECNs are essential and must be included in the discussions that shape global health. As our community has grown, so too has a fundamental truth at the heart of our work: when SECNs are empowered, the future of health systems becomes stronger and more equitable.

The ICN SECN Alliance hosted its first Webinar

The ICN SECN Alliance proudly hosted its inaugural webinar, *Empowering Student and Early Career Nurses to Shape the Future*, on 7 May 2026. Developed in alignment with ICN's 2026 International Nurses Day theme, *Our Nurses. Our Future. Empowered Nurses Save Lives*, the session brought together ICN leadership, and over 600 participants from around the world. Participants explored how the "powers" of nursing apply to the realities and contributions of SECNs, exchanged practical and inspiring examples from national, regional, and local contexts, and reflected on how SECNs can be further empowered to shape the future of health care. The recording is available on the ICN YouTube channel, and we encourage you to share it with your constituencies.

[Watch the webinar](#)



ICN SECN Alliance WhatsApp Community

The ICN SECN Alliance WhatsApp Community is now online, and its growth has been unprecedented. The Community has quickly become a central space for SECNs to exchange ideas, discuss pressing nursing issues from national and regional perspectives, and promote participation in global nursing initiatives. This vibrant and ever-expanding network reflects the strength of our global community and the deep enthusiasm of student and early career nurses to connect, collaborate, and learn from one another across regions.

Join the community

ICN SECN Alliance Representation in the International Nurses Day Report 2026

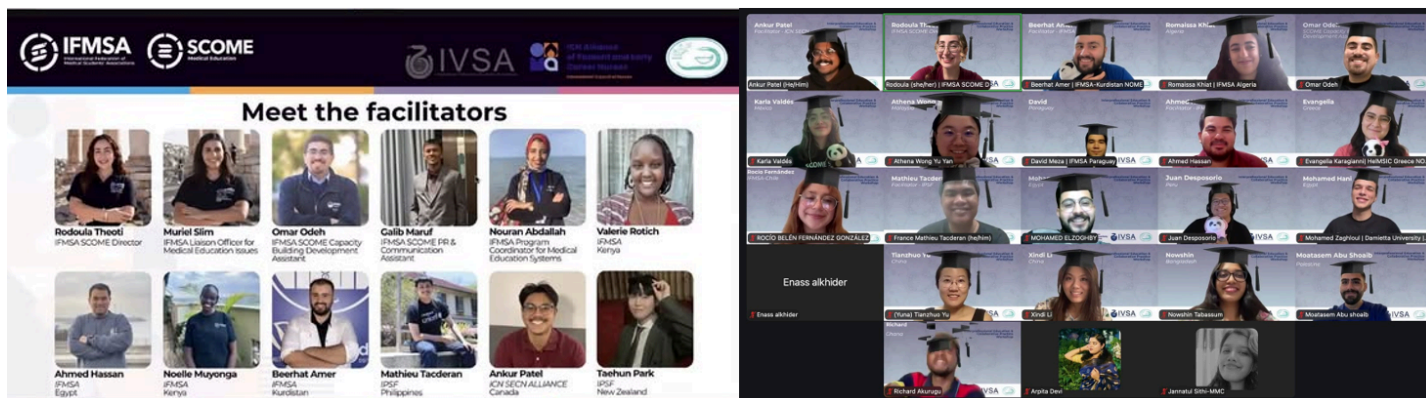
The SECN Alliance was proud to contribute the perspective of student and early career nurses to ICN's International Nurses Day 2026 report, *Our Nurses. Our Future. Empowered Nurses Save Lives*. Through this contribution, SECNs illustrated how emerging nurse leaders are already embodying the powers of nursing in meaningful ways, from driving advocacy and championing workforce wellbeing to leading community initiatives and shaping nursing education within their own contexts.

The Alliance Webpage is now Live

We are pleased to announce that the dedicated [SECN Alliance webpage](#) is now available on the ICN website. This space serves as the central home for the Alliance's work, including the newsletters, as well as resources and the list and map listing current ICN SECN Alliance Representatives. We encourage all Representatives, students, and early career nurses to visit the page, stay informed, and share it widely to strengthen our visibility and connection.

Partnership with IFMSA, IFVS, IPFS

The ICN SECN Alliance joined the inaugural Online Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice (o'IPECP), bringing together the ICN SECN Alliance, International Federation of Medical Students' Association (IFMSA), International Pharmacy Students' Association (IPSA) and the International Veterinary Students' Association (IVSA) to host a 4-day workshop for student and early career professionals from each student body. Its aim was to equip them with skills in interprofessional education and advocacy to embed IPE within national and institutional curricula. The impetus of this workshop stems from rapidly advancing specialization of the fields, requiring the need to break down siloes and improve workflow among healthcare professionals from the ground up. Using WHO frameworks and guest presenters spanning all strata of health care leadership, participants from the four professions were guided, together, through literature and case studies to address health challenges and advocate for effective systems change. Representative Nisrina Muliawan was the coordinator in the project, and Representative Ankur Patel was the appointed facilitator for education. This project is foundational to addressing many of our workforce challenges throughout our varied care landscapes from addressing workflow, to reducing iatrogenic harms. This action strengthens the ties between our professional associations while acting as a leadership accelerator for those already engaged in developing the human health resources of their regions and student organizations.



ICN SECN Alliance Representative Activities

We are excited to share key activities and contributions of Representatives, including their engagement in policy discussions, collaborative initiatives, capacity-building efforts, and representation of student and early-career nurses at national, regional, and global levels.

Mahabuba Afrin - Bangladesh Nurses Association

An advocacy session was held at Millennium Nursing Institute, Dhaka on career guidelines for undergraduate nursing students in Bangladesh and development pathway of nursing education in Bangladesh. In this session we discussed higher education and specialization pathways, international nursing opportunities, professional and leadership skills for career success.



The Bangladesh Geriatric Nurses Society (BGNS) organized a community-level Free Health Camp at Ramna Park, Dhaka, to promote healthy aging through advocacy for elderly care. Student nurse volunteers from Rufaida College of Nursing helped run the activities, which focused on screening for and preventing modifiable stroke risk factors among older adults. The camp offered blood pressure, blood sugar, height, weight, and BMI measurements, along with health education delivered through a booklet developed by the program's researchers.



To mark International Nurses Day 2026, the Bangladesh Nurses Association (BNA) organized a round-table discussion in which I presented the current state of nursing in Bangladesh, along with its barriers, challenges, and the way forward. The discussion drew coverage from press and electronic media, amplifying nurses' voices in the call to empower the profession. In a separate media appearance built around this year's Nurses Day theme, I spoke as an early-career nurse, advocating for stronger nursing education, research, administration, and policy development to shape the future of nursing in Bangladesh.



Yuyu Sumiya - Japanese Nursing Association

On 31 May 2026, I had the privilege of speaking at the webinar , organized by the project team behind the Japanese translation of *The Current State and Future of Nursing in the World: Global and Japanese Nursing through SoWN 2025* WHO's State of the World's Nursing 2025 report. The event brought together nursing students, high school students, educators, and practicing nurses to reflect on where nursing stands globally and what our profession will need in the years ahead. In the session on nursing leadership for the future, I was invited to share my experience of engaging on the international stage as an early career nurse through the ICN SECN Alliance.

Drawing on the SoWN 2025 findings, I spoke about the challenges I see on the front line in Japan such as the rising demand driven by our super-ageing society, the need for a stronger nursing voice in policy decisions. I also reflected on strengths that only became visible to me after looking beyond Japan including our universal health coverage, our high nurse density and quality of care, and a deeply patient-centred culture of careful observation, family support, and teamwork. These are qualities the world increasingly recognizes as the essence of good care.

Most of all, I wanted to encourage younger nurses and students. Engaging internationally is not about comparing ourselves with others, but about finding clues for how to make nursing better at home. Stepping into the SECN Alliance showed me that the international stage is open to any nurse willing to take part, and not reserved for a special few. Even in global meetings, many people rely on translation tools, and what truly opens doors is not language but a clear sense of WHY you are there.

Looking ahead, I hope to build on this experience in my role as the Japanese Nursing Association's representative in the SECN Alliance. A key part of that role is to carry the voices of student and early-career nurses into wider professional discussions. This September, I will give a presentation at the Japanese Nursing Association's academic conference, where I hope to share perspectives with the broader nursing community so that the experiences of our generation can help shape the future of nursing in Japan and on the global stage.

Timeka Layne - Barbados Nurses Association

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that we share a snapshot of the work, achievements, and impact of the Barbados Student Nurses Association (BSNA) over the past year. Guided by our commitment to professional development, advocacy, community engagement, and leadership, we have continued to create meaningful

opportunities for nursing students while contributing to the advancement of the nursing profession. The past year has been marked by growth, collaboration, and service. Through educational initiatives, wellness activities, student empowerment, and outreach efforts, we have sought to empower nursing students, strengthen resilience, and foster a culture of excellence. We are pleased to highlight some of our key accomplishments and the positive impact they have had on our members and the wider community.

The year opened with the installation of the new executive at the Barbados Nurses Association (BNA) Annual General Meeting, where Mrs Timeka Layne, ICN SECN Alliance Representative, was re-elected President of the BSNA and honoured with the BNA President's Award for her outstanding contribution. Ms Reba Watts received the BSNA President's Award for her leadership of the Jamaica Relief Drive, which, following the devastation of Hurricane Melissa, extended support across the entire Community College, a powerful demonstration of regional solidarity, and nursing student leadership.

BSNA members championed advocacy throughout the year. Ms Danielle King carried the student voice into innovation through the *Future HEALTH Incubator Solution Showcase*, developing a project to empower Barbadians affected by non-communicable diseases. Students joined the *National Organization of Women for the International Women's Day Walk*, raising awareness in solidarity with women living with endometriosis. Mrs. Layne also contributed an excerpt to *Taking Action: Top 10 Priorities for Nurses to Protect Health in a Changing Climate*, elevating the perspective of Caribbean nurses in global health leadership.





The BSNA also prioritized recognizing students for their hard work and perseverance. Colleagues were invited to nominate peers who demonstrated professionalism, leadership, camaraderie, and academic excellence. From this process, we proudly named our awardees:

Student Nurse of the Year: Ms Myeisha Garnes, a 4th-year nursing student who volunteers with the mental health programme *Let's Unpack It*, has shown unwavering dedication to student engagement, development, and service. Beyond her academic excellence, she is known for her empathy, maturity, and ability to uplift those around her.

Student Nursing Assistant of the Year: Mrs Kristyn Rose-Keizer, a mother of two, consistently made herself available to support her colleagues whenever needed. Her compassion, reliability, and quiet strength have made her a pillar within her cohort. Whether offering a listening ear, stepping in during challenging clinical days, or encouraging her peers to persevere, she has demonstrated the true spirit of teamwork and service that defines excellence in nursing.

Finally, we are proud to highlight our contribution to the *Reactivation of the Caribbean Nursing Students Organisation (CNSO)*. Students and early career nurses from across the region collaborated to prepare educational sessions designed to benefit students, early career nurses, and practicing nurses. These sessions were well attended, highly engaging, and impactful based on the feedback received. As we reflect on the past year, we are deeply proud of the dedication, resilience, and leadership demonstrated by our members. The accomplishments highlighted here represent not only the work of individuals, but the collective spirit of a community committed to excellence in nursing. The BSNA remains steadfast in its mission to uplift, empower, and advocate for nursing students across Barbados and the wider Caribbean. We look forward to building on this momentum as we continue to shape the future of nursing with purpose, passion, and unity.

Lina Gürtler - German Nurses Association

Over the past few months, the Young Nurses Network of the German Nurses Association (DBfK) has been highly active in representing the voices of young nurses. We organised our own congresses with up to 3,000 participants and contributed as speakers at numerous other events, bringing young nurses' perspectives into professional and political discussions.

On 12 May, International Nurses Day, demonstrations took place across Germany to raise awareness of the nursing profession and to emphasise that good working conditions are essential for high-quality care. Young nurses were strongly represented, contributing speeches and presenting their demands for the future of nursing.



Deniz Urgan Erdem - Danish Nurses Association

Deniz, SECN member for Denmark, former vice chair of SLS, and current board member of the Danish Nurses' Organization (Dansk Sygeplejeråd, Capital Region), was recently named one of Berlingske's *Talent 100* in Denmark.

Nicolaj, outgoing chair of SLS, was also included on the *Talent 100* list, becoming the first nursing student ever to be featured. The list is published annually by Berlingske, one of Denmark's largest national newspapers, highlighting young people making an impact within their fields.

SLS has continued its strong organizational growth and recently celebrated record-breaking membership engagement and organizing among nursing students across Denmark.

Leadership transition: Cecilie has officially taken over as chair of SLS following Nicolaj's term.

During the last months, SLS has also continued its work on student advocacy, visibility campaigns, community building, and strengthening nursing student participation in professional and political discussions.

Chih-Min Ko - Taiwan Nurses Association

On 28 March 2026, the Young Nurses Committee of the Taiwan Nurses Association organized the *National Nursing Student Professional Forum*, bringing together nearly 40 nursing student representatives. The forum aimed to strengthen connections between nursing students and the professional association, enhance professional identity, and facilitate the transition from nursing education to future career development. Through keynote sessions and interactive discussions, participants explored the evolving roles of nurses, professional engagement opportunities, career diversification, and leadership development. A major highlight of the event was the *World Café* discussion format, which encouraged active dialogue on contemporary nursing issues, including community engagement beyond clinical settings, intergenerational communication in the workplace, workforce challenges and diversified staffing models, resilience and well-being among nurses, and the application of artificial intelligence in healthcare. The forum provided a valuable platform for nursing students to exchange perspectives, broaden their professional horizons, and develop a stronger sense of responsibility toward the future of the nursing profession.

[Watch the short video here](#)

On 23 May 2026, the National Nursing Student Representatives Exchange Meeting was successfully held at the Taiwan Nurses Association International Conference Hall. Nursing student representatives from universities and colleges gathered to strengthen collaboration, promote public affairs participation, and cultivate future nursing leaders. The event introduced students to the mission and vision of the association while emphasizing the importance of youth engagement within the nursing profession and the international nursing community. The meeting focused on networking, leadership development, and the establishment of a sustainable student engagement platform. Through experience-sharing sessions, interactive networking activities, and discussions on student organization development, participants explored strategies for strengthening student leadership and cross-campus collaboration. A key outcome of the event was the election of nursing student representatives, marking an important step toward the long-term goal of establishing a national nursing student self-governance organization. The committee will continue to support this initiative and foster a stronger network for nursing students throughout Taiwan.

[Watch the short video here](#)

WELLNESS CORNER

Breathing Micro-Breaks: A One-Minute Exercise to Manage Stress During Moments of Tension

Before your next patient, exam, handover, or difficult conversation, take just one minute to reset. A simple breathing micro-break can help reduce stress, improve focus, and bring a sense of calm during demanding moments.

Try the 4-4-4 Breathing Technique:

1. Inhale slowly through your nose for 4 seconds.
2. Hold your breath for 4 seconds.
3. Exhale gently through your mouth for 4 seconds.
4. Repeat for one minute.

Even a brief pause can lower your heart rate, ease anxiety, and improve concentration helping you return to your work feeling more present and in control.

Remember: Taking one minute for yourself is not stepping away from patient care, it is strengthening your ability to provide it. Caring for yourself is an essential part of caring for others.

This month's wellness reminder: *Pause. Breathe. Reset. One minute can make a meaningful difference.*

CALL TO ACTION

Get involved, stay connected, and help strengthen our growing community of students and early career nurses. Your voice and participation make a real difference.

How to Get Involved

Share your insights, activities, brief reflections, and local initiatives, including photos or updates, by emailing them to the ICN SECN Alliance's email secn@icn.ch for potential inclusion in future newsletters. Participate in discussion groups, virtual meetups, or mentorship circles to exchange experiences and support fellow students and early career nurses.

Stay Connected

We encourage SECNs to stay updated on the ICN SECN Alliance's activities through the ICN website and to stay connected by contacting us at secn@icn.ch.

Your participation helps build a strong, collaborative, and supportive environment for students and early career nurses everywhere.

The **International Council of Nurses** (ICN) is a federation of more than 140 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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