

Ref: 279/2020

Beirut, September 1st, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

This comes to thank you for your big-heartedness and support for the Order of Nurses in Lebanon. On August 4, 2020 Lebanon and more specifically Beirut lived a massive explosion that led to the destruction of four major hospitals. More than 250 citizens were killed on the spot and 5000 were wounded. The Nursing profession in Lebanon paid a big price as we lost 6 young nurses who were killed immediately while on duty and more than 200 others were wounded and many lost their homes and cars.

The Order of Nurses organized a memorial day on August 19 that was attended by families of the deceased nurses, their colleagues, nursing directors and presidents of different orders in Lebanon. The ceremony was covered live by all TV channels in Lebanon. During this sad and emotional ceremony we promised the souls of the deceased nurses to keep on supporting their wounded colleagues. Therefore we are putting this call to support the Order financially to be able to meet our nurses' emergent needs. Meanwhile we have put a note on the Order's website and asked nursing directors to help in disseminating the information; we asked all wounded nurses or those who lost their homes and cars to call and report to the Order. In fact we received 206 requests (see table attached) reflecting different needs.

As Order of Nurses we pledge to transparency in all our relations with different parties. Therefore we are planning to put on the Order's website all money received through this fundraising. Also we will be very transparent in terms of distribution. All financial transactions will be kept on records for 10 years. Additionally nurses will be asked to fill a specific form describing their losses in detail with pictures if possible. We will emphasize that nurses need to testify that in case of fraud he/ she will be aware that he/she may be subject to disciplinary action.

It is worth noting that since October 17, 2019 and Lebanon is living an economic crisis that led to the loss of 80% of purchasing power. Which means that nurse's salary now is almost equal to \$120/ month. Goods and services increased in price by 40-50%. The cost of living went up around 40-50%. In addition many nurses were laid off and most of the remaining in the workforce are receiving half salary or obliged to take unpaid vacations. A failing economy, a virus, and an explosion have put a toll on nurses in Lebanon, financially and emotionally. On the other hand, the Order of Nurses only income are nurses' dues which makes us unable to support our nurses financially. Therefore we are extending this call to you, our international colleagues to assist in any way possible to build a base of support for the nurses in Lebanon.

For donations you may use any of the below links

- Direct to the Order - Order's website for donation: www.orderofnurses.org.lb
- Organizations - The International Council of Nurses (ICN) are happy to facilitate organizational donations to the Order if required , Contact Geraldine Limborg at LIMBORG@icn.ch
- Through gofund website: <https://gf.me/u/yuzmu6>

Thank you

Sincerely yours,

Myrna Abi Abdallah-Doumit, President Order of Nurses in Lebanon



Table reflecting the number of nurses affected by the Beirut Explosion August 4, 2020

Damage	Number
Physical , Home and Car Damage	2
Physical and Home Damage	7
Physical and car Damage	11
Physical Damage	34
Home and Car Damage	17
Home Damage	97
Car Damage	38
Total	206