



COMMONWEALTH NURSES AND MIDWIVES FEDERATION

e-News Vol.15 Issue 3 March 2022

THE CNMF STANDS WITH UKRAINE and condemns the invasion of Ukraine by Russia

The CNMF condemns the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Government. The invasion of one sovereign country by another is shocking and without any justification. It is a callous, premeditated, politically motivated war. Our hearts go out to the Ukrainian people whose lives have been shattered by this illegal act. In this very troubled world still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, we need men and women of peace, not men and women of war.

In response to the invasion of Ukraine, the International Council of Nurses (ICN) has begun a new campaign:



The ICN, together with the European Union of Nurses Associations (EFN) and the European Forum of National Nursing and Midwifery Associations (EFNNMA) has condemned the invasion and is calling for an immediate ceasefire and the commencement of intensified diplomatic efforts to end the war.

The ICN is encouraging nurses, midwives and other health workers to download the #Nurses for Peace graphic, add your photograph or association logo, and post to social media to show your support. The graphic can be downloaded from:
https://www.icn.ch/sites/default/files/inline-files/Nursesforpeace_Visuals.zip.

The ICN is also urging nurses, midwives and other health workers to sign the ICN petition:
<https://www.gopetition.com/petitions/nursesforpeace.html>.

A message of support can be sent directly to the President of the Nursing Association of Ukraine ti_cher@ukr.net. The CNMF encourages you to do so to let nurses and midwives in Ukraine know that the nurses and midwives of the world support them.

SAVE THE DATE

The CNMF Biennial Meeting of Members, the decision making body for the CNMF, will be held as a virtual meeting on Friday 24 June 2022. This decision was taken by the CNMF Board as a result of the continued difficulty crossing international borders because of COVID-19 and the first priority for nurse and midwife members to meet the ongoing health care needs of their country's population. Further details will be made available over the next month.

The CNMF Board also made the decision to postpone the 6th Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Conference which was due to be held in 2022, until 2024 for the same reasons. Instead, the CNMF will host six mini-regional conferences in each of the CNMF regions: the Atlantic; the Pacific; Asia; Europe; West Africa; and East, Central and Southern Africa. Full details of the topics and dates for the mini-conferences will be made available as details are finalised. It is anticipated they will be held during April and May 2022.

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

7 March 2022

In a statement released on 7 March, the World Economic Forum (WEF) noted that the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the increase in global connectivity and the importance of global solutions. The development of variants of COVID-19, such as Omicron, requires nations working together to reduce inequalities. The reality is, the WEF say, is that it is impossible to contain a virus in one country or region. Leaders from all countries must develop global solutions for the management of pandemics. Most 'nation first' leaders in the global north do not recognise the impact of connectivity, directly leading to the uncontrollable spread of the virus and the development of variants. The current distribution of vaccines also underscores a stark distinction between the citizens of the global north and those who reside in low and middle income countries. While policy makers in the global north debate third and fourth vaccine doses, more than 1 billion people in Africa are still waiting for their first vaccination.

Read the WEF statement at:

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/03/omicron-teaches-us-that-global-challenges-require-global-solutions-here-is-how-to-start/>.



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VACCINE INEQUITY ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH

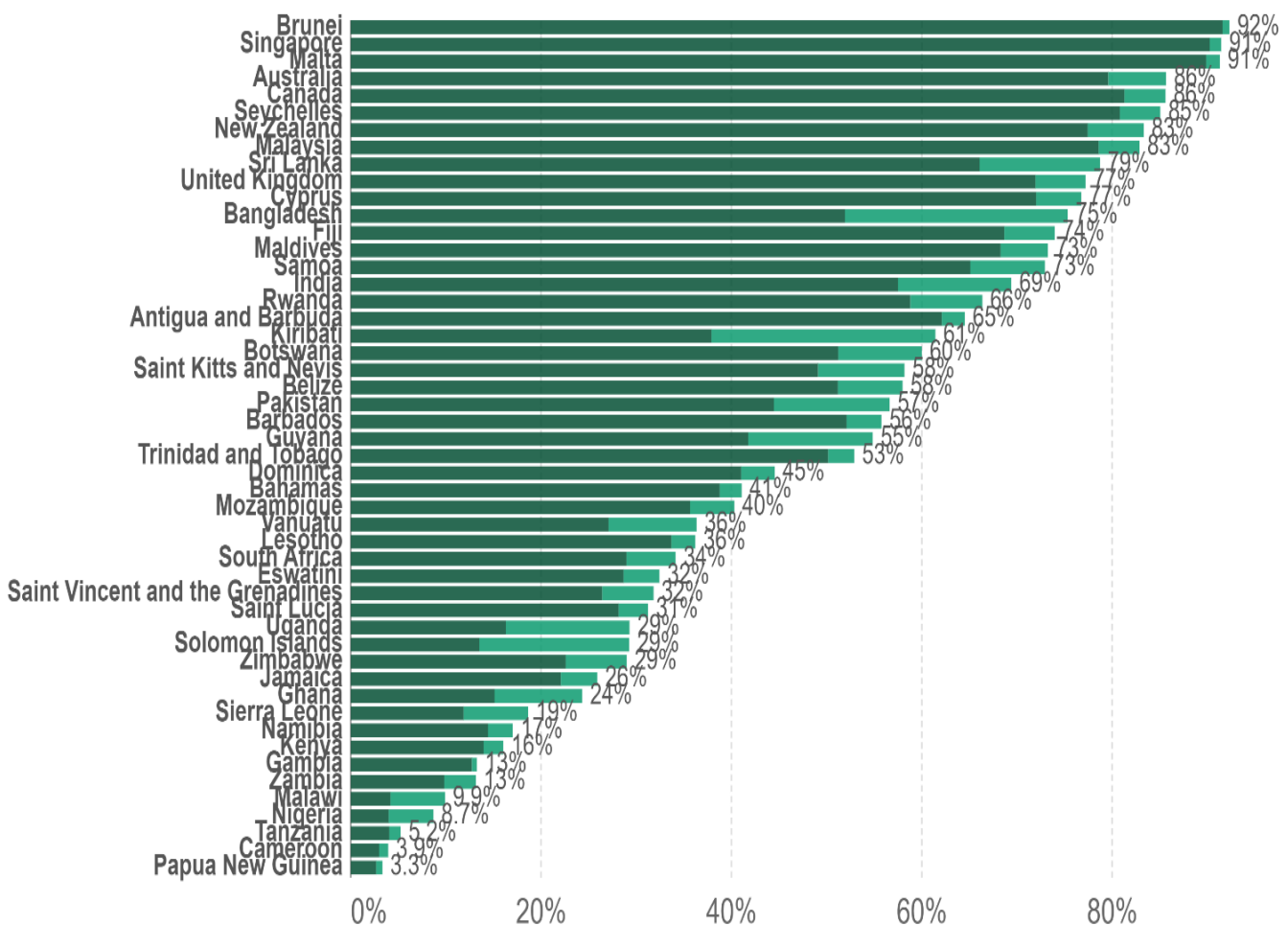
The chart below, from 'Our World in Data' is a sad indictment of the failure of Commonwealth countries to support each other as a Commonwealth family of nations. The COVID-19 pandemic is not over for Commonwealth countries and will not be over until 75%-90% of all people in Commonwealth countries are double vaccinated and with a booster vaccination. The free movement of goods, services and people across Commonwealth country borders is dependent on achieving this goal and until this goal is reached, the personal lives of Commonwealth citizens will be disrupted as well as the economy and ongoing development of Commonwealth countries.

Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM) are due to meet in June 2022. I urge all CNMF members and friends to lobby their Head of Government to raise the issue of vaccine inequity at CHOGM and for CHOGM to come up with some binding commitments to redress this completely unacceptable situation.

Share of people vaccinated against COVID-19, Mar 6, 2022



■ Share of people with a complete initial protocol ■ Share of people only partly vaccinated



Source: Official data collated by Our World in Data

Note: Alternative definitions of a full vaccination, e.g. having been infected with SARS-CoV-2 and having 1 dose of a 2-dose protocol, are ignored to maximize comparability between countries.

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