



# COMMONWEALTH NURSES FEDERATION

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**To those of our members who celebrate Christmas, the CNF President and Board wish you a safe and peaceful Christmas season**

## BAHAMAS HOSTS CNF WORKSHOP



The Commonwealth Nurses Federation in partnership with the Nurses Association of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas conducted a two day workshop for sixty five nurses in Nassau Bahamas 18-19 November 2009 on patient and nurse safety. The workshop was opened by Mrs Rosemarie Josey, President of the Nurses Association of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas and attended by Mrs Paulette Drakes President of the Barbados Nurses Association. Marion Francis Howard, CNF Board Member for the Atlantic Region co-facilitated and presented at the workshop. The participants considered that the following conditions were essential to ensure nurse and patient safety:

### SAFE STAFF

- \* competent, knowledgeable, well educated individuals and teams
- \* sufficient staff

### SAFE ENVIRONMENT

- \* clean, not cluttered
- \* adequate resources
- \* adequate equipment, well maintained, fit for purpose

### SAFE SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES

- \* policies, protocols and standards
- \* incident reporting
- \* patient complaints and rights

### SAFE COMMUNICATION

- \* verbal and written
- \* language sensitivity and diversity

### CLINICAL CARE

- \* assessment, screening, documentation
- \* hygiene, infection control
- \* medication





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## Commonwealth Conversation findings published

The Royal Commonwealth Society has published the emerging findings from its Commonwealth conversation conducted to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the modern Commonwealth. The report: *Common what?* suggests that the Commonwealth risks fading into irrelevance unless leaders take bold action. The report recommends that the Commonwealth must focus on principles, priorities and people.

**Principles:** There is widespread confusion about what the Commonwealth stands for today. Adherence to the values it purports to uphold is patchy at best. Its principles must be re-articulated in a way that captures the public imagination, clearly distinguishes the Commonwealth from other international bodies and directly informs its work in meaningful ways.

**Priorities:** While the Commonwealth does good work in many areas, it is seen as spreading itself too thinly, diluting its impact and identity. There are consistent calls for it to focus on where it can add value in a crowded international marketplace of organisations. The Commonwealth must identify and deploy its unique strengths if it is to thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**People:** The Commonwealth's network of civil society organisations is unparalleled. Yet many of these bodies urgently need to engage a younger generation or risk dying out. They must become more innovative, more coordinated and better resourced.

The report is available from:  
<http://www.thecommonwealthconversation.org>.



The CNF has joined HIFA2015: Healthcare information for all by 2015.

**HIFA2015** is a global campaign and knowledge network administered by the Global Healthcare Information Network, a non-profit organisation working to improve the quality of health care in developing countries. HIFA2015 brings together more than 3000 health workers, librarians, publishers, researchers and policymakers from 150 countries worldwide, all committed to a common goal: *By 2015, every person worldwide will have access to an informed health care provider.* One-third of members are based in Africa, one-third in Europe, and one-third in the rest of the world. Together we are working for a future where people are no longer dying for lack of basic healthcare knowledge. Individuals can also join. Go to: <http://www.hifa2015.org>.



The CNF has also applied for membership of the Global Health Workforce Alliance. The Alliance was created in 2006 as a common platform for action to address the health workforce crisis. The Alliance is a partnership of national governments, civil society, international agencies, finance institutions, researchers, educators and professional associations dedicated to identifying, implementing and advocating for solutions. Find out more from: <http://www.who.int/workforcealliance/en/>.



The CNF is also a member of the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood. Find out more from: <http://www.whiteribbonalliance.org>.