



# COMMONWEALTH NURSES AND MIDWIVES FEDERATION

eNews Vol.8 Issue 4 April 2015

## REFORM OF MENTAL HEALTH LEGISLATION PROJECT

The CNMF was successful in obtaining a funding grant from the Commonwealth Foundation to work with the governments of Botswana and Seychelles to reform their mental health legislation in partnership with the Indian Centre for Mental Health Law and Policy. The projects are being overseen by National Mental Health Advisory Committees (NMHAC) established in each country. A website has been established to provide information about and monitor progress of the project (<http://www.mentalhealthlawreform.org>). The first meeting of the Botswana NMHAC was held in February and the second meeting of the Seychelles NMHAC was held in April.



Botswana National Mental Health Advisory Committee



Seychelles Mental Health Advisory Committee

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS 3<sup>rd</sup> Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Conference

London UK 12-13 March 2016



The 3<sup>rd</sup> Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Conference will be held in London UK 12-13 March 2016 (see conference notice on the second page of this e-News). The theme of the conference is: *Toward 2020: celebrating nursing and midwifery leadership*. The conference will showcase and celebrate the work of nursing and midwifery leaders who have followed in the footsteps of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, the first nursing theorists, a great nursing leader and a role model for nurses and midwives everywhere. **Abstracts close 31 May 2015.** Go to: <http://www.commonwealthnurses.org/conference2016> to submit your abstract or email to: [jill@commonwealthnurses.org](mailto:jill@commonwealthnurses.org).

## LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



Jhpiego in partnership with the WHO, UNFPA and Intel® have developed a number of learning modules suitable for frontline health workers. The modules cover topics such as:

- Family planning and reproductive health,
- Danger signs in pregnancy,
- Essential newborn care,
- Managing postpartum haemorrhage,
- Managing pre-eclampsia and eclampsia,
- Managing prolonged and obstructed labour,
- Managing puerperal sepsis.

Go to: <http://reprolineplus.org/learning-opportunities>

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## REMEMBER TO CELEBRATE

**International Day of the Midwife  
5 May  
International Nurses Day  
12 May**



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## GLOBAL CAMPAIGN TO END FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION



As reported in the March edition of the CNMF e-News, 6 February was the Internal Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation. The United Nations Population Fund has released a toolkit to assist nurses and midwives to participate in the global campaign to end female genital mutilation.

The toolkit has a number of key messages:

- Female genital mutilation violates the right to health and bodily integrity and is a form of violence against women and girls. It is nearly always carried out on minors and is a violation of the rights of children. The practice also violates a person's right to security and physical integrity, the right to be free from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and the right to life when the practice results in death.
- Female genital mutilation exposes girls and women to severe and at times life threatening health complications, including haemorrhage, tetanus, sepsis, urinary retention, sexual dysfunction and infertility.
- Female genital mutilation has a direct impact on maternal mortality. Girls and women that have undergone FGM are 70% more likely to suffer haemorrhage after giving birth and are twice as likely to die during childbirth.
- Female genital mutilation has a direct impact on infant mortality. FGM is linked to higher rates of infant resuscitation, stillbirth and increased risk of death during and immediately after birth.

The toolkit contains suggestions for action at a global, regional and country level and has the following objectives:

1. Reduce the number of midwives performing female genital mutilation, including re-infibulation by 50 %.
2. Double the number of midwives trained on FGM prevention and care.
3. Strengthen the capacity of midwives to serve as champions in female genital mutilation prevention.
4. Engage the Midwifery Associations in the 17 target countries in the global campaign to end female genital mutilation.
5. Increase the awareness of policy-makers on the key role midwives can play in female genital mutilation prevention and care.

The toolkit can be downloaded from:

[http://www.internationalmidwives.org/assets/uploads/documents/UNFPA/TOOLKIT\\_Midwives\\_EndFGM.pdf](http://www.internationalmidwives.org/assets/uploads/documents/UNFPA/TOOLKIT_Midwives_EndFGM.pdf)

## UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

*Investing in health: an economic imperative for sustainable development*



The Commonwealth Civil Society Forum (CCSF), in conjunction with the 2015 Commonwealth Health Ministers' meeting will be held at the Starling Hotel Geneva Switzerland on Saturday 16 May 2015 from 1500-1800 hours followed by a reception. Speakers include:

- Sir George Alleyne, Director Emeritus, Pan American Health Organisation; Chancellor, University of the West Indies.
- Mr K M Gopakumar, Legal Advisor to the Third World Network.
- Mr Ravindra Rannan-Eliya, Director of the Institute for Health Policy, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The CCSF is being hosted by the Commonwealth Health Professions Alliance, the Commonwealth Foundation, and McKinsey and Company. There is no charge for attendance, however places must be reserved by contacting: Dr Tony Nelson [secretary@chpa.co](mailto:secretary@chpa.co) for catering purposes.

## NEW ZEALAND NURSES ORGANISATION CONFERENCE 2015



The New Zealand Nurses Organisation (NZNO) is the leading professional nursing association and union for the nurses in New Zealand. The NZNO provides services to members on professional and employment related matters. The NZNO 2015 Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Conference will be held on 15 to 16 September 2015 at Te Papa in Wellington. Around 300 nurses and members are expected to attend. The theme of the 2015 Conference is *Nursing: shaping our health care*. The conference day will be open to all members and non-member nurses, health professionals, and anyone with an interest in nursing issues.

Registration is open now.

Go to: <http://www.nzno.org.nz/2015conference>