NURSES AND MIDWIVES FOR PEACE
The Role and Rights of Nurses and Midwives in Disasters, Conflicts and Wars

POLICY STATEMENT
Endorsed
Date:

Nurses and Midwives for Peace

1. Peace, and the absence of conflicts and wars, is essential for creating a stable environment within sovereign countries in which people can live, be educated, be productive, and be happy.
2. Nurses and midwives support life and stand for peace.
3. Nurses and midwives are educated to provide skilled, competent and compassionate care. Their role, within communities and their countries, both as individuals and collectively, makes them powerful advocates for peace.
4. Nurses and midwives have a responsibility to stand for peace; to uphold the sanctity of life; and to advocate for conditions within countries that promote peace equitably for all.
5. Nurses and midwives have a responsibility, personally and collectively, to oppose aggressive responses within countries from one individual against another, from one group against another; and from one sovereign country or group of sovereign countries against another sovereign country or group of sovereign countries.
6. Nurses and midwives have a responsibility to use their position as caregivers to call for the cessation of aggressive responses and for mediated dialogue to be used to work toward a peaceful solution.
7. In situations of disasters, conflict or wars, nurses and midwives have a responsibility to provide non-discriminatory care equitably to all.

Role and Rights in Disasters

8. Nurses and midwives are often among first responders in disaster situations, both in the immediate disaster response, and in ongoing disaster recovery.
9. The provision of care by nurses and midwives should be facilitated and supported by those in charge of disaster response and recovery with the provision of essential equipment and resources to provide appropriate care.
10. Nurses and midwives must be provided with protection so they are able to provide care in a safe environment which does not expose them to harm.
11. Nurses and midwives, in addition to their safety being guaranteed, should be provided with immediate and ongoing emotional and mental support.

September 2026
Draft CNMF Policy *Nurse and Midwives for Peace: the role and rights of nurses and midwives in disasters, conflicts and wars*
CNMF consultation 23 September 2026 to 31 March 2027
Comments to cnf@commonwealthnurses.org

Role and Rights in Conflicts and Wars

12. Nurses and midwives have an essential role in providing care in conflicts and wars, both to injured members of armed forces and injured civilians.
13. The provision of care by nurses and midwives should be facilitated and supported by involved governments and those in charge of armed forces, with the provision of essential equipment and resources to provide appropriate care.
14. Nurses and midwives must be provided with protection so they are able to provide care in a safe environment which does not expose them to harm.
15. In situations of conflict or war, facilities where nursing and midwifery care is being provided should never be a target for harm.
16. Nurses and midwives, in addition to their physical safety being guaranteed, should be provided with immediate and ongoing emotional and mental support.

The CNMF urges all nurses and midwives to:

1. Be active advocates for peace in their personal and professional life.
2. Actively oppose aggressive responses between individuals, groups, and countries.
3. Promote genuine dialogue, discussion and mediation instead of aggression.
4. Provide equitable care, in disasters, conflicts, and wars, to the best of their ability without discrimination.
5. Provide physical, emotional and mental care and support for those nurses and midwives who are in the front-line during disaster response and recovery, conflicts and wars.
6. Lobby their governments to promote peaceful dialogue rather than support aggression.

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