



COMMONWEALTH NURSES AND MIDWIVES FEDERATION

e-News Vol.18 Issue 2 February 2025

2025 Commonwealth Civil Society Policy Forum

Friday 28 February 11:00 to 13:00 hours GMT

Online Forum

Registration is essential: click on the image below

2025
Virtual Meeting
Friday
28 February 2025
11:00–13:00 GMT
(London time)
REGISTER NOW

Fit for Our Commonwealth
... toward a resilient and sufficient
health and wellbeing workforce ...

The Commonwealth Health Professions and Partners Alliance (CHPA) hosts a policy forum each year to develop recommendations from Commonwealth civil society to go to the annual Commonwealth Health Ministers' meeting.

Registration is now open. [Register now](#)

The Commonwealth Health Professions and Partners Alliance (CHPA) host a policy forum each year in conjunction with the annual Commonwealth Health Ministers' meeting. The Commonwealth Civil Society Policy Forum is an important forum across the Commonwealth for influencing health policy and practice on behalf of the health and wellbeing workforce and the citizens they provide care to.

The proposed theme for the 2025 CCSPF is '*Fit for our Commonwealth ... toward a resilient and sufficient health and wellbeing workforce.*

The Forum has three themes:

- sustainable financing for a sufficient health and social care workforce,
- planning for a sufficient health and social care workforce for the future,
- return on investment from a resilient and sufficient health and social care workforce,

and will generate recommendations to be presented to the annual Commonwealth Health Ministers when they meet face to face in Geneva in May 2025.



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Freeze on USA overseas aid

A freeze on the distribution of USA overseas aid was announced on January 20 by the incoming USA administration. A waiver for "life saving humanitarian assistance" was also announced.

The feedback from programs in many Commonwealth countries which have been receiving USA aid spoke of chaos, confusion, and tragedy.

The Commonwealth Health Professions and Partners Alliance (CHPA), of which the CNMF is a founding member, have issued a statement calling on the Commonwealth Secretariat to work with the World Health Organisation, Commonwealth member states, and other relevant agencies to facilitate the collection of data and other information to identify the short, medium and long term impact of the withdrawal of USAID on individuals, groups, communities and countries, and for Commonwealth member states to support each other in responding to the immediate crisis, including the provision of short term aid to facilitate transition to whatever new arrangements may emerge.

The CHPA statement recognises the right a democratically elected government to determine their own domestic policy and acknowledges the benefits that USA overseas aid has brought, over many years, to citizens of Commonwealth countries.

However the immediate freeze has meant programs have had to be suspended; people left without essential medicines, vaccinations, and food while waivers are sought with no certainty they will be granted; and local workers without employment or a salary to support themselves and their families. The many calls for help are heartbreaking.

Go to <http://www.chpa.co> to access the CHPA statement and reach out in your own country to find out what is being done to support affected programs.

Global Risks Report 2025

World Economic Forum

On 16 January, The World Economic Forum released its *Global Risks Report 2025 (20th edition)*.

The Report highlights the latest findings from the annual *Global Risks Perception Survey*, a survey of over 900 leaders from academia, business, government, international organisations, and civil society. The report looks at three time zones: the present, two years' time, and 10 years' time.

For 2025, the ten top risks are seen to be:

1. State based armed conflict,
2. Extreme weather events,
3. Geo-economic confrontation,
4. Misinformation and disinformation,
5. Societal polarisation,
6. Economic downturn,
7. Critical change to Earth systems,
8. Lack of economic opportunity or unemployment,
9. Erosion of human rights and/or civic freedoms, and
10. Inequality.

The Report comments that "the world has changed profoundly over the last two years and will continue to do so in unpredictable ways".

It points to the expansion and escalation of conflicts; a multitude of extreme weather events amplified by climate change; widespread societal and political polarisation; and continued technological advancements accelerating the spread of false or misleading information as major factors over the past year, leading to declining optimism.

Feeling unsettled about, and uncertain of the future, is a feeling many people across the world share. The report is well worth reading and can be downloaded from:

<https://www.weforum.org/publications/global-risks-report-2025/>