



# COMMONWEALTH NURSES AND MIDWIVES FEDERATION

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## HEALTH AND CARE WORKER DEATHS DURING COVID-19



2021 was designated the *Year of the Health and Care Worker* by the World Health Organisation (WHO). The Steering Committee on the Year of the Health and Care Worker has issued a Joint Statement expressing their deep concern about the number of deaths, the overall low rate of vaccinations, and the vaccine inequity among health and care workers, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. These deaths are a tragic loss, they say, and leave an irreplaceable gap in the world's pandemic response.

The WHO estimates that between 80,000 and 180,000 health and care workers could have died from COVID-19 in the period between January 2020 to May 2021. The WHO state that health and care workers have exhibited commitment and professionalism throughout the pandemic: extraordinary people, performing extraordinary work. However too many have become infected, ill or died as a result of COVID-19.

The Joint Statement calls for immediate and concrete action to protect health and care workers:

1. Strengthen data collection and reporting on infections, ill-health and deaths among health and care workers due to COVID-19;
2. Protect health and care workers during and beyond the current global COVID-19 pandemic; and
3. Accelerate the vaccination of all health and care workers in all countries.

Failure to take action undermines the physical, mental, and social well-being of individuals the world depends on to manage the pandemic. Recognition and commemoration are not enough. There is a moral obligation to protect and invest in health and care workers.

[https://www.who.int/news/item/20-10-2021-health-and-care-worker-deaths-during-covid-19.](https://www.who.int/news/item/20-10-2021-health-and-care-worker-deaths-during-covid-19)

## FRIENDS OF AFRICAN NURSING CONFERENCE 'Safe Surgery' Saturday 4 December



Friends of African Nursing (FOAN) is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. Their 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference in 2021, on the subject of 'Safe Surgery' is being held live on Saturday 4 December 3:00 pm to 08:45 am GMT.

Registration is free and available from:  
<https://fitwise.eventsair.com/friends-of-african-nursing-2/>.

Join FOAN and other friends of African nursing to discuss this important topic.



## FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PIONEERING NURSE



**Thursday 2 December 2021**  
sessions at various times between 7:30 am and 7:30 pm GMT

Join this free one day virtual conference that draws together pioneering nurses from around the world.

Sessions at the beginning of the day will be repeated to allow for different time zones.

To find out more and book go to:  
[www.stchristophers.org.uk/nurseconference](http://www.stchristophers.org.uk/nurseconference)



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## HEALTHCARE INFORMATION FOR ALL



Healthcare Information For All (HIFA) has launched their new strategy to accelerate progress toward universal access to reliable healthcare information. COVID-19 has underlined the urgent need to accelerate progress toward universal access to reliable healthcare information with an incredible amount of misinformation about COVID-19 - origin, treatment and vaccines - spread through every country.

The new HIFA Strategy 2022-2024 builds on 15 years of solid growth and achievements. The Strategy outlines seven strategic shifts that are necessary to accelerate progress:

- convene stakeholders;
- strengthen collaboration with the World Health Organization;
- promote multilingualism;
- identify and address priority issues;
- harness collective intelligence;
- strengthen advocacy; and
- protect from misinformation.

The WHO has stated that: "Healthcare Information For All is an ambitious goal but it can be achieved if all stakeholders work together." What is needed is for all stakeholders to develop and implement a global action plan to improve access to reliable healthcare information and protect people from misinformation. Read the Strategy:

[https://www.hifa.org/sites/default/files/articles/HIFA\\_Strategy\\_2022\\_24.pdf](https://www.hifa.org/sites/default/files/articles/HIFA_Strategy_2022_24.pdf).

HIFA is a global human-rights-based movement that has been working since 2006 to reduce avoidable death and suffering worldwide, through the progressive realisation of the HIFA vision: 'a world where every person has access to reliable healthcare information and is protected from misinformation'. HIFA is supported by more than 400 organisations worldwide. HIFA is administered by the Global Healthcare Information Network C.I.C, a UK-based non-profit organisation.

Join HIFA and help create a world where people are no longer dying for a lack of healthcare knowledge:  
<https://hifa.org/>.

## GLOBAL HEALTH MEDIA



Contraception helps save women's lives and empowers them to plan their families and plan their futures. Recognizing the need for better family planning information, Global Health Media have produced a series of teaching videos for health care providers and for women and their partners. Sixty new videos on family planning are being produced. Eighteen videos are now available on the Global Health Media website covering long-acting methods of contraception and injectables. The entire series will be available over the coming weeks.

The Family Planning Series is designed to help women and their partners choose and use contraceptive methods that fit their own needs as well as better train health care providers to improve their care.

Maternal deaths can be reduced by an estimated 30% if contraception is accessible and used correctly by women who do not wish to become pregnant. Recognising this need for high quality family planning and reproductive health information, Global Health Media produced their Family Planning Series of videos: teaching videos for both providers and women and their partners. The videos cover each contraceptive method along with important reproductive health topics including infection prevention in clinics. There is a set of 35 videos for health workers and a companion set of 20 videos for women and their partners. The videos reflect the most up to date international standards of care.

Videos can be downloaded free from:  
<https://globalhealthmedia.org/our-projects/family-planning-series/>.

