



COMMONWEALTH NURSES AND MIDWIVES FEDERATION

e-News Vol.17 Issue 9 September 2024

6th COMMONWEALTH NURSES AND MIDWIVES CONFERENCE

**27-28 September 2024
Malta**



The 6th Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Conference was held on 27-28 September 2024 in St Julian's Malta. It was the first time the conference had been held outside the United Kingdom. The conference was co-hosted by the Malta Union of Midwives and Nurses who provided magnificent support.

The conference theme was '*Health for all: nurses and midwives, meeting the challenge - showing the way*'. Two hundred and twenty one people attended the conference from fourteen Commonwealth countries and three non-Commonwealth countries. Participants enjoyed sixty nine high quality presentations from speakers from across the Commonwealth, including two plenary presentations, and twenty five posters.

The Malta chapter of the Commonwealth Children's Choir performed at the opening ceremony along with Malta tenor and nurse, Mr Alan Sciberras.



Conference presentations covered the following themes:

- Children and adolescents,
- Maternity care,
- Nursing and midwifery education,
- The global environment,
- Innovative nursing and midwifery care and practice,
- The health and wellbeing of nurses and midwives,
- Digital technologies and social media,
- Leadership,
- Being inclusive professions,
- Older people,
- Innovative partnerships, and
- Research.



The CNMF is extremely grateful for the outstanding support provided by the Malta Union of Midwives and Nurses, as well as the support provided by the Government of Malta in sponsoring the conference reception.

The closing plenary was given by Dr Deva-Marie Beck from the Nightingale Initiative for Global Health (NIGH). Dr Beck spoke to the turbulent times in which we are living: natural disasters, extreme climate events, mass migration, health inequities, internal and external conflicts, war, contributing to ill health and the development of disease. Dr Beck pointed out that 80% of the global health burden is carried by 29 million nurses and midwives giving us a significant voices as a collective for the causes we care about on a sustainable global scale.

The NIGH 'Global to Grass Roots' speaker series seeks to harness those voices and make sure they are heard. Go to: <https://www.nighvision.net/>



COMMONWEALTH NURSES AND MIDWIVES FEDERATION

e-News Vol.17 Issue 9 September 2024

26th CNMF Biennial Meeting of Members

27-28 September 2024
Malta



The 26th CNMF Biennial Meeting of Members was held at the new offices of the Malta Union of Midwives and Nurses (MUMN) in Qormi, Malta. MUMN gave delegates a tour of their new offices and made everyone very welcome.

The Biennial Meeting received reports from the CNMF President, Executive Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, and Regional Board Members. Three new policies were presented to the meeting, which will now be circulated for comment, finalised, and then sent out to members for endorsement.

Lunch was generously sponsored by the Government of Malta, and in the afternoon, delegates met in their regions to discuss challenges and opportunities. Generally, the difficulty in obtaining Schengen visas for countries in Asia and Africa, the distance to travel, and the cost were common challenges. Other regional issues were:

CNMF Asia and Pacific Regions

- Informal contact with countries in region,
- Online regional meetings,
- Regional conferences,
- Maintain contact during the period between Biennial.

CNMF Europe Region

- Challenge the discrimination and stereotyping of nurses and midwives,
- Equality of genders within the two professions.

CNMF Atlantic Region

- Restoration of dormant countries in the region to membership of the CNMF,
- Funding to facilitate countries to participate in regional CNMF activities
- Migration of nurses and actions of recruitment agencies,
- Implementation of Universal Health Care and the role of nurses in that context,
- Conflict with introduction of direct entry midwifery courses,
- Need to formalise 'mentorship'.

CNMF Africa Region (West Africa and ECSA Africa)

- Migration,
- Education and retention of midwives,
- Identify countries not currently members – reactivate membership,
- Use of CNMF policies in country,
- Disaster preparedness.

