



COMMONWEALTH NURSES FEDERATION

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CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH SURVEY



The 2009 meeting of Commonwealth Health Ministers in Geneva on 17 May will have as its theme: *climate change and health*.

The Commonwealth Health Professions Alliance (CHPA), of which the CNF is a founding member, is conducting a survey of its members so as to accurately reflect the concerns of health professionals to the health ministers. The CHPA is calling on individual nurses, doctors, pharmacists, dentists and other health workers to complete the short survey. The more responses received from across the world the more powerful the message to the health ministers on behalf of health professionals will be.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE SURVEY

Download the survey from:
<http://www.commonwealthnurses.org> and email to:
CPHA@commonwealthnurses.org.

COMMONWEALTH DAY

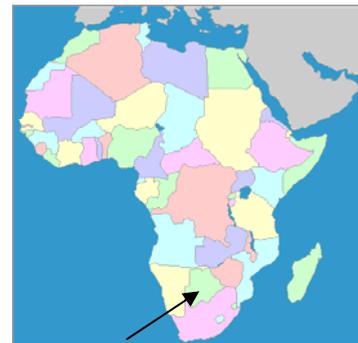
Commonwealth Day was celebrated on
Monday 9 March 2009.



The CNF celebrated Commonwealth Day by launching the Commonwealth 'Young Nurse' Fellowship' which will provide, each second year, an opportunity for a young nurse from a developing country to attend the CNF Biennial Meeting and address the delegates on issues of concern to young people and young nurses in particular. A service commemorating Commonwealth Day attended by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh was held in Westminster Abbey London followed by a reception hosted by the Queen at Marlborough House.

CNF BIENNIAL 2009

Gaborone, Botswana
Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 June 2009



Botswana



REGISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL

Further information, registration forms and the Biennial meeting and workshop program can be downloaded from the CNF website:

<http://www.commonwealthnurses.org> or by emailing:
cnf@commonwealthnurses.org.

The CNF Biennial is being hosted by the Nurses Association of Botswana.

Resources required

The Commonwealth Steering Committee for Nursing and Midwifery is preparing another of their resources for nurses and midwives in Commonwealth countries. This resource is on modernising nursing careers to ensure they are fit for current and future needs. Elements to be included are, for example: updating the image of nursing and midwifery, ensuring pre-registration education is geared to producing the type of nurses needed, mapping different entry routes and career paths and nurse leadership roles in multidisciplinary settings. Further information and resources which may be considered for inclusion should be sent to ann.towner@dh.gsi.gov.uk by end of August 2009.



53rd COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

In conjunction with the 53rd United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, the Commonwealth Foundation held a symposium: **ENDING AIDS STIGMA: Women and men working together.**



The symposium was co-chaired by Ambassador Robert Aisi from the Permanent Mission of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations and Anisha Rajapakse, Program Manager Human Development at the Commonwealth Foundation. Sharon Robinson acted as Consultant to the Commonwealth Foundation in the preparation of the symposium.

Speakers included:

- Dean Peacock from the Sonke Gender Justice Network of South Africa who spoke about innovative ways of engaging men in ending AIDS stigma.
- Lisa Williams-Lahari from the Pacific Islands AIDS Foundation who shared outcomes from a recent survey on AIDS stigma and discrimination in the South Pacific.
- Jill Iliffe from the Commonwealth Nurses Federation who spoke of nursing and midwifery initiatives to reduce the stigma and discrimination associated with HIV and AIDS.
- Caroline Pontefract and Jyotsna Jha from the Commonwealth Secretariat who launched a publication on teacher training for effective HIV and gender education.

WORLD HEALTH DAY 2009

World Health Day is celebrated on 7 April each year. The theme for World Health Day 2009 is: *Save lives: make hospitals safe in emergencies.* Around the world, events will focus on being prepared for emergencies, constructing safe health facilities and recognising health workers and emergency response teams who look after people who have been affected by disasters. The World Health Organisation was created on 7 April in 1948.

PLAN OF ACTION FOR GENDER EQUALITY 2005-2015

Prior to the 53rd UN Commission on the Status of Women, the Commonwealth Secretariat met with Ministers and officials for Women's Affairs from Commonwealth countries and with civil society representatives to provide feedback on progress in implementing the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender Equality 2005-2015. The meeting was chaired by Caroline Pontefract, Director Social Transformation Programs Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

The Plan of Action covers four main areas:

- Gender, democracy, peace and conflict,
- Gender, human rights and law,
- Gender, poverty eradication and economic empowerment, and
- Gender and HIV and AIDS.

A copy of the Plan of Action is available at:

http://www.thecommonwealth.org/shared_asp_files/GFSR.asp?NodeID=142576

INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY

International Nurses Day (IND) is celebrated each year on 12 May, which is the birthday of Florence Nightingale. The International Council of Nurses proclaimed 12 May as International Nurses Day in 1965. The theme for IND 2009 is: *Delivering quality, serving communities: nurses leading care innovations.* International Midwives Day is celebrated each year on 5 May.

THE COMMONWEALTH TURNS 60

The 60th anniversary of the adoption of the London Declaration by Commonwealth Prime Ministers falls on 28 April 2009. On this day the British Commonwealth came to an end and the modern Commonwealth of 'freely and equally associated' states came into being. There are currently fifty three member states of the Commonwealth.

The theme of Commonwealth Day: 'the commonwealth @ 60 - serving a new generation' provides a chance to look back, but also a chance to look at the work of the Commonwealth now and in the future.

