



# COMMONWEALTH NURSES AND MIDWIVES FEDERATION

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## THE COMMONWEALTH TURNS 70

In 2019, the Commonwealth is celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the theme *A Connected Commonwealth*. The modern Commonwealth was established in 1949. Currently, fifty three countries are members of the Commonwealth (Africa: 19; Asia: 7; Caribbean and Americas: 13; Europe: 3; and Pacific: 11). Thirty one countries are small states with 24 being small island developing states. Membership is based on free and equal voluntary cooperation.

The Commonwealth is home to 30% of the world's population: one in three people on the planet. Over 60% of the 2.4 billion people who live in the Commonwealth are under the age of 30 years. Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II is the Head of the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth is governed by a Charter, agreed by Commonwealth Heads of Government on 14 December 2012. The Charter sets out the values and principles agreed by members covering the following areas:

- Democracy
- Human rights
- International peace and security
- Tolerance, respect and understanding
- Freedom of expression
- Separation of powers
- Rule of law
- Good governance
- Sustainable development
- Protecting the environment
- Access to health, education, food and shelter
- Gender equality
- Importance of young people in the Commonwealth
- Recognition of the needs of small states
- Recognition of the needs of vulnerable states
- The role of civil society.

<http://thecommonwealth.org/sites/default/files/page/documents/CharteroftheCommonwealth.pdf>.

The Commonwealth Secretariat, based in London, was established in 1965 to coordinate the priority areas of work decided by Commonwealth Heads of Government who meet each two years. The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC is the sixth Commonwealth Secretary General, appointed in April 2016, and the first woman to hold the post. Commonwealth Day is celebrated the second Monday in March each year.

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

### 5<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Conference

6-7 March 2020 London UK



### Call for Abstracts closes 31 May 2019

Submit your abstract online. Go to:  
<http://www.commonwealthnurses.org/conference2020>

## WORLD DIGNITY PROJECT



The United Nations has affirmed the right of every human being to enjoy the highest standard of physical and mental health without discrimination of any kind.

Yet stigma continues to be a barrier to obtaining good health for many people with mental illness because they do not have equality of access to health care and other social services. In addition, many people are reluctant or afraid to talk about problems with their mental health for fear of discrimination. Co-morbid mental ill health is increasingly common in patients with chronic physical health conditions.

The World Dignity Project is a global movement, bringing together people with mental disability, families, carers, and professionals who are committed to equality of treatment and dignity in experience for people with a mental disability as a basic human right. To join the campaign, go to:  
<http://theworlddignityproject.org/>.



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## CANCER IN CHILDREN

### Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer

Cancer is a leading cause of death for children and adolescents around the world. Approximately 300,000 children aged 0-19 years old are diagnosed with cancer each year. In 2018, the World Health Organisation (WHO) launched the Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer. The goal is to achieve at least a 60% survival rate by 2030 for all children with cancer globally. According to the WHO, the most common categories of childhood cancers are leukaemia, brain cancers, lymphoma, and solid tumours such as neuroblastoma and Wilms tumour.

This initiative is part of the implementation of the World Health Assembly resolution *Cancer prevention and control through an integrated approach (WHA 70.12)* which urges governments to accelerate action to achieve the targets to reduce premature mortality from cancer specified in the *WHO Global Action Plan for the prevention of NCDs 2013-2020* and the *2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals 2015-2030*.

A recent study by Harvard University suggests the prevalence of undiagnosed childhood cancer cases varied widely across regions, from just 3% in western Europe and North America to 57% in western Africa and 49% in South Asia, the study estimated. The researchers said that 92% of new cases of cancer are occurring in low- and middle-income countries, a higher proportion than previously thought. Improving outcomes for children with cancer requires early and accurate diagnosis followed by effective treatment. Avoidable deaths from childhood cancers in low and middle income countries result from a lack of diagnosis, misdiagnosis or delayed diagnosis; obstacles to accessing care, abandonment of treatment; death from toxicity; and high rates of relapse.

The most effective strategy to reduce cancer in children is to focus on a prompt, correct diagnosis followed by effective therapy. Early diagnosis improves survival for many cancers. Nurses and midwives have an important role to play as childhood cancer is associated with a range of warning symptoms that can be detected by families and trained primary health care providers.

For more information go to:

<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/cancer-in-children>.

<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/press-releases/nearly-half-of-childhood-cancers-worldwide-undiagnosed/>.

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

### 4<sup>th</sup> Nursing and Midwifery Research Conference, Jamaica

The Caribbean School of Nursing is hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> Nursing and Midwifery Research Conference with the theme "*Promoting Healthy Ageing through Nursing and Midwifery Research*". The Conference will be held 8-9 August 2019 at the University of Technology, Jamaica campus. Submit abstracts to: [csonresearchconference@yahoo.com](mailto:csonresearchconference@yahoo.com).



University of Technology, Jamaica  
College of Health Sciences  
Caribbean School of Nursing, UTech

**4<sup>th</sup> BIENNIAL NURSING & MIDWIFERY  
RESEARCH CONFERENCE**

*Theme: "Promoting Healthy Ageing Through Nursing and  
Midwifery Research"*

**August 8 & 9, 2019**

**CALL FOR ABSTRACT**

Submission Deadline: March 30, 2019

This conference will provide nurses, midwives, other health sciences professionals and students the opportunity to present and discuss current areas of scientific research and their links to best practices in nursing and midwifery. Submission of abstracts for oral and/ or poster presentations are invited and will be acknowledged within 3 days of receipt. Notice of acceptance or rejection will be sent to corresponding author.

**Guidelines for Abstracts**  
The Abstract should have no more than 200 words  
The abstract should include the following headings:  
Title:  
Author(s):  
Aims/Objectives of the Study:  
Methods:  
Results:  
Conclusion:  
Key words :4-5 words

*Submit to:*  
**Mr. Abubakar Usman**  
Caribbean School of Nursing-UTech, Ja.

**E-mail Address:**  
[csonresearchconference@yahoo.com](mailto:csonresearchconference@yahoo.com)

## 24<sup>th</sup> CNMF Biennial Meeting 2020

### SAVE THE DATE

The CNMF Board have confirmed that the 24<sup>th</sup> CNMF Biennial Meeting of Members will be held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020 in London, United Kingdom. The Biennial Meeting of Members is the decision making body of the CNMF. All CNMF members are entitled to attend and participate in the debate and decision making. CNMF friends are welcome to attend as observers.