

## from the **PRESIDENT**



**Professor Kathleen McCourt CBE FRCN**  
CNMF President

The 26<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting of Members is being held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025, hosted by the Malta Union of Midwives and Nurses. This will be our first face to face meeting since the COVID-19 pandemic. I know all CNMF members and friends are looking forward to being able to meet again in person, and I hope your plans are well underway to be with us in Malta. The agenda for the Biennial Meeting and all the papers will be available on the CNMF website.

The Biennial Meeting of Members is the decision making body of the CNMF. The CNMF Board has not recommended any changes to the CNMF Constitution, however the draft CNMF Strategic Directions will be presented for endorsement. This document guides CNMF activities for the next two years.

The CNMF has also announced that the 6<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Conference will also be held in Malta 27-28<sup>th</sup> September 2025 and the Call for Abstracts can be found on page 15. Abstracts close on 31 May so it is important if you are submitting an abstract that you do so by 31 May.

This conference will be the first we have held outside of London, UK. CNMF members gave us a clear direction in their evaluation of previous conferences that they would like the conferences to rotate around CNMF regions. The Malta Union of Midwives and Nurses (MUMN) have very generously offered to co-host this conference in Malta, so our first rotating conference will be held in the CNMF Europe region. We hope co-hosting will serve as a model for future conferences and we are very grateful to MUMN for the wonderful support they are providing with such enthusiasm and good humour.

The theme for the conference is *Health for All ... nurses and midwives, meeting the challenge, showing the way*. We all face many challenges on a daily basis, not just as nurses and midwives but in our personal life also, and in our lives as global citizens. The COVID-19 pandemic is behind us, however the uncertainty of climate change and more frequent extreme weather events combined with internal and external conflicts and wars remain very stressful. Nurses and midwives are frequently first responders in emergencies and disasters which is another challenge. Our thoughts are with all nurses and midwives who are exposed to emergencies, or disasters, or conflicts that you remain safe. We are proud of and grateful for what you do.

In this issue is an update report about the major oral health project the CNMF has been involved in since late 2022, partnering with C3 Collaborating for Health and the World Continuing Education Alliance. This project, funded by Colgate Africa, has been amazingly successful and has demonstrated the need for better oral health education for nurses and midwives; their eagerness to embrace online learning; and their enthusiasm for the oral health course. It is to be hoped that the learning will translate into changes in practice so that oral health promotion and practice becomes an integral part of daily care.

Also in this edition, we bring you a report of the 2024 Commonwealth Civil Society Policy Forum (CCSPF) which was held online in March. The CCSPF each year addresses a particular theme from a civil society perspective and generates recommendations to be presented to Commonwealth Health Ministers at their annual meeting in Geneva on the eve of the World Health Assembly. The Commonwealth Health Ministers meeting is an important opportunity for issues of concern for Commonwealth civil society to be raised.

The CCSPF is hosted by the Commonwealth Health Professions and Partners Alliance (CHPA) which is an alliance of Commonwealth accredited health and wellbeing organisations. The CNMF is a founding member of the CHPA and serves on its Executive Committee.