

## **WHY INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY CELEBRATION IS IMPORTANT**

The International nurses' day is celebrated around the world every May, 12, marked on the anniversary of Crimean war nurses, Florence Nightingale birthday, who is widely considered the founder of modern day nursing. The International Council of Nurses (ICN) who initiated the international nurses day celebration, is a federation of more than 130 national nurses association (NNA), representing more than 13 million nurses worldwide. It was first founded in 1899 and was the first international organization for health care professionals. The international nurse's day was first proposed by Dorothy Sutherland in the year 1953 and was first proclaimed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. It was first celebrated by the international council of nurses in 1965. In the month of January, 1974, the 12<sup>th</sup> of May was declared to be celebrated as the birthday anniversary of Florence Nightingale.

Each year, a service is held in Westminster Abbey, in London. During the service, a symbolic lamp is taken from the nurses' chapel in the Abbey and handed from one nurse to another, and then to the dean, who places it on the high altar. The systematic handing over of the lamp signifies the respect nurses have for each other and the passing of knowledge from one nurse to another.

Each year, the International Council of Nurses chooses a theme for international nurses day discussion, prepares, distribute an international nurses day kit having educational and public information materials. The theme of celebration is selected based on nurses and environment in relation to the achievement of the millennium development goals and many other issues in nursing. Therefore the aim of the celebration is to raise awareness of the important role nurses play in the society and the contributions, commitments of nurses among common public in providing the best health care services.

International Nurses day is the ideal opportunity for each and every nurse to make reference to what is fundamentally important in nursing practice and evaluation of daily achievement. The celebration helps further to compensate practice not from the top down, but through learning, sharing of expertise and best practice nursing care.

The International Nurses day is also important as it is based yearly on a theme on dimensions of how to achieve the Millennium Development Goals which was established in 2000. The goal serve as a time bound achievable blue print for reducing poverty and improving lives. It guides and focuses development priorities for government, donor and practitioner agency worldwide. The nurse has independent and collaborative roles to play towards achieving the millennium development goal which include reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, and ensure environmental sustainability, global partnership for development and to combat diseases.

In addition, it provides a once in a year/generational chance to define what needs to be done to deliver a more efficient healthcare services.

Furthermore, this day provide an important role in making nurses well informed, advised, encouraged and supported to deliver better works. Activities like competitions, awards and free provision of medical services are provided to make the celebration memorable.

In conclusion, it creates an avenue for nurses from different part of the world to unite, use the opportunity to make contact with front line staff and in the light of this year's theme," nurses a

force for change – a vital source for health” is essential that nurses as a principle force for change provides nursing care that is responsive to and is informed by the healthcare needs of the country and the world at large.

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