



Ms. Prof. Christel Bienstein
President
DBfK - Bundesverbund
Alt-Moabit 91
10559 Berlin
Germany

20 March 2020

Dear Professor Bienstein,

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of the International Council of Nurses (ICN) to express our support for DBfK and your tremendous efforts to protect the nurses and population of Germany against the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus.

As the number of confirmed cases continues to rise in your country (over 8,000 on 18 March) and across Europe, we are all concerned about the health and safety of nurses, as well as that of the population at large. We thank you for ensuring that accurate and timely information is reaching nurses via your website. We were really impressed to see the amount and quality of resources you have made available in so short a time, It is vital we share the best practices for keeping people safe and stopping the spread of this virus.

ICN is very concerned about the need to protect nurses – both physically and psychologically - and we have been working closely with the World Health Organization to support the global effort to defeat this virus. Our aim is to ensure we gather information on the groups of healthcare workers affected in order to protect them and prevent further spread of the virus. We are issuing [weekly updates](#) on the situation with links to the latest guidance and information which you may find useful to share with your members.

Please pass on our expressions of solidarity and gratitude to all the nurses in Germany who are working long hours and making personal sacrifices to deliver essential care to patients in very difficult conditions. It is our aim to ensure that the care that nurses provide continues without risk to their own health and those of their families. To do this we must ensure that all nurses are aware of the [guidelines issued by WHO](#) on how to protect themselves, as well as the rights and responsibilities of nurses during this difficult time. We are therefore grateful to you for posting information not only on protective measures but also answering important questions nurses may have on their rights.

DBfK is a highly respected member of ICN and we acknowledge and congratulate you on the incredible work you are doing. We pray for a speedy resolution and containment of the outbreak across the world.

Yours sincerely,

Annette Kennedy
President
International Council of Nurses

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