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Registration Number
NGO0476.356.013

May 12, 2021

Re: European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN) - International Nurses' Day 2021

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

International Nurses' Day is celebrated around the world each year on 12 May, the birth of Florence Nightingale. This annual event provides an opportunity to mark the contribution of nursing staff and reflect on the vital work and expert care they deliver twenty-four hours, seven day a week. However, the significance of recognising each and every nurse and midwife this year is all the more important among the trauma and tragedy of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, the EFN will continue to lobby the EU Institutions for protective measures for healthcare professionals and workers across the EU during COVID-19 and support, and assistance for those who are suffering with long COVID-19.

This year, nurses and midwives through their relentless commitment, expertise, professionalism, bravery, and heroic actions have saved countless numbers of lives while caring and comforting so many through their suffering and onto a path of recovery whilst also providing compassionate end of life care. The EFN Executive Committee and Office recognise the debt of gratitude that is owed to so many selfless nurses and midwives who risk their own lives, their physical and mental health against the backdrop of the worry for their own families and loved ones. Nurses and midwives have proven their vital role in providing health services during this pandemic in every country in the world. There are countless number of humbling and incredible stories of nurses and midwives' actions, compassionate care and leadership while facing the greatest relentless global healthcare challenge in a lifetime.

In addition, the EFN Executive Committee and Office recognises the exceptional leadership role our National Nursing Association Members (NNAs) have taken during this pandemic to ensure all nurses and midwives are supported, resourced and protected within their respective countries. In addition, the role of NNAs to protect the physical and mental health wellness and resilience of all nurses and midwives has been an essential part of the response to the crisis during this incredibly stressful time. We do not underestimate the challenges that NNAs and many individual nurses and midwives have already faced and the serious and concerning challenges that are ahead for us all.

However, on the 12 May 2020, the EFN Executive Committee and Office are marking the occasion of the International Day of the Nurse in solidarity with all our nurses and midwives. It is with great pride we recognise the individual and the collective efforts of nurses and midwives and humbly commend their selfless commitment, professionalism and bravery to deliver excellence in healthcare to all in need. We know nurses and midwives make a world of difference to people's lives, and it is with humility that the EFN Executive Committee and Office thanks each of you for all that you do.

In Sincere Solidarity,



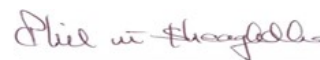
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