

To the Honorable Minister of Health

*Name of Government*

We the nurses of [*name of country*] wish to present to you our urgent requests for improving health by investing in nursing.

Nursing is a profession which offers a triple impact through greater investment in its development.

When you invest in nursing the whole health care system will be better aligned to improve the health of citizens. Nurses are found at every stage of the health care continuum from promotion of wellbeing, to prevention of illness, from diagnosis, through treatment and to end of life care and in public health, hospital care and primary care. Nursing is cost-effective and advanced nurse practitioners can care for 80% of primary care presentations as well as manage those with long term health needs.

With a healthier population the economy is stronger: more people are fit to work and pay taxes. More women are employed as nurses and can help to support their families.

And employed educated women mean that gender equality is more likely to be achieved. It’s a triple win for every country.

In 2020 the World Health Organization published the [State of the World’s Nursing](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240003279) which showed that the world is short of nurses – even before the pandemic – and that nurses have a critical contribution to make to stronger health systems. In 2021 the Strategic Directions on Nursing and Midwifery will be coming to the 74th World Health Assembly (WHA) in May and on this – World Health Day – we ask for your commitment to:

* **Have the Chief Nursing Officer – or most senior government nurse – in the delegation to the WHA. Only the head of the nursing workforce truly understands the implications for our country of the Strategic Directions on Nursing and should be the delegation lead on this.**
* **Be present at the WHA debate on the Strategic Directions on Nursing and Midwifery and set an example by making a public commitment to implement them.**
* **Commit to implementing decent working conditions for nurses that includes fair salaries, adequate facilities and equipment to practice in, and a policy and legislative framework that ensures recognition of advanced practice.**
* **Invest in developing the leadership skills of early career nurses to keep them in the workforce and show how rewarding a career nursing can be – to keep recruitment into the profession vibrant and attractive.**

There has never been a more important moment to show support for strategic investment in nursing.

We thank you for your commitment to our profession and together we will improve health care for our people.