

NEWSLETTER  
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# Friends of African Nursing newsletter

## IN BRIEF

- Chairman's Report
- Snippets of news

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## Chair of Trustees Report

The theme of this year's report by the International Council of Nurses (ICN) is 'A voice to lead: invest in nursing and respect rights to secure global health'. It was released on Florence Nightingale's birthday, May 12, which is celebrated around the world as International Nurses Day. Within the report are some sobering facts such as the global shortage of nurses is estimated at 5.9 million and nearly 89% of that figure are concentrated in low and middle income countries. One out of six of the world's nurses is expected to retire in the next ten years, meaning that an additional 4.7 million new nurses will also need to be educated and employed.

One of the solutions proposed by the ICN is to invest in nurse education, both at undergraduate and post-graduate levels. In addition, all the working nurses need to have input to their continuing professional education, so that they remain current in their clinical specialist knowledge. In order that new nurses and those in training are competently trained by those already qualified and working, they will pass on the best knowledge so that the future of healthcare progresses dynamically. There are few specialist clinical courses available on the continent although Kenya is now providing a good quality perioperative post graduate course—otherwise students have to go to South Africa for a year.

In countries such as Ghana, where we regularly travel, The Nursing Council has decreed following encouragement from ICN regulation guidance that nurses have to prove that they have received continuing professional education (CPD). Effort following our delivered

( On-line or face to face) is therefore finalised with an attendance certificate, just as we would have in the UK. This is a great step forward and may encourage more countries on the continent to provide CPD for nurses.

The World Health Organisation estimates the return on investment in health to be nine to one. It is understood that this is due to being able to utilise nurses to work to their full scope of practice after education. Howard Catton, ICN's Chief Executive Officer said that "we can no longer afford to undervalue and underfund the nursing profession, not only for the health of nurses but for the protection and sustainability of our entire global health system.....if we do address all these present and urgent needs in a sustainable way over the next decade, the World Health Organisations' (WHO) ambition of universal health coverage will be thwarted."

Friends of African Nursing is making a contribution to the educational needs of the nurses in Africa, but there is always much more that we could do. The pandemic has prevented us from travelling but has made us look at virtual conferences—which have to date been well attended with excellent contributions from African nurses and others. We have run three to date and look to the future to determine how we take this forward.

Kate Woodhead

## Recent contacts for FoAN

Royal College of Nursing Foundation contacted FoAN to ask if we would contribute to a book for children to tell them what nurses do. Dot wrote a piece and submitted it to them—they were delighted and to follow –up they asked if she would assist them with another project. This was to tell some stories about what Nurses can do in the course of their careers. This was in advance of International Nurses Day on May 12. Dot spent some time being interviewed by Radio Solent to this end. Raising the profile of the charity and it's activities.

We were contacted by Kings College London, Nursing Faculty asking if we would like some books from their library, to donate to African nurses.

We are in progress with this but are expecting to receive 100 books.

Thank you!



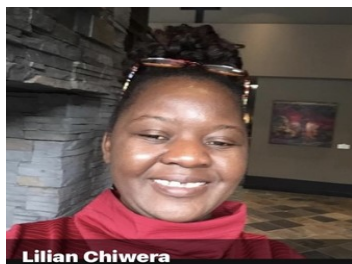
The Association for Perioperative Practice have offered us a Stand at their annual conference on a complimentary basis. Most of the trustees expect to be at the conference and will be able to help with raising the profile of FoAN and potentially add to the membership.

We are sad to

**Trustee news** report that Lindsay Keeley has had to resigned her trusteeship. We will miss her input greatly—always finding solutions to the issues of FoAN by offering experience from other places. It is sad that her term of office was hit by the pandemic and she has therefore not travelled to Africa with us. Thank you Lindsay for your service, we will miss you and all your ideas!

We are delighted to welcome Adrian Jones recently President of AfPP and Chair of the Perioperative Care Collaborative. He brings with him a wealth of experience,. He has recently retired from his position as a Surgical Care Practitioner at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital and most recently in a national role expanding educational development and roles throughout the UK.

We are also delighted to welcome Lilian Chiwera to become a trustee in the next few months. She is an Infection Prevention Specialist Nurse who has been involved with the speciality for a number of years at Guys and St Thomas's Trust, in London. Her expertise is in co-ordinating a successful infection prevention surveillance system. Lilian has been a member of NICE in the surgical site infection quality standard and has been a finalist for various Awards for her work.



In early June, we held the third virtual conference via Zoom. We were delighted to have more than 150 registrations and in a line up of nurse speakers, there were three African speakers, three from UK and one from Canada. The theme was the health, safety and well being of patients and staff.

In the absence of travel to deliver face to face education, this is the next best thing—reaching a wide audience.