



COMMONWEALTH NURSES AND MIDWIVES FEDERATION

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FAREWELL

The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC

Baroness Patricia Scotland KC commenced her role as Secretary General of the Commonwealth on 1 April 2016 and concluded her term of office on 31 March 2025. Patricia Scotland was the first woman to hold the post as Secretary-General.

Baroness Scotland will be remembered fondly by the CNMF. She was always accessible to the CNMF, responding positively to correspondence, and making herself available to speak at our conferences. It was the experience of the CNMF, that the relationship between Commonwealth accredited civil society and the Commonwealth Secretariat improved significantly during her term of office, and became more inclusive and welcoming of civil society input and partnerships.

The CNMF Board wishes her well for the future and says thank you.

INTRODUCING YINGLEN BUTT CNMF Liaison Officer

The CNMF is very pleased to introduce to CNMF members and friends, Mrs Yinglen Butt, who has accepted the position of CNMF Liaison Officer.



Ying is a registered nurse with extensive experience in leadership positions having held the position, amongst others, of Associate Director Nursing, Royal College of Nursing UK; Deputy Chief Nurse, Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust; and Assistant Director Children and Young People, Lambeth Community Health. Ying has also been a member of the UK Chief Nursing Officer and Chief Midwifery Officer Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Strategic Advisory Group since 2005, advising on BME issues that affect patients and staff.

Liaison is one of the CNMF's seven strategic policy areas and Ying will have responsibility for liaising within the Commonwealth, and with other international, regional, and national bodies.

WORLD HEALTH DAY 2025

Monday 7 April 2025



On World Health Day 2025, which will be celebrated on 7 April, a year-long campaign focused on maternal and newborn health will be launched by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The campaign, titled **Healthy beginnings, hopeful futures**, will urge governments and the health community to ramp up efforts to end preventable maternal and newborn deaths, and to prioritize women's longer-term health and well-being.

The key messages are:

- end preventable deaths,
- critical investment is needed, and
- improve women and girls rights.

The WHO say that helping every woman and baby survive and thrive is critical. Based on currently published estimates, close to 300,000 women die each year due to pregnancy or childbirth, while over 2 million babies die in their first month of life and around 2 million more are stillborn. That's roughly 1 preventable death every 7 seconds. Four out of five countries are not on track to meet targets for improving maternal survival by 2030; and one country in three will fail to meet targets for reducing newborn deaths

The WHO say the health of mothers and babies is the foundation of healthy families and communities, helping to ensure hopeful futures for us all.

Click on the image above to access more information and campaign materials.



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FREEZE ON DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

On 20 January, the USA announced a 90 day pause on disbursement of development assistance funds to foreign countries, and to non-government and international organisations, and contractors, pending review of the programs for efficiency and consistency with USA foreign policy. Since that time, other governments have also announced a reduction in development assistance, some in favour of increasing defence spending.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has issued a stark warning on fallout from the USA withdrawal of aid for global health saying the move will vastly undercut efforts to combat HIV, measles, TB, malaria, and other diseases. The WHO Director General said the USA has a responsibility to ensure that if it withdraws funding for countries, it is done in an orderly and humane way that allows countries to find alternative sources of funding. In recent announcements the WHO has advised that:

- The Global Measles and Rubella Laboratory Network is facing collapse after the announcement of the withdrawal of the USA from the WHO. The Laboratory Network includes over 700 laboratories in over 150 countries. The network is run by WHO, but has been funded by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention since its inception 25 years ago. The network has been likened to a smoke detector, alerting the world to measles outbreaks so action can be taken to stop the spread. It now faces imminent shutdown.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/goats-and-soda/2025/03/19/g-s1-54683/measles-u-s-diagnosis-vaccination>

- On 24 March, World Tuberculosis Day, the WHO said that the huge gains the world has made against TB are now at risk as drastic and abrupt cuts to global health funding start to disrupt access to services for prevention, screening, and treatment for people with TB. <https://www.who.int/news/item/20-03-2025-who-calls-for-urgent-action-to-address-worldwide-disruptions-in-tuberculosis-services-putting-millions-of-lives-at-risk>

A global campaign: Healthcare Information For All



Join here
(free):

www.hifa.org

HIFA is a global health network with more than 20,000 members who are committed to the progressive realisation of a world where *every person has access to the healthcare information they need to protect their own health and the health of others.*

Reliable healthcare information is the information people need to protect their own health and the health of others.

By definition, such information should not only be accurate and up to date, it should also be unbiased and reflect, as far as possible, the cumulative evidence based on robust research; it should be in the right language, technical level, and format; it should be relevant and applicable to the person's immediate situation (which is always changing); and the person should be empowered to differentiate it from the barrage of misinformation that does not fulfil these criteria.

Click on the image above to join HIFA and learn about, and share in, their work. In the world in which we live, access to reliable health care information has never been more important.