

## **International Committee**

### **Summary Report of the Meeting Held on 26 February 2019**

1. The International Committee met on 26 February 2019.
2. Two teleconferences have also taken place since that meeting, on 6 March and 20 March 2019.

#### **Update on International Activity**

3. Members updated each other on current international developments.
4. We received a report back from the 21st EFNNMA (European Forum of National Nursing and Midwifery Associations) annual meeting and the Women Leaders in Global Health Conference. We also discussed the RCN's involvement with the WOW Foundation (Women of the World) and the WOW Festival taking place the following week.
5. There followed a discussion on the Department for International Development's request for contributions to the UK's Voluntary National Review of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which the RCN responded to.

#### **Brexit and the Implications for Nursing**

6. We received an update on the RCN position on Brexit and recent activity and provided our views on the key issues emerging to help inform the RCN's future work in relation to the exit deal and the UK's long term relationship with the European Union (EU).

#### **International Workforce Programme**

7. We received an update on developments in relation to 'circular' migration/ mutual benefit schemes and the development of RCN criteria for ensuring that any schemes developed in the UK involving nurses and nursing staff benefit the source country, in-country nursing associations and the individual professional as well as the UK.
8. We discussed development of the RCN's strategic assurance criteria for good practice in such models and made a number of suggestions.
9. We were briefed on the RCN's influencing activity in relation to the Nursing and Midwifery Council's (NMC's) ongoing process of reforming how it assesses and registers internationally educated nurses seeking to work in the UK.

10. Under this item we also discussed the work that the RCN is undertaking, within the context of Brexit, on immigration arrangements for European Union and international nursing staff and the issues the RCN needs to consider in the future. We provided our views to inform the next stages of work.
11. The Committee also discussed the need to link more closely with diaspora groups.

### **Congress 2018 and 2019**

12. The Committee noted the updates on work arising from Congress 2018 and discussed the agenda for 2019. We will be contacting staff leads where we have useful intelligence to share on particular items.

### **International Alliances and Relationships**

13. We discussed the development of criteria which can be used to assess the RCN's key international alliances and networks (including ICN) and felt it important to make clear to members that cost was not the only factor and that it was as much about impact and influence that members could have through being part of that alliance.
14. We noted a report on the European Nursing Research Foundation (ENRF) established by the European Federation of Nurses Association (EFN) as well as proposals for reform of ENRF to be discussed and agreed at EFN's General Assembly in April 2019.

### **International Council of Nurses (ICN)**

15. Ahead of the debate at Congress 2019 on whether the RCN should re-join the ICN, the Committee spent some time in discussion at the February meeting and again via teleconference on 20 March to inform the development of a context paper for Council being prepared by the International Committee.
16. We were clear that the RCN should only consider re-joining ICN if there were clear and measurable benefits to the membership of doing so, after careful consideration of a range of critical factors, including the impact and influence any changes might have on both the current work and future direction of both the RCN and ICN.

### **World Health Organisation (WHO) 2020 Year of Nursing**

17. We will be identifying opportunities over the coming year for the RCN to input to the WHO 2020 Year of Nursing and contribute to discussion on the development of a WHO State of the World's Nursing & Midwifery report.

18. We spent some time considering the nursing contribution to delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the range of activity the RCN could undertake during 2019/20. We agreed that the RCN's focus should solely be on staffing for safe and effective care, folding in activity on education and training as a key enabler of workforce.

### **Any Other Business**

19. We received an update on the Nursing Now! campaign which 77 countries have now signed up to, and an update from the Commonwealth Nurses and Midwives Federation.

**The Committee next meets on 8 May 2019.**

### **Committee Membership**

Trevor Peel, Member (ACTING CHAIR)  
Elizabeth Eves, Member  
Professor Daniel Kelly FRCN, Member  
Sue Campbell, Member  
Felicia Kwaku, Member

Geoff Earl was in attendance

Apologies were received from Anne Marie Rafferty (President – CHAIR)