

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL NURSES' DAY

Royal College of Nursing

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) is the world's largest professional organisation and trade union for nursing staff, with members in the NHS, independent and third sectors. RCN Scotland promotes patient and nursing interests by campaigning on issues that affect members, shaping national health policies, representing members on practice and employment issues and providing members with learning and development opportunities. With over 40,000 members in Scotland, the RCN is the voice of nursing.

Background

Nurses' Day takes place on 12 May each year, the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth. It's a chance to celebrate the remarkable difference that nursing staff around the world make every day.

Aim of Nurses' Day

Nurses' Day is an opportunity for RCN members to highlight their enormous pride in the nursing profession.

It's also a time for patients and the public to thank nursing staff for their dedication and care, and for nursing staff to thank colleagues for the support they receive at work every day, often in very difficult circumstances.

How can you show your support?

Members of the RCN will be delighted to see Nurses' Day being celebrated with a debate in the Scottish Parliament.

You can also show your support on Facebook and Twitter by adding a Twibbon to your account. You can find out how to do that on the RCN website [here](#).

The RCN is asking people to share their messages of support for nurses on 12th May on Twitter by using the hashtag #nurseheroes. You can also sign up to the RCN's Nurses' Day thunderclap [here](#).

What is nursing in 2017?

Nursing is a highly skilled profession, with degree level training required.

Nursing staff are resilient and have a unique set of skills which they bring to their patients and to the multidisciplinary teams in which they operate.

Nursing staff are always there at times of crisis to care for and reassure their patients.

There is real diversity in the range of nursing roles in Scotland – from theatre nurses, to health visitors; from mental health nurses to practice nurses – they all do a very difficult job in equally challenging circumstances.

Conclusion

Outstanding care happens everywhere and at every stage of life. Nurses work across Scotland to bring people the very best care.

Nurses' Day is an opportunity to recognise nursing staff, and to thank them for the dedication and professionalism which they show day in and day out.

Further information

If you have any questions or would like any further information please contact Sarah Atherton, Public Affairs Officer, on 0131 662 6172 or by email at sarah.atherton@rcn.org.uk