



Ms. Radmila Nesic  
President  
Association of Health Workers of  
Serbia  
Zmaja od Nocađa 9/IV 11000  
Belgrade  
Serbia

E-mail: [info@szr.org.rs](mailto:info@szr.org.rs); [r.nesic@szr.org.rs](mailto:r.nesic@szr.org.rs)

21 April 2020

Dear Ms. Nesic,

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of the International Council of Nurses (ICN) to express our support for the Association of Health Workers of Serbia during the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus which has now spread to the majority of countries in the world, including Serbia.

ICN is very concerned about the health and safety of nurses, as well as that of the population at large. We are working closely with the World Health Organization to support the global effort to defeat this virus. In many countries, nurses and other healthcare workers lack the sufficient protective equipment to keep them safe, both physically and psychologically. ICN's CEO, Howard Catton, has been very active in the media promoting this message that countries must prioritise and protect nurses and health workers right now.

There are a number of actions we must take to ensure that the care that nurses provide continues without risk to their own health and those of their families. We have therefore released a [Call to Action](#) which outlines our 12 priorities in response to the COVID-10 and other pandemics. These include providing access to PPE, guidance and training; protecting the health and wellbeing of nurses and other healthcare workers; and ensuring the financial protection and safe registration and regulation of nurses, amongst other actions.

ICN has also written an [open letter to the G20 leaders](#), along with four other health professional organisations, calling for coordinated action to ensure the security of the supply chain of PPE for all health professionals and healthcare workers on the frontline against COVID-19. We stressed the particular need for assistance to lower-income countries with less resources to access the vital equipment needed to protect their health workforce.

Our aim is to share lessons learned by national nursing associations across the world as this is a global crisis which requires a global response. We have held several webinars which brought together representatives from ICN, WHO and leaders of NNAs in the hardest hit countries. If you were not able to join previous webinars, please look out for information on future ones which will be communicated to you.

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3, place Jean-Marteau, 1201 Genève- Suisse - Tel.: +41 22 908 01 00  
Fax: +41 22 908 01 01 - e-mail: [icn@icn.ch](mailto:icn@icn.ch) - web: [www.icn.ch](http://www.icn.ch)

ICN, in our role as the global leader of nursing, aims to continue to enable this sharing of information and experience so we may all learn from them. We are also issuing [weekly updates](#) on the situation with links to the latest guidance and information which you may find useful to share with your members.

Please pass on our expressions of solidarity and gratitude to all the nurses in your country who are working long hours and making personal sacrifices to deliver essential care to patients in very difficult conditions. We are devastated to hear about the deaths of nurses and other healthcare workers due to lack of protection against the virus. It is our aim to ensure that the care that nurses provide continues without risk to their own health and those of their families. To do this we must ensure that all nurses are aware of the [guidelines issued by WHO](#) on how to protect themselves, as well as the rights and responsibilities of nurses during this difficult time.

Howard has filmed a message of support for you to share with the nurses of Serbia. Please click [here](#) to access the video.

The Association of Health Workers of Serbia is a highly respected member of ICN and we acknowledge and congratulate you on the incredible work you are doing. We pray for a speedy resolution and containment of the outbreak across the world.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Annette Kennedy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Annette Kennedy  
President  
International Council of Nurses