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April 7, 2020

Re: European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN) Executive Committee – In Solidarity

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

We are writing to you all as our EFN family, to express our sincerest solidarity and support to all of our National Nursing Association (NNA) Members and your nurses and midwives who are facing challenging times and difficult decisions on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the spread continues to have a devastating effect, we must hold firmly to a unified approach. In complex times we must react with clarity, address uncertainty and combat ambiguity with agility. Many national, European, and global nursing and midwifery organisations are fighting COVID-19 and each individual has their part to play. To that end, the EFN has been coordinating and collaborating with many leaders in the European Institutions to bolster the collective impact to support our professions to deliver nursing care in these unprecedented times. The EFN's primary focus in this pandemic include:

- Supporting you, our NNA's to protect nurses who are on the front lines;
- Protecting the most vulnerable populations through your commitment; and
- Contributing to the European Commission strategy to drive governments to provide the appropriate access to resources, scale, speed, and accuracy of the COVID-19 response informed by our Members.

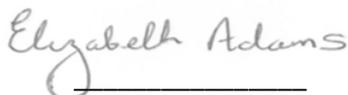
The EFN is ensuring that the nursing voice is clear and consistent in our efforts to protect our Citizens and the profession in our many recent engagements with the European Commission. Our Secretary General Paul De Raeve and his team Fatima and Juan are working diligently to respond to all EFN Members' requests and are grateful that many Members are also lending their support, experience and expertise.

The EFN Executive Committee stands in solidarity with you and continues to enhance efforts to provide support to all our European nurses, care to patients in need, offer support to families, educate the public, and provide leadership to address fears and misconceptions within your country and across Europe. The health of citizens is at the heart of this emergency and it is the heroic work of nurses, midwives and healthcare workers around the globe that will see us through this crisis.

Likewise, you as this frontline must be protected and supported by Government policy to continue to provide this necessary care and role in curbing the virus. This requires adequate testing for frontline staff as a priority, adequate and appropriate personal protective equipment and provision of supports for the childcare needs of our members. The role of EFN is to ensure the European union at a political level ensures a co-ordinated and supportive role to governments to allow the protection of frontline staff not be compromised in this very difficult time. The EFN is acutely aware of the supports that will be required by our members in the aftermath of this pandemic and have already commenced the call for European wide measures to now plan for the provision of mental health and post traumatic care to front line staff when this dark periods ends.

We do not underestimate the challenges that many of our Members have already faced and the serious and concerning challenges ahead for us all. However, EFN's Members solidarity with your passion and commitment to fight this pandemic means together we are stronger. Throughout all of this, please know the EFN takes the wellness and resilience of all our Members and the nursing profession seriously. In meeting this uncertainty, the EFN is confident that nursing leadership and your expertise is essential to our citizens needs now. The EFN Executive Committee thanks each of you for all that you do.

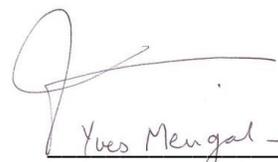
In Sincere Solidarity,



Elizabeth Adams
President



Nina Hahtela
Vice-President



Yves Mengal
Treasurer



Dame Donna Kinnair
Executive Committee



Phil Ni Sheaghda
Executive Committee



Aristides Chorattas
Executive Committee



Jana Gelatiková
Executive Committee

