



International
Confederation
of Midwives

Strengthening Midwifery Globally

11 December 2019

Re: 2020 Year of the Midwife

Dear Member Association,

The World Health Organization has designated 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and the Midwife. ICM and ICN are planning collaborative activities whereby we can celebrate together the essential roles of both nurses and midwives in achieving universal health coverage, acknowledging the complementarity of our professions and each other's important work. One of these is a joint letter from ICM, ICN, WHO, UNFPA and Nursing Now to Heads of State asking them to mention midwives and nurses in their 2020 New Year address. Each profession is also taking the opportunity for separate advocacy and for this reason **ICM is generally referring to 2020 as the "Year of the Midwife"**.

A summary of ICM's plans for 2020 and the timeline of activities are attached to this letter for your interest. We have chosen to focus on four themes - celebrate, demonstrate, mobilise and unite – as we show the world why it matters that women and families have access to quality care from qualified and supported midwives. We are planning two launches in 2020 - the new ICM Charity 'WithWomen' and a Campaign for Midwives. Further details will be available in the coming months.

In January we will be sending out a Toolkit for you to use to support your activities within your association and your country during 2020. And we will be celebrating the International Day of the Midwife on 5th May. **The IDM theme will be "Midwives with women: celebrate, demonstrate, mobilise, unite – our time is now!"**. The 2020 Toolkit will include advocacy resources for both the Year of the Midwife and the International Day of the Midwife.

2020 is a fantastic opportunity to bring the essential role of midwives front and centre and we are excited to have our members help in this work. We are keen to hear about your activities for the Year of the Midwife 2020 and for International Day of the Midwife 2020.

At a global level we are asking partners to consider making a "Happy Year of the Midwife" gift to ICM. This might be something you want to try in your countries – perhaps you have partners who might offer a 'gift' to your association.

There is a growing momentum for midwives globally and we see 2020 as the first year of the 'decade of the midwife' and a future where every childbearing woman has access to a midwife's care for herself and her newborn.

Through your membership ICM represents more than one million midwives! We have a big voice together. Let's use 2020 to make ourselves heard and to bring about positive changes for women and for midwives. Enjoy!

With all best wishes

Sally Pairman
Chief Executive
International Confederation of Midwives