



EFN STATEMENT ON REFUGEE CRISIS

The EFN calls on its members' organisation to support nurses, working in Europe in the ongoing refugee crisis.

Today thousands of people in the world are forced to flee their homes to escape violence and seek refuge, in their own countries or abroad. The scale of displacement is immense and the numbers are growing. Almost 60 million people are displaced worldwide – the world has not seen so many people fleeing conflict since the Second World War.

The International Council of Nurses (ICN) Code of Ethics guides nurses in their daily lives and supports their refusal to participate in activities that conflict with caring and healing. We have an obligation to make Europe a safe haven

The current large number of refugees arriving at our borders is a challenge for the European Union and a time to show shared responsibility. Europe, the world's second richest region, holds the record for the highest number of deaths of migrants trying to reach our shores since the start of this year. The inconsistent and sometimes inhumane responses to receiving refugees across Europe threaten the common values on which the EU is founded.

We call on governments to apply immediately the EU directive, adopted in 2001, regarding temporary protection in case of mass arrivals of refugees. The directive provides for rights of temporary protection and access to medical treatment among other guarantees for asylum seekers.

We would also like to express our deep gratitude to nurses who are presently working with and have been active in the care of migrants. Refugees are not a burden, they are human beings fleeing danger and persecution. They have rights, jointly agreed by the United Nations and it is a shared responsibility for all European countries, all relevant professions, to respond to these commitments.

We as nurses, must always remind ourselves that we have an obligation to follow our ethical code. The Code makes it clear that inherent in nursing is respect for human rights, including the right to life, to dignity and to be treated with respect.

EFN Statement – October 2015

The European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN)
Registration Number 476.356.013
Clos du Parnasse 11A, 1050 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 512 74 19 Fax: +32 2 512 35 50
Email: efn@efn.be Website: www.efnweb.eu