

## Letter to the Editor

# The Nursing Now Campaign in the Fight Against COVID-19: Possibilities for Nurses

Jose Claudio Garcia Lira Neto 

Department of Nursing, Federal University of Piauí, Floriano, Piauí, Brazil

**ORCID iD of the author:** J.C.G.L.N. 0000-0003-2777-1406.

**Cite this article as:** Lira Neto, J. C. G. (2020). The nursing now campaign in the fight against COVID-19: Possibilities for nurses. *Florence Nightingale Journal of Nursing*, 28(3), 364-365.

Dear Editor,

The Nursing Now Campaign, launched in 2018 by the International Council of Nurses, in partnership with the World Health Organization, UK All-Party Parliamentary Group on Global Health and Burdett Trust for Nursing, in response to the Triple Impact of Nursing report, comes to an end this year (Cassiani & Lira Neto, 2018). Among the goals he intended to achieve are ensuring that nurses were present during the formulation of health policies; stimulate investments in the nursing area; placing nurses in leadership positions and share good nursing practices. Despite having support from 117 countries (until February 2020), the Nursing Now Campaign still does not seem to have generated the expected and significant results.

In the midst of an unprecedented pandemic, nurses still do not have the recognition they deserve and need. Perhaps, governments around the world have not yet understood the real need for these professionals to stop the progress of COVID-19. How do we know? In developing countries, such as Brazil, for example, there are fewer nurses than doctors (and the ratio should be 1: 1), there is an overload of work for these professionals, low pay, and threats from the population (Cassiani et al., 2020). The development of this profession is also underestimated since the World Health Organization points to the need for investments in educa-

tion, employment, and leadership (World Health Organization, 2020).

But, what perhaps the countries still have not understood is that nurses, who are in the front line of health care, have a crucial role to prevent the advance of COVID-19, since they act, strongly, in the promotion of health, disease and health prevention. They are also able to minimize social inequities and improve the quality of health in precarious socioeconomic and political contexts, reflecting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and reducing vulnerabilities. If it is still not clear, it is necessary to know that it is the Social Determinants of Health that are the main factors that harm and influence health systems to prevent the spread of contamination by the new coronavirus. Thus, expanding the role of nurses and increasing jobs in health centers, hospitals, and health access devices is a powerful strategy to stop the spread of the new coronavirus (Sars-CoV-2).

In addition, allowing greater autonomy for nurses to take care of their care - inherent to the profession, will also strengthen the health care network, causing a global impact. These characteristics are associated with the goals of the Campaign, and deserve to be understood and implemented, so that, in the near future, we can return to breathing relieved and safe by the hands of nursing.

## References

Cassiani, S. H. B., & Lira Neto, J. C. G. (2018). Perspectivas da Enfermagem e a Revista [Nursing perspectives and the "Nursing Now" campaign]. *Brasileira de Enfermagem – REBEn [The Brazilian Journal of Nursing]*, 71(5), 2351–2352. [\[Crossref\]](#)

Cassiani, S. H. B., Munar Jimenez, E. F., Umpiérrez Ferreira, A., Peduzzi, M., & Leija Hernández, C. (2020). La situación de

la enfermeira en el mundo y la Región de las Américas en tiempos de la pandemia de COVID-19 [*The state of nursing in the world and the Region of the Americas at the time of the COVID-19 pandemic*]. *Pan American Journal of Public Health*, 44, e64. [\[Crossref\]](#)

World Health Organization. (2020). State of the world's nursing 2020: investing in education, jobs and leadership. Geneva: WHO. Retrieved from: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240003279>.