



The Global Network of Public Health Nursing

A Network of public health nurses, health visitors and nursing colleagues working in Public Health

Constitution

Constitution of the Global Network of Public Health Nursing

Adopted on 1st July 2025

1. The name of the network shall be:

The Global Network of Public Health Nursing

2. Aims and Objectives

Aims

- To establish a Global Network of Public Health Nurses, Health Visitors, Community Nurses and other Nurses working in Public Health.
- The Network will focus on learning from one another's public health practice and experience in the areas of: Research, Policy, Education, Leadership and Practice thereby increasing access to quality nurse led public health services across the lifespan for individuals, families and communities throughout the world.

Objectives

- To raise the profile of public health nursing practice making this group of professionals more visible and thereby able to influence health policy locally, nationally and globally
- To develop global public health nursing practice by sharing the local countrywide experience: policies, research, education and practice of public health nurses, health visitors and others nurse practitioners.
- To increase access to quality nurse led public health services across the lifespan for individuals, families and communities throughout the world.
- To use the knowledge of those countries with well developed public health nursing practice to support those without such a service but wanting to develop one.
- To develop a shared definition of public health nursing practice that will be able to reflect the culture, professional traditions, social-economic climate and the policy of individual countries throughout the world.

NB The expectation is that Regional Chapters will have similar Aims and Objectives

3. Powers

In order to achieve its aims and objectives the Network may:

- a) Organize fund-raising activities and apply for grants
- b) Open bank accounts
- c) Establish and maintain a website
- d) Organise courses, seminars, conferences and other public health nursing events
- e) Network with other groups and exchange pertinent information on public health nursing
- f) Employ staff
- g) Apply for non-governmental/ charity/ non-profit status
- h) Acquire and manage office business buildings

4. Chapters

The following Regional Chapters may be formed:

- Canada and North America
- South America
- Asia
- Oceania
- Africa
- Europe

The Regional Chapters will be autonomous in their local activities (but must all be members of the GNPHN to participate) and their activities must reflect the overarching Network's Aims and Objectives and will be reported to the Council quarterly by an appointed regional representative sitting on the Council.

5. Membership

There will be five types of membership: Individual, Student, Associate, Retired and Friend membership. Only full members will have voting rights. Associates will have one vote per Institution/organisation

- a) *Individual* membership is open to any registered nurse/health visitor working or teaching in public health nursing
- b) *Student* membership is open to students who are undertaking qualification in public health nursing or health visiting.
- c) *Associate* membership will be opened to colleges and organisations supporting nurse/health visitors working in public health and is available for (5) faculty members. The organisation will have one vote at the general meeting.
- d) *Retired* membership is open to those who have previously held posts as a registered public health nurse/health visitor.
- e) *Friends membership* will be open to those wishing to better understand the work of public health nurses and to support this.

Country and Regional Chapters

Fees

Members will pay an annual subscription to the GNPHN and if in existence a proportion will be returned to their Regional Chapter providing it is properly set up with representation from several countries and a local governance structure. The level of annual subscription will be determined by the GNPHN Council. The proportion of the membership fees going to any chapter will be discussed and agreed at the time of setting up the first chapter.

There will be a discounted or reduced membership fee for student public health nurses, retired members **and** for members from developing & low-income countries.

Associates fees will be payable annually at a level decided by the GNPHN Council

6 Friends of the Network and Donors

- a) Individuals and other health professionals wishing to support the work of the Network may join as a friend. Friends will have access to the Network discussion forums, information sharing and conferences but will **not** have voting rights
- b) The Council will agree the level of involvement and access for Donors on an individual basis. All Donors will be acknowledged on the website.

7. Governance

Responsibility for the Governance of the Network will lie with the elected Council

- a) The Steering group that stepped down in 2016 at the General meeting of the Network was replaced by a Council.
- b) A Council of a maximum of up to fifteen members shall administer the Network. Regional Chapters will nominate a member who will be endorsed at the Formal meeting of the Network Council. The Council may elect members to bring the membership to fifteen whilst ensuring that the Regions in active membership are each represented by two members.)
- c) Up to two members of the Council **must** come from the current host country and two from the next host country of the International Conference.
- d) The Council will be responsible for the Governance of the Network developing appropriate policies
- e) The Formal meeting of the Network will take place every two-three years at the time of the International Conference when the Bi-Annual General Meeting (BGM) is held alongside.
- f) The Council will convene at four times a year

- g) If a Council member is unable to join Council meetings on more than 2 consecutive occasions the Council will request the nominating group to elect a replacement member
- h) The members of the Council will elect a Chairperson and other officers as appropriate
- i) No more than a third of the Council will stand down following each international conference IF REPLACEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE. No member should serve more than six years on the committee if a replacement can be found.
- j) Attendance by more than half of the current Council numbers will provide a quorum.
- k) The current Secretary and Treasurer should be invited to stay on the Council for at least the following year to provide handover and continuity.
- l) The outgoing Chair and Vice Chair will be invited to pick up the role of President and Vice President, and attend Council meetings until the next BGM/conference so that they may support the new officers and continue to represent the Council as required.
- m) New officers confirmed at the BGM will take up their posts at the next Council meeting with handovers taking place between these meetings.

8. Finance

- a) The fiscal year of the Network shall begin on the 1st January and end on the 31st December.
- b) The Council shall be responsible for preparing the annual financial statements and presenting them to the membership for approval.
- c) Any money obtained by the Network may only be used to achieve the aims and objectives of the Network.
- d) Bank accounts opened must be in the name of the Network.
- e) The Council will adhere to the financial policy at all times
- f) A minimum of 2 Council members are required to authorize payments

(Two representatives of the HOST COUNTRY where the secretariat is based will be the authorised signatories)

9. Formal meeting

- 1) Once every two-three years, and alongside the International Conference, a General meeting will be held. The purpose of this meeting will be:

- a) To receive reports from the Chairperson and Treasurer
- b) To endorse new members to the Council from each Regional Chapter
- c) To agree the on-going work plan for the Network for the next two years
- d) To record Regional Chapters as they are formed
- e) To formally hand over the GNPHN quilt to the next host Country for the bi-annual Conference
- f) To confirm the next host country for the International Conference and ideally the one after that.

2) Notice

Members will be given a minimum of three months week's notice of the General meeting which will ideally be held in person, supported by an online facility.

3) Motions

- a) Members may submit motions to be discussed at the General meeting.
- b) All motions must be sent to the Chairperson at least two weeks before the General meeting.
- c) Motions must be supported by at least **three countries**
- d) All members who have paid their subscription will be eligible to vote

10. Alterations to the Constitution

Any changes to this Constitution must be agreed by at least two thirds of those members present and voting at the General meeting.

The Constitution will be reviewed every four years. Next for formal adoption in Calgary 2025.

11. Dissolution

The Network may be dissolved at any time if agreed by two-thirds of those members present and voting at the Formal meeting. In the event of dissolution any assets remaining after all debts have been paid shall be given to another Network/Group with the similar aims/objectives.

This Constitution was provisionally adopted by the existing Council on 1st July 2025, for formal adoption at the General meeting of the Network - Calgary 2025



1st July 2025

Formal adoption - Signed and dated by Council Chairperson

Foundation members - FROM 2014

- Professor Linda Reveling Smith - USA
- Mary O'Dowd - Ireland
- Professor Kari Glavin – Norway - Founder
- Dr Cheryll Adams - UK
- Chris Gordon - UK
- Dr Christina Lindhart - Denmark
- Professor Reiko Okamoto - Japan
- Professor Ros Bryar - UK
- Teresa Obwaya - Kenya
- Dr Karen Whittaker - UK

Council Members (2026)

- Dr **Amara Frances Chizoba – Nigeria**
- Dr Malene Brekke - Norway
- Dr Nicola Carey – New Zealand
- Euphemia Mbali Mhlongo – South Africa
- Professor Jonathan P. Guevarra – Philippines
- Dr Michelle Moseley - UK
- Dr Helen Mulcahy – Ireland
- Professor Eri Osawa – Japan
- Professor Zahra Shajani – Canada (Chair)
- Associate Professor Diana Snell – Canada (Vice-Chair)
- Assumpta Ude – USA and Nigeria
- Professor Louise Wightman – Australia

Honorary Officers

- Professor Kari Glavin – Norway – Founder (President)
- Dr Cheryll Adams CBE – England (Chair) (Vice President)

Former members continuing to offer support

- Dr Christina Lindhart – Denmark