

PNiS/CC

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar  
Department of the Taoiseach  
Merrion St  
Dublin 2

By email: [taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie](mailto:taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie)

Dear Taoiseach,

The Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation would like to invite you and your party to show support for Nurses and Midwives in the context of:

- **2020 WHO International Year of the Nurse and Midwife, and this month:**
- **5<sup>th</sup> May 2020 – The International Day of the Midwife**  
**Theme:** Celebrate, Demonstrate, Mobilise and Unite
- **12<sup>th</sup> May 2020 - The International Nurses Day**  
**Theme:** A Voice To Lead. Nursing the World to Health

We believe that it is particularly important amid the COVID19 pandemic to recognise, support and celebrate the important role of nurses and midwives worldwide as well as in Ireland.

This year is a special year for nurses and midwives as it has been designated the WHO International Year of the Nurses and Midwife (IYNM) in association with the global Nursing Now campaign. The campaign aims to celebrate members of both professions, highlight the challenging conditions they often face not least, at this time. The current emergency puts into sharp focus the vital role and contribution of nurses and midwives in the fight against the novel coronavirus and we cannot forget this when the crisis ends.

In the Irish context we would be grateful if you would consider, along with members of your party, making a public statement, and /or posting a short video online with a message of support for nurses and midwives.

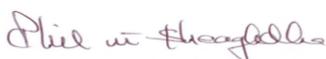
We also ask that you consider advocating for:

- The immediate payment of the outstanding awards agreed as part of the nursing and midwifery dispute;
- Parity of pay for nursing and midwifery grades including managers, with other health care professionals;
- Increasing the places at undergraduate level for nursing and midwifery training in Ireland; and
- Growing the nursing and midwifery workforces based on the governments accepted framework policy to determine correct staffing and skill mix levels.

Messages and videos can be shared with the INMO social media pages and tagged with the Twitter hashtag **#IND2020, #IDM2020, #Couragetocare@INMO\_IRL**.

Thank you for taking the time to read this request and I know our members would be encouraged at this difficult time to hear your continued public support for them.

Is Mise



**PHIL NÍ SHEAGHDHA**  
General Secretary