

**A**s we approach International Nurses Day 2025, we must remember that nurses are the backbone of global health systems, delivering life-changing care in communities and hospitals. But in the present times nurses worldwide face burnout, unsafe working environments, stagnant wages, and rising violence, threatening both their personal health and the sustainability of healthcare systems. This is not only a healthcare issue but an economic one, with a potential productivity gain if meaningful investments are made in nurse retention and well-being. Nurses play multifaceted roles, from leading community health programs to harnessing digital health innovations. These narratives challenge outdated stereotypes, portraying nurses as not only hands-on caregivers but also as highly educated leaders shaping patient-centred, culturally sensitive care.

Therefore, such strategic policy leadership can empower nurses to act locally while thinking globally and aligning their work internally. Such programs cultivate a new generation of nurse leaders equipped to drive policy and health system reforms. Consequently, healthcare must remain a protected space, and the world must stand united to defend those who risk their lives to save others. The Malaysian Journal of Nursing calls upon world leaders to acknowledge the invaluable role of nurses. Through its diverse collection of articles, the journal highlights the vital connection between global health security and economic prosperity. Let us work together to build a future where nurses are empowered, protected, and celebrated for their indispensable contributions to humanity.

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