

The Rural Wonca statement and commitment to  
Nursing Now 2020  
16<sup>th</sup> Rural Health Conference  
Albuquerque  
15<sup>th</sup> October 2019

We, the delegates of the 16<sup>th</sup> World Wonca Conference, support the United Nations Member States high-level political declaration adopted at a one-day meeting in New York on the theme of *Universal Health Coverage: Moving Together to Build a Healthier World* (September 2019) which aims to

- strengthen Primary Health Care for Universal Health Coverage
- ensure quality and affordable access to medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and health technologies
- protect people from suffering financial ruin due to health costs
- implement high-impact health interventions to combat diseases and protect women's and children's health
- strengthen the health workforce and infrastructure
- reinforce governance capacity to achieve these goals

We also support the further recommendation to scale up efforts to promote the recruitment and retention of competent health workers and encourage incentives to secure the equitable distribution of qualified health workers especially in rural and hard-to-reach areas.

Rural Wonca is committed to support universal health coverage, equitable access to services and provide leadership in primary health care, and to achieving this goal in rural and remote communities around the world.

Rural and remote nurses and midwives are in a position to influence change in rural and remote healthcare and improve the quality of patient care by virtue of their professional standing.

Nurse leaders are aware of, understand and can respond to political imperatives that impact on health service delivery and nursing and midwifery practice in rural and remote areas

(adapted from Talbert, 2012).

We pledge to support, advocate for, and promote nurses and midwives worldwide to be collaborative leaders to advance this goal.

In doing so we, Rural Wonca pledge to:

1. support the rural and remote nurse and midwife voice by inviting nurses and midwives to participate in decision making and leadership
2. promote partnerships by advocating the need for equity in participation
3. promote the importance of generalism in nurse training and practice

4. promote collaboration in reviewing Rural Wonca's mandate, to further promote nursing and midwifery inclusiveness
5. actively embed research and data collection to demonstrate a better understanding of the value of rural and remote nursing and midwifery and of nursing and midwifery led care
6. actively promote full scope of practice in rural generalist nursing
7. support an integrated patient and family centred, team-based care that addresses community needs