

**Nursing the Nation to Health**

**International Nurses' Day May 12<sup>th</sup> 2020**

**International Day of the Midwife May 5<sup>th</sup> 2020**

Every May we celebrate International Day of the Nurse and Midwife and come together wherever we practice to celebrate and commemorate our professions and the contribution we make to the health of the nation.

This year any small tokens of gratitude we can make have been dwarfed by the warmth, thanks and support of the public for the work we do.

2020 has demonstrated that we are at our most successful when we work together and in teams. As hugely diverse professions, each and every one of us is making a difference as individuals and collectively. You have shone a light on the values that drive our professions and risen to the current challenge with dignity and respect for patients and for each other. You have developed new skills, worked in new teams and in unfamiliar areas. You have welcomed colleagues into your teams and have demonstrated kindness and generosity of spirit. You have found innovative ways to practice, caring for people at home and in the community. You have reached out to find and support, the most vulnerable in our society; the very young, school children, the elderly, the homeless and to those people struggling with their mental health and the impact of Covid-19 on their lives.

Research nurses and midwives are contributing to, leading and supporting research into Covid-19 searching for the knowledge and evidence to respond to this pandemic.

Educated, skilled professionals we don't carry lamps, we do not have superpowers or wear capes and there are no wings here, but how proud and humble am I that can say, I am one of you a nurse and a midwife in 2020.

Our founding fathers and mothers would be so proud.

Thank you



Professor Cheryl Lenney

Chief Nurse

May 12<sup>th</sup> 2020