



Community Updates

International Special Interest Group

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The International Special Interest Group (SIG) meets the first Tuesday of each month at 11 EST (North America), which is 4 pm UK, or 5 pm Europe. We use the same [Google Meet](#) link each month. Our next meeting is May 6. We welcome members from all countries. Our focus is learning about what is happening with forensic nursing across the globe and supporting each other in enhancing forensic nurses' roles and development.

As a result of some of our members' input, we recognized an opportunity to support forensic nurses in war and disaster. We are working on two draft position statements: the role of forensic nurses in war and conflict, and the role of forensic nurses in disaster and health emergencies. The drafts of the war and conflict position is going to our policy committee (IPC) this month. The disaster and health emergencies position is still being formulated. Members can join the international SIG to help finalize the role in disasters and health emergencies, or will be able to comment after IPC posts for feedback from AFN members.

A related initiative is to raise the profile of forensic nurses in the community. For instance, the International Council of Nurses (ICN) has produced a document with eight competencies for all [nurses and medical teams in disaster](#). There are many areas in which forensic nurses could enhance these competencies. The International SIG is exploring ways to promote forensic nursing with agencies such as this.

Another initiative of the International SIG was to develop a sliding scale for AFN membership based on country economy. The AFN membership fee is based on the World Bank ratings for each country and is set accordingly.

Please join my co-chair (Dr. Kimberly Kasper) and I, and share what is happening in your country. Forensic nurses are stronger together across the globe!