



# EMR-YNI INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY POSITION STATEMENT 2026

On the occasion of International Nurses Day 2026, the Eastern Mediterranean Region Youth Nurses Initiative (EMR-YNI) stands in solidarity with and actively supports the global call led by the International Council of Nurses under the theme: “Our Nurses. Our Future. Empowered Nurses Save Lives.”

Across the Eastern Mediterranean Region, nurses, particularly youth nurses, lead the delivery of person-centered care, sustain overstretched health systems, and confront complex and interconnected challenges. They respond daily to workforce shortages, humanitarian emergencies and armed conflicts, and escalating climate-related health risks. Despite these pressures, nurses continue to demonstrate resilience, lead innovation, and uphold their commitment to the communities they serve.

EMR-YNI asserts unequivocally that empowering nurses is essential to strengthening resilient health systems and accelerating progress toward universal health coverage. Achieving this demands deliberate and sustained investment in safe, supportive, and inclusive work environments; expanded and equitable access to quality education and leadership development; and the institutionalized inclusion of nurses’ voices in health policy, planning, and decision-making at all levels.

As a youth-led regional platform, EMR-YNI calls on governments, academic institutions, employers, professional associations, and development partners to act decisively. Stakeholders must protect, engage, and elevate young nurses as full partners in shaping health policies, driving system reform, and strengthening community-based responses.

Empowered youth nurses are not only the foundation of tomorrow’s nursing workforce, they are delivering innovation, advancing equity, and building sustainable health solutions today.

On this International Nurses Day, EMR-YNI reaffirms its commitment to advocate, mobilize, and partner to advance policies and investments that enable all nurses to practice to their full scope and potential.

We champion the recognition, empowerment, and leadership of youth nurses as indispensable agents of change for healthier, more resilient, and more equitable societies across the Eastern Mediterranean Region.

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# ACKNOWLEDGMENT



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