



## International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses

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The International Society of Psychiatric Mental Health Nurses (ISPN) was officially inaugurated in 1999 at the First Annual ISPN Conference in Baltimore, MD. ISPN's mission is 'to support advanced-practice psychiatric-mental health nurses in promoting mental health care, literacy, and policy worldwide'. Towards that end, ISPN recognizes the importance of supporting world leaders and partners who share our global mission, and particularly the World Health Organization (WHO).

The WHO is a specialized agency of the United Nations that provides global leadership on health-related matters. Established in 1948 with 194 member states as of 2020, its mission is to promote international cooperation for improved public health conditions including setting health standards, epidemic control, quarantine measures, shaping the global health research agenda, promoting evidence-based policy, and providing technical support to countries (WHO, 2020). The WHO fulfills these objectives through leadership and partnership related to critical health-related matters. The WHO also shapes research agendas and stimulating the generation, translation and dissemination of valuable knowledge across the globe.

In January, 2020, the WHO identified COVID-19 as a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC), and declared it a global pandemic on March 11, 2020. The organization led the collection of vital international information and contributed to critical information access, guiding world leaders in the management of COVID-19 (Goodkind, 2020). While the WHO's scope of responsibility seems to steadily grow, the budget depends upon voluntary contributions from member states and private organizations, which place rigid constraints on WHO. The US is by far the largest source of funding, at 15.9% of WHO's yearly budget. However, in April, 2020 this \$400 million annual contribution was withheld by the U.S. administration, pending a review of WHO's response to the COVID-19 global crisis. (Kaiser Family Foundation, 2020).

The International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses (ISPN) has a strong and clear global focus on social determinants of health, including mental health for all. We are calling for the administration to restored financial investment in WHO to sustain global access to resources and protect countries health security. We know that diseases, epidemics, and pandemics know no borders. As we face the current public health challenge of COVID-19, global partnerships play a key role in research, best practices, dissemination of information, and development of vaccines. ISPN supports WHO's role in the international community. We urge the Administration to rejoin the WHO for continued investment into global health.

Sincerely,

Deborah Johnson, DNP, PMHNP-BC  
President  
ISPN Board of Directors

The International Society of Psychiatric - Mental Health Nurses (ISPN), officially was inaugurated in 1999 to support advanced-practice psychiatric-mental health nurses in promoting mental health care, literacy, and policy worldwide. The organization reaffirms that mental health and well-being matter during and after health and disease crisis.



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### References

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