

Taking action on a global scale means starting with ourselves



“Nurses Resolve Major Disparity in Global Health!”

What if you read that headline in your favorite newspaper or journal?! While it is fictitious, nurses and nursing students are working internationally towards closing that health gap by participating in initiatives that attempt to resolve major disparities in global health care.

For many years, nursing students have engaged in research that addresses major health care needs within our national borders. However, students and nursing leaders also recognize the necessity to be continually involved in becoming a part of the solution to global health problems. The nursing profession is an essential part of the health care continuum, and as such, it must play an active part in finding solutions to the health challenges facing the international community.

Most nursing programs nationally include Community or Public Health as a component of their programs. This recent trend in nursing education has incorporated global health issues and initiatives as a part of the learning process for our nation’s nursing students. It allows students to expand their scope of knowledge and understanding of international nursing issues.

A significant part of achieving the work that still needs to be done in the international arena is understanding that our colleagues in nursing around the globe often practice in extremely difficult circumstances without the benefit of protection from legislation like the Nurse Practice Acts, for example. It is vital that as students we become involved at the grassroots level in making positive changes for nurses worldwide. The more we educate ourselves on global health issues that involve the nursing profession, the more we can actively advocate for our profession.

My personal belief is that when we begin a united effort to advocate for nursing and become change agents for ourselves, then others in health care will begin to recognize our value as a profession. Once successful, professional nurses can then begin to provide the utmost in care for our patients and create a win-win situation for nursing and our patients, who trust us during their most vulnerable times.

In this issue of *Imprint*, health care leaders shed light on global health issues that directly affect delivery of care and the nursing practice. So I invite you to relax, read, learn, and enjoy!

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