You, the United Nations, and the Sustainable Development Goals:

How Sigma nurses can influence global healthcare

Presented by:
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Provider/Disclosure statement

Sigma Theta Tau International is an accredited provider of continuing professional development (CPD) by the American Nurse Credentialing Center Commission on Accreditation.

This activity is eligible for one (1) continuing nursing education credit.

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Conflict of Interest: Authors attest that no relevant financial relationship exists between themselves and any commercial supporting entity which would represent a conflict of interest or commercialize the presentation content.
Learning Outcome(s)

● Learning outcome: 65% of participants will report this webinar provides information that enhances, validates, or causes a change in knowledge and/or practice.
Key Messages

- Explain Sigma’s purpose at the United Nations (UN) and highlights of our participation.
- Describe the relevance of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as applicable to social determinants of health and their role in nursing practice.
- Demonstrate how to translate global goals into local action.
- Show how Sigma members can engage and interact with the Sigma liaisons and youth representatives.
The United Nations

An international, intergovernmental organization founded in 1945 that is committed to:

- Maintaining international peace and security
- Developing friendly relations among nations
- Promoting social progress, better living standards, and human rights
Why does Sigma participate at the UN?

- To fulfill the mission of Sigma by representing health, nursing, and the voice of nurse leaders in the work of the UN and its subsidiaries.

- To help advance the UN’s goals and objectives, including the SDGs.

- To conduct outreach around the world to help nurses better understand the SDGs and the relevant work of the UN.
With our Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) special consultative status, Sigma has the opportunity to:

- Participate in and attend events at the UN Headquarters in New York.
- Provide oral and written testimony and statements and participate in health-related committees as subject matter experts.
- Build partnerships between Sigma and other Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), academic institutions, and like-minded individuals and organizations.
Key Events 2019-2020

- Commission on the Status of Women parallel event, Consultation Day
- High Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage
- International Nurses Day
- Read a statement at the 2019 ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum
- Civil Society Conference
- Opening of the UN General Assembly
- Launch of the WHO’s “Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives”
- Virtual events: http://webtv.un.org/
Key Events 2019-2020

- Webinar Presentation: “What Do We Teach Our Daughters? Nurses, Women, and Prosperity” – Presented in partnership with Jhpiego
- Nursing Centered Article: Think “glocal”: Advancing the Sustainable Development Goals during stay at home orders
- American Journal of Nursing Article: Nurses Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: The United Nations and Sigma
Poll Question

- In which of these activities would you participate?
  - Tour of the UN
  - Live broadcast of the UN forum
  - Sigma hosted UN side event
  - Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)
  - Local chapter events focusing on the SDGs and/or Sigma’s role at the United Nations
Sigma representatives speaking at the UN
The World Health Organization designated 2020 as the Year of the Nurse and the Midwife to:

- Honor of the 200th birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale
- Recognize the nursing profession as central to Universal Health Coverage efforts
- Campaign to strengthen the nursing workforce
- Nurses on Boards Coalition
The Sustainable Development Goals
What are the SDGs?

- A set of 17 goals and 169 targets (i.e. sub-goals) adopted by the United Nations in 2015.
- They cover a broad range of sustainable development issues for the world, including health, poverty, climate change, and gender equality, to be achieved by 2030.
- SDG 3 “Good Health and Well-Being” is specifically targeted at ensuring healthy lives and well-being for all.
- Health, nurses, and nursing all play a key role in achieving the 17 goals.
Poll Question (insert watermark or graphic)

Which SDGs are you MOST passionate about?
Why should nurses care about the SDGs?

Nurses are key to achieving the SDGs because we work closely with communities and are critical to empowering individuals to be advocates of their own health.

1. We are a crucial link between the community and healthcare system
2. We have a moral imperative to advocate for positive change
3. It is our world and our health; we are one humanity sharing one planet

Celebrate your achievements, share your stories, and use your voice to lead!
Furthering the Global Agenda

- SDGs provide a global blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet.
- They are powerful mechanisms to improve health and to reduce health inequities.
- There is a critical link between social and physical environments and individual and population health.
- We need global, local, and people action to generate an unstoppable momentum to deliver the goals by 2030.
Translating the SDGs into Nursing actions

Example: SDG #5: Gender Equality

- What is gender inequality and why does it impact women and girls disproportionately?
- How has Covid-19 exacerbated gender inequality?
- What is the UN doing to address these issues and to effect change?
- What can you do to make this SDG a reality?
**ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS**

**BEFORE COVID-19**

**DESPITE IMPROVEMENTS, FULL GENDER EQUALITY REMAINS UNREACHED**

- Fewer girls are forced into early marriage
- More women are in leadership roles

**COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS**

**LOCKDOWNS ARE INCREASING THE RISK OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS**

- Physical
- Sexual
- Psychological

**CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HAVE INCREASED BY 30% IN SOME COUNTRIES**

**WOMEN**

**MUST BE REPRESENTED FAIRLY**

- In pandemic-related leadership roles

**WOMEN REPRESENT**

- 25% in national parliaments (2020)
- 36% in local government (2020)

**WOMEN ARE ON THE FRONT LINES OF FIGHTING THE CORONAVIRUS**

**WOMEN ACCOUNT FOR 70% OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WORKERS**

**WOMEN BEAR ADDITIONAL HOUSEHOLD BURDENS DURING THE PANDEMIC**

- Women already spend about three times as many hours in unpaid domestic and care work as men
“Nurses respond to the health needs of people in all settings and throughout the lifespan. Their roles are critical in achieving global mandates such as universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals.”

Dr. Margaret Chan, Former Director General, World Health Organization
How can you be a voice to lead?

Change and impact starts with YOU!

There are many ways in which the health and well-being of people can be enhanced and improved. Each nurse has a voice which they can use to make a difference.

And at every level, nurses have a significant role to play!
Individual Participation

Never underestimate the power of small, thoughtful, and deliberate actions.

SEARCH
Search Sigma’s website for keywords related to SDGs and areas of importance to you.

FIND
Find a program where you can use your talents.

VOLUNTEER
Volunteer! You can make a difference.

DONATE
Donate your time, talent, and resources to worthy causes.

CHAPTER
Become a Chapter Champion.
Chapter Champion

Utilize chapter resources to do what we alone cannot accomplish.

- Sponsor health-related events in an underserved area.
- Start a mentoring program in your area.
- Partner with a hospital or clinic to help create a health-related campaign.
- Assemble care packages to be sent to areas in need.
- Volunteer in schools to educate PTO members, students, faculty and staff.
- Include SDG-related activities in your chapter’s Annual Report.
Chapter Examples

**Eta Rho Chapter**
Helped create American-based nursing curriculum in Myanmar and sponsorships for students to study abroad in the United States.

**Pi Omicron Chapter**
Provided volunteers at local church food pantries to resources to educate their communities about wellness issues and food distribution.

**Omega Kappa Chapter**
Promoted the implementation of the Recovery model in community mental health care centers in developing countries.

**Gamma Tau at-Large Chapter**
Promoted a coastal cleanup month encouraging individuals, families, and households to participate in cleanups while keeping their community safe amidst COVID-19.
Poll Question

- What activities are you doing at the local level to impact the SDGs?
Global Citizen

Look for big projects that can improve health around the world.

- Go to globalcitizen.org for local, regional and global ideas.
- Take an overseas trip organized by a group with a specific health-related cause that interests you.
- Find a relief organization that needs nurses to travel for short or long-term assignments.
- Check your local service organizations for global outreach projects.
Resources and Opportunities to Dig Deeper

- Learn more about the UN at https://www.un.org/en/
- Learn more about the SDGs at https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment
- Participate in UN briefings from a distance at webtv.un.org
- Use archived briefings in your classrooms to spark discussions
- Visit the Global Initiatives section of Sigma’s website at https://www.sigmanursing.org/connect-engage/our-global-impact
- Access Sigma’s Find your Forward: Resources for Advocacy and Resilience
- Download the SDGs in Action Mobile App
Resources and Opportunities to Dig Deeper

- Read the Activity Reports we post on Sigma’s website
- Plan a visit to New York for a tour and a briefing by a UN official
- Attend a UN/Sigma-sponsored side event
- Read the [Global Advisory Panel on the Future of Nursing & Midwifery report](#) for more ideas on events to promote the SDGs.
- Share your stories of nursing leadership that can make a difference at [global@sigmanursing.org](mailto:global@sigmanursing.org)
- Apply for Sigma’s [Nightingale Challenge](#)
- Apply to serve as a liaison or youth representative
Resources/Contact Information

- Invite us to attend or speak at your next regional conference or chapter meeting

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Questions? Comments?

Discussion!
Thank you for engaging with us today