



IN A CRISIS THEY CARE

HONOURING EXCEPTIONAL NURSES AND NURSING AIDES

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

46th Award – 12 May 2017

CIRCULAR No. 629

Geneva, 1 September 2016

Florence Nightingale Medal: Call for nominations

To the secretaries-general and presidents of National Societies

Dear Sir/Madam,

Nurses and nursing aides perform extraordinary acts to help the injured and sick in times of armed conflict and in the wake of natural or man-made disasters. In recognition of this, the Florence Nightingale medal will be awarded on 12 May 2017 to candidates who have shown exceptional courage and devotion to the wounded, sick or disabled, or to civilian victims in such crises. It will also be awarded in recognition of exemplary services or a creative and pioneering spirit in the areas of public health or nursing education.

We believe that it is important to celebrate the contribution that nurses and nursing aides make to the work of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and to humanitarian work in general. By ensuring that vulnerable people receive medical care in some of the most difficult circumstances, nurses and nursing aides embody the spirit of humanity, one of our fundamental principles. It is with great pleasure that I invite the secretaries-general and presidents of National Societies to nominate candidates who have distinguished themselves in this way.

Terms for nominating candidates

Candidates for the Florence Nightingale Medal must be nominated in accordance with the regulations governing the awarding of the Medal, appended to this circular.

The significance of the Florence Nightingale Medal can only be maintained if the secretaries-general and presidents of National Societies take the greatest of care in selecting candidates.

The specific grounds for the nomination should also be stated, in particular the circumstances in which the candidate has shown **exceptional courage and devotion** or in which he or she has displayed **exemplary moral and professional conduct**. Moreover, a description should be given of the candidate's current and past responsibilities in order to provide a full picture of his or her qualities. Please note that if the candidate has retired or is deceased, no more than two years may have elapsed between the end of his or her activities and the date on which the nomination is submitted.

Consultation with national associations of nurses

National Societies are encouraged to ask their national associations of nurses **to recommend candidates** for consideration.

Nomination process

The secretaries-general and presidents of National Societies are invited to submit their nominations to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), for the attention of Mr Emmanuel Séité, secretary of the Florence Nightingale Medal Commission. If they wish, they may put forward more than one candidate. **The deadline is 1 February 2017.** Attached is the nomination form, which can be completed in English, Arabic, French or Spanish. Nominations not received by the stated deadline may be resubmitted for consideration in 2019. **We would like to emphasize that the Florence Nightingale Medal is not intended to crown a career.**

We are sure you will make good use of this opportunity to recognize and honour individuals eligible for this distinction and, in so doing, inspire your colleagues to continue their important work. If you have any questions or would like assistance in preparing the nominations, please contact the ICRC's cooperation or health delegates in your country.

Yours sincerely,

Jacques Chapuis
President of the
Florence Nightingale Medal Commission

Peter Maurer
President of the ICRC