Florence Nightingale Medal

To the Presidents and Secretaries-General of the National Societies

Dear Sir or Madam,

In circular no. 635 issued on 1 September 2020, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) invited the presidents and secretaries-general of the National Societies to nominate candidates for the 48th award of the Florence Nightingale Medal.

This medal – the highest international distinction a nurse can receive – honours exceptional courage and devotion to the victims of armed conflict or natural disaster; it also recognizes exemplary services or a creative and pioneering spirit in the areas of public health or nursing education.

Since the start of the COVID-19 crisis, nurses have been more than ever working on the front lines, often in difficult conditions. Some have been victims of stigma, born out of the fear of infection; others have fallen victim to the disease itself. On the occasion of the International Nurses Day, the Commission for the Florence Nightingale Medal wishes to pay especial homage to the exceptional devotion of these nurses.

We wish to draw attention to what was emphasized on page 2 of circular no. 635: "The Florence Nightingale Medal is not intended to crown a career". It was also stated in paragraph A on page 3 of the nomination form that concrete examples of courage and active compassion should be cited and that practical activities on behalf of injured, sick or otherwise vulnerable people should be emphasized.

Having thoroughly reviewed the nominations submitted by the National Societies in the light of the above criteria, we are pleased to announce that the 25 persons listed below have been selected for the 48th award of the medal. Since titles, qualifications and functions do not always have equivalents in other languages, it seemed preferable to publish them as they were sent to us by the National Societies.

National Society that presented the candidates:

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS
Ms Bernadette Gleeson
Posthumous award
Registered nurse. Was active notably with the ICRC in conflict and disaster situations.

RED CRESCENT SOCIETY OF AZERBAIJAN
Ms Arasta Bakhishova
Posthumous award
Registered nurse. Worked notably as a visiting nurse and in conflict situations.
RED CROSS SOCIETY OF BELARUS
Ms Liudmila Buzel
Chief Nurse of the Belarus Red Cross Medico-Social Service “Dapamoha”.

Mrs Elvira Shabanova
Visiting nurse in Lida Rail Road branch of the Belarus Red Cross. Introduced innovative methods of providing medico-social care.

CROIX-ROUGE BENINOISE
Mr Georges Lande Glele Kakai
Infirmier diplômé d’Etat en santé communautaire. Actif dans le domaine de la santé publique.

RED CROSS SOCIETY OF CHINA
Ms Shouzhen Cheng
Registered nurse. Director of Nursing Department of the First Affiliated Hospital, Sun Yat-Sen University (SYSU). Active in disaster situations and in the areas of public health and nursing education.

Ms Minhua Hu
Registered nurse. Director of Nursing Department in the Ninth Hospital of Nanchang. Active in disaster situations and in the area of public health.

Ms Yali Tuo
Registered nurse. Head Nurse of Intensive Care Unit, Qingyang People’s Hospital. Active in disaster situations and in the area of public health.

CRUZ ROJA COSTARRICENSE
Mr Christopher Lewis Calderón Bailey
Registered nurse. Works at the metropolitan committee for emergency and rescue services at the Costa Rica Red Cross. Active in disaster situations and in the areas of public health and nursing education.

Ms Carolina Soto Villalobos
Registered nurse. Works as volunteering development coordinator of the Costa Rica Red Cross for the central Pacific region. Active in disaster situations and in the areas of public health and nursing education.

DANISH RED CROSS
Ms Eva Jordung Nicolson
Registered nurse. Currently Danish Red Cross Programme Manager in Lebanon. Active in conflict and disaster situations.

FINNISH RED CROSS
Dr Jorma Jokela
Registered nurse. Principal lecturer at Laurea University of Applied Sciences (UAS) and Adjunct Professor in Simulation Pedagogy at the Finnish National Defence University (FNDU). Active in conflict and disaster situations and in the areas of public health and nursing education.

RED CRESCENT SOCIETY OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
Mr Seyed Naser Emadi Chashmi
Member of MSF teams in Africa and Middle East countries. Active in conflict and disaster situations and in the areas of public health and nursing education.

JAPANESE RED CROSS SOCIETY
Ms Noriko Tomabechi
Registered nurse. Head Nurse, Japanese Red Cross Medical Center. Active in conflict and disaster situations and in the area of public health.

Ms Chiyoko Fujita
Registered nurse. Assistant Hospital General Director and Support Office Head, Peace Japan Medical Services (PMS), Pakistan. Active in conflict and disaster situations and in the areas of public health and nursing education.
KAZAKH RED CRESCENT SOCIETY
Sister Tatyana Spiglazova
Registered nurse. Works as nurse-anesthetist in the intensive care unit of a Multidisciplinary regional hospital. Active in public health and palliative care.

KENYA RED CROSS SOCIETY
Ms Milka Yuda
Health volunteer at Kenya Red Cross Tana River Branch. Active in public health.

THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA NATIONAL RED CROSS
Ms Marianne Stöger

LEBANESE RED CROSS
Ms Wahida Ghalayini
Registered nurse. Head of Nursing Department – Rafic Hariri University Hospital. Active in conflict and disaster situations and in the areas of public health and nursing education.

NORWEGIAN RED CROSS
Ms Turid Andreassen
Registered nurse. Intensive Care Nurse at Haukeland University Hospital (Bergen, Norway). Active in conflict and disaster situations and in the areas of public health and nursing education.

Ms Tonje Tingberg
Registered nurse. Hospital and Surgical Learning and Development Manager, ICRC. Active in conflict and disaster situations and in the areas of public health and nursing education.

THE THAI RED CROSS SOCIETY
Ms Waleeporn Riyagoon
Registered nurse. Assistant Director Specialty Care, Department of Nursing, King Chulalongkom Memorial Hospital. Active in conflict and disaster situations and in the areas of public health and nursing education.

UKRAINIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
Ms Alla Novikova
Registered nurse. Leading Specialist, Tracing Service, National Committee of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society. Active in conflict and disaster situations and in the areas of public health and nursing education.

YEMEN RED CRESCENT SOCIETY
Mr Abdullah Salah Ali Zurba
Registered nurse, Yemen Red Crescent Society. Active in conflict situations and in the areas of public health and nursing education.

Ms Etidal El Qabati
Registered nurse. Assistant Secretary-General for Emergency and Disaster, Yemen Red Crescent Society. Active in conflict situations and in the area of public health.

A total of 1,543 medals have been awarded to date.

The medals and diplomas, accompanied in each case by a photogravured portrait of Florence Nightingale, will be dispatched to the National Societies concerned as soon as possible.
We would be grateful if the medals could be presented in the course of the present year and if the presidents and secretaries-general could ensure that the presentation ceremony is formal in nature, in keeping with the founders’ wishes. Article 5 of the Regulations stipulates the following: “The medal shall be presented in each country either by the head of state, or by the president of the Central Committee of the National Society directly or by their substitutes. The ceremony shall take place with a solemnity consistent with the distinction of the honour conferred.”

We ask the National Societies to convey our warmest congratulations to the recipients of the Florence Nightingale Medal.

Yours sincerely,

Jacques Chapuis
President
Commission for the Florence Nightingale Medal

Peter Maurer
President
International Committee of the Red Cross