



International Confederation of Midwives

Guidelines on how to establish a midwives association

It is possible for a group of midwives to join the International Confederation of Midwives either as:

- a group, independent of any other association of health workers
- or
- a group or section that has been formed within another larger association of health workers/nurses

What is required is for one or two midwives to call a meeting of interested midwives and, if agreed, to form a midwives association or section, to proceed to elect a small working group to

- draft a constitution or set of rules which are compatible with the requirements for membership of the International Confederation of Midwives

That is:

- the membership will consist of midwives recognised by the national governmental authority in the country as being competent to practise as midwives
- clearly identifies the association or section will and can operate separately to manage its own affairs in matters pertaining to midwifery
- a chairperson will be elected solely for the association/section, together with other officers such as vice-chairperson, secretary and treasurer
- indicates the nature of the association/section and relationship with another association if there is one
- sets that membership fees will be charged
- identifies the aims of the association/section (what it hopes to achieve)

If the group forms a section within a nurses association, negotiations should take place with that organisation's officials to gain support for the formation of a section which will speak for midwives and support the aspirations of midwives.

Once a midwives association is formally organised, a constitution adopted and the membership wishes it, application for membership of the International Confederation of Midwives can proceed along the lines described in the papers contained in this package.

Guidelines provided by ICM Board