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Membership Benefits for Members only

**CONTRIBUTE TO MIDWIFERY ON A GLOBAL LEVEL**

- Shape ICM’s direction and global policy through your Association’s representation on the ICM Council – the highest governing body of ICM, e.g. development of the ICM Triennial Strategy
- Contribute to ICM’s global advocacy to raise the profile of midwives and midwifery services
- Contribute to ICM’s global research and policy development to inform governments and partner organisations to better support midwives and midwifery services
- Nominate midwives from your association to one of ICM’s three Standing/Advisory Committees: Research, Education, and Regulation; - and help ICM to strengthen these areas for midwives
- Encourage a member from your association to put themselves forward for election as a Board member
- Be the next Midwives Association to co-host the ICM Triennial Congress and Regional Conference
- Have the opportunity for individual midwife members to represent ICM on various global working groups and activities led by ICM’s partners

**STRENGTHEN YOUR ASSOCIATION AND MIDWIVES IN YOUR COUNTRY**

- Access ICM’s capacity building materials to strengthen Associations e.g. Financial literacy, governance, leadership, advocacy & communication, fundraising, membership services, respectful care
- Networking with other Associations through ICM platforms
- Participate in ICM regional meetings and contribute to regional workplans
- Discuss local issues with ICM Board and Head Office at regional conferences and through other platforms
- Collaborate on ICM projects and initiatives in your country
- Access to ICM Awards for Education, Research and Leadership
- Access to ICM Young Midwife Leaders programme
- Receive support, assistance and advice from ICM.
INCREASE YOUR ASSOCIATION’S INTERNATIONAL

- Increase your credibility by being part of an international organization highly respected globally and nationally by governments and institutions including the World Health Organisation and the United Nations
- Have access to governments and regulatory bodies who might not otherwise meet with midwives
- Receive guidance regarding the celebration of the International Day of the Midwife
- Have your midwives’ association named and geo-coded on the ICM Global Midwives’ Associations Map and populate the map with data on midwifery Association, Education, Leadership and Regulation from your country
- Increase your visibility by sharing your own Association’s news, press releases, events, stories, and pictures from the field to be published through ICM platforms, including ICM website, newsletter and Instagram

As a Member you contribute to supporting midwives everywhere by:

- Contributing to global surveys, meetings, and publications such as the preparation of the State of the World’s Midwifery (SoWMy) report
- Advocating for women and midwives by using the pre-made social media messages in the ICM’s monthly advocacy toolkits.
Membership Responsibilities

AS A MEMBER ASSOCIATION OF ICM, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE TO:

• Abide by ICM’s core documents that are based on respect, trust, dignity and human rights
• Promote within your country the acceptance and implementation of ICM’s Definition of a Midwife, Competencies, Global Standards for Midwifery Education, Global Standards for Midwifery regulation and other such ICM core documents as may be adopted from time to time
• Contribute to ICM’s Strategy directly and/or indirectly at a national, regional and/or global level
• Nominate two ICM Council delegates for every triennium to adequately represent your Association. Council is the highest governing body of ICM
• Assist and support your appointed Council delegates in carrying out their duties
• Identify the needs of midwives in your country and work with the ICM regional Board Member and the appointed ICM Head Office staff representing your region, to bring your issues forward
• Contribute to development of regional workplan and implement agreed activities in your country
• Circulate the ICM Newsletter to all your association members
• Respond to timely manner to ICM surveys (Annual Member Update form and other ICM surveys)
• Communicate regularly with ICM Head Office to keep the staff up to date on any relevant changes in your Association, focal points and contact details
• Pay the annual ICM Membership fee

ICM ALSO STRONGLY ENCOURAGES ITS MEMBERS TO:

• Implement and organise activities which contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) especially Goal 3 – Good Health and Wellbeing, and Goal 4 – Quality Education
• Attend, participate and/or present at the ICM Triennial Congress and the regional conferences/regional meetings
• Promote, build and sustain networks and relationships with other ICM Members, especially within your region
• Tell ICM how best it can be of benefit to midwives, not only in your country but also everywhere.
Membership Categories

ICM offers three categories of Membership

FULL MEMBERSHIP

Only Full Members are entitled to full membership rights and conditions. Full Membership will be considered by the ICM Board when the Association meets all 9 criteria.

**Individual Member Association**
Consists of a single midwives’ association or a midwifery section within another association that meets the 9 criteria required for membership.

**Collective Midwives Association**
Consists of a group of midwives from geographically aligned small countries or entities (e.g. islands) that collectively meet the 9 criteria required for membership.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

**Associate Members have restricted rights and obligations**

The ICM Board will consider granting Associate membership if an application does not demonstrate that the Association meets the criteria for Full Membership.

This category consists of midwives’ associations that are moving towards achieving the Full membership criteria. There will be no direct application to the category and qualification will be determined by the ICM Board.
AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP

Affiliate Members have restricted rights and obligations*

This category applies to the following type of organisations:
• Regional Midwives Associations whose membership comprises midwives’ associations from different countries within the same geographical region (in the world). Regional Midwives Association may include members and/or non-members of ICM.
• Bodies that have the authority to regulate midwifery.

The affiliate membership category exists to achieve two objectives:
• Promote and strengthen harmonisation between regional and global midwifery.
• Develop and strengthen relationship between ICM, midwives’ associations and regulatory authorities to advance the midwifery profession.

Restricted rights of Affiliate and Associate members*

• May engage or participate in ICM’s projects and activities as appropriate and determined by ICM.
• Obligated to pay annual membership fees.
• Eligible to attend ICM Council meetings as observers.
• May not speak to issues at ICM Council meetings.
• May not submit motions, discussion points or position statements for Council.
• May not vote at Council or Regional meetings.
• May not submit a nomination for a Board member position.
How To Become A Member of ICM

Please note that associations, not individuals may apply for membership.

REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME FULL MEMBER

In order to apply for ICM Full Membership, your association:

1. Be an association of midwives, or an association comprised of midwives, nurses and other health professionals (multi-professional), provided that a midwifery association or section exists with its own chairperson (who must be a midwife, elected by the members of the midwives section) and meetings for the conduct of midwifery are held separately from those of other professions (Article 3(ii) of the Constitution). The association or midwifery section must primarily consist of midwives.

2. Have a Constitution or governance processes that demonstrate that the single purpose of the midwives’ association or of the midwives’ section of a multi-professional organisation is to conduct the affairs of midwifery and meets the requirements of Article 4(ii) of ICM Constitution. Meetings must be held at least annually. Where there is a midwives’ section of a multi-professional association the Constitution or governance processes must allow the midwives section to make autonomous decisions. Only the midwives’ section may apply for membership of ICM or send delegates to ICM Council meetings or apply to co-host regional conferences or the ICM triennial Congress.

3. Be within a country (or in countries) that registers midwives and/or legally licenses to practice.

4. Be within a country (or in countries) with pre-service Midwifery Education Programme(s)

5. Be within a country (or in countries) where the ICM Definition of a Midwife and the ICM Competencies are integrated into midwifery education and regulation OR where the midwives’ association is advocating and working towards this integration (see criterion f).

6. Commit, as a member organisation, to abide by ICM’s core documents that are based on respect, trust, dignity and human rights

7. Commit, as a member organisation, to promote within their countries the acceptance and implementation of ICM’s Definition of a Midwife, Competencies, Global Standards for Midwifery Education, Global Standards for Midwifery regulation and other such ICM core documents as may be adopted from time to time

8. If in a country where other midwives’ associations exist, first work together to seek ways to amalgamate into one association. If this is not feasible, work collaboratively with that association/those associations on national strategies to strengthen midwifery including speaking with one voice to politicians and government officials.

9. Be able to pay the membership fees.
The evidence and supporting documents to be received with the application form includes:

**A_ Your Association is an Association of midwives or an Association comprised of midwives, nurses and other health professionals, you need to provide the following evidence and documents:**

- The ICM Membership Application form completed and signed (compulsory)
- The association’s constitution (compulsory)
- The association’s governance structure e.g. organigram (compulsory)
- The association’s financial report and/or any other document providing information about Association’s revenue including funding and membership fee income (compulsory)
- Formal letter of the President of the association to confirm that all criteria are met (compulsory) (see template)
- Provide evidence that:
  1. midwives are registered and/or legally licenced to practice (compulsory)
  2. The ICM Definition of a Midwife and the ICM Competencies are integrated into midwifery education and regulation OR that the midwives’ association is advocating and working towards this integration (compulsory)
- This could take the form of: Letter from the in-country midwifery regulatory authority or Ministry of Health or a link to official/government website.
- Letter of commitment from the association to abide by ICM core documents and to promote within their countries the acceptance and implementation of ICM’s Definition of a Midwife, Competencies, Global Standards for Midwifery Education, Global Standards for Midwifery regulation and other such ICM core documents as may be adopted from time to time (compulsory)
- The association’s annual workplan/business plan (recommended)
- The association’s annual report (recommended)

**B_ Your Association is comprised of midwives, nurses and other health professionals, you ALSO need to provide:**

- Formal letter of the Chairperson of the midwives’ section (where appropriate) to confirm that criteria 1 and 2 (above) are met (compulsory)
- Minutes of annual meetings of the midwives’ section (compulsory)

**C_ In your country, there is already one or more ICM Member Association(s), you ALSO need to provide:**

- Letter of commitment from both/all associations to working collaboratively on national strategies to strengthen midwifery including speaking with one voice to politicians and government officials. Such a commitment is expected of all members and reflects ICM’s philosophy and model of practice, ICM’s Code of Ethics and ICM’s Bill of Rights for Women and Midwives – all of which are based on respect, trust, dignity and human rights (compulsory)
- Or evidence of discussion towards a collaboration between your Association and other ICM member association(s) from the same country e.g. email or letter (compulsory)
- Explanation from the applicant about rationale for existing next to the other midwives’ association(s) and why more than one association is required (compulsory). Please provide your answer in the Application form.
REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME ASSOCIATE MEMBER

The ICM Board will consider granting Associate membership if an application by an Association does not demonstrate that the Association meets the criteria for Full Membership.

REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME AFFILIATE MEMBER

In order to apply for ICM Affiliate Membership:
- You must be able to pay the membership fees
- Regional Midwives Association must provide an explanation of the governance processes that demonstrate its single purpose is to conduct the affairs of midwifery and meets the requirements of Article 4(ii) of ICM Constitution. This could take the form of a Constitution
- Midwifery Regulatory Bodies must provide a copy of the Act of Parliament or a legal document that authorizes the body to regulate the midwifery profession.

HOW TO APPLY

If you are interested in becoming a member of ICM, your association must:
- **Complete and submit the membership application form** accessible on the ICM website under membership or through the ICM Membership Coordinator: membership@internationalmidwives.org
- **Obtain and submit evidence and supporting documents** as described in the Membership Brochure under requirements
- **Sign a Commitment Form** where the association commits to:
  - Upholding the vision and mission of the Confederation
  - Abiding by the ICM Core Documents and, as relevant, working towards their acceptance and implementation within their countries
  - Implementing the Strategy of the Confederation
  - Fulfilling their obligations as ICM Council delegates
  - To comply with ICM policies on marketing and on sponsorship
- Applications and supporting documents and evidence are to be submitted to the ICM Membership Coordinator: membership@internationalmidwives.org
- Membership applications are examined by the ICM Board that determines acceptance.