



ICM statement on decision to transfer the 32nd Triennial Congress in Bali in 2021 to a Virtual Congress

09 October 2020

Esteemed members and colleagues,

The ICM Board has decided to transfer the 2021 32nd Triennial Congress to a virtual format instead of continuing with plans for a face-to-face Congress in Bali. The ICM Board reached this decision after consideration of all available information regarding the progression of the COVID-19 pandemic from the WHO, the Indonesia government, the Indonesia Midwives Association, our members and our partners.

The Board followed the same principles it used when deciding to postpone the Congress from 2020 to 2021. These are: first, to do no harm to our members, our partners and our organisation; second, to keep ICM moving forward; and third, to take advantage of all new opportunities.

We recognize the importance of in-person engagement, especially the meaningful, long-lasting bonds routinely established between participants at our Triennial Congresses. Unfortunately, it is not possible at this time to be sure that ICM could safely deliver a face-to-face Congress in Bali in June 2021 and instead we have decided to transfer our current plans to a virtual Congress in June 2021. There are many logistics to confirm but we are confident that a virtual ICM Triennial Congress will be exciting and interesting and that we can still provide innovative ways for midwives to connect with each other and with our partners and exhibitors and enjoy the diversity, the inspiration and the positivity that are hallmarks of our face-to-face Congresses.

Together with our Congress Management Team, C-IN, we're working on a comprehensive fact sheet with updates and instructions for our registrants, speakers, partners, exhibitors, and those looking to register for the virtual event. These details will be announced on 6 November. We are happy to receive your questions at queries@midwives2021.org but we will not respond to these until after the 6th November when we have confirmed information to share with you.

We hope that, as much as possible, the existing programming can move 'as is' to the virtual format. We will be in touch with partners who have agreed to provide partner sessions. Our Congress Management Team, C-IN, will be in touch with all confirmed presenters and session chairs as well as those currently registered. Current registrations will be carried forward to the Virtual Congress but we will have more information about this after 6 November. Our conference organisers, Prime, will be in touch with all sponsors and exhibitors with the hope that all current arrangements can be carried forward to the virtual format.

We are excited by the opportunity provided by the virtual format to increase participation and we look forward to an even greater number of midwives and partners joining us for our Virtual ICM Triennial Congress in 2021.

For those who've booked travel and accommodation for the Congress in Bali, we encourage you to work with your travel agent or ticket provider to cancel your arrangements. ICM is not responsible for any cancellation fees — by virtue of sharing this announcement seven months in advance of the event, we hope to help you avoid any penalties.

As always, we encourage our global community of midwives to stay healthy and stay connected to the latest COVID-19 updates by visiting the WHO's [digital pandemic hub](#), as well as the [COVID-19 section](#) on the ICM website where you will find Coronavirus information specific to midwives and birthing women.

Sincerely,

International Confederation of Midwives and its Board