

# International Conference on Workplace Violence in the Health Sector

Together, Creating a Safe Work Environment

22 – 24 October 2008 - De Meervaart - Amsterdam - the Netherlands



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Dear colleagues,

Workplace violence in the health sector is progressively gaining attention and recognition as being a global challenge. This occupational health hazard affects more than one or two single professions, and has become a major concern for many different stakeholders in the health care sector. Governments, management, professionals, health care workers, insurance companies, service users/clients, educators, trainers, researchers, the police, professional and trade union organizations see the serious impact of workplace violence. Together, we can create a safer work environment and support excellence in care.

There is great need to raise awareness of this occupational health hazard and to look for the right evidence based answers and strategies that will reduce and mitigate the effects of violence. The ultimate goal is an environment in which health, safety and personal well-being is being ensured for all individuals and groups within the health care sector. Workers and clients have the right to expect a safe environment that supports the delivery of effective care and quality client services. It is time for an international conference where all stakeholders can reach consensus and endeavour to create a safe work environment.

The conference focus is on violence against health care workers, and the specific aims are:

- To sensitize stakeholders to the issue of workplace violence.
- To understand the manifestations and the human, professional and economic implications of workplace violence.
- To promote effective policies and strategies to create safe work environments

#### Keynote Speakers

- *Dr. Victoria Carroll* (USA): Violence towards nurses
- *Prof. Dr. Cary L. Cooper* (UK): The economic impact of workplace violence
- *Dr. Mireille Kingma* (ICN, Switzerland): From workplace violence to wellness
- *Prof. Dr. Linda O'Brien-Pallas* (STTI, Canada): Policy implementation and quality of the workplace
- *Dr. Susan Steinman* (South Africa): From training to institutional programs to politics
- *Dr. Vittorio DiMartino* (UK): Violence at work – a general overview

- *Dr. Christiane Wiskow* (ILO, Switzerland): Guidelines on workplace violence in the health sector anno 2008
- *Dr. Manuel Dayrit* (WHO, Switzerland): Impact of workplace violence on the recruitment of nurses
- *Mr. Patrick Harvey* (HSE, Ireland): Workplace violence – an Irish national strategic response

The conference will be held from the 22nd till the 24th of October 2008 at the Congress Centre 'De Meervaart', Amsterdam, The Netherlands and is organized by Oud Consultancy.

At present, the conference is already co-sponsored by the International Council of Nurses (ICN), Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI), International Hospital Federation (IHF), Public Services International (PSI), Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT), the International Labour Organization (ILO), and CONNECTING.

If you are interested in attending this conference, which offers you 5 seminars of 3 hours each, 31 workshops of 1,5 hours each, 62 paper presentations and 23 poster presentations, we invite you to consult the organizer's web site ([www.oudconsultancy.nl](http://www.oudconsultancy.nl)) and the STTI website ([www.nursingsociety.org](http://www.nursingsociety.org)) for more details regarding the programme, registration and payment.

On sending an e-mail to the conference organization at [conference.management@freeler.nl](mailto:conference.management@freeler.nl) we will inform you by e-mail about the progress of this conference.

With kind regards,

Dr. Ian Needham,  
chair of the organization and scientific committee

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Operational Conference Manager

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