



TOBACCO CONTROL NURSES INTERNATIONAL

## HOW NURSES CAN BECOME TOBACCO CONTROL ADVOCATES

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Nurses enjoy public trust and respect, have access to all levels of the population and interact with most people at some point in their lives.

The nursing profession has tremendous potential to implement smoking cessation interventions and the goals of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. This is recognised by the tobacco industry. A Philip Morris (1998) document states:

***“..as they [nurses] become more active in politics ... they could easily be formidable opponents of the tobacco industry.”***

**Past barriers to nursing engagement include:**

- Few nursing leaders promoting nursing engagement in tobacco control
- Lack of training in tobacco control, prevention and cessation
- Smoking among nurses and the risk of a rise in smoking rates where women traditionally do not smoke.

The global tobacco epidemic is growing. There is no doubt that nurses are excellently placed to make a difference by incorporating tobacco control as an integral element of their practice. Nurses must be equipped to assist with smoking cessation, prevent tobacco uptake and promote strategies to decrease exposure to second hand smoke. Tobacco Control Nurses International is a global network which supports the activities of individual nurses, nurse educators and National Nursing Associations.

**Tobacco Control Nurses International (TCNI)**

TCNI is an international Community of Practice which facilitates discussion and information exchange on tobacco control by:

- Supporting nurses to be tobacco free role models and enhancing the culture of nurses as advocates of a smoke-free society.
- Encouraging nurses to take an active role in tobacco control policy and legislation development at local and national levels, and providing tools to support them to do so.
- Assisting National Nursing Associations to embrace the Code of Practice on Tobacco control for Health Professional Organizations.
- Building nurses' capacity to provide smoking cessation interventions and adapt these to different cultures and different settings.
- Developing guidelines, core curricula and continuing education programs on tobacco control.
- Supporting nurses with smoking cessation and tobacco control research and dissemination.

**International nurses can join the Tobacco Control Nurses Community of Practice by logging on to [www.globalbridges.org/community/nurses](http://www.globalbridges.org/community/nurses) to share experiences and knowledge with like-minded nurses.**

**NURSES FOR A TOBACCO-FREE WORLD**

[WWW.GLOBALBRIDGES.ORG/COMMUNITY/NURSES](http://WWW.GLOBALBRIDGES.ORG/COMMUNITY/NURSES)