



**International
Confederation
of Midwives**

Strengthening Midwifery Globally

ICM statement on postponement of the 32nd ICM Triennial Congress from 2020 until 2021

12 March 2020

Esteemed members and colleagues,

It's with deep disappointment that we announce the postponement of the 32nd ICM Triennial Congress in Bali, Indonesia due to the risks associated with the Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. The ICM Board reached this decision after consideration of all available information from the WHO, various country ministries of health, our members and our partners.

In making this decision the ICM Board has worked from three principles: first, to do no harm to our members, our partners and our organisation; second, keep ICM moving forward; and third, take advantage of all new opportunities. While we initially planned to implement comprehensive measures to keep Congress attendees safe, in line with WHO guidance for mass gatherings, we feel we must now take the more extreme measure of postponement to protect attendees – many of whom are frontline healthcare workers providing essential health care services to women, their babies, families and communities. Midwives and ICM are resilient in the face of adversity and we will adjust and adapt positively to this global health crisis as we continue to manage our work in the best way we can.

The 32nd ICM Triennial Congress will now take place in Bali from 30th May to 3rd June 2021. The dance for women's empowerment will take place on Saturday 29th May, and the multi-faith service and Congress opening ceremony will be on Sunday 30th May. The Congress itself will run from Monday 31st May to Thursday 3rd June 2021 inclusive.

We hope that, as much as possible, the existing programming can move 'as is' to the new dates. All confirmed presentations can continue as planned. All confirmed sessions chairs will be able to continue their role. All side events can continue as planned.

Our Congress Management Team, C-IN, will be in communication with all those currently registered. Your registrations will be carried forward to the new dates. Our Conference organisers in Bali, Prime, will be in touch with all sponsors and exhibitors with the hope that all current arrangements can be carried forward to the new dates.

ICM Head Office will communicate shortly with all ICM Member Associations about plans for an electronic Triennial Council meeting in 2020 and a face-to-face Council meeting in 2021. We encourage those of you who have made travel and accommodation bookings to reschedule those bookings to the new dates.

ICM and its Board apologizes for any inconveniences associated with the postponement of the Congress. We encourage our network to stay tuned to [our Congress website](#), the [ICM website](#) and ICM social media channels for regular updates on the Congress.

We very much hope that by giving our members, midwives, partners and sponsors more than 12 months' notice of the rescheduled Congress dates, that they will have sufficient time to plan around their personal arrangements in order to join us in Bali in 2021.

If you still have additional questions after reading this statement, please submit your questions through the contact centre of our Congress website and review the "frequently asked questions" on the site.

We look forward to seeing you in Bali in 2021.

Sincerely,
International Confederation of Midwives and its Board