

**Submission**

02-20-2021

**Approval**

04-20-2021

**How to cite this article**

Silva IR, Aperibense DGGP. Nursing Now Brazil: a history of challenges for today's achievements. Hist Enferm Rev Eletrônica. 2021;12(1):3-4. <https://doi.org/10.51234/here.21.v12n1.ed>

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## Nursing Now Brazil: a history of challenges for today's achievements

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The year 2020 enters into the History of Nursing, going far beyond the Celebrations of the bicentenary of Florence Nightingale. The COVID-19 pandemic generated a major international health crisis and made it evident that Nursing professionals have a significant social and economic impact on people's lives and on the development of nations, as they represent the largest workforce in the health systems worldwide, with approximately 27.9 million professionals, inserted in the most diverse care contexts.

Despite this, Nursing faces important challenges to develop, with sovereignty, its professional skills. These challenges, however, must be seen in the logic of the complexity of their origins and of the flows that maintain the *status quo*, since they are of a historical, cultural and political nature and are related to the spaces of power that influence decision-making aimed at economic interests away from the real social demands, which impacts directly on the professional practice of 2,421,489 Nursing professionals registered with the Federal Nursing Council<sup>(1)</sup> and, consequently, public health, since we are more than 60% of the SUS human resources. Perhaps, this is a fundamental element to understand the current challenges for Brazilian Nursing.

In a holographic perspective, in which the whole reflects the parts and the parts reflect the whole, the reality of Brazilian Nursing, except for its peculiarities, is not distant from the global reality: low wages, excessive working hours, reduced autonomy and diverse types of violence, among other situations. This means a significant problem for the world, since global and national health agendas, as well as socioeconomic development, improvement in people's quality of life and reduction of social inequalities will not be achieved satisfactorily without due change in the current reality of Nursing.

Therefore, these changes must not be the object of interest only for Nursing, but for the entire society and especially for the governments. It was from this analysis of the situation that what was later known by the Nursing Now Campaign was idealized. The scientific evidence that defined the objectives of the Campaign, namely: Report of the High Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth<sup>(2)</sup>; the Triple Impact Report<sup>(3)</sup>; and the Strategic Directions for Nursing and Midwifery<sup>(4)</sup>, signal the importance of stimulating a Nursing profile with technical, political and leadership competences<sup>(5)</sup>.

In this perspective, the Burdett Trust For Nursing, together with the International Council of Nurses (ICN) and the World Health Organization (WHO), launched in 2018 the global Nursing Now campaign, expanding movements and discussions that put strategies in place to strengthen Nursing, especially in the context of leadership for the greater and better occupation of decision-making spaces that influence the very work of the Nursing professionals from all over the world, from local to international actions.

In Brazil, the Nursing Now Campaign was launched in the capital of the country in April 2019, led by the Federal Nursing Council and the PAHO/WHO Collaborating Center for the Development of Nursing Research, of the Ribeirão Preto Nursing School – USP. It is worth mentioning that, from this partnership, the Nursing Now Brazil Working Group was created, linked to the Cofen, under the leadership of Nurse Dr. Isabel Amélia Costa Mendes.

The goals of the Nursing Now Brazil Campaign are aimed at investing in strengthening the education and development of the Nursing professionals, with a focus on leadership; investment in improving the working conditions of the Nursing professionals; and dissemination of effective and innovative Nursing practices. These goals, however, will only be achieved by organized and strengthened movements, based on the synergy of forces originating from the different contexts in which Nursing is inserted.

The achievements and advances conquered by the category over almost 100 years of the implementation of modern Nursing in the country are undeniable. The research studies on the History of Nursing record such achievements properly; however, in the current global political situation, we understand that Nursing will only advance further if it is effectively concerned with strategies of this magnitude.

The Nursing Now Brazil Campaign is then conceived as a movement for the appreciation of Nursing based on the convergence of these forces, in order to demonstrate the following understanding with scientific evidence, knowledge, attitudes and political and leadership skills for the entire society: without Nursing, there is no health system that can meet the demands of its people; without Nursing, therefore, there is no quality of life and adequate conditions for the full social and economic development of the Nation; without Nursing, there will be no possibilities for a better tomorrow – for everyone. For all these reasons, it is necessary to make it well understood, once and for all, that the time of Nursing is Now.

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