



a programme of The Burdett Trust for Nursing

Nursing Now Challenge Global Solutions Initiative



Supporting the creation of nurse
& midwife-led solutions to global
health challenges

AIM

The aim of this collaboration is to design and deliver a NNCGSI focused on providing an **in-depth understanding of compassionate leadership** and supporting participants to develop a practical, context-sensitive project that can be applied within their own organisations and settings.

The NNCGSI task: Develop a plan or model to introduce compassionate leadership in your workplace..

PARTICIPANTS

The participants of this NNCGSI must be student and/ or early-career nurses and/ or midwives, registered members of the Nursing Now Challenge community. Entries from those with 5 years or more experience will not be accepted.

***Please note:** Individuals who have won a NNCGSI within the past 12 months are very welcome to participate in these webinars, however, they will not be eligible to submit an entry for this NNCGSI.

Participants will be supported to respond to the NNCGSI question through structured learning sessions, expert input, peer discussion, and guided development time. They will also be provided with relevant resources to support them to develop their ideas.



This NNCGSI is being led by Rebecca Kenny, Head of the RCN Foundation Centre for Compassionate Leadership in Nursing and Midwifery.

Rebecca Kenny is a nurse, leader and changemaker who has spent her career championing compassionate care and empowering others to thrive in healthcare. With over fifteen years' experience across nursing, workforce leadership, and service transformation, she has led teams through challenge and change while always holding onto the values of kindness, humanity, and respect that first drew her into nursing.

Now, as Head of the RCN Foundation Centre for Compassionate Leadership in Nursing and Midwifery, Rebecca is committed to creating a space where leaders at every level can grow, share, and reimagine what leadership looks like in modern health and care. She believes that compassion is not a “soft skill,” but the essential force that drives trust, resilience, and innovation – especially in a system under immense pressure.

Rebecca has been recognised for her ability to bring people together, nurture talent, and turn ideas into action, whether through large-scale recruitment programmes, digital transformation projects, or quality improvement initiatives. Rebecca also holds an Executive MBA with Distinction from Nottingham Trent University Business School, where her research explored how digital change and compassionate leadership can co-exist to strengthen the NHS for the future.

GUIDELINES

How to get started

You are encouraged to participate in the sessions of this NNCGSI:

23rd September (2pm BST)

Session 1: Launching the Challenge: Compassionate Leadership in Action

Speakers: Rebecca Kenny and Rita Akiki

Watch the recording here.

7th October (10AM BST)

Session 2 - Why Compassionate Leadership Matters: Building Cultures Where People and Care Flourish

Speakers: Professor Michael West CBE and Dr Mpho Shelile

Register your place here.

28th October (4pm BST)

Session 3 - From Inspiration to Action: Designing Change with Compassion

Speakers: Professor Charlotte McArdle and Aleix Fontanals-Jimenez

Register your place here.

11th November (8am GMT)

Session 4 -Making the Difference: Impact, Learning and Legacy

Speaker: Professor Sarah McGloin, RN

Register your place here.

If you are unable to join the sessions live, you will be able to find the recordings on the Nursing Now Challenge [YouTube channel](#).

To take part in this NNCGSI, you are required to prepare a 1,000 word proposal.

Your proposal must be submitted by midnight (GMT) on 4th December 2026 to challenge@nursingnow.global

DEVELOPING YOUR PLAN/ MODEL

Your submission should demonstrate how compassionate leadership can be applied within your own healthcare, educational or community setting.

Proposals should be practical, achievable and relevant to the context in which you work or study.

Participants are encouraged to:

- Identify a workplace challenge that could benefit from compassionate leadership.
- Consider the needs of staff, patients, service users and communities.
- Develop a realistic and context-sensitive proposal.
- Demonstrate how compassionate leadership principles will be applied.
- Consider sustainability and potential impact.
- Reflect local needs while recognising broader health system priorities.

Please include...

Personal information

- Name, job title and employer name
- Location
- Contact details including your email address

Background

- How have your experiences shaped the development of your ideas?
- What are the core contemporary issues and challenges relating to this topic?

Conclusion

- Tell us about you and what motivated you to take part in this NNCGSI.
- Explain how participating in this initiative is supporting your career development and how you will use the contacts made and knowledge gained.

SELECTION & PRIZE

- All submissions will be reviewed and one winner will be selected.
- The winner of this challenge will win coaching to support implementation of their plan from the Centre for Compassionate Leadership in Nursing and Midwifery.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact challenge@nursingnow.global

**GOOD
luck!**

