

ICM Reports First Known Death of One of its Members from COVID-19
Organisation calls for increase in protective equipment to severely impacted countries

The Hague, ND - March 17th, 2020 —The International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) is reporting the first known Covid-19-related death of a midwife belonging to one of ICM's Member Associations. Seyedeh Azamat Mousav, a BSc midwife and mother working in Northern Iran, died on Friday, March 13th after repeated contact with multiple pregnant women in her care who were infected with the virus. This news comes as midwives around the world are risking their own health and safety to support pregnant women, babies, and their families amidst this global pandemic.

"We were extremely heartbroken to hear about the passing of one of our members, but not at all surprised given the current situation facing midwives and other frontline healthcare professionals around the world," says Dr Sally Pairman, Chief Executive of the International Confederation of Midwives. "Midwives are the single most important cadre for supporting women during pregnancy, birth and the postnatal period, providing essential life-saving services to women and newborns and optimising childbirth outcomes. Our organisation is especially concerned for midwives in poorer countries such as Iran where demands on health systems for resources and personnel also impacts the safety of midwives as they carry out their essential care of pregnant women and their newborns."

Dr Pairman says the global shortage of midwives is also aggravating the dire situation created by Covid-19, and is asking for governments to prioritise the provision of protective equipment such as masks, gloves and gowns to birthing centres and other facilities where pregnant women attend to birth their babies.

For its part, ICM has set up an [information centre](#) on its website to provide midwives, maternal healthcare providers, and the general public with information about Covid-19 and pregnancy.

About the International Confederation of Midwives

Founded in 1922, The International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) is an accredited non-governmental organization that represents midwives' associations worldwide to achieve common goals in the care of mothers and newborns. Currently, there are 142 ICM member associations in 123 countries. For more information about ICM visit internationalmidwives.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Molly Karp
Communications Manager
International Confederation of Midwives
m.karp@internationalmidwives.org
204-698-7030