

ABSTRACT: A migrant nurse's personal experiences and perspective

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Nurse migration is not necessarily a new phenomenon. For decades, nurses have migrated – probably only on a lesser scale than we are witnessing today. As Nursing has evolved from being considered to as “a calling” to becoming a profession, so have the ambitions of members of the nursing profession.

This presentation is intent at giving personal experiences of a nurse who migrated from Malawi, a source country to the United Kingdom a receiving country. Some of the reasons that push nurses to migrate and the implications for both source and receiving countries will be expressed.

Critical questions need to be asked and critical answers given if nurse migration is to positively impact on the ever changing and challenging nursing and general health trends and issues. Nurse migration is making nursing and health care teams culturally mixed and probably richer. How best can the patients and health professionals benefit from such teams?

From a personal experience as a migrant nurse, I raise the following questions?

- Should personal choices of migration supersede the needs of source nations?
- As receiving nations benefit from nurse migration, what do they have to offer back to the migrant nurse?
- How can brain waste be prevented?
- Nursing being a regulated profession, how can registration processes and recognition of training of foreign trained migrant nurses be improved?
- How can migrant nurses be protected from exploitation by unscrupulous recruiters?