

**Vote Olayinka Aremu as President  
Association of Nigerian Nurses in Ireland, 2023.**

**MANIFESTO**



***Dear fellow members of the Association of Nigerian Nurses in Ireland,***

I am honored to present my manifesto as a candidate for the position of President of our esteemed association. As a highly committed and experienced nurse, I am deeply passionate about promoting excellence in nursing practice, fostering professional development, and advocating for the health care needs of Nigerians and other ethnic minorities in Ireland. As a young nurse in Nigeria, I always dreamed of working in a developed country where I could provide the best possible care to my patients and for career development. After completing my nursing degree and working for four years, I decided to take a leap of faith and move to Ireland, a country known for its excellent healthcare system.

However, my transition to Ireland was not as smooth as I had hoped. I struggled to adapt to the cultural differences and the fast-paced work environment. I felt like an outsider, and I missed my family back home terribly. Moreover, I realized that there were several other Nigerian nurses like me who were facing similar challenges. Many of us felt isolated and disconnected from our roots and culture. We had no platform to connect with each other and share our experiences.

Determined to make a change, I decided to take action. I reached out to other Nigerian nurses in Ireland and began organizing meetups via Whatsapp and events. We started sharing our stories and experiences, and I realized that there was a real need for a community where we could support each other.

This led to the rejuvenation of the Association of Nigerian Nurses in Ireland (ANNI), an organization dedicated to supporting Nigerian nurses in Ireland. As one of the founding members, I was thrilled to be a part of this movement.

Over time, the ANNI grew in size and influence.

- We organized educational events, cultural festivals, and networking opportunities for our members.
- We also worked closely with the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organization (INMO) to improve the representation and integration of Nigerian nurses.
- The Association is officially registered with CORE Ireland
- We held the first Black History Month, 2022
- We had organized and provided welfare support to members physically, financially and spiritually.
- We advocated for and facilitated the family reunification visas of our members which had been delayed or denied.
- We organize monthly webinars on issues affecting our members.
- Initiated and facilitating a House a Nurse initiative for members struggling with accommodation
- We are now organizing the first African Health Summit in Ireland and so on.

Through my struggles and challenges, I had found my passion for rejuvenating the association of Nigerian nurses in Ireland. Today, I am proud to be a part of a thriving community that supports and uplifts each other. And I know that my journey has not only made me a better nurse but also a more resilient and empathetic human being.

The Association of Nigerian Nurses in Ireland is a vital organization that serves the needs of Nigerian nurses living and working in Ireland. As a candidate for the presidency of this association, I am passionate about the work that the organization does and committed to ensuring that it continues to thrive.

Nigerian nurses face unique challenges when working in Ireland, from cultural differences to navigating the healthcare system. The Association of Nigerian Nurses in Ireland provides a supportive community where nurses can connect, share experiences, and access resources to help them overcome these challenges.

As president, my goal is to build on the successes of the association and expand its reach. I will work to strengthen partnerships with other nursing organizations in Ireland and advocate for policies that support the needs of Nigerian nurses. I will also prioritize mentorship and professional development opportunities for members to help them grow in their careers.

My passion for nursing and my Nigerian heritage drive my commitment to this organization. I believe that the Association of Nigerian Nurses in Ireland plays a crucial role in supporting the well-being and success of Nigerian nurses in Ireland, and I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as its president.

As the President of the Association of Nigerian Nurses in Ireland, it is my responsibility to address the challenges faced by Nigerian nurses in Ireland. Here are some of the challenges and my role as President to address them:

1. Cultural differences: I will work to provide cultural competency training for Nigerian nurses to help them better understand the healthcare system in Ireland and provide care that is sensitive to the needs of patients from diverse backgrounds.
2. Language barriers: I will advocate for greater access to language interpretation services and provide language learning resources to help Nigerian nurses improve their English language skills.
3. Discrimination: I will work to address discrimination and prejudice in the workplace through education and advocacy. This includes working with other nursing organizations to promote diversity and inclusion in the healthcare system.
4. Professional development opportunities: I will prioritize the provision of professional development opportunities, including workshops and conferences, to help Nigerian nurses advance in their careers and provide high-quality care.
5. Lack of support networks: I will work to create a supportive community for Nigerian nurses through networking events, mentorship programs, and other initiatives.
6. Immigration status: I will advocate for the needs of Nigerian nurses with respect to immigration status, including working with policymakers to ensure that Nigerian nurses have access to work permits and other necessary documentation.
7. Lack of recognition of qualifications: I will work to ensure that Nigerian nurses' qualifications are recognized in Ireland, including advocating for policies that recognize the expertise and training of Nigerian nurses.
8. Staff shortages: I will work to address staff shortages by advocating for policies that support the recruitment and retention of nurses in Ireland.
9. Mental health challenges: I will prioritize the mental health and well-being of Nigerian nurses by providing resources and support to help them cope with the stress and pressure of their work.

10. Limited access to resources: I will work to ensure that Nigerian nurses have access to resources such as language interpretation services, cultural competency training, and support networks, by advocating for policies that support these resources and providing them through the Association of Nigerian Nurses in Ireland.

As President of the Association of Nigerian Nurses in Ireland, I will work to address the challenges faced by Nigerian nurses in Ireland by advocating for policies and providing resources and support to help them succeed in their roles as healthcare professionals.

My vision for our association is to create a dynamic and influential organization that serves as a voice for Nigerian nurses in Ireland. I aim to build a community of nurses who are united, empowered, and passionate about promoting the welfare of our fellow Nigerians and other ethnic minorities in Ireland.

To achieve this vision, I have identified the following goals:

1. Strengthen the organizational structure and governance of the association:

I plan to develop a strategic plan and operational policies that align with the goals of the organization. This will involve establishing effective communication and feedback mechanisms to enhance collaboration and engagement among members. We will also create a database of members and their areas of expertise to facilitate networking and resource-sharing.

2. Promote professional development and excellence in nursing practice:

I believe that as nurses, we must continue to learn and develop our skills. To this end, I plan to organize regular continuing education programs and workshops on relevant nursing topics. We will also facilitate mentorship and preceptorship programs for new nurses and students. Additionally, we will recognize and celebrate outstanding nursing achievements and contributions of members.

3. Advocate for the health care needs of Nigerians and other ethnic minorities in Ireland:

As an association, we have a responsibility to advocate for the health care needs of Nigerians and other ethnic minorities in Ireland. We will partner with relevant organizations and policymakers to address health care disparities and access to quality health care services. Our advocacy will also involve raising awareness of cultural and linguistic barriers that affect health care outcomes and promoting culturally sensitive care. We will promote health literacy and education among Nigerians and other ethnic minorities in Ireland.

4. Increase the visibility and influence of the Association of Nigerian Nurses in Ireland:

I recognize the need to increase the visibility and influence of our association. To this end, I plan to develop effective media and public relations strategies to promote the organization's goals

and achievements. We will also participate in relevant forums, conferences, and events to promote the organization's mission and goals. Finally, we will build partnerships with other nursing organizations and community groups to leverage resources and achieve common goals.

As your President, I will work tirelessly to achieve these goals and advance the interests of our association. I am committed to promoting excellence in nursing practice, fostering professional development, and advocating for the health care needs of Nigerians and other ethnic minorities in Ireland.

Thank you for considering my candidature for the position of President of the Association of Nigerian Nurses in Ireland. I look forward to your support and collaboration in achieving our collective goals.

Yours in Service  
**Olayinka Aremu**

