

Functions of Professional Nursing Organizations Professional associations are crucial for any ## profession, providing a platform for shared values, collaboration, and change. In nursing, these organizations play a vital role in advocating for the needs of both nurses and their clients. **International Council of Nurses (ICN)***, the world's largest nursing organization, represents 13 million nurses globally.

ICN focuses on unifying nursing worldwide, advancing the profession, and influencing health policy.

American Nurses Association (ANA)*, the only full-service professional organization for RNs in the US, focuses on policy development, organizational partnerships, lobbying, and publishing. **Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI)***, an honor society for nursing, emphasizes learning, knowledge, and professional development for nurses committed to global health. It offers various resources including publications, scholarships, and networking opportunities. **National League for Nursing (NLN)***,

established in 1893 as the first nursing organization in the US, focuses on promoting excellence in nursing education to build a strong and diverse workforce. **Benefits of Professional Organizations:**

Personal benefits: * Socialization and networking * Travel opportunities through conferences * Scholarships **Professional benefits:** * Career advancement * Political influence * Setting professional standards * Credentialing * Access to professional journals and expert advice * Advocacy **Criteria of a Profession:** * Well-defined body of knowledge * Service orientation * Recognized authority * Code of ethics * Professional organization * Ongoing research * Autonomy **Nursing as a Profession:**

* Nursing standards are based on a code of ethics set by professional organizations. * The profession focuses on human responses to health problems, promoting wellness, and utilizing evidence-based practice. * Nursing has evolved from a technical service to a person-centered approach that maximizes human potential. **Other Notable Organizations:** * Commonwealth Nurses Federation * American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) * International Red Cross * UNICEF * WHO