

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

Nepal and the UK Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Recruit Nepali Health Care Professionals in the UK's Health Sector

Kathmandu/22nd August 2022: The Secretary of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security (MoLESS) Mr. Eaknarayan Aryal and Her Excellency the British Ambassador to Nepal Ms. Nicola Pollitt signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to recruit Nepali healthcare professionals in the UK's Health Sector. The MoU was signed in the presence of Honourable Minister of Labour, Employment & Social Security Mr. Sher Bahadur Kunwar.

The MoU establishes the Government to Government (G2G) Bilateral Agreement on the fair and ethical recruitment of Nepali healthcare professionals to work in the UK's health sector that will also encourage individuals seeking healthcare careers and help strengthen the healthcare workforce in Nepal. Once selected, the Nepali healthcare professionals shall be provided the support required for them to be placed in the UK Health system. They shall also receive equal rights, privileges, protections, and dignity as health professionals from the UK. The following arrangements have been agreed in principle and shall be elaborated in the protocol document that is currently under discussion:

- The MoU establishes the G2G arrangement in which Department of Foreign Employment (Nepal) will work with the Department of Health and Social Care (UK) and its designated entity to undertake the recruitment process.
- The MoU establishes cooperation between the two governments for Nepali healthcare professionals to work in the UK National Health Service (NHS) and ensures dignified, lucrative and a managed recruitment process to fill NHS vacancies in the UK.
- Both governments have agreed to utilise the MoU as a mechanism to manage health worker recruitment, given Nepal's place on the WHO Health Workforce Support and Safeguards List 2020. The type and number of health workers to be recruited will be jointly agreed between the two Governments.
- The MoU highlights the cooperation to strengthen the healthcare workforce inside Nepal and in the UK. The UK Government will continue to build on its ongoing support towards strengthening and modernising Nepal's healthcare systems.
- The Governments have agreed to launch a pilot phase that will begin with the recruitment of Nepali nurses. Further details of this pilot, including a protocol for the recruitment and placement, will be jointly agreed between the Governments.
- The selected healthcare professionals will not incur any fees for the recruitment. For successful candidates, the main costs associated with the recruitment purpose will be reimbursed or paid for.
- Both governments will evaluate the success of the pilot phase upon its completion and jointly decide on a scale-up phase with the potential to expanding the recruitment initiative.
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and periodic updates related to this initiative are provided on <https://moless.gov.np/en/page/uk-health-care>. All questions should be directed to uknursing@moless.gov.np provided on this website.

Signatures


Dr Thaneshwar Bhusal
Under-Secretary and Deputy Spokesperson for the Ministry
of Labour, Employment and Social Security

