



Beyond Borders



What Does It Mean to Be a Global Citizen?

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The increasing interconnectedness of societies around the world provides us with the opportunity, and the obligation, to develop global identities (Reysen & Katzarska-Miller, 2013). Use of the Internet and social media and the relative ease of international travel enable easy and instantaneous access to face-to-face, voice, video, and photographic connections to almost anywhere in the world. The migration of families

and communities to other countries, voluntarily (e.g., to escape political turmoil, reunite family, or strive to improve economic opportunities) or because of more emergent situations such as natural disaster and war, results in the resettlement and assimilation of large numbers of people into new societies and cultures. It is estimated that more than 244 million individuals worldwide emigrated from their home countries

Abstract Becoming aware of global trends and issues is the first step in understanding one's position and role within a larger global context, thereby aiding in the development of an individual's global identity. Gaining an understanding and appreciation of the interconnectedness of our world as well as respecting and valuing existing diversity provide a foundation that enables us to challenge injustice and take action in personally meaningful ways. Nursing is a profession that is found in every country and has the inherent ability to bridge cultures through the delivery of universally accessible health care.
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in 2015, representing an increase of 71 million annual migrations since 2000 (International Organization for Migration, 2015). The massive

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relocation of people has implications for both immigrants and the host societies. International business transactions and tourism are yet other opportunities for increased exposure to foreign cultures, languages, health beliefs, and political systems, highlighting the need for everyone to view themselves as global citizens.

Global citizenship is defined as “awareness, caring, and embracing cultural diversity while promoting social justice and sustainability, coupled with a sense of responsibility to act” (Reyssen & Katzarska-Miller, 2013, p. 858). Becoming aware of global trends and issues is the first step in understanding one’s position and role within a larger global context. Gaining an understanding and appreciation of the interconnectedness of our world, as well as respecting and valuing existing diversity, provides a foundation that enables us to challenge injustice and take action in personally meaningful ways (Jones, 2016). Social

justice, based on the key elements of human rights and equality, is a core value in nursing that supports societal efforts to provide equitable treatment and a fair allocation of health resources to all citizens (Matwick & Woodgate, 2016).

Caring

Nursing is often referred to as a caring profession and is consistently rated as the most trusted profession (Gallup, 2015). The goals of practice, education, and research in our discipline are to improve health for all who make up our global society and to embrace the idea that human health, illness, and emotions are universal phenomena. Nursing is also a global profession: it exists in every society. More than simply providing care, nurses are essential in shaping policy related to the delivery of health care and building the health capacity of entire nations (Wood, 2010). Being a global nurse citizen does not require travel beyond the borders of the United States. Caring for diverse populations in your home community provides the opportunity for greater understanding and leadership that addresses health care inequities threatening the health of immigrants and other marginalized populations.

Embracing Diversity and Social Justice

Embracing cultural diversity requires open-mindedness, inclusivity, cooperation, and



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