Provision 9

The profession of nursing, collectively through its professional organizations, must articulate nursing values, maintain the integrity of the profession, and integrate principles of social justice into nursing and health policy.

9.1 Articulation of Values

Individual nurses are represented by their professional associations and organizations. These groups give united voice to the profession. It is the responsibility of a profession collectively to communicate, affirm, and promote shared values both within the profession and to the public. It is essential that the profession engage in discourse that supports ongoing critical self-analysis and evaluation. The language that is chosen evokes the shared meaning of nursing, its values and ideals, as it interprets and explains the place and role of nursing in society. The profession’s organizations communicate to the public the values that nursing considers central to the promotion or restoration of health, prevention of illness, and alleviation of suffering. Through professional organizations the nursing profession must reaffirm and strengthen nursing values and ideals so that when those values are challenged, adherence is steadfast and unwavering. Acting in solidarity, the ability of the profession to influence social justice and global health is formidable.
9.2 Integrity of the Profession

The profession’s integrity is strongest when its values and ethics are evident in all professional and organizational relationships. Nursing must continually emphasize the values of justice, fairness, and caring within the national and global nursing communities, in order to promote health in all sectors of the population. A fundamental responsibility is to promote awareness of and adherence to the codes of ethics for nurses (the American Nurses Association and the International Council of Nurses). Balanced policies and practices regarding access to nursing education, workforce sustainability, nurse migration, and utilization are requisite to achieving these ends. Together, nurses must bring about the improvement of all facets of nursing, fostering and assisting in the education of professional nurses in developing regions across the globe. The values and ethics of the profession must be evident in all professional relationships whether interorganizational, or international.

The nursing profession engages in an ongoing formal and informal dialog with society. The covenant between the profession and society is made explicit through *The Code of Ethics for Nurses, Nursing’s Social Policy Statement, Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice*, and other published standards of specialized nursing practice; continued development and dissemination of nursing scholarship; rigorous educational requirements for entry and continued practice including certification and licensure; and commitment to evidence-based practice.
9.3 Integrating Social Justice

It is the shared responsibility of professional nursing organizations to speak for nurses collectively in shaping health care and to promulgate change to improve health care nationally and internationally. Nurses must be vigilant and take action to influence legislators, governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and international bodies in all related health affairs for addressing the social determinants of health. All nurses, through organizations and accrediting bodies involved in nurse formation and development, must firmly anchor students in nursing's professional responsibility to address unjust systems and structures, modeling the profession's commitment to social justice and health through content, clinical and field experiences, and critical thought.

9.4 Social Justice in Nursing and Health Policy

The nursing profession must actively participate in solidarity with the global nursing community and health organizations to represent the collective voice of U.S. nurses around the globe. Professional nursing organizations must actively engage in the political process, particularly addressing those legislative concerns that most impact the public's health and the profession of nursing. Nurses must promote open and honest communication that enables nurses to work in concert, share in scholarship, and advance a nursing agenda for health. Global health, as well as the common good, are ideals that can be realized when all nurses unite their efforts and energies.
Social justice extends beyond human health and well-being to the health and well-being of the natural world. Human life and health are profoundly affected by the natural world that surrounds us; thus, consistent with Nightingale’s historic concerns for environmental influences on health and the meta-paradigm concepts of nursing, nursing’s advocacy for social justice extends to eco-justice. Environmental degradation, water depletion, earth resources exploitation, ecosystem destruction, excessive carbon production, waste, and other environmental assaults disproportionately affect the health of the poor and ultimately affect the health of all humanity. Nursing must also advocate for policies, programs, and practices within the healthcare environment that maintain, sustain, and repair the natural world. As nursing seeks to promote and restore health, prevent illness, and alleviate suffering, it does so within the holistic context of healing the world.