

Nurith Wagner

Nurith Wagner has a life-long commitment to human rights and ethical behaviour in nursing. She has worked consistently and effectively to raise awareness and to improve the ethical standards of nursing care in Israel and internationally. She does this on a political, as well as on a professional level. Indeed, it is difficult to choose even a few of the many activities that have Nurith's mark on them to mention.

Her input to the multidisciplinary committee on preparing the Law of the Dying Patient was crucial in the 1990s. Since its inception, Nurith has been a member of the National Bioethics Committee, where she is a strong advocate for patient and human rights.

Nurith also founded the Ethics Bureau of the Israel Nurses Association, which she chairs. This Bureau has a strong track record of public health, human rights and ethics advocacy dealing with issues such as ethical guidelines for nursing research; ethical approaches to dealing with disabled health workers; respecting the rights of informal caregivers/families in the formal health system.

Perhaps the best evidence of her commitments is her involvement in Machsomwatch. On a weekly basis Nurith joins other women in observing and intervening at the numerous military checkpoints (machsom). She helps sick Palestinian patients get medical treatments and watches over the human rights situation at the checkpoints, as much as a wrong situation permits to do right. Nurith made a film on the checkpoints and Machsomwatch. She has shown the film and discussed the organization's human rights work at international meetings, showing how nurses can make a difference, even in dire circumstances.

This still leaves much to be said about other involvements in local, national and international forums that claim Nurith's attention and time, much of it done and given on a voluntary basis.