June 18, 2024

Dear Prof. Kim Usher, Editor in Chief, *International Journal of Mental Health Nursing*

We appreciate your thorough review of our **Manuscript ID IJMHN-2024-326 entitled "Nurses Supporting Nurses: A Model for Providing Mental Health Services During War."**

We sincerely thank you and the reviewers for dedicating precious time to reading and reviewing our manuscript.

The comments and feedback from the reviewers are listed below, as requested. We hope that our revisions address the reviewers' comments and suggestions.

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| **Reviewer 1** | **Authors' Response** |
| Interesting article but still need major revision. While the objectives are mentioned, they could be stated more explicitly.  What specific aspects of mental health support for nurses are you examining? | Thank you very much for your feedback!  We added the specific examined aspects  of the study at the end of the introduction section. Please refer to page 3. |
| The program launched post-attack is described, but more details about its structure, duration, and specific interventions could provide a clearer picture. | Thank you for the comment. We have added this information to the Mental health first aid during the Israel-Hamas war. Please refer to page 6. |
| The findings are briefly mentioned, but a clearer summary of the key findings from the focus groups would help reviewers understand the study's contributions | We added a summary of the findings. Please refer to the results section on page 10. |
| While the abstract mentions the importance of normalizing mental health support, it could be strengthened by explicitly stating the study's implications for policy, practice, or future research. | We added this in the relevance for clinical practice section. Please refer to page 21. |
| Structure and Flow: The discussion could benefit from clearer subsections to improve the flow and readability. For instance, separate subsections for interpreting findings, comparing with existing literature, and drawing implications could be helpful. | We added titles and subtitles to the discussion section. Please refer to the discussion on pages 17-20. |
| While you've touched upon the importance of mental health support for nurses and its integration into education and practice, a deeper discussion on why these findings are significant and how they contribute to the existing body of knowledge would strengthen the discussion. | We accepted this comment and added this to the discussion section. Please refer to page 20. |
| Providing context for why these limitations are significant can help readers understand their impact on the study's findings and conclusions. | We accepted the comment and added it to the limitation section. Please refer to page 20. |
| While you've mentioned the importance of reforms in nursing education and culture changes, being more specific about what these reforms or changes might entail could provide clearer guidance. | We added this to the relevance for clinical practice section on pages 21-22. |
| Broadening Scope: While you've mentioned various types of national crises, acknowledging other potential stressors or challenges nurses may face could provide a more comprehensive view. | Thank you for this comment! We added this to the relevance of the clinical practice section. Please refer to page 21. |
| Offering more actionable recommendations or strategies for implementing mental health support programs in clinical practice could make the "Relevance for Clinical Practice" section more impactful. | We added this to the relevance of the clinical practice section. Please refer to pages 21-22. |
| **Reviewer 2** | **Authors' Response** |
| Thank you for entrusting your manuscript to the International Journal of Mental Health Nursing. Your scholarly efforts are commendable, and I appreciate your valuable commitment to conduct your study and share it with the community. I have made some suggestions for you to improve your manuscript further. | Thank you very much for your encouraging feedback! |
| Abstract - A well-written and clear abstract.  Do add more information on the Methods, such as the qualitative method used, the duration of the interview, and the data analysis strategy. - Can present Ln17 -31 in a succinct manner. - At Ln43 - 45: "Around the country." Is it the USA or Israel? Please clarify where your recipients are from. | We thank you for the feedback. We added the information to the abstract according to your comment. Please refer to the abstract session on page 1.  We accepted the comment and changed the text accordingly. Please refer to pages 1-2.  It is in Israel. We clarified it in the text. Please refer to page 2. |
| Introduction - There is an attempt to consolidate information/ data and literature findings to provide a background to this study. However, it might be good to search the literature and cite more studies to support your current one. I believe there are many empirical studies done on PTSD on both citizens and healthcare workers alike. | We added more literature as recommended.  Please refer to the introduction section on pages 2-3. |
| Background - You have cited a study done on the COVID pandemic; how about studies done on war or similar situations? | Thank you for this comment. We changed the text and added references from war and crisis contexts to match your comment. Please refer to the background section on page 3. |
| MHFA during the Israel-Hamas War - CBT is known to be a gold-standard treatment for MDD and anxiety disorders, but how about using CBT in PTSD-like conditions? Are there any studies that discuss this? | Yes, there are studies supported using CBT in PTSD. We added this to the background section. Please refer to page 5. |
| Methods Study design: It would be good if you could provide some sample questions that you have asked. This will help future researchers build on the knowledge. | Thank you for this important comment. We added some sample questions that we have asked. Please refer to the study design section on page 8. |
| - Data Collection and Analysis: How did the phases happen in your study? You mentioned that, "there is a commitment towards transparency and rigor in the reporting of the study". Can you provide more concrete examples of how this is being done? | We added this information. Please refer to page 9. |
| Results Your results should pertain to or describe, "It included questions asking participants to describe preparations made prior to the beginning of the program, their role in the program, challenges they faced and how they dealt with them, and any thoughts or insights." Your results should also include some narratives to explain them. Do not just quote your participants; demonstrate how this is linked to the identified subtheme and, eventually, how the subtheme supports the theme. | We revised the results section and changed it to match your comments. Please refer to the findings section on pages 10-18. |
| Discussion - The discussion section appears to be too brief. There is an attempt to link what we know from the literature and what was identified from the study. But this remains vague and inconclusive. There is also very limited discussion on why nurses have not taken up the offer of psychological help. I am not sure if this was also due to the reluctance to share their thoughts on this. | We accepted your comment and added and revised the discussion section.  Please refer to the discussion section on pages 19-22. |
| Limitations - Is Zoom the best way to do the interview? Given that this intervention is happening in a war zone now, what would be the limitations other than safety? | We added information about the Zoom format's limitations. Please refer to the limitations section on pages 22-23. |
| - Are there any issues with conducting focus group interviews? | In this study, we had no issues with conducting focus group interviews. It was easy to coordinate the session, and the participants cooperated with us without any problems or schedule difficulties. |
| Relevance to Clinical Practice - There is a generally low uptake of such programs. I guess in your clinical relevance to practice, this would be an important area to address. | Thank you very much for this comment. We revised and accepted your important comment. Please refer to the relevance to clinical practice section on pages 23-34. |

Thank you again for considering our manuscript.

With best regards,

The authors