



EUROPEAN SOCIAL WORKER

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Category of Links

<http://basw-ngo-by.net>
Belarus Social Work web page

www.FASTproject.net
FAST project web page

www.socialwork2005.org
Cyprus Conference

www.ifsw.org
IFSW web site

Contact Us

Europe@ifsw.org

Cyprus: We Are Coming-Delegates Meeting

Representatives of around 20 national social work organisations will gather in Limmasol, Cyprus on 22-24 May 2005 for the annual IFSW Europe regional meeting. The Delegates Meeting is being held immediately before the Regional Social Work conference. Extra time has been allowed this year to make sure we can work in small groups and share our experiences of what is happening to social work in our countries.

These discussions will feed into the IFSW Europe regional project on "Social work in Europe - promoting social cohesion". In all countries in the world the contribution of social work is being re-evaluated and changes proposed. We hope to get IFSW global funding for a series of regional seminars which will develop an analysis of what is happening in social policy in Europe and help us to make a positive contribution to the future of social work at European level. The discussions in Cyprus will lay the foundation for that project and also help us to develop the theme for Social Work Action Day 2005.

The Delegates Meeting will also include debate on partnerships with service users or clients, the changing face of social agencies and the role of the public, private and not for profit sectors — all big themes in our home countries.

We will also spend some time on our internal business, especially the future arrangements for fees and finance in the Region. However our main focus will be on how IFSW can be an even more effective voice for social work at the European level, who we should be working with and our priorities for action.

We already have almost 20 countries registered to attend so we are on track for another positive meeting in Cyprus.

... and the IFSW European Regional Conference

Following the delegates meeting, we all are off to Nicosia for, what promises to be, a great social work conference – both professionally and socially. The Cyprus Association of Social Work has put together a wonderful pro-gram. Over 90 paper presentations, workshops and posters have been accepted for presentation.

Four very interesting keynote and plenary speakers have accepted invitations to present their ideas to the participants including Professor Michele Akip, Deputy head of social policy department, Council of Europe; Prof. Peter Beresford, Director of the Centre for Citizen Participation, Brunei University

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and the Chair of Shaping Our Lives Organization.

Jane Campbell, MBE, Chair, SCIE, disability rights campaigner and Chloe Koromis, ANG Director, Social Welfare Services, Ministry of Labor and Social Insurance, Cyprus.

The topics of some of the paper presentations include: the impact of globalization, mobility of populations, social exclusion as a threat to social cohesion, social work education and practice related to social cohesion and much more. Make sure to register by the early deadline, March 31.

Technology Fights Trafficking in Belarus

The "Belarusian Association of Social Workers" is taking part in a Joint Project of the European Union and the UN Development Programme "Combating Trafficking in Women in the Republic of Belarus". The goal is to enhance the development of transboundary cooperation between Belarus, CIS countries and Europe in the field of prevention of trafficking in women. Members of our organisation described the information-retrieval system "Belarus against Trafficking in persons", that includes three databases: "Organisations of Europe and the CIS", "Projects of Belarusian Organisations" and "Legal Assistance on the Problem of Trafficking for Belarusian Citizens".

On 9th of November 2004, we celebrated Social Work Action Day. Russian and English versions of the database "Organisations of Europe and the CIS" were presented on a new web-site of the "Belarusian Association of Social Workers", <http://basw-ngo-by.net>. The database contains information on work of more than 350 organisations from 50 countries involved in prevention of trafficking in women. Collected and systemized information gives a complete view on existing European system of preventing Trafficking in Women and is hoped that it will foster mutual efforts and an improved level of understanding in the European context; develop professional contacts and foster exchanging information among specialists of governmental and non-governmental organizations for the implementation of national programs and transnational preventive strategies; providing of free access to information for groups at risk.

We hope that the Information-retrieval system "Belarus against Trafficking in persons" will be a reliable and timely resource for development of cooperation, contact making among organizations of European region, working in the field of counteraction of trafficking in persons.

SWAD in Malta

By Holger Saliba, International & EU Secretary, Maltese Association of Social Workers

On 9th November 2004, the Maltese Association of Social Workers (MASW) organised a press conference on the theme "Violence and Trafficking: Social Workers against Exploitation".

Other concerned organisations/entities participated in this press conference. These participants included:

- The National Commission for Women
- The National Commission for the Promotion of Equality
- The Commissioner for Children

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- The Police Commissioner.

In the presence of various journalists, the MASW and the aforementioned participants shared their concerns on the issue from various perspectives which are relevant to social work, for instance, the prevalence of the problem, the role of NGO's, the importance of equality, and the rights and needs of children. The importance of continuous social work training to tackle contemporary issues was also highlighted.

The aim of this press conference was to increase awareness on the chosen theme among social workers and public in general and urge those concerned to take action and actively tackle such realities through their professional practice. The press conference offered the opportunity for various organisations to join forces and produce a synergy to reach one aim and goal.

SWAD - Spain - Trafficking in November, Human Rights in December

The Spanish National Association of Social Workers and the 36 territorial official associations, celebrate the Day of the Social Work on 10 and 11 of December to commemorate the International Day of Human Rights and the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, respectively.

But our organization wanted to join to the European celebration of the Social Work Action Day, celebrated on 9 November 2004 with the subject "Violence & Trafficking. Social Workers against exploitation" and to support the work of the IFSW Europe to highlight the contribution of Social Work to Social Inclusion within Europe.

From the Spanish National Association of Social Workers sent to our colleagues a newsletter about this theme to highlight the role of the social workers against trafficking and exploitation of human beings and, in addition, to inform about actions of the EU to combat violence against women, young persons and children.

We hope the SWAD has been a very successful day for all the organizations member of the Europe IFSW .

SWAD - Bulgaria and Serbia

In Bulgaria the information about SWAD was presented in 10 towns: Sofia, Burgas, Varna, Vratza, Blagoevgrad, Plovdiv, Sliven, Ruse, Stara zagora and Kazanlak. Members of BASW and social workers who lives there made several presentation of the day in local media programs.

In Sofia the Chairmen of BASW Valio Hristov participated in International conference, organized by Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and ILO. There he made a presentation of SWAD and discussed the problems of violence and trafficking in Bulgaria with other participants.

In Sofia and Bourgas was made a press presentation of SWAD. The Foundation for local government reform published information for BASW and SWAD in their monthly bulletin. In Burgas the Association of Family Support and Social Work also made a presentation in their monthly bulletin.

In Serbia our colleagues organized a work meeting together with

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participation of representatives from local and national organizations and the government. And there after discussion they draw action program for elimination of violence and trafficking in Serbia.

SWAD - United Kingdom

BASW's Independent Social Workers Network held a reception in the UK Parliament on 8th November. The importance of the SWAD theme was stressed by Ian Johnston, BASW Director and other speakers.

A free SWAD seminar in Belfast, Northern Ireland held by BASW on 9th November was addressed by speakers from Amnesty International and Barnados and focused on child trafficking and other forms of exploitation and the action necessary to tackle these.

The SWAD theme was highlighted in BASW press releases in Scotland and at a number of events notably the Forth Valley BASW Branch AGM which took place on 9th November.

BASW also hosted a reception to mark SWAD at the Welsh Assembly which was addressed by representatives NCH and the NSPCC. The First Minister attended and pledged her support for a follow up conference.

These events were supported by a wide range of individuals and organisations. The unacceptable nature and prevalence of trafficking and exploitation in our midst was highlighted and participants encouraged to work together to effectively address these. BASW's monthly magazine Professional Social Work highlighted SWAD activities across the UK.

SWAD in Italy

By Franca Dente

The National Association of Social Workers in Italy has published a press release to inform about SWAD 2004, through mass-media, website and journal.

At the National Congress of Social Workers we have invited the members to increase participation to the action day.

In the press release the national Association of Social Workers has described the different forms of trafficking in Human Beings and the relative laws of protection.

SWAD - Sweden

In Sweden has established a new prize for good social work practice. The motive for the prize is to promote social work. The name of the prize is the Courage-prize (we have a social work journey with the name Social Courage). The prize will be presented on Social Work Action Day. It will be accompanied by a press release to further publicize good social work practice.

SWAD - Turkey

The activities planned are:

- Adding a short article to our web page.
- Appearing in radio programs (TRT1) and sending press releases to newspapers

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- Providing information and expressing our views to governmental and nongovernmental organizations
- Case discussions for our members at the offices of the association
- Conference for social work students at Hacettepe University and Baskent University.

SWAD - Romania



Participant's in one of the SWAD workshop's in Romania.

The member organizations of National Federation of Social Workers in Romania are organizing debates and workshops around the country with the subject *together against violence*. Professionals from all fields related with social work and social workers from different institutions, NGOs and students in social work were invited to participate. The results will be published in a brochure prepared for the Second National Conference of Social Workers in Romania which will take place on 18-20 November in Cluj.



SWAD - Hungary

On the occasion of social work action day, the Alliance of Social Professionals with the cooperation of the Ministry of Health, Family and Social Affairs will organize a one-day conference which will cover:

- The situation of social workers in Hungary based on a recent research survey (Prof. Zsuzsa Ferge, President of the Alliance of Social Professionals).
- The 'many-sided' profession - (Gábor Hegyesi, Head of Social Worker Department, ELTE University).
- Possibilities of inter-professional cooperation (representatives of co-professionals, like doctors, policemen, fellows)

SWAD - Switzerland

The activities are planned in different sections of the organisation:

One section will organize a conference about "Woman Trade in Switzerland", current problems, prevention, victim protection and the contribution of the social work. The persons who will speak at the conference are the staff of a women's information center.

Another section of the organisation is planning a conference with a panel discussion.

A third section will print T-shirts and buttons with the text: Social Work Needs Professionals.

SWAD - Finland

The association published an article on the topic of trafficking in our journal (issue 8/04 which came out this week) and we shall send a national press release.

SWAD - Austria

The Austrian association will organise seminars on the subject in some of the nine provinces (together with schools of social work) and a local conference. We are also preparing a contribution to an international conference on trafficking organised by OSCE and United Nations where Herbert Paulischin, the President of the Austrian federation is invited.

SWAD - United States

International Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) is celebrating the SWAD together with colleagues from Europe. The International Chapter of NASW is planning to post an article on "Social Workers against Human Trafficking" on the website. They collaborated with an agency out of Cologne, the Solwodi Organization, which is writing an article on the plight of women in the prostitution trade. This non-profit organization works with women, primarily from African countries, who are trying to get out of this situation of being exploited.

L'ANAS invite ses adhérents et sympathisants à se mobiliser

L'ANAS a pris connaissance de l'appel à manifester produit par le collectif national unitaire contre le futur projet de loi de prévention de la délinquance. Des manifestations sont prévues à l'appel des collectifs locaux et régionaux le 14 décembre prochain



Si nous ne partageons pas en totalité la position du collectif national unitaire, en particulier concernant la question de la présence des assistants de service sociaux dans les commissariats, nous nous associons à lui pour demander la consultation du projet de loi par les travailleurs sociaux et les organisations (professionnelles, syndicales...) qui les représentent.

Le refus opposé par le gouvernement à la demande d'accès au contenu du projet de loi nous inquiète. Nous craignons que ce projet porte en germe une suspicion généralisée et une idéologie sécuritaire que nous dénonçons, une vision erronée de problèmes complexes et des solutions totalement inadaptées aux questions de la délinquance. Nous nous référons aux positions de l'ONU que nous choisissons de diffuser à cette occasion. C'est à partir, notamment, de cette référence que nous analyserons le texte gouvernemental à venir.

Nous demandons que le futur projet de loi respecte les **principes directeurs des Nations Unies pour la prévention de la délinquance juvénile adoptés et proclamés par son assemblée générale dans sa résolution 45/112 du 14 décembre 1990.**

Dans le texte, l'ONU rappelle que :

Art.2. Pour que la prévention de la délinquance juvénile porte ses fruits, il faut que la société tout entière assure le développement harmonieux des adolescents en respectant leur personnalité et en favorisant l'épanouissement des jeunes dès la plus tendre enfance.

Art.4. Tout programme de prévention devrait, conformément aux systèmes juridiques nationaux, être axé sur le bien-être des jeunes dès la petite enfance.

Ce texte fait état de 66 recommandations spécifiques qui toutes ont du sens et place chaque Etat membre face à ses responsabilités. Il rappelle également la nécessité « d'étudier systématiquement et d'élaborer des mesures qui évitent de criminaliser et de pénaliser un comportement qui ne cause pas de dommages graves à l'évolution de l'enfant et ne porte pas préjudice à autrui ».

C'est pourquoi, les adhérents et sympathisants de l'ANAS s'associant à cette manifestation le feront sur des bases suivantes :

Nous demandons :

- Le respect des principes directeurs des Nations Unies pour la prévention de la délinquance juvénile

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- Que les travailleurs sociaux et leurs organisations (syndicales et professionnelles) soient consultés pour apporter leur avis sur le futur projet de loi
- Que soient pris en considération les fondements du travail social permettant son exercice sans aucune discrimination à l'égard des personnes qui en sont bénéficiaires.

FAST (Families and Survivors of Tsunami) Project

The International Federation of Social Workers and Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work have initiated the FAST (Families and Survivors of Tsunami) Project to contribute a professional social work response to the humanitarian crisis unleashed by the Tsunami of December 26, 2004. The FAST Project is time limited with the goals of collaborating with local social workers in the affected countries on specific projects to facilitate social and emotional recovery of communities. FAST focuses on children and families and their needs. The Project will assist in developing and supporting personnel who work in specific projects, and in evaluation of projects. FAST offers an international social work based response to the disaster.



To this end, we ask you to promote the FAST Project within your membership and call for financial donations. Hosting a Tsunami Relief Forum for your membership could be an effective strategy to disseminate information about FAST, brainstorm ideas for projects that your association could propose, and send out the call for funds.

The process of reviewing project proposals and allocating funds will be done by the IFSW and COSW committee coordinated by IFSW Asia-Pacific Regional President Justina Leung. A special trust will be set up, and administration is done on a voluntary basis. All funds will be used directly in the countries hit by the Tsunami. We sent out a press release to you all a few days ago and you can find more information on the Project website www.FASTproject.net

We think it would facilitate financial contributions if they could be made to a national account, thus avoiding the extra charges and additional effort for individuals to make an international transfer. We therefore hope that as many national social work organisations as possible would be able and willing to assist us by acting as a collection point for funds raised. You would then hold these funds until the financial arrangements of FAST are fully established? We seek your reply to this request, with the name and email address of your association's contact person, by preference not later than January 21, 2005.

Thank you for your support.



Polish Parliament Considering Social Work Law

Andrzej Gołowski - pracownik socjalny, koordynator wolontariatu

Work on a law regulating social work and allowing our self government is continuing. The draft act has been sent for consultation. The Ministry of Social Policy (MPS Ministerstwo Polityki Społecznej) has sent the draft legislation to, among others, the Polish Association of Social Workers - PTPS, trade unions and employers' organisations. The version that passed on February 25, 2005 is dramatically different from the version drafted nearly two years ago by social workers, and, since 2004, also by a working group of the Social Welfare Council (Rada Pomocy Społecznej) at the Ministry of Social Policy. The Council positively evaluated the law from October 4, 2004, which included 104 articles. The legislation has since been modified and its current version consists of 72 articles. The excluded articles refer to social workers' entitlements such as payments and early retirements.