

IFSW ACTION PLAN 2004 –2006

Human Rights – Human Rights Commission and joint efforts with IASSW

Goals

That IFSW has a human rights orientation for all its activities

- that IFSW has a human rights action plan and be visible in international human rights issues;
- that the IFSW Human Rights Commission encourages Regions to develop human rights action plans and be visible in Regional human rights issues;
- that Regions encourage member organisations to develop human rights action plans and be visible in national human rights issues;
- that each member organisation appoints a human rights focal point to be responsible for national human rights activities and to liaise with the Human Rights Commission;
- that the IFSW Human Rights Commission together with IASSW develops and encourages Human Rights training as part of social work graduate and further training;
- that IFSW in cooperation with IASSW supports and encourages research in Human Rights and Social Work.

Strategies

- that IFSW coordinates its Human Rights activities with IASSW and maintains a standing co-chaired committee for joint efforts and activities
- that the IFSW Human Rights Commission identifies and carries out an international human rights agenda on behalf of the federation;
- that the IFSW Human Rights Commission takes initiatives to and supports the IFSW leadership in preparing statements on human rights issues and related matters;
- that the IFSW Human Rights Commission monitors human rights activities at Regional and member/country levels and issues a comprehensive report every two years;
- that IFSW provides support for social workers, social work students or social service workers persecuted or threatened because of their work;
- that IFSW advocates for the release of detained social workers and others approved by the Vice-President of the region and the Secretary of the Human Rights Commission
- that IFSW acts in support of national organisations and regional groupings in taking a stand on issues of human rights.

Convenor Elis Envall Secretary Human Rights Commission

Membership *Jim Ife, professor*
Evelyn Balais Serrano

Ex-Officio President, Secretary General, UN Team Leader in Geneva & Amnesty International representative

Regional focal points to liaise with the Human Rights Commission
Ellen Oliver, Canada NAM

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VP
Ruth Stark, UK
VP
VP

LAC
Eur
APa
Afr

Plans	Action to date	Target Date/S
Education		
The Human Rights Commission will as a priority, lobby for the inclusion of Human Rights into social work curriculum	Incorporated in the Global Qualifying Standards Document. IASSW has agreed to lead on this.	Ongoing
The Human Rights Commission will as a first priority develop a Human Rights and Social Justice Instrument to serve as guidelines for individual social workers, member organisations and regions incorporating the outcome of work on Ethics and Global standards for social work training based on the international definition of social work.		
The Human Rights Commission will run workshops for social workers in conjunction with international & regional conferences, the main activity being to identify priority human right concerns in the region and to develop action strategies.	Half day workshop/meetings in conjunction with IASSW where possible	Ongoing
The Human Rights Commission will consider the need to revise the Manual on Human Rights and Social Work based on the outcome of the planned Human Rights and Social justice Instrument.		
Case Work		
<p>The Human Rights Commission will review the roles of regional focal points and processes used to identify appropriate cases in line with best practice standards.</p> <p>The Human Rights Commission will, as a priority, continue to work on behalf of individual social workers and approved others that are victims of human rights abuse or at risk as a result of actively supporting human rights issues. The Human Rights Commission will seek to provide ongoing support to such individuals. This will be carried out in collaboration with Amnesty International and other human rights groups.</p>	ongoing	ongoing

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Communication - Networking		
The Human Rights Commission will, as a priority, establish a more informative WebPage, containing information about human rights and social work and also about the human rights activities of IFSW.	Ongoing	
The Human Rights Commission will encourage the participation of social work students in human rights activism	IASSW to be asked to assume this role	
The Human Rights Commission will as a priority, strengthen links with individual member organisations to work co-operatively on human rights issues that may emerge in the member's country.		Continuing work