



international federation of social workers
fédération internationale des travailleurs sociaux
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Dear Colleagues

On behalf of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) all of your colleagues in Social Work around the globe we send you warmest greetings for National Social Work Week 2003.

The theme, which you chose for the years 2002-2004, “Social Work for Social Justice” continues to be of central importance in Canada and around the world.

Our professional commitment to equity, access, participation, the fulfilment of basic human needs and the preservation of rights through just legal processes brings with it many challenges.

As we write our greetings to you the world is poised on the edge of war, an event that every social worker knows will lead to consequences which will reverberate across the globe and right back to local neighbourhoods. Conflict, especially of this scale, has profound impact upon the human, social, environmental and economic relationships within and across countries. Resources directed towards conflict frequently leads to reduced funding available to deal with pressing domestic human service needs and funding available for international aid programs. Poverty, poor health indices, illiteracy, unemployment, mental illness, disability, domestic violence and the consequences of ageing are pressing in Canada and indeed every nation to varying degrees. Your work will continue to demand your finest skills and knowledge base afforded by your training and nourished by continuing education.

The IFSW, together with CASW and all our members will continue our call for a negotiated solution to the crises in Iraq, between Israel and Palestine, with North Korea and other conflict-ridden areas throughout the world. More than ever we must continue to be a part of the debate and link with other like-minded organisations in a global, national and local push for peace and social justice.

We commend CASW and all Canadian social workers for the foresight to adopt a continuing theme for your social work week and extend our warmest wishes for a thoughtful and successful series of events.

Sydney/Bern, February 26, 2003

Sincerely

Imelda Dodds
President

Tom Johannesen
Secretary General

