



PROFILE AND CURRICULUM VITAE OF NOMINEE ANTONINA DASHKINA

IFSW Position to which you seek nomination

President of IFSW

Candidate's Name and Country

Dr Antonina Dashkina, Russian Federation

Social Work and Other Educational Qualifications (include institution and date)

1968 - 1974 State Pedagogical University with qualification «social pedagogue»

1985 - 1987 PhD in social pedagogy. Research «Teenagers' behavior in the community and the ways of developing their interests using the community tools».

1995-1997 Social Work course with elderly and disabled people.

Professional Affiliations

- Member of the Board and Honorary President of Russia Union of Social Workers and Social Pedagogues;
- Honorary social worker of Russian Federation (state award);
- Chief editor of «Social Work in Russia» magazine;
- International Advisory Board Member of Global Institute of Social Work;
- Membership in AIEJI (International Association of Social Pedagogues).

Professional Leadership Experience over the past decade

- President of the Russian Union of Social Workers and Social Pedagogues (May 2001 - January 2018);
- Member of IFSW Europe Board for 5 years (under Presidency of Nikolai Paulsen and David Jones);
- Vice-chair of Eradication of Poverty and Social Cohesion Committee of the INGO Conference of the Council of Europe (September 2007 - June 2011);
- Vice – President of the Conference of International NGOs of the Council of Europe (June 2011- January 2018);
- Director of the Russian European Trust for Welfare Reform, UK Charity (1993- 2015);
- Asian Association of Social Welfare (2008-2011);
- Consultancy work via the Russian European Trust on the World Bank, EU and UN funded projects like «Development of Social work in Kyrgyzstan», «Development of Social services in Russia», «Breaking stereotypes on the image of elder women», «Supporting Women - Social Workers dealing with victims of Disasters»; «Social work with young offenders», «Social issues of discharged military personnel and their families: comparative research in the USA, UK and Russia» etc.

National Association and Leadership Experience over the past decade

From May 2001 until January 2018 I was the President of the Russian Union of Social Workers and Social Pedagogues, a Russian NGO which was set up in 1990 by a group of social pedagogues as the Association of Social Pedagogues of which I was part. The profession of social work in Russia was

established in 1991 and the organization thus changed its name to Russian Union of social workers and social pedagogues. I was elected President of this NGO in 2001.

Under my presidency we developed the Union from a very little NGO into quite a powerful organization with strong social work voice heard by our clients and the governmental bodies. During this time our Union concentrated on highly professional daily work of raising the prestige and status of social work and social pedagogy in Russia, on developing a culture for individual membership and responsibilities, cooperation between regional branches, participation of members in different decision making bodies etc.

The way we achieved the mission of the Union was as follows:

- Organization of Forums of Social workers of Siberia and Far East of Russia (to make social workers from remote and rural areas of Russia understand the role of the Union, to discuss the most important social issues of the country and the region). We organized 7 Forums all together with the participation of the presidents of IFSW, AIEJI, INGO Conference of Council of Europe, members of IFSW Europe and Asia Pacific etc. More than 10 000 social workers were involved;
- Organization of Congresses of social workers of Russia (we had 4 of those – 2006, 2010, 2014 and 2016 with the participation of social workers from all over the country and international guests with the aim of discussing the most important topics of the social work) with 6 000 thousand involved;
- Organizing the First Asia Pacific Summit of social workers in Vladivostok in 2016 to bring up to 1000 social workers from 16 countries of Europe and Asia Pacific to talk about social cohesion;
- Promotion of the European Social Charter ratified by Russia in 2009 in all those events;
- Promoting and distributing a national Code of Ethics of social workers based on experience and sharing with IFSW member associations. More than 100 000 copies of the Code are distributed;
- Attention to the role of social workers in crisis situations – floods, fires, terrorist attacks. The group of experts was set up with the aim of travelling to difficult areas soon after the events to work with victims and social workers. We participated in work in Beslan, Kursk, Vladivostok etc. to talk about preparation work which should be done in case of the crisis and after crisis intervention. Currently the group of our experts is in Kemerovo after the terrible fire taking lives of many people;
- Participation in international work. Union representatives participated in many IFSW Europe and IFSW global events since 1991;
- Contacts with member organizations. Among those are the NASW, BASW, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, South Korea, New Zealand, Australia, Germany, France, Singapore, Cyprus, Spain and Portugal Associations who became instrumental for our success and development. They were hosting us, sharing expertise and knowledge. Practically all visited Russia to participate in the events organized by the Union;
- The Union of social workers and social pedagogues in return gave its knowledge and expertise to Kyrgyzstan, Vietnam, Kazakhstan and Belarus Associations of Social Workers;
- We met, shared experience and became acquainted with work of Chile, Brazil, China, Iran, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Finland, Norway, Moldova and Philippine Associations;
- Production of «Social Work» magazine with distributed all over the Russia via subscription.

Community/Volunteer and Leadership Experience over the past decade

On a voluntary basis I lectured in many regional Universities all over the country to bring international perspectives to students of social work. I was also supporting projects to prevent or eradicate poverty travelling to Brazil' favelas, South Africa poorest communities, and Russian abandoned villages, where only very elderly people live.

Are you aware of the description, role and responsibilities attached to the position you wish to have within the IFSW Executive?

Yes

a) What are the three most important responsibilities towards IFSW:

- To promote social work professions at international and national levels raising the status and prestige of social workers in society and to bring associations of social workers of different countries closer to each other by sharing experience, promoting the important work done by each of them and to make other countries aware of changes which are brought by national associations to local and international communities;
- To make IFSW global to play an even more important role among international bodies like UN, UNESCO to achieve new steps in cooperation and support the voice of social workers in international arena;
- To strengthen joint work with IASSW and ICSW as the vehicle to raise the profile of social work via the Global Agenda on every continent and to joint standards of “burning” issues of social work such as poverty, aging, social education, gender equality, rights of minorities.

b) What are the three most important responsibilities towards your Region:

- Europe has 48 countries but not all of them have their national associations. It will be a very important task to bring all European countries closer to each other through cooperation and professionalism of national social work associations;
- To continue work against poverty and social exclusion in Europe using such bodies as EU and Council of Europe based on European and international standards which countries have committed themselves through different applicable legal instruments, to promote European Social Charter;
- To work more on inequalities on racial, gender, religious grounds in Europe, the rights of minorities, support of refugees and poor.

c) What are the three most important responsibilities towards your national association?

- To continue the development of the Russia Union of Social Workers and Social Pedagogues using the international experience of strong associations of social workers with long histories of struggle for human rights and the rights of social workers;
- To establish more contacts with other professional associations of the world. Having in mind that 2/3 of Russia territory belongs to Asia Pacific we will continue the development of contacts with neighboring Asia Pacific associations and will be seeking for observation status for Russia Union of Social Workers and Social Pedagogues in Asia-Pacific branch of IFSW;
- To fight against poverty among «the working poor», single mothers, families with many children. For this purpose we will continue seeking for dialogues with national and regional governments, mass media etc. using the good and successful practices of IFSW national associations, stressing the need to ensure that rights are effectively enjoyed by all, including the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.

Please demonstrate:

• Commitment to the goals of IFSW as laid down in the Constitution

- **Partnership** – I am very actively involved in cooperation with people who use social services based on equal rights and opportunities. I managed to develop many partnerships of the Russian Union and other national associations and can demonstrate how important they are. Partnership for global solidarity and social cohesion are my main professional principles;
- **Action** – I very actively facilitate international and regional cooperation to achieve quicker and better results in improving social services in all countries by sharing experience and good practices thanks to clear understanding of similarities and differences. As an example – members of Russian and Korean Associations meet every year in one of the respective countries for 11 years now;

- **Advocacy** - I am a very active advocate at global, regional and national levels of human rights, eradication of poverty, social work ethical principles and values;
- **Policy** – I know how important the policy and ethical statements of IFSW for improving the practice but also for strengthening the moral of social workers. Policy statements should be discussed and implemented at global, regional and local levels. I feel I can suggest how to make it more effectively.

Possession of language(s) capabilities (preferably bilingual)

Russian (native), English (excellent), some German

-I live in Russia. My main work as a President of Russian Union of social workers and social pedagogues was run in Russia although as part of this work I was visiting many countries of the world for international exchanges, conferences, scientific symposiums, etc.

- For 25 years I have been married to UK citizen Tony Widmer OBE who is also a social worker. This is why a lot of joint work between Russian and British social workers was done with the help and with participation of the British association of social workers and Russian European Trust for welfare reforms. Therefore my main regions of work and professional experience are Russia and United Kingdom.

Practical wisdom and objective interest in international affairs

Having experience of working in 3 big bodies (the Russia Union of social workers and social pedagogues, INGO Conference of Council of Europe with nearly 400 hundred international NGOs of Europe, and the Russian European Trust for Welfare Reform), I have travelled to some 58 countries of the world and in most of them had meetings with social workers and their clients. In each country I always tried to know and to understand as much as possible about the life of people – the poor, the disadvantaged, and the vulnerable - and the challenges for social workers.

- Being raised in some poverty and shortage of necessary things in the Far East of Russia soon after Second World War I feel very sympathetic and understanding of the needs of people. In the Council of Europe, I was for four years working as a vice-chair for the Eradication of Poverty and Social Cohesion Committee bringing poor people from many European countries together, organising 17th of October – International Day for the Eradication of Poverty- in Russia, France, Finland, some other European countries;
- It is important to mention that my country is a multinational state with more than 140 nationalities – small and large. There are for example, 3 Buddhist republics, and 8 Muslim states in the Russian Federation. This gives me a lot of knowledge and good examples about how to live in peace with each other in a very diverse society and if necessary – how to resolve conflicts;
- I am an expert in resolving group conflicts. It is part of my work and professional skills. The Council of Europe used my skill at conflict resolution, in Chisinau (Moldova), between NGOs from both banks the river Nistru/Dniestr. We had a three day meeting at the COE office with NGOs of Moldova and Transnistria - people who usually have no chance to meet each other to discuss important issues for supporting people in their respective areas;
- I have visited and developed very strong links with several counties of Asia Pacific regions. Some of whom (South Korea, Vietnam, Singapore, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan) we have long standing contacts and visit each other every year. We also have a Memorandum of Understanding between Russian and the American Associations of Social Workers (NASW). Thanks to Memorandum we have hosted many groups of social workers from USA to share Russia’s experience of social work with different groups who need social work support;
- The Russian Union and UK experts helped to set up the Kyrgyz Association of Social Workers and the first social work training programme at the University of Bishkek. With our assistance contacts between the Kyrgyz and Danish Associations of Social Workers were established and became good example of a long and successful cooperation. For my long years of social work there I was awarded the status of honorary citizen of Kyrgyzstan by the President of the country;

- For my international work in Council of Europe and joint work with France on eradication of poverty FRANCE EURO MÉDITERRANÉE awarded me with «Trophées de la Réussite au Féminin». This annual award was given to me in Paris at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France along with eight other women – from France, Denmark, Sudan, Algeria;
- My positions in Russia and Europe gave me the practical skills to speak to very large audiences. One thousand people is the norm but I have addressed several even larger audiences;
- -My status also gave me the opportunity to meet presidents of several countries, ambassadors of many countries, high level authorities, and representatives of different political parties. I was never afraid to speak on behalf of our clients and us, social workers;
- These activities allowed me to build a precious “carnet d’adresses” of committed people, organisations and officials in over 50 countries around the world

Willingness and capacity to devote time to assume work responsibilities in the Executive or Regional Committee

- In January 2018 I left two very important positions which I had for many years. These were President of Russian Union of Social Workers and Social Pedagogues and Vice president of INGO Conference of the Council of Europe;
- Now that I do not have a full - time job I want to completely give my time and energy to IFSW;
- I was working as member of the Board of IFSW Europe for 5 years and have some experience of running this organization with my counterparts on regional European level. In INGO Conference there are 47 countries of Europe. I therefore learnt a lot about the problems in European countries from the perspectives of NGOs of different expertise and movements;
- I am well acquainted with the importance of the concept of social cohesion and was implementing it in different countries of Europe and Asia Pacific. This concept could fruitfully inspire IFSW for the world global idea of togetherness and solidarity.

Ability, in so far as possible, to attend Executive or Regional Committee meetings

I am able to attend regional and Executive meeting as I have left two of my main positions and am able to devote my full time to IFSW

Participation, so far as possible, as delegate of the General Meeting or attendance at IFSW Conferences - I do not see any problems attending the meetings and conferences

Any other information relevant to your nomination -

If I am elected I am prepared to put my time, experience, expertise and passion to the service of one of the best international organization I have been involved with – The International Federation of Social Workers.

9 April 2018

Antonina Dashkina