

International Federation of Social Workers
Report to the General Assembly 2018 in Dublin

Biannual Report 2016 – 2018 of the IFSW Representation in Vienna

Organisation of the IFSW Representation in Vienna

Here are the names and the priority activity of the representatives.

<i>Name and e-mail</i>	<i>Status and year of appointment</i>	<i>Position, function membership</i>	<i>Priority areas of activity</i>
Dunja Gharwal	Main Representative from 2014 until 2017	NGO Committees Status of Women, Sustainable Development	
Maria Moritz	Representative of IFSW on the CoNGO Executive Board since 2012 until 2018	CoNGO Executive Board Association CoNGO Vienna Support	Supporting the recognition of IFSW on the CoNGO Executive Board, supporting the Viennese branch of CoNGO and the CoNGO committees at the UN-Center in Vienna, Organizing events in Vienna, functioning as deputy in several committees
Silvia Franke	Representative from 2006	NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs	Drug policy
Christine Petioky	Representative from 2009 to 2018	NGO Committee on the Status of Women NGO Committee on Ageing and Older Persons	Combatting violence against women Social protection Social inclusion of persons with dementia

During a meeting with the IFSW Representative in June 2018 with the project leader for the UN Commission (Priska Fleischlin), Christine Petioky and Maria Moritz informed that they wish step down from their representative function.

Fields of activities of the Representatives

Dunja Gharwal

Dunja stepped down from her position in 2017 – no report.

Maria Moritz

Representing IFSW on CoNGO Executive Board, attending Board Meetings in Geneva and Vienna, organizing events in the name of CoNGO at the UN-Center in Vienna, 70 Years Jubilee of CoNGO at The UN in October 2015, Preparing the event in 2017 about Refugee Situation and best practice of support and integration at the UN-Center in Vienna, functioning as deputy in several committees supporting social work issues and social work perspectives on the CoNGO Board and in the Viennese committees. Support of the association CoNGO Vienna Support, which enables in cooperation of members of all Viennese UN-committees the representation of CoNGO at the UN and making CoNGO more visible for the NGO within the UN.

Important for the next period will be enhancing the communication and the cooperation between the UN-Centers New York, Geneva and Vienna.

Silvia Franke

Report of the representatives of the IFSW in the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs (2016-2017)

The main focus of activities consisted in participating in the regular meetings of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs and in the events during the 59th and 60th annual sessions of the High Level Segment and Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in 2016 and 2017, including the **briefing and coordination meetings of the VNGOC.**

The IWSF's participated in the regular meetings of the VNGOC and took part in the chair elections for the VNGOC committee. During the annual CNDs and the UNGASS 2016 it participated in various side events, especially those which were of main interest to social worker's clients, concerning human rights, drug policy and sharing experiences of the ongoing process in further decriminalization and regulation.

In 2016 a letter by IFSW was submitted to the president and selected members of the Philippines Congress, urging members not to pass the bill to reinstate the death penalty (see attachment), which issue is of high concern especially for people with drug problems. IFSW also participated in a survey from the Civil Society Forum on Drugs of the European Commission on national civil society engagement, pointing out best practices in the field of addiction (harm reduction, substitution therapy), main challenges (lack of affordable HCV medication for clients) and giving related action-orientated recommendations for the UNGASS roundtables. These were a.o. _the availability of substitution therapy with long acting morphines, further support of controlled cannabis cultivation for medicinal and leisure use as a model for rural development; an enforced social and educational support for economically weak families and the general relaunch of the Single convention on a scientific, evidence oriented basis. IFSW also recommended

experts for an expert group meeting **on stimulants dependence** organized by the Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Section of the UNODC in **October 2017**.

2018:

Since the newly elected VNGOC board with its chair, Jamie Bridge from IDPC (International Drug Policy Consortium), has been active, a more professional Civil Society Task Force and in consequence a vital communication with the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) have been established. There is an ongoing interest by the INCB in professional inputs by VNGOC: f.e. there was a panel presentation to the INCB board by VNGOC members on Cannabis, and the VNGOC members were also asked to fill out an INCB questionnaire on the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Furthermore, it was asked for suggestions of suitable civil society organisations to meet during upcoming INCB missions (I suggested a low threshold counselling centre for drug using female sex workers in Hamburg/Germany). Generally said: the new board is actively trying to give a sustainable impact to the UN system in the direction of a more professional and evidence based approach to the drug problem.

Christine Petioky

Main issues of the Committee on Ageing and Older Persons

- Convention on Human Rights of Older Persons – Preparation of a symposium on the occasion of the UN International Day of Older Persons ‘Celebrating Human Rights of Older Persons’ on 1 October 2018
- Sustainable Development Goals in view of older persons
- Networking Activities

In the last few years I had to reduce my involvement in both committees, due to increasing obligations in my main profession as a social worker in the European social area. However, in the CONGO Committee on Ageing and Older Persons I had the opportunity to contribute with information on European good practice examples in the fields of empowering older persons with dementia and building age- and dementia-friendly environments. In addition, I continued emphasizing the importance of being entitled to pension payments after a legally stipulated age as a right to social protection.

Main issues of the Committee on the Status of Women (from my perception)

- Fight against human trafficking
- Preventing Child Marriage with Girls Not Brides
- Gender equality, example of Iceland
- Women and the Media (Oral Statement)
- Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls (written statement)
- Preparation of Side Events ‘How can more gender equality and democratic participation contribute to combating corruption and organized crime?’, ‘Education works - Global Civic Education is Crime Prevention’

- Improving the involvement of NGOs in UN events and decision-making

In the CONGO committee on the status of women, my contribution to the contents turned out to be more difficult than in the CONGO Committee on Ageing and Older Persons as many statements and resolutions were drawn up in subcommittees. Due to lack of time it was even less possible for me to participate in subcommittee sessions than in committee sessions. However, as the committee's papers were elaborated in a thoughtful and competent way, I could submit and recommend them to the IFSW representatives for signature.

Vienna, June 2018