

Kia ora Rory,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my Expression of Interest for the role of Secretary Human Rights Commission, International Federation of Social Workers. There are several reasons why I would like to be considered for this role.

First and foremost, I have reached a point in my life where working towards the betterment of humanity is at the forefront of what I want to do with any role now and into the future.

I strongly believe that every human should be afforded basic rights and freedoms irrespective of who they are and where they come from. Rights such as the right to life and liberty, freedom of expression, the right to be free from discrimination, the right to participate in culture and the right to an adequate standard of living, to name a few, are fundamental to existing in a just world and talk directly to our values as social workers.

There are several examples of where I uphold and champion human rights daily through my current employment and through many volunteer roles I undertake:

- My role as a union organiser sees me advocating for (on behalf of members) the right to work, be free from any form of discrimination and to be able to achieve an adequate standard of living
- I am a part of the Global Community Council for the IFSW Climate Justice Program just recently launched on World Social Work Day 2018 at the United Nations by Dr Meredith Powers
- I am the lead within the ANZASW Board advocating for the release of Munther Amira following his detention by the Israeli military and subsequent sentencing by the military judicial system. (Please see Munther's letter of thanks to several of us on World Social Work Day 2018)
- One of the lead organisers of Hīkoi Whakaara, the successful September 2017 three-day protest highlighting the levels of poverty, homelessness, inequality and health funding cuts experienced in Aotearoa New Zealand (please see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wg4xE0lc2qo>)
- I am the Co-Chair of the ANZASW Social Justice Committee
- I am currently on the Staffing Committee for Christian World Service (CWS). CWS works with its partners and international networks to meet the immediate needs of people for food, water, dignity and justice
- I was one of the authors of the policy and motion presented and passed in Seoul 2016, working towards creating an IFSW Trade Working Group

- I was also a contributor to the 'Social Work Promoting Community and Environmental Sustainability: A Workbook for Global Social Workers and Educators'

I hold a Bachelors of Social Work, a Post Graduate Diploma in International Development (with Merit) and I have recently completed a research proposal for my Master's thesis which will commence, part time, in 2019. My research proposal is exploring the state of radical social work practice in Aotearoa New Zealand through the voices of contemporary Aotearoa New Zealand social workers.

As you can see I am passionate about all forms of human rights, I am an extremely active participant in whatever role I perform and believe I am the best person for the role. I hope this goes some way in explaining why I have submitted this Expression of Interest for the role of Secretary Human Rights Commission, International Federation of Social Workers.

I am happy to supply referees / references if you require them.

Ngā mihi

Luis Arevalo