

**International Federation of Social Workers
Representative Team to the United Nations-New York
ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT 2017-18**

This report covers the activities of the New York Representative Team to the United Nations Headquarters in New York from the period of September 2017 through June 2018. This proactive team of three representatives and two interns cover a wide variety of substantial issues of interest and concern to the profession of social work. Please note that this report captures only the major contributions, as reporting on all activities would be exhaustive for an annual report.

Team Update

- Dr. Michael Cronin remains as the Main UN Representative in New York. Dr. Cronin is an Associate Professor at the Monmouth University School of Social Work in West Long Branch, New Jersey.
- Dr. Robin Mama is Professor, and Dean of the School of Social Work at Monmouth University.
- Dr. Elaine Congress is Associate Dean at the Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service.
- Graduate social work interns for 2016-17 were:
Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service-Madeleine Lee
Monmouth University School of Social Work-Jolaade Olatunji
- Continued collaboration with NASW-USA and IFSW North American Region to support team development and increased regional participation.

UN Department of Public Information/NGO Section (UNDPI/NGO)

- Individual team members and interns attend weekly briefings on topics relevant to the UN and associated NGOs. The briefings consist of panel discussions which typically feature a UN representative, a government representative and an NGO representative. Some of the topics of this past year have included:
 - Communications Workshop on effective campaigns for achieving SDGs
 - Sustainable Cities & Communities
 - Autism
 - Holocaust Remembrance
 - World Press Freedom
 - Faith & Spirituality
 - Migration and International Unity
 - Education for Global Citizenship
 - Conference Town Hall
 - Slavery
 - Bioenergy
 - African Youth Movement

The following link contains all DPI/NGO briefings for this time frame with webcasted videos, descriptions of the events, and which speakers attended. <https://outreach.un.org/ngorelations/article-archive/briefings>

ECOSOC Commissions, Forums, Conventions & GA High-Level Segment Meetings

Commission for Social Development (CSocD56) 29 January -7 February 2018

The CSocD is a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the UN which consists of 46 elected members. Since the convening of the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995, the Commission has been the key UN body in charge of the follow-up and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. Each year, the Commission takes up key social development themes as part of its follow-up to the outcome of the Copenhagen Summit.

- IFSW delegation attended the 56th session with “Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all” as the priority theme. This year, the CSocD56 concluded with the adoption of measures by government officials and civil society leaders, including the creation of social protection systems, that would help lift the millions of people still living in poverty, especially those in vulnerable situations. . Full UN Report at: <http://undocs.org/E/2018/26>
- Participated in two NGO parallel events.

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

The CSW is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), dedicated exclusively to gender equality and advancement of women. It is the principal global policy-making body. Every year, representatives of Member States gather at United Nations Headquarters in New York to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify

challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and advancement of women worldwide.

- IFSW delegation attended the 62nd session from 12-23 March 2018 with the priority theme as “Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls”.
- Participated in two NGO parallel events.
- **Submitted IFSW statement** <http://undocs.org/E/CN.6/2018/NGO/29>
- The outcome of the Commission’s consideration of the priority theme during its 62nd session takes the form of agreed conclusions, negotiated by all Member States. The Commission on the Status of Women adopted agreed conclusions on “Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls” on 23 March 2018. <http://undocs.org/en/E/CN.6/2018/L.8>

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)

The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) is an advisory body to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), with a mandate to discuss indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights.

- IFSW delegation participated in the 17th Session from 16-27 April 2018, with the special theme as “Indigenous peoples’ collective rights to lands, territories and resources”.
- The Forum attracted over 2000 indigenous peoples and NGO representatives.
- The [full UN report](https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/06/Report-on-ForumEnglish.pdf) is available at: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/06/Report-on-ForumEnglish.pdf>
- IFSW organized a side event.

Other UN Events

- **Social Work Day at the United Nations –New York**
Social Work Day at the UN in New York promotes the social work profession in collaborative UN efforts as well as to expose social workers to the UN agenda. There were approximately 600 attendees that included social work practitioners, social work students and faculty. Jointly sponsored by IFSW and IASSW, the theme for the event was on **SDGs, Climate Change and Social Work Practice**
Speakers:
 - His Excellency the Honorable Ambassador Teburoro Tito, Permanent Representative of the Mission of Kiribati to the United Nations
 - Daniel Thomas, Special Advisor, Advocacy and Communications at UNICEF
 - Mariam Traore Chazalnoel, Associate Expert, Migration, Environment and Climate Change, United Nations Migration Agency (IOM)
 - Mark Chambers, Director of the NYC Mayor’s Office of Sustainability
 - Meredith Powers, Assistant Professor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro
 - Rory Truell, Secretary General, IFSW provided the wrap-up.
You may view the UNTV webcast at: <http://webtv.un.org/search/35th-annual-social-work-day-at-the-united-nations/5758511015001/?term=SOCIAL%20WORK%20day&sort=date>
- **The Global Social Work Student Conference** was first held in 2008 as a supplementary event to Social Work Day at the United Nations in New York. Since then, GSWSC has been a mainstay in the international social work community in creating a space where social work students from around the world can come together to learn and share ideas and information for best practice in the rapidly growing field of professional social work. **IFSW interns** planned and coordinated the **2018 Global Social Work Student Conference** at Fordham University the day before Social Work Day at the UN. The theme was: SDGs, Climate Change and Social Work Practice. More than 200 people were in attendance.

Pre-Social Work Day Event: Sustainable Development Goals and Social Work, 8 February 2018

This seminar focused on the following questions: What are the SDGs and how are they relevant to social work practice? How are the SDGs being implemented in NYC? Representative from IFSW & IASSW gave a background on the UN

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Sustainable Goals. Dr. SAMANTHA MACBRIDE Director of Research and Operations, Bureau of Recycling and Sustainability, NYC Department of Sanitation provided local examples of implementing several SDGs. About 80 practitioners, students, and faculty were in attendance.

High Level Political Forum on SDGs Learning, Training, & Practice July 2017

IFSW was selected to deliver a workshop during the High Level Political Forum on SDGs. This course provided participants the opportunity to explore and develop strategies to support the SDGs within NGO professional networks. About 20 participants from around the world were in attendance. The agenda was as follows:

- IFSW and the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development
- Third pillar focus: Promoting Community and Environmental Sustainability
- World Social Work Day themes 2016 & 17
- Examples from several regions of the world.
- Discussion for capacity building and training within NGO structure/networks.

NGO Committees (CoNGO)

The Conference of NGOs (CoNGO) Committees bring together NGOs, members of the Secretariat and government delegations to discuss current themes and issues before the UN and the global community. Through these committees, CONGO members and the larger NGO community work together to share information, to cooperate on substantive issues, and to bring NGO expertise into the discussions of governments at the United Nations. Committees operate in Geneva, New York and Vienna. IFSW is represented as active participating members on the following NGO Committees, Sub-Committees, or Working Groups in **New York**:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ageing
<i>Michael Cronin</i> • Mental Health
<i>Robin Mama</i> • Family
<i>Michael Cronin</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indigenous Issues
<i>Elaine Congress</i> • Migration
<i>Elaine Congress, Madeleine Lee</i> • Status of Women
Robin Mama, Elaine Congress, Madeleine Lee,
Jolaade Olatunji |
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Meetings with UN Missions

Austria, Bangladesh, Liechtenstein, Nigeria Slovenia, Switzerland, and United States.

IFSW representation at other noteworthy events and meetings (2017-18)

Celebration of the International Day of Older Persons, International Women's Rights Day, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, World AIDS Day, General Assembly Third Committee meetings, and the International Day of Families. International symposium at the NASW National Conference June 2018 on SDGs and the Role of Social Work.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the New York Team,
Michael Cronin, Main UN Representative-New York