



**The Agency / Network: European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN)
Name of the Representative: Fran McDonnell nominated by BASW**

EAPN is the largest network of anti-poverty organisations in Europe, representing thousands of anti-poverty organisations and activists across 32 European countries, working with and for people with direct experience of poverty.

With well over 100 million people in Europe still living at risk of poverty, and a recently agreed 'Strategic Agenda' of the European Council which, while committing to tackle inequality, leave no-one behind, ensure adequate social protection systems, ensure a just transition and a fair and effective taxation system, stops some way short of committing to eradicating poverty, this issue is more important than ever.

ACHIEVEMENTS FOR IFSW EUROPE

1. Fran was asked to become a member of the EAPN EU Inclusion Strategies Group, which is the Policy group, taking up a place for European organisations. Membership is for 3 years.
2. Ian Johnston was nominated by IFSW and elected to serve as EAPN Vice- President at the General Assembly in September 2018 for 3 years. This means he is now a member of the EAPN Bureau and the Executive (EXCO). His responsibilities include staffing and governance.
3. These appointments mean that IFSW has a much greater involvement and higher profile within EAPN enabling the social work perspective to be represented in strategy, consultations and policy documents.
4. EAPN has particularly recognised IFSW for its involvement and contribution to the EAPN EU Election campaign, "Make Europe Poverty Free". Ian has been involved at the strategic level and Fran developed a flier which went out to IFSW members entitled 'Make Social Workers Voices heard in the EU'.

Over 250 MEP candidates from 20 countries pledged their support to work to '[Make Europe poverty free](#)' should they be (re)elected. EAPN have been working with IFSW and ATD 4th World, on a follow up to the EU election campaign. A letter has gone to the 36 MEPs from 16 countries and 5 political families who were elected asking them to continue their commitment to work to make Europe poverty free. EAPN have invited them to participate in an introductory "Roundtable on the Fight Against Poverty" on 17th October, likely to be held at the European Parliament.



5. The EAPN reps have been active in the IFSW project on social protection and the implementation of the Pillar of Social Rights. This work will be included in the EAPN feedback to the EU on what members have been doing in relation to the Pillar. This will include IFSW's concern, shared by many members that Principle 20 does not specifically mention access to social services or social care.

ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

1. Fran has participated in the EAPN General Assembly, Policy Conference, EUISG in Vienna 26-29 September 2018 and the EAPN policy conference and EUISG in Brussels 13- 15th June 2019. She was unable to attend the EUISG in March due to a family illness.
2. Ian has attended the EAPN EXCO meetings happening at the same time plus monthly face to face Bureau meetings and webinars and spoken at conferences in Lisbon and Pamplona.
3. An important part of EAPN's work is to secure the participation of People Experiencing Poverty (PEP), including representatives of groups in society particularly at risk of falling into poverty, in policy development.
4. One such group are the children and young people who live apart from their parents in substitute care settings arranged by social workers and Ian arranged for a Care Experienced Young Person (CEYP) from Scotland to accompany him to the PEP Conference in Brussels in November 2018.
5. Fran and Ian have been part of the IFSW project group planning the Workshop held in Copenhagen on 11th May. Fran drafted the programme, the notes, supplementary reading list and a PowerPoint presentation
6. Fran has also been the EAPN link with ESCR- Net Economic Policy Group.
7. Fran has contributed to ongoing policy development including giving feedback on a draft proposal on Education and Lifelong Learning, which is one of the EAPN priority Social Pillar Principles and a thematic focus of the EUISG work; and on the 2 -pager policy statement on Poverty.
8. IFSW publicised and contributed to EAPN campaigning and lobbying activities in particular the drive to secure minimum income for all citizens (<https://emin-eu.net/about/>) by supporting the European Minimum Income Network (EMIN) bus tour.
9. EAPN produces many documents which are on the website <https://www.eapn.eu/> but some of the latest documents are:
 - Gender -based Violence and Poverty in Europe Briefing



<https://www.eapn.eu/gender-based-violence-and-poverty-in-europe-briefing-2/>

- Toolkit for EAPN members on engaging with the European Semester and the European Pillar of Social Rights <https://www.eapn.eu/news-and-publications/publications/eapn-policy-toolkits-and-briefings>
- BUILDING SOCIAL EUROPE - A comprehensive implementation plan for an effective European Pillar of Social Rights <https://www.socialplatform.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Building-Social-Europe-A-comprehensive-implementation-plan-for-an-effective-EPSR.pdf>
- The Future of Europe/ EAPN contribution to the Discussion on the Future of Europe <https://www.eapn.eu/the-future-of-europe-eapn-contribution-to-the-discussion-on-the-future-of-europe/>

CHALLENGES

1. To better communicate the work of EAPN to members and facilitate more cooperation at national level.
2. To develop greater understanding of the Pillar of Social Rights and how the EU operates through the Social Fairness Package and the European Semester Annual process.
3. Ensure member organisations have better access to existing resources e.g. links to partner organisations resources on the IFSW Europe website.
4. Developing IFSW Policy that takes a position against developments that perpetuate the denial of peoples fundamental rights such as the growing number of foodbanks and networks supporting these on the basis that, whilst they are currently playing a part in relieving poverty, they are undignified for people forced to use them and do not solve the problem.
5. To take forward the suggestion made in last year's work plan to work with the Executive on developing a database of member policies etc, which would support IFSW representatives to contribute more effectively to ongoing consultations and developing policy papers.
6. To make a commitment that representatives will have reasonable expenses fully covered to attend relevant IFSW meetings, such as the Delegates meeting, by either the sponsoring association or IFSW Europe or a combination of the 2.
7. To consider succession planning for IFSW roles.