



**IFSW Europe e.V.**  
**Minutes Delegates Meeting 2020**  
6-7 November

**COUNTRIES IN ATTENDANCE:**

1. Armenia
2. Austria
3. Azerbaijan
4. Belarus
5. Belgium
6. Bulgaria
7. Croatia
8. Czech Republic
9. Denmark
10. Finland
11. France
12. Georgia
13. Germany
14. Greece
15. Hungary
16. Iceland
17. Ireland
18. Israel
19. Italy
20. Kosovo
21. Lithuania
22. Malta
23. Moldova
24. Netherlands
25. Norway
26. Poland
27. Portugal
28. Romania
29. Russia
30. Spain
31. Sweden
32. Switzerland
33. Turkey
34. United Kingdom

**OTHER PARTICIPANTS:**

- Secretary-General of IFSW

Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> November

## 1. WELCOME & VOTING ON FORMALITIES

### 1.1 Welcome and opening of the DM

The informal welcome started on 6 November at 08:30 CET with an online coffee together, on Zoom platform. A link to the zoom meeting has been sent by email to all of the delegates and observers and everyone participating was informed furthermore on the process of DM online.

### 1.2 The parliamentarian of the meeting

IFSW Executive proposed **Nicolai Paulsen (Denmark)** as **Parliamentarian**.

- *Proposed: Israel*
- *Seconded: Austria*
- *Carried: unanimously (26 votes total)*

### 1.3 The person taking the minutes

IFSW Executive proposed **Teodora Dobre (IFSWe Honorary Secretary)** as **Minute Taker**.

- *Proposed: Austria*
- *Seconded: Israel*
- *Carried: unanimously (26 votes total)*

### 1.4 The Tellers of the meeting

Proposal **Jaana Manssila (Finland)** and **Charlene Martin (Malta)**

- *Proposed: Israel*
- *Seconded: Ireland*
- *Carried: 25 yes, 1 abstained (26 votes total)*

All of the votes were carried online on Friday the 6<sup>th</sup>, between 09:00-18:00 CET.

## 2. AGENDA OF THE MEETING

The following additional items of the Agenda has been added based on the proposal coming from the Executive and IFSW European members:

Note: the item 27 is changing the content

Item 27. IFSW European Representatives' Report to International Psychogeriatric Association (IPA)

Item 28. World Social Work Day 2021

Item 29. Support to be provided to Armenia and Azerbaijan

Item 30. The IFSW Europe membership application to Euro-child

Item 31. Unaccompanied children and refugees

The item 16 is having the point 16.1.: Proposal – Populism in Europe – proposed by BASW

- *Proposed: Denmark*
- *Seconded: Norway*
- *Carried: 25 yes, 1 abstained (26 votes total)*

All of the votes were carried online on Friday the 6<sup>th</sup>, between 09:00-18:00 CET.

### **3. THE MINUTES OF THE DELEGATES MEETING 2019**

The Minutes has been distributed by email on January 28, 2020. The document is available online.

- *Proposed: Austria*
- *Seconded: Ireland*
- *Carried: 24 yes, 2 abstain (26 votes total)*

All of the votes were carried online on Friday the 6<sup>th</sup>, between 09:00-18:00 CET.

### **4. REPORT ON THE WORK PROGRAMME 2019-2020**

This item needs voting. Therefore, the Chair (Ana Radulescu) invited the countries to PROPOSE and SECOND a motion to approve the work programme 2019-2020 by mentioning in the comments.

- *Proposed: Finland*
- *Seconded: Iceland*
- *Carried: 30 yes (30 votes total)*

The work programme 2019-2020 is available on the IFSW website.

The voting on this item was carried online on Saturday 07th November between 14:30 -17:00 CET.

### **5. PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME 2020-2021**

Zoom meeting on this topic was organized from **12:00-13:30 CET**

Communication – Networking – Lobbying – Strengthen the visibility of social work and the member organizations of IFSW

- *Proposed: Germany*
- *Seconded: Finland*
- *Carried: 30 yes (30 votes total)*

The voting on this item will be on Saturday 07th November between 14:30 -17:00 CET.

Participants input on the IFSW online communication platform:

**David Jones (UK):** *Can I suggest that we should make a stronger connection to the themes of the Global Agenda in the work programme. The theme for 2020-2022 has now been announced. This is not to add more tasks but to make a conceptual connection to the theme – solidarity – which is already present in the reality of all our activities. It helps to make the conceptual connections explicit under our global theme. I was the Global Coordinator for The Global Agenda but have now stood down so I am no longer directly involved in this.*

**Amalia Gkorou (Greece):** *Congratulations on the work programme 2020 -2021. It's extremely important to strengthen our presence in national and European level so that we manage to show what social work professionals can succeed in all fields of practise.*

**Charlene Martin (Malta):** *An online platform can also help in sharing of resources. At the moment we the Maltese association of social workers are working towards improving the social worker's vision and promoting the social work profession in Malta. Part of this promotion is being done in schools and for this we did some videos to explain the role of the social worker. I am sure other associations have similar resources we can share.*

**Graça Andre (Portugal):** *Although I would like to join in point 5. Something like “Ensure a more strength link among representatives, in view to share the several projects, to update their development and evaluation in coordination with IFSW Europe. It can be planned a web meeting each 3 months”. I agree with the proposals that Global Agenda Plan shall be on the work – plan like a IFSW reference, but we shall introduce in IFSW Work Plan UN SDGs, that in my understanding is the umbrella project that Global Agenda will follow step by step (2020-2030).*

## 6. IFSW EUROPE PROJECT A SOCIAL EUROPE IS POSSIBLE! THE YOUNG GENERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS ARE THE SPEARHEAD OF CHANGE

The general concept of the project is available on the IFSW website.

The IFSW European Executive decided to engage Siobhan Maclean – Social Worker, former Secretary of IFSW Europe, Omar Mohamed – Social Work Student at University of Birmingham and Herbert Paulischin to manage the project.

IFSW Europe invited its members to nominate students and young social workers for this meeting as a first step in introducing the new generation of social workers in the IFSW European values and activities.

IFSW European members already nominated young social workers or students.

The group is working on preparing the policy statement for the transfer of young social workers from education to employment. The project group will conduct the collection and analyses of good practice models or examples for different countries. The planned result is to develop guidance for employers to support young when they enter the job. These recommendations can be modified and adapted to the legislation of each country.

This item was planned to and had a zoom meeting on Friday 06th November, 10.00-11.30 CET.

This item was not for voting, but for reporting and discussion. Siobhan and Omar will continue to help with answering IFSW members questions and include your comments in the project implementation.

## 6. LEGAL BODY – UPDATE

This item was only for reporting and discussion. No voting was planned in this meeting.

The president of IFSW Europe Ana Radulescu allocated the responsibility for keeping in contact with the district court department in Berlin to Gabriele Stark-Angermeier and Herbert Paulischin.

Herbert's report on the Legal body is the following:

IFSW Europe e.V. has been registered as legal entity at the Amtsgericht Schöneberg/Berlin, Germany (district court). The last update regarding the bylaws has been made in 2014.

The information regarding the officials of IFSW Europe e.V. is outdated and has to be actualized.

Based on the information provided by Gabriele Stark-Angermeier/DBSH I contacted the civil law notary, who processed the cooperation with the court in 2014. Unfortunately, the person who did it (Wilhelm Hebing) has retired, but the secretary (Ms Jarczyk) at the office remembered our case and introduced the competent successor (Dr. Thorsten Seidel) to me.

We agreed that I would explain the problem in an email and receive further instructions from the notary about the next steps. A copy of the email was sent to Ana Radulescu.

After discussing the situation on the phone, it must be assumed that the current board members must be registered with their original signature. The signatures must either be certified by a notary or made in front of an official of the German embassy in the respective country of residence of the board member.

At the moment we are waiting for further instructions from the notary.

## 7. REPORT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL PLATFORM

IFSW European Representative to the European Social Platform: **John BRENNAN (Ireland)**.

John's report is available on the IFSW website.

This item was opened for comments and questions on 6 November (09:00-18:00 CET) and 7 November (09:00-13:00 CET), on the IFSW website. The discussions on this item of the agenda were moderated by John Brennan.

This item was be discussed also during the zoom meeting on Friday - 6 November 12:00-13:30 CET.

The online meeting aimed to create the opportunity to clarify details.

This report was also approved as a part of the Report on the work program 2019-2020, available on the IFSW website.

More Information on this:

Social Platform virtual event on the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan – 18 November, 14:00-16:00.

Registration to our virtual European Parliament event on the European Pillar of Social Rights was available at the time of the DM. The event took via Webex on 18 November 2020, 14:00-16:00.

More information can be provided by John Brennan.

## **8. REPORT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE EUROPEAN ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK (EAPN)**

IFSW European Representatives to the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN): **Fran McDONNELL (United Kingdom) and Ian JOHNSTON (United Kingdom).**

Fran and Ian's report is available on the IFSW website.

This item was opened on the IFSW website for comments and questions on 6 November (09:00-18:00 CET) and 7 November (09:00-13:00 CET).

The discussions on this item of the agenda were moderated by Fran McDONNELL.

This item was discussed also during the zoom meeting on Friday-6 November 12:00-13:30 CET. The link will be available here soon.

The online meeting aimed to create the opportunity to clarify details.

This report was approved as a part of the Report on the work program 2019-2020, available at IFSW website.

Additional report

EAPN has negotiated an arrangement for its members to access Pro Bono legal services from Dentons, an international firm with offices in most countries.

A short presentation is available online.

This means that as a full member of EAPN, IFSW Europe and our individual members, may be able to receive legal services free of charge, should the need for these arise.

For more information, Ian Johnston will continue to answer questions.

## **9. REPORT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE TO FRA**

IFSW European Representative to Fundamental Rights Platform (FRP), EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA): **Graça Maria ANDRÉ (Portuguese Association of Social Workers).**

Graça's report is available on the IFSW website.

This item was opened on IFSW website for comments and questions on 6 November (09:00-18:00 CET) and 7 November (09:00-13:00 CET)

The discussions on this item of the agenda were moderated by Graça Maria André.

This item was discussed also during the zoom meeting on Friday- 6 November 12:00-13:30 CET.

The online meeting aimed to create the opportunity to clarify details.

This report was approved as a part of the Report on the work program 2019-2020, available on IFSW website.

## **10. REPORT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN**

IFSW European Representative to UN:  
UN Geneva: **Swetha RAO DHANANKA (Switzerland)**  
UN Vienna: **Herbert PAULISCHIN (Austria)**

Swetha and Herbert's report is available on the IFSW website.

This item was opened on the IFSW website for comments and questions on 6 November (09:00-18:00 CET) and 7 November (09:00-13:00 CET)

The discussions on this item of the agenda were moderated by both Swetha and Herbert.

This item was also discussed during the zoom meeting on Friday-6 November 12:00-13:30 CET.

The online meeting aimed to create the opportunity to clarify details.

This report was approved as a part of the Report on the work program 2019-2020, available on IFSW website.

## **11. REPORT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

IFSW European Representative to Council of Europe (CoE) – Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGO): **Ruth ALLEN (United Kingdom)**

Ruth's report is available on the IFSW website.

This item was opened on the IFSW website for comments and questions: 6 November (09:00-18:00 CET) and 7 November (09:00-13:00 CET)

The discussions on this item of the agenda were moderated by Ruth ALLEN.

This item will be discussed also during the zoom meeting on Friday - 6 November 12:00-13:30. The link will be available here soon.

The online meeting aims to create the opportunity to clarify details.

This report will be approved as a part of the Report on the work program 2019-2020, available at this [LINK](#).

## **12. REPORT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE GLOBAL PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS**

IFSW European Representative to the Global Permanent Committee on Ethics: **Jane SHEARS (United Kingdom)**

Jane's report is available on IFSW website.

This item was opened on IFSW website for comments and questions on 6 November (09:00-18:00 CET) and 7 November (09:00-13:00 CET)

The discussions on this item of the agenda were moderated by Jane SHEARS.

This item was also discussed during the zoom meeting on Friday-6 November 12:00-13:30 CET.

The online meeting aimed to create the opportunity to clarify details.

This report was approved as a part of the Report on the work program 2019-2020, available at on IFSW website.

## **13. REPORT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE EDUCATION COMMISSION**

IFSW European Representative to the Education Commission: **Nicolai PAULSEN (Denmark)**

Nicolai's report is available on IFSW website.

This item was opened on IFSW website for comments and questions on 6 November (09:00-18:00 CET) and 7 November (09:00-13:00 CET)

The discussions on this item of the agenda were moderated by Nicolai PAULSEN.

This item was also discussed during the **zoom meeting** on Friday-6 November 12:00-13:30 CET.

The online meeting aimed to create the opportunity to clarify details.

This report was approved as a part of the *Report on the work program 2019-2020*, available at on IFSW website.

## **14. REPORT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

IFSW European Representative to IFSW European Representative to Global Human Rights Commission: **Marcin BORYCZKO (Poland)**



Marcin's report is available on IFSW website.

This item was opened on IFSW website for comments and questions on 6 November (09:00-18:00 CET) and 7 November (09:00-13:00 CET)

The discussions on this item of the agenda was moderated by Marcin Boryczko.

This item was also discussed during the zoom meeting on Friday- 6 November 12:00-13:30 CET. The online meeting aimed to create the opportunity to clarify details.

This report was approved as a part of the Report on the work program 2019-2020, available at this on IFSW website.

## **15. REPORT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE INDIGENOUS COMMISSION**

IFSW European Representative to the Indigenous Commission: **Margareta UTTJEK** (Sweden)

This is a new group in IFSW Global. IFSW Europe proposed Margareta UTTJEK to represent IFSW Europe in this Commission.

IFSW Europe expects to have a report at the next Delegates Meeting.

Some of your question were answered by Rory Truell.

## **16. PRESENTATION, DISCUSSIONS AND ADOPTION OF IFSW EUROPE POLICY STATEMENTS**

### **16.1. PROPOSAL – POPULISM IN EUROPE – BASW**

There was a proposal from BASW for a discussion on **Populism in Europe**.

Discussions were available on

BASW was proposing the paper opening up a discussion about populism and social work in Europe.

The document is available on IFSW website.

The BASW Chair, **Geraldine Nosowska**, is taking the lead on this paper for BASW and will be our main spokesperson.

**David Jones** helped the chair/president of IFSW Europe **Ana Radulescu** with the moderation of the discussion on this item.

A zoom meeting was organized on 6 November at 15:00 CET

## **17. IFSW EUROPEAN CONFERENCE 2019 – REPORT**

**Herbert Paulschin** presented the report on the IFSW European Conference 2019.

The Report is available on IFSW website.

Participants were invited to address questions and add comments in the section related to this on IFSW website.

## 18. IFSW EUROPEAN CONFERENCE 2021

The current status of the preparation was discussed between IFSW and the Croatian partners and summarized as follows.

The taskforce consists of Ana Radulescu and Herbert Paulischin (for IFSW Europe) and the board of the Croatian association of social workers.

It has been decided, that the conference will be prepared and held as a physical meeting and as an online event.

The Croatian association of social workers will be the responsible local organizer for the physical meeting. IFSW Europe will be in charge of organizing the online event.

Date: 11th – 13th of October 2021

Venue: Zagreb, Croatia

Location: Hotel WESTIN and Museum MIMARA

<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/zagwi-the-westin-zagreb/?program=spg>

<http://www.mimara.hr/>

Main topic: Strategic social work priorities in Changing Europe

- homogeneity & heterogeneity
- welfare state & workfare state
- image, role and competences of social workers
- balance between different rights
- civic activism; roles and priorities of non-governmental organizations and cooperation with public services

There will be a special agenda and exclusive events for students as an integrated part of the conference program.

Local organizer: Croatian Association of Social workers

Represented by Mrs. Štefica Karačić and Mrs Tatjana Katkić Stanić

### Important Deadlines:

<b>15th of January 2021</b>	<b>General announcement of the conference..</b>
<b>1st of March 2021</b>	<b>Registration open</b>
<b>26th of April 2021</b>	<b>Submission of abstracts closed</b>
<b>24th of May 2021</b>	<b>Information about admission of abstracts</b>
<b>25th of June 2021</b>	<b>Early registration closed</b>
<b>6th of October 2021</b>	<b>Online registration closed</b>

**11th of October 2021**

## **Opening of the conference**

The **European Delegates Meeting** will take place in **Zagreb (and/or online)** from **8th to 10th of October**

The participant fees shall be the same as in Vienna 2019, but at the moment this an estimation and will be confirmed by the local organizers.

Participation in the physical conference and the online event will have separate fees, with the participation fee for the online event being significantly cheaper.

For this item IFSW Europe organised a zoom meeting on 7 November, 12:00-13:30 CET.

**Štefica Karačić, Tatjana Katkić Stanić and Herbert Paulischin** helped Ana Radulescu to answer the participants questions. And the participants were invited to continue to send comments about the programme in writing.

## **19. IFSW EUROPEAN CONFERENCE 2023**

**This item needed voting.**

Ana Rasculescu invited the countries to PROPOSED and to SECOND a motion to approve the minutes by mentioning in the comments.

- *Proposed: Czech Republic*
- *Seconded: Romania*
- *Carried: Results of the votes:*
  - Czech Republic = 13**
  - Lithuania = 11**
  - Portugal = 6**

The voting on this item was organized on Saturday 07th November, 14:30:17:00 CET

IFSW European Executive received 3 proposals for hosting the IFSW European Conference 2023:

1. **Association of Social Workers of the Czech Republic.** The presentation is available on the IFSW website. The person responsible: **Halesova Jana.**
2. **Lithuanian Association of Social Workers.** The presentation is available on the IFSW website. The person responsible is: **Ieva Subaciene**
3. **Portuguese Association of Social Workers.** The presentation is available on the IFSW website. The person responsible is: **Julia Cardoso**

Ana Radulescu invited participants to address questions and add comments on the IFSW website.

## **20. FINANCE – TREASURER REPORT & AUDITOR REPORT**

This item was for voting.

The approval of the Treasurer Report. The document is available on the IFSW website.

The approval of the Auditor report. The document is available on the IFSW website.

The countries were invited to PROPOSED and to SECOND a motion to approve the Treasurer report & Auditor report by mentioning in the comments section.

- *Proposed: Austria*
- *Seconded: Romania*
- *Carried: 30 yes (30 votes total)*

Everyone could address questions and add comments. Brian Auslander will help with clarifications.

For this item a ZOOM meeting was organized on Saturday 07th November, 10:00-11:30 CET.

## 21. FINANCE BUDGET 2021

The countries were invited to PROPOSED and to SECOND a motion to approve the minutes by mentioning in the comments section.

- *Proposed: United Kingdom*
- *Seconded: Germany*
- *Carried: 30 yes (30 votes total)*

All of the votes were carried online on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup>, between 14:30-17:00 CET).

The proposed budget is available on the website.

A ZOOM meeting was organized on Saturday 07th November, 10:00-11:30 CET.

IFSW Europe Treasurer, Brian Auslander was available to take questions and comments.

Participants input on the IFSW online communication platform:

**Ruth Allen (UK):** *I have asked Brian whether we should be considering a statement that clarifies we can spend money on different activities if we cannot undertake travel and face to face events as planned in the budget for 20/21, such as more networking, online events, twinning etc.*

**Nicolai Paulsen (Parliamentarian):** *One proposal to rename the budget-lines reflecting the present limitation in face-to-face meetings, I will propose to rename the following budget-lines: 'Travel ExCo' to 'Cost related to ExCo' 'Travel Representation' to 'Cost related to representation' This opens up for other costs and compensations related to the work of the ExCo and Representation. This will also reflect the actual limitation in travel, due to our world health crisis, as well as the consideration to reduce flight-travel for environmental reasons.*

**Geraldine Nosowska:** *It is good to see that IFSW Europe has been able to be so flexible in these difficult times. I hope that we can build on this and diversify into areas that will help us to be even more visible and accessible – online platforms, communications, IT support etc. And also, this will*

*help with our environmental sustainability. And our financial sustainability if for example member associations struggle financially in the future.*

**Ruth Allen (United Kingdom):** *I agree we should be looking at how we want to work in the future to increase our connections online, reduce travel and environmental impact, ensure face to face meetings are accessible and really necessary, increase resources on communications and networking, IT platforms etc.*

**Antonina (Russia):** *I suggest visit to Eastern European countries from the President of IFSW Europe and/or representatives. And the budget to cover those as they are so important in helping people understand the work of IFSW and connect with them where they are. Also, because in many European countries, English language is not well-spread through social workers, I propose we would use some budget money to pay for translation of different documents, reports circulated via IFSW.*

## **22. APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT AUDITOR 2020**

This item is for voting.

The countries were invited to PROPOSED and to SECOND a motion to approve the auditor by mentioning in the comments section on the IFSW website.

- *Proposed: United Kingdom*
- *Seconded: Malta*
- *Carried: 30 yes (30 votes total)*

All of the votes were carried online on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup>, between 14:30-17:00 CET).

IFSW European Executive proposed that we will have the same auditor that did the IFSW Europe audit for 2019.

Here is the proposal:

Steffen Jäger  
Steuerberater/Tax Advisor  
Unigarant Berlin GmbH  
Steuerberatungsgesellschaft  
Treuhandgesellschaft  
Alexanderplatz 1  
10178 Berlin  
Homepage: <http://www.unigarant.de>

Questions were answered by Brian Auslander, IFSW European Treasurer.

## **23. BYLAWS OF IFSW EUROPE E.V.**

There were no amendments to the Statute and Bylaws of IFSW Europe e.V. during this DM.

## **24. REPORTS FROM IFSW PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY GENERAL (IFSW GLOBAL)**

The Report from IFSW President and Secretary General (IFSW Global) is available on the IFSW website.

Rory Truell, IFSW Secretary General participated to the meeting and was available to answer the participants questions.

## **25. ELECTIONS EXECUTIVE**

This item of the agenda was only for reporting and information for future elections. The **next election** for the IFSW Europe Executive will be **next Delegates Meeting in 2021**.

This year the election for the IFSW European Executive Committee was done through email ballot.

The current IFSW European Executive:

**President of IFSW European Region – Ana Radulescu – Romania (2020-2024)**

**Vice-president of IFSW European Region – John Brennan – Ireland (2019-2022)**

**IFSW European Treasurer – Brian Auslander – Israel (2019 – 2021)**

**European Executive Committee Member – Josien Hofs – Netherlands (2019 -2021)**

**European Executive Committee Member – Birthe Povlsen – Denmark (2020-2022)**

**European Executive Committee Member – Rubén Masía Martínez – Spain (2020-2022)**

Next year IFSW will have election for **2 of the position of the IFSW Executive and for 2 Deputies**. Therefore, Ana Radulescu invited everyone to start planning for applying for these positions.

**In April 2021** Ana Radulescu (IFSW Europe president) will open the call for nomination.

## **26. APPOINTMENTS OF THE REPRESENTATIVES**

This year, the appointments of the IFSW European Representatives has been done by email ballot. All the representatives are appointed for 2020-2021.

Next year in April Ana Radulescu will open a call for the nomination for 2021-2022. She invited all IFSW European members to start discussions and preparation for nominations for representatives or for support team.

## **27. IFSW EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT TO INTERNATIONAL PSYCHOGERIATRIC ASSOCIATION (IPA)**

IFSW European Representative to the European Social Platform: **John BRENNAN (Ireland)**.

John's report is available on the IFSW website.

This item was opened on the IFSW website for comments and questions on 6 November (09:00-18:00 CET) and 7 November (09:00-13:00 CET)

The discussions on this item of the agenda were moderated by John Brennan.

This item was also discussed during the **zoom meeting** on Friday- 6 November 12:00-13:30 CET.

The online meeting aimed to create the opportunity to clarify details.

This report was approved as a part of the *Report on the work program 2019-2020*, available on the IFSW website.

## **28. WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY 2021**

This item of the agenda was only for reporting and discussions.

The Global Agenda for Social Work & Social Development Framework for 2020-2030 is 'Co-building Inclusive Social Transformation'.

The first theme, 'Ubuntu: Strengthening Social Solidarity and Global Connectedness' will run from 2020 to 2022. Ubuntu has been popularised across the world by Nelson Mandela and is generally interpreted as meaning 'I am because we are'.

More information about the 2020 TO 2030 GLOBAL AGENDA FOR SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: 'CO-BUILDING INCLUSIVE SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION':

*2020 to 2030 Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development Framework: 'Co-building inclusive social transformation'*

## **29. SUPPORT TO BE PROVIDED TO ARMENIA AND AZERBAIJAN**

During the discussions Ana Radulescu had with colleagues from Armenia and Azerbaijan, she identified their need to publish a statement regarding our concern about the consequences of the conflict for civilians from both countries, and the extreme challenges for our colleagues in Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The participants were invited to propose their contribution to such statement.

The statement will be prepared after the meeting and signed by the IFSW Europe Executive in behalf of IFSW Europe members.

The comment section on the IFSW website platform for writing communication had a lot of reactions from the members supporting their colleagues from Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Participants input on the IFSW online communication platform:

**Geraldine Nosowaska (United Kingdom):** *We are saddened to see the suffering and distress that is caused by this conflict.*

*Perhaps IFSW Europe can call for a peaceful resolution. We could also ask: that there is social work support to people in the affected areas; there is safety of social workers and all in helping professions carrying out vital roles; and that political powers involved and all in the international community to do all they can for social work values of human rights to be upheld in this region.*

*We are pleased to see that IFSW Europe has been working to support and understand the experiences of social workers in conflict zones (for example the webinar on 30th October). Perhaps we can look at how we can do more to highlight the role of social workers and the voice of social work – through articles, bulletins, statements and through our representatives.*

**Rory Truell:** *Social work in situations of war is the hardest of all the roles our profession faces and IFSW globally sends its solidarity to our dear colleagues in both Armenia and Azerbaijan. From many conflicts throughout the world, we have learnt that the main challenge for social workers is that they articulate equal rights for all people when they are often surrounded by cultures that demonise their government's opposition. This can be dangerous work, and the social workers we have spoken to in conflict situations say they must step carefully not to put themselves at increased risk from all sides. They also tell us that it is worth it: Worth being independent and guided by the profession's principles. There are many situations where social workers have led communities that have been fighting with each other to recognising a new joint vision with shared futures. The peacebuilding work of social workers is almost never understood by the formal peace processes but it has been essential in gaining ground-up support for broader peace strategies.*

*The Federation must do all it can to support our colleagues in these situations. Not only do they have the most challenging professional role, but also suffer the hourly and daily terrors of war. Any statement that relates to Azerbaijan and Armenia needs to come from them or have their full backing. Sometimes, in other situations, being able to provide that support brings to much risk and so we need to be very sensitive about not placing people in heightened risk. Our colleagues on the ground can guide us in respect to this.*

*When the time is right, joint statements from the associations of the countries in conflict can be very empowering and have significant ongoing effects. Social workers, working together from differing sides of a conflict sets a civil society example for politicians and others to follow.*

*Aside from any possible statement, IFSW needs to advocate for the recognition of social workers as essential peacebuilders. The profession has learnt that peace can only be sustainably achieved if all sides see a new future where everyone has a place in a context of cooperation, shared understandings and a more thriving future – this is the same approach as the work we do with divided families. The social work role often involves facilitating the people on the ground to come to this understanding.*

*To our colleagues in Armenia and Azerbaijan, please know you are not alone. There are people willing to help and they recognise the tremendous pain and suffering that you are experiencing. We send you our love, solidarity and strength.*

**Ditte Brondum (Denmark):** *We feel with our social work colleagues and the people of Azerbaijan and Armenia in this tragic situation.*

*It's an extremely difficult time in the two countries. So many people's lives are acutely affected and worsening day by day and the long-term challenges and trauma for the population are deeply worrying.*



*We hope that a peaceful solution will be found very soon and that humanitarian needs will be put first. We support the strong social workers and your absolutely necessary effort.*

**Antonina Dashkina (Russia):** *Dear friends from Armenian and Azerbaijan associations of social workers, please know that many of us in Europe are watching the situation for vulnerable people in the war zones/ We know that both sides try very hard to support elderly, disabled, families. We hope that the peaceful resolution between two countries will be found soon.*

*Please stay safe. I know that IFSW Executive will act according with your recommendations in supporting social workers and your clients. I think the peace resolution or appeal from IFSW could be helpful and maybe it is worth for us to set up solidarity fund where could collect some money for emergencies as this one.*

**Graca Andre (Portugal):** *Solidarity with both population Armenia and Azerbaijan and also with our colleagues' face to face with this terrible situation! Yes, the IFSW webinar about this issue was very opportune and useful to our better understanding about the conflict and impacts. IFSW shall be aware and available to all kind of support missed by our colleagues shaped in a European solidarity. It's important to replicate the best practices lived by other colleagues in conflict situations providing, material support, SW scientific guidelines, field practical strategies in war times, etc.*

### **30. THE IFSW EUROPE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION TO EUROCHILD**

- *Proposed: Greece*
- *Seconded: Germany*
- *Carried: 29 yes, 1 abstained (30 votes total)*

All of the votes were carried online on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup>, between 14:30-17:00 CET).

Participants input on the IFSW online communication platform:

**Ana Deneher (Ireland):** *As outlined by John Brennan in the European Social Platform Report, collaboration with other likeminded civil society organisations is very productive and fruitful for IFSWE. Currently IFSWE does not have much engagement around children's issues at a European level and becoming a member of Euro-child would promote such collaboration.*

*As a social worker with experience of working in child protection and welfare both in Ireland and internationally, I am keen to progress this collaboration and would be happy to be the IFSWE representative on Euro-child.*

**Fran McDonnel:** *Ian and I have also recommended joining Euro-child in the EAPN report recommendations for the action plan number 2.*

*The Child Guarantee is an important EU policy initiative and we need to lobby for social work support to children and families.*

### **31. UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND REFUGEES**

On 18 September 2020, The European Economic and Social Committee adopted a decision on the protection of unaccompanied migrant minors in Europe. The link is available European Economic and Social Committee website.

On 29 September 2020, IFSW Europe as a member of EAPN, was invited to sign a joint statement that urges the Greek authorities to refrain from the closure of Pipka and Kara Tepe camps.

Ana Radulescu received a number of requests from social workers to create a network and share information about the unaccompanied children and refugees. Therefore, IFSW Europe will create a social worker's professional network on refugees and unaccompanied children to share experiences and professional practice models.

The Association of Social Workers in Greece decided to get involved and support the work by nominating Konstantina Kranou.

Many thanks to Association of Social Workers in Greece for the support.

## 32. VOTING

The following representatives has been nominated by their organisation and therefore are entitle to vote:

1. Armenia – Mira Antonyan
2. Austria – Herbert Paulischin
3. Azerbaijan – Sabina Rustamova-Aliyeva
4. Belarus – Alena Stanislauchykh
5. Belgium – Liliane Cocozza
6. Bulgaria – Valio Hristov
7. Croatia – Tatjana Katkic Stanic
8. Czech Republic – Petr Zavrel
9. Denmark – Birthe Povlsen
10. Finland – Jaana Manssila
11. France – Mounier Marie Genevieve
12. Georgia – Shorena Sadzaglishvili
13. Germany – Gabriele Stark-Angermeier
14. Greece – Amalia Gkorou
15. Hungary – Geza Gosztonyi
16. Iceland – Steinunn Bergmann
17. Ireland – Anna Deneher
18. Israel – Brian Auslander
19. Italy – Paola Pontarollo
20. Kosovo – Mentor Boja
21. Lithuania – Ieva Adomaityte Subaciene
22. Malta – Charlene Martin
23. Moldova – Vadim Tarna
24. Netherlands – Kristine Evertz
25. Norway – Mimmi Kvisvik
26. Poland – Marcin Boryczko

27. Portugal – Júlia Cardoso
28. Romania – Adela Setet
29. Russia – Antonina Dashkina
30. Spain – Emilianita Vicente Gonzalez
31. Sweden – Anne-Lie Bygdén
32. Switzerland – Simone Gremminger
33. Turkey – Süleyman Kaçmaz
34. United Kingdom – Ruth Allen

Sessions of voting were organized online on 6th November (between 09:00-18:00 CET) and 7th November (between 09:00-13:00 CET)

The last session for the voting was carried on 07th November between 14:30-17:00 CET

### **33. LIST OF ZOOM MEETINGS ORGANISED DURING THE DELEGATES MEETING**

The following Zoom meetings have been organized during the DM.

#### **On November the 6th**

08:30 CET

Welcome & coffee together

10:00-11:30 CET

Topic: IFSW Europe project: IFSW Europe project: A SOCIAL EUROPE IS POSSIBLE! THE YOUNG GENERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS ARE THE SPEARHEAD OF CHANGE

12:00-13:30 CET

Topic: Work programme 2020-2021

Communication – Networking – Lobbying – Strengthen the visibility of social work and the member organizations of IFSW

15:00-17:00 CET

Topic: How we enhance our ability to network, support and learn from each other throughout Covid.

18:00 CET

IFSW Europe evening social hosted by BASW

#### **On November the 7th**

10:00-11.30 CET

Topic: Finance

12:00-13:00 CET

Topic: IFSW European Conference 2021

### **34. IFSW EUROPE EVENING SOCIAL HOSTED BY BASW**

An invitation to join IFSW European online social on Friday 6th November 6pm CET was posted for all the participants.

BASW UK would have hosted the European delegates meeting in April 2020. We missed that opportunity because of Co-vid. So, for this, it was organized during the DM, via online.

### **35. THE NEXT IFSW EUROPE DELEGATES MEETING 2021**

The European Delegates Meeting is going to take place in Zagreb (and/or online) from 8th to 10th of October 2021.

- *Proposed: Germany*
- *Seconded: United Kingdom*
- *Carried: 30 yes (30 votes total)*

All of the votes were carried online on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup>, between 14:30-17:00 CET).