**Ruth Allen – Election Statement**

**Nomination for Executive of IFSW Europe May 2023**

I am standing for the Executive because I want to give more time to building the future of IFSW Europe.

Under current leadership, IFSW Europe has become a more effective and authoritative voice for our profession in Europe. We are working in closer collaboration with other organisations and are strongly represented in major bodies such as the UN, EU and Council of Europe.

I want to contribute more to build on these achievements and shape future success.

Social work must be a strong, responsive force for change across all our societies. The need for values-driven social work grows in the face of widespread, contemporary challenges to human and social rights, democracy and the rule of law in many countries – most devastatingly in the invasion of Ukraine.

IFSW Europe must continue to develop to provide strategic leadership and grassroots participation of social workers in the evolution and confidence of our vital profession.

If elected, I would work in the Executive team to develop and progress our work plans. I would help manage practical, financial, policy and governance activities. I would hope in particular to develop collaboration and networking across our associations, encourage learning from each other and foster more active member participation in IFSW.

I would like to continue to represent IFSW within the Council of Europe Conference of International NGOs (CINGO) - and connect more IFSW members with this work e.g. through networking with other IFSW commissions and representatives, and enabling more members to come to Council of Europe.

I bring nearly 30 years’ experience as a social worker, researcher, manager and executive leader in social work and healthcare. I have been CEO of the British Association of Social Workers (BASW) for 7 years, responsible for 75 staff, serving 22000 members across the four countries of the UK.