



# IFSW

## 2019 End of Year Report

The International Federation of Social Workers

# Contents

Preface from the President	4
Introduction from the Secretary-General	6
World Social Work Day	8
Engagement with Members	10
Regions	14
Commissions	19
Meet the Secretariat Team	24
Projects and Programs	25
New Policies	29
Partnerships	31
Publications	32
Governance	35
Preparation of Upcoming Events	38
Social Media	40

## Imprint

Published by The International Federation of Social Workers  
Maiengässli 4, 4310 Rheinfelden, Switzerland

Web: [www.ifsw.org](http://www.ifsw.org)  
Email: [global@ifsw.org](mailto:global@ifsw.org)

Copyright © 2020 by IFSW

141

National social work organisations are **Members** of IFSW

5

**Regions** represent IFSW around the globe

3+ mio

**Social Workers** are represented by IFSW

13

Members of the **Global Executive** are responsible for the strategic government of IFSW

4

**Commissions** are advancing the impact and visibility of IFSW

## Preface from the President

«As President of IFSW, I want to thank each and all of you for the achievements in 2019»



To all my colleagues and friends who are on our collective journey of advancing the social work mission: Social Justice and Equality for All.

As President of IFSW, I want to thank each and all of you for the achievements in 2019. And as you read through the following pages, you will see there are many. IFSW is a global place of shared spaces. A place where different points of view come together seeking partnerships that set global standards for the profession while valuing the unique roles, cultures and contributions of the contributors.

Among the many outcomes from across the regions and globe, for me personally

there are two that stand out. In 2019 the first face-to-face meeting was held by the IFSW Indigenous Committee. This is an enormous development within the profession as the voice of indigenous social workers now has an official place and space and the profession's journey of decolonization steps forward. The other is that IFSW launched global research into The Working Conditions of Social Workers. It is a great worry to many of us that the lack of recognition, low wages and high workloads has a serious and negative impact on the quality of life and health of millions of social workers. We hope that this research, alongside other evidence on the essential and positive role social

## Preface from the President (continued)

workers make to every society, will assist in raising the visibility and conditions of the profession.

There are many other highlights, the regional conferences where passionate and inspiring social workers have shared their practice wisdom. The advancements of the four IFSW commissions - Human Rights, Ethics, United Nations and Education – have all built upon the past work and paired this with the current best practice findings.

I also want to highlight the role of the IFSW Executive, who along with the Secretary-General, have created a team environment built on respect, debate and advancement. None of this, of course, would be possible without the continued commitment of the IFSW members. Reading through this report and observing the members actions throughout the year on social media, it is fully evident that the Federation is strong, capable and committed.

I further want to acknowledge the IFSW partnership with the IASSW and the joint commitment in advancing minimum social

work education standards and our combined work with the ICSW in preparing for the next ten years of the Global Agenda.

It has been an honour and pleasure to preside over IFSW in 2019, and I am certain 2020 will give each of us even more exciting opportunities. I look forward to seeing many of you at the General Meeting in July in Calgary, or through working together by email or in social media as we take the profession from one strength to another.



Dr Silvana Martínez  
President IFSW

## Introduction from the Secretary-General

# «The momentum of growth, visibility and impact of the social work profession continued throughout 2019»



The momentum of growth, visibility and impact of the social work profession continued throughout 2019. The expansion of IFSW membership to 141 national associations and the developments of each of the four IFSW commissions act as testaments to the profession's increasing capacity, but further, the outcomes of social work practice are moving the profession to be widely recognised as the best practice approach in social development.

The reports are clear, when social policy embraces a social work approach people and communities rise out of poverty, marginalisation and oppression. When a social work approach flourishes more children go to school, violence reduces, the environment is treated with respect and community economies expand.

In many places throughout the world, the social work role of community engagement and facilitation in supporting people to transform their own social and physical environments has positively shocked poli-

ticians and policy makers. This approach is often referred to as 'supported self-led development' and typically involves social worker asking people and communities what they want through facilitating discussion and developing plans. Social workers then assist families and communities to actively lead their own development to achieve those plans.

In 2019 I witnessed many heartening conversations reflecting the importance of social work. When talking with a group of refugees, one commented: 'After walking from one country to another in search of safety and security and being treated like rodents at each frontier and by so many, it was not until we met social workers who listened to us and saw that we were capable human beings that we started to feel hope and courage again'. When asking young women in a slum who are attending fulltime university courses what changed so that they could become the first generation to ever entre higher education, they

## Introduction from the Secretary-General (continued)

commented: 'Eight years ago the social workers worked with our community, and it was agreed to ban child-marriage and all violence, suddenly we had a future, and everything changed' they said.

These examples are not rare, nor have they occurred by chance. They are a result of the commitment and skill of social workers who understand the dynamics of local communities and the processes of social transformation. Since the Global Agenda, many examples have been recorded from a vast array of social contexts demonstrating essential lessons and the power of the social work approach. In contrast to top-down global and national strategies for social development, social workers have promoted 'self-led development' and championed changes in policy and service delivery to recognise the strengths of communities and support their aspirations. The results are transformational.

I join IFSW President, Silvana Martinez in acknowledging and thanking all the IFSW members, the commissions, committees, the executive and partner organisations for the significant contributions in making global social work visible and growing the recognition that social work is essential to social development and sustainability in

every country. Thanks also to my colleagues in the IFSW secretariat Pascal Rudin and Lola Casal who have enabled the Federation to 'join the dots' by keeping us all informed and connected.

Looking forward to 2020, we have some wonderful challenges and opportunities. The biggest is, along with our partners IAASW and ICSW, setting the themes for the next ten years of the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development. Your input is crucial as it is our opportunity to build on what has already been achieved, to connect with other global strategies, such as the SDGs, and for social work to increase its impact as it strives for all people to feel secure, connected and able to contribute to a sustainable shared future.

[Join the conversation](#) of the Next Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development and I hope to see many of you at the [World Conference this July in Calgary](#)



Dr Rory Truell  
IFSW Secretary-General

## Events

# World Social Work Day

World Social Work Day in 2019 showed that the visibility and participation significantly increased throughout the past years. IFSW members celebrated the day worldwide with peaceful protests, community meetings, and advocacy strategies in their governments, etc. Members also assisted with the translation of the poster which this year included 71 languages. The UN Commission in corporation with the Secretariat also organized an event on World Social Work Day in Geneva and other UN events were held in Bangkok and New York. Each of these events had executive level representation. Post the event, the secretariat for the first time prepared a [video](#) that highlights the effort and passion of social workers around the world on WSWD.

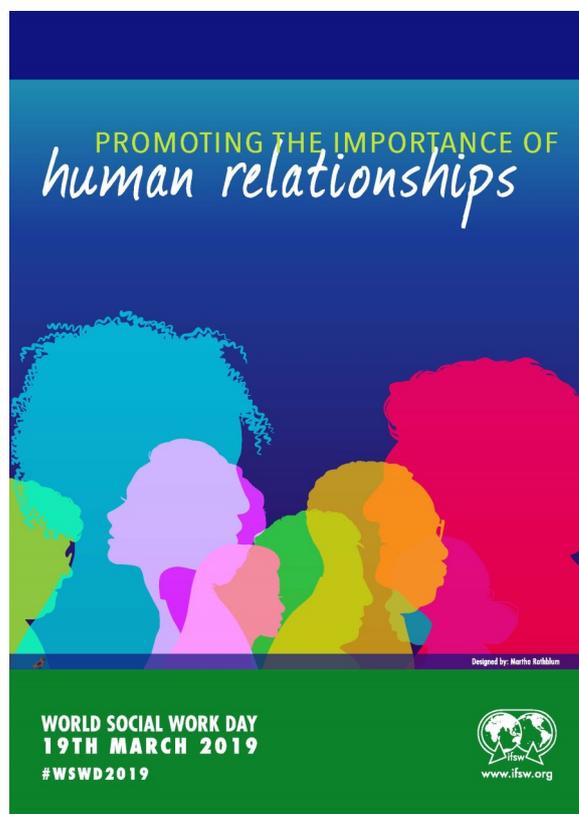
Furthermore, Members of IFSW from all over the world shared their WSWD stories and images with us. These include Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Finland, France, Grenada, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Palestine, Peru, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Romania, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Somalia, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom and United States.

## Read more

[Click here to read more about celebrations around the globe.](#)

## World Social Work Day on Social Media

Images of the WSWD events and celebrations were vividly shared on social media under the hashtag #WSWD2019. See the collage on the next page.





#WSWD2019



## Engagement with Members

### The Nordic Group welcomes IFSW President



Along with the President the Secretary-General met with representatives from Denmark, Norway, Finland and Sweden in February. The purpose of this meeting for the members and new president was to get to know one another better and also to discuss some of the more challenging topics within the Federation.

### IFSW President participates in the LAC Regional Conference

In March 2019, Dr Silvana Martinez attended the Regional Meeting and the Regional Conference of the LAC Region. Both events took place in the last week of March in Panamá.

The Global President gave an update on her actions as Global President and facili-

tated a workshop on the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development. Also, she encouraged the members to attend the global Conference SWSD2020 in Calgary

[Read more](#) (Spanish).

### IFSW President participates in the Africa Regional Conference



IFSW President, Dr. Silvana Martinez and the IFSW Secretary-General, Dr. Rory Truell

### Celebration of WSWD2019 in Peru

#WSWD2019 celebrations in Peru took place during the National Conference of Social Work. IFSW President, Silvana Martinez and, IFSW President for the region of

# Engagement with Members (cont.)

Latin America and the Caribbean FITS Latinoamérica y el Caribe, Larry Emil Alicea-Rodríguez participated in the event that was organized around two main topics: (i) Gender, Identities and Human Rights linked to the SDGs and the global definition of Social Work. (ii) the second theme was linked to the Global Social Work and Social Development Agenda.



At the conference, IFSW Secretary-General Rory Truell and IFSW Regional President for Asia-Pacific Rose Henderson jointly advocated for the social work perspective in a high level global political forum as well as visited the Chinese Association of Social Workers.

[Read more](#)

[Watch the video](#): An Interview with IFSW Secretary-General, Dr Rory Truell before the 2019 Asia-Pacific Social Work Regional Conference.

## Visit to the Rwanda Social Work Association



## Conference on Dialogue of Asia Civilisation



The Secretary-General was invited to represent the social work profession at the Asian Civilisation Conference on Dialogue hosted by the Chinese President Xi Jinping in May which brought together 47 country leaders and representatives to discuss cooperation between Asian countries and to develop a shared vision.

The Secretary General participated in meetings with the National Organisation of Social Workers in Rwanda and run a workshop titled 'Strengthening the Social Work Profession: International Examples and Implications for Rwanda'. Furthermore, he participated in several meetings with ministries and visited frontline services to learn about the social work role in peacebuilding in the post-genocide period.

During the different meetings, he focused on heightening political support for the profession.

## Engagement with Members (cont.)

Watch the Video: National Organisation of Social Workers Rwanda

### Visit to the Uganda Association of Social Workers

The Secretary-General, Rory Truell and African Vice President, Joachim Mumba, met with the National Association of Social



Workers of Uganda to discuss regional planning along with the Vice President of the African region and the Ugandan member to provide support and guidance, and to assist with fundraising for the 2019 regional conference.

### Visit India Network of social workers



IFSW Secretary-General Rory Truell visited India during the days of the Regional conference. He also visited several social agencies and met with social work colleagues to discuss key issues that affect our lives and those of the individuals, families, and communities with whom we work.

During his visit, IFSW Secretary-General visited rural villages who received support from social workers through the 'Centre for Social Action' in Bangalore, India. Rory Truell has expressed that "Social work transforming lives and realising dignity has been a theme in sharp focus over the last two days." He has thanked the colleagues in India for compelling evidence that they have gifted the profession and world!

Social work happens where people work together to create social development.

# Join and become an IFSW Friend today!

Anyone can join as a Friend of IFSW. Friends join to show their support for international social work and to become of a world-wide community. As a Friend of IFSW you receive:

- Free online access to the journal: International Social Work (ISW) published by Sage publications. You will be able to access all the articles in the journals dating back to January 1959.
- Advance access to all IFSW publications at reduced cost.
- Discounted conference registration fees (whenever possible).
- The opportunity to create and/or participate in international, regional or local social work or social justice campaigns.
- The certificate of 'IFSW Friends Status' membership



**Individual Friend membership**

\$50 for 1 year

**SIGN UP NOW**



**Student Friend membership**

\$25 for 1 year

**SIGN UP NOW**



**Life Friend membership**

\$600

**SIGN UP NOW**



**Organisational Friend membership**

\$1000 for 1 year

**SIGN UP NOW**

## Regions

# IFSW Africa



## Regional Conference



During the three-day IFSW African Regional conference, more than 350 delegates from 37 countries discussed strategic plans to strengthen the impact of social work in their countries and region. Conference discussions included the need to highlight indigenous knowledge and approaches in social work education, the importance of recognising that people need to feel loved in order to thrive and the role of social workers in supporting loving relationships, the role of youth in the shaping the profession and developing national laws that support the role of

social workers in facilitating social development.

## Regional Meeting

The Presidents of 15 IFSW member organizations attended along with Noel Murdizo, IFSW Regional President, and Joachim Mumba, IFSW Regional Vicepresident. Silvana Martinez and Rory Truell were also present.

The regional meeting developed strategies plans and discussion centering on increasing cooperation and visibility of the profession in Africa. One of the key points was the formation of the African regional executive. [Read more](#)

## News and Statements

Please [click here](#) to read the latest news and statements of the IFSW Africa Region

## Regions

# IFSW Asia and Pacific

## Regional Conference



25th Asia-Pacific Joint Regional Social Work Conference took place in Bangalore on 17th to 20th September 2019. More than 600 participants, including about 160 international delegates, attended an event under the Theme "Social Work Partnerships towards an Equal Society – Asia Pacific Perspective". The Regional Conferences started with a Pre - Conference seminar themed around Indigenous Social Work.

The Conference was a great opportunity for social work educators, practitioners, policy makers, research scholars and students to network with peer professionals by renewing old contacts, meeting new professional colleagues and getting first-hand experience of the local culture & the social milieu.

The India Network of Professional Social Workers' Associations (INPSWA) which is affiliated to IFSW, came together with the National Institute of Mental Health And Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) and CHRIST (Deemed to be University) in organizing this conference with their Psychiatric Social Work / Social Work departments respectively. Special thanks to Mr. Sriganesh MV (Organizing Secretary APSWC 2019).

## Regional Meeting

The members from IFSW Asian Pacific have held their Regional Delegates

Meeting in Bangalore in September.

The whole event was full of optimism for international sharing and support to advance the social work role in facilitating and shaping solidarity within and between all societies.



On the agenda for the meeting, members approached Human Rights Strategies, Humanitarian needs that follow disasters of all types, Partnership Development, Region's Indigenous and Local Knowledge, Advocacy Campaigns, and Strengthening the Profession Regionally and Globally.

During this meeting, the countries members agreed to accept Mr Teoh Ai Hua from interim secretary to secretary post and Machiko as a new treasurer to replace Michiko Hirata, who stepped down after ten years. The members honoured Michiko's contribution and Rose Henderson, the IFSW - Asia Pacific Regional President, presented to Michiko, a token of appreciation for her awesome commitment and fruitful contribution. Thank you Michiko and congratulations to Teoh and Machiko.

## News and Statements

Please [click here](#) to read the latest news and statements of the IFSW Asia and Pacific Region

## Regions

# IFSW Latin America and Caribbean



## Regional Conference

This year, social workers in Latin America and Caribbean Region celebrated the 2nd International Congress of Social Work - "Professional Intervention and Social Rights: A reading from Social Work" 20-22 February 2019.

The 2nd International conference aimed to reflect on the development of intervention models of Social Work and its impact on the promotion of enforceability and enjoyment of the rights of the population. IFSW regional President, Larry Alicea approached the participation with a speech on the relevance of the Professional National Associations to strengthen the social work Profession and debated on the challenges of social work in Latin America and the Caribbean.

[Read more \(Spanish\)](#)

## Regional Meeting

IFSW President Mrs Silvana Martinez and the Global Treasurer Dr. Victor Ivan Garcia Toro participated in the regional meeting of IFSW LAC Meeting with members of 15 members countries out the 17 member

countries of the region. This meeting took place in Panama from March 25 to 29, 2019. [Read more \(Spanish\)](#)



## News and Statements

Please [click here](#) to read the latest news and statements of the IFSW Latin America and Caribbean Region

## Regions

# IFSW Europe



## Regional Conference



The Austrian Association of Social Work (OBDS) and IFSW Europe organized the 2019 IFSW European Conference in Vienna under the theme Social Protection & Human Dignity. Almost 500 participants from more than 20 countries met to discuss how social work strengthening relationships at the heart of thriving, healthy and peaceful communities: respecting human rights, safeguarding wellbeing, increasing participation, protecting the environment

The European Conference provided a unique opportunity for practitioners and academics in social work to discuss the idea of creating a "Social Europe" with politicians, members of EU administration and media.

## Regional Meeting

The IFSW European members meeting took place in Vienna. Twenty-six country representatives were present to working together, advancing the social work role in facilitating and shaping solidarity within and between all societies. On the agenda is Human Rights Strategies, Partnership Development, Advocacy Campaigns, the Next Generation of Social Workers and Strengthening the Profession Regionally and Globally. These are exciting times for social work.

## News and Statements

Please [click here](#) to read the latest news and statements of the IFSW Europe Region

## Regions

# IFSW North America



## Speech at the IFSW Africa Region Conference

National Association of Social Workers Chief Executive Angelo McClain, PhD, LICSW delivered a keynote address at the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) Africa Region Conference in Kampala, Uganda.

[Read his remarks here.](#)

## Statement



«The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) condemns President Trump's planned raids on immigrant families. Although President Trump declared a two-week moratorium on executing the mass raid policy at the

prodding of Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, NASW demands he abandon this misguided, disgraceful approach. Rounding up thousands of families makes no sense from an operational point of view and this policy will not reduce the flow of asylum-seeking families amassing at the nation's southern border. More importantly, the planned mass raids are inhumane and will exacerbate family separations. This mass raid policy is another example of the Trump Administration's relentless attack on immigrant families and children...»

[Read the full statement here.](#)

## News and Statements

Please [click here](#) to read the latest news and statements of the IFSW North America Region

## Commissions

# Interim Education Commission

The aim of the interim Education Commission is to create a structure for the transfer of knowledge between social work education and practice where both are informed and learning from one another. The Commission supports social work programmes and educators who experience pressures to make “concessions” on the quality of education to be able to meet the professions international standards.

[Read more about the Interim Education Commission.](#)

## Statement

Educating For Human Rights: IFSW's Interim Global Education Commission Calls For The Inclusion Of Human Rights Principles In All Social Work Curricula.

[Read the full statement here.](#)

## Commissioners

### Global



**Vasilios Ioakimidis**  
Global Commissioner

### Africa Region



**Lawrence Mukuka**  
Regional Commissioner

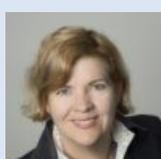


**Zena Mnasi**  
Regional Commissioner

### Asia and Pacific Region



**Mariko Kimura**  
Regional Commissioner



**Karen Healy**  
Regional Commissioner

### Europe Region



**Nicolai Paulsen**  
Regional Commissioner

### Latin America and the Caribbean Region



**Marinilda Rivera Díaz**  
Regional Commissioner

### North American Region



**Joan Davis-Whelan**  
Regional Commissioner



**Gary Bailey**  
Regional Commissioner

## Commissions

# Ethics Commission

The Ethics Commission is responsible for the review of the Statement of Ethical Principles, that every member of IFSW is required to adhere to, in addition to their own Code of Ethics. The Statement presents the basic ethical principles of the social work profession, offers guidance and recommends action when the work presents ethical dilemmas not only for members but for individual social workers in relation to the people with whom they work, colleagues and others in the field. [Read more about the Ethics Commission.](#)

## Statements

[Global Social Work Statement of Ethical Principles \(English\)](#)

[Global Social Work Statement of Ethical Principles \(Chinese\)](#)

## Commissioners

### Global



**Dawn Hobdy**  
Global Commissioner

### Africa Region



**Jacob Olutimi**  
Regional Commissioner

### Asia and Pacific Region



**Teoh Ai Hua**  
Regional Commissioner



**Hassan Mousavi Chelak**  
Regional Commissioner

### Europe Region



**Jane Shears**  
Regional Commissioner

### Latin America and the Caribbean Region



**Kenia Batista**  
Regional Commissioner

### North American Region

**vacant**  
Regional Commissioner

## Commissions

# Human Rights Commission

Respect for human rights is fundamental to social work and the key motivation behind setting up the Human Rights Commission. The Commission, with its regional representatives, monitors and protects as far as it can the rights of social workers who may be endangered for supporting vulnerable populations or individuals.

[Read more about the Human Rights Commission.](#)

## Statements

[Statement on the situation in Venezuela](#)

[Statement on the situation in Zimbabwe](#)

[Statement on the situation at the US Mexican border](#)

[Read more news and statements](#)

## Commissioners

### Global



**Colleen Lundy**  
Global Commissioner

### Africa Region



**Kgomotso Jongman**  
Regional Commissioner



**Charles Dra-ecabo**  
Regional Commissioner

### Asia and Pacific Region



**Raed Amira**  
Regional Commissioner



**Luis Arévalo**  
Regional Commissioner

### Europe Region



**Marcin Boryczko**  
Regional Commissioner

### Latin America and the Caribbean Region



**Xanthis Suarez García**  
Regional Commissioner

### North American Region



**Mark Lusk**  
Regional Commissioner

## Commissions

# United Nations Commission

IFSW has been granted Special Consultative Status by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). In addition, IFSW is working with the World Health Organization (WHO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The commission supports IFSW representatives and IFSW members to act as facilitators and bridging the gaps between community's aspirations and UN agendas. At the same time, the knowledge of the UN's work shall flow back to the IFSW board and the IFSW members with the goal to create a partnership and realising a social change.

[Read more about the UN Commission.](#)

## Statements & Reports

[Statement on Gender Equality, Development and Peace](#)

[Statement on Affordable Housing and Social Protection](#)

[Statement on International Women's Day](#)

[Report on the High Level Political Forum \(HLPF\)](#)

[Read more Statements and Reports](#)

## Commissioners and Representatives

### Global



**Priska Fleischlin**  
Global Commissioner

### Africa Region



**Charles Mbugua**  
Regional Commissioner

### Asia and Pacific Region



**W. Kotbungkair**  
Regional Commissioner



**Zhe Wang**  
Representative



**Sup Pyo Kim**  
Representative



**Sebastian Cordoba**  
Representative

## Commissions

# United Nations Commission

## Commissioners and Representatives (Continued)

### Asia and Pacific Region



**Jude Douglas**  
Representative



**Suresh Pathare**  
Representative

### Latin America and the Caribbean Region



**Alicia Yanez Merino**  
Regional Commissioner

### Europe Region



**Swetha R. Dhananka**  
Regional Commissioner



**Herbert Paulischin**  
Regional Commissioner



**Bruno Keel**  
Representative



**Klaus Kühne**  
Representative

### Europe Region (cont.)



**Tobias Roosen**  
Representative



**Pascal Rudin**  
Representative



**Silvia Franke**  
Representative

### North America Region



**Michael Cronin**  
Regional Commissioner



**Robin S. Mama**  
Representative

### North America Region (cont.)



**Elaine Congress**  
Representative



**Anne C. Deepak**  
Representative

## Meet the Secretariat Team

### Rory Truell

Secretary-General



### Pascal Rudin

International Operations Manager



### Lola Casal

International Relationship Manager



### Secretariat's interaction with members

In 2019 with the increase in staffing, the Secretariat has been able to increase its support to members in countries with social, political or natural catastrophies.

Also, the Secretariat supported and encouraged members to publish their achievements on the IFSW website.

## Projects and Programs

# Global Agenda: 2020 and Beyond

The Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development started in 2010 when 3000 social work representatives and social development professionals came together to set the priorities for the profession until 2020. This significantly successful period of the Global Agenda has been an essential voice in proactively setting and fulfilling the Sustainable Developmental Goals, working towards more peaceful and just societies and strengthening the voice of the social work profession.

### Global Agenda, 2010 - 2020

#### *Evaluation on the Global Agenda*



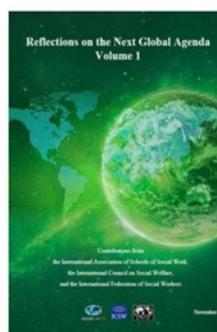
Rose Henderson (IFSW Board Member) and Rory Truett (IFSW Secretary General) are the members of IFSW that together with the other representatives of IASSW and ICSW cooperate to prepare an evaluation the former Global Agenda 2010 – 2020. The project is led by David Jones .

### Global Agenda, 2020- 2030

#### *Consultation Process.*

The social work profession needs to examine new themes and processes to ex-

pand the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development for the years 2020 to 2030. IFSW launched a consultation process, where the inputs of social workers around the world are crucial to build a robust and inclusive Global Agenda.



Please leave any comments on your proposed Global Agenda themes for 2020 to 2030 and any suggestions for how to integrate the themes across the decade which also allows the Global Agenda process to effectively respond to any unforeseen social issues that may arise.

### [Invitation To Participate In The Consultation On The 'Global Social Work Agenda: The Next Ten Years 2020-2030'](#)

The IFSW President engaged with the current Presidents of IASSW and ICSW to set out visions, to provoke debate, and to share a summary of the feedback that IFSW has so far gathered.

## Reflections on the Next Global Agenda: Volume 1

[Download the book free of charge.](#)

## Projects and Programs

# Climate Justice Program

The IFSW Climate Justice Program (CJP) is for anyone and everyone – social workers, friends, family, colleagues, companies, universities, etc. Please help us share it widely!

### Aims of the CJP

Educate — ourselves and others

Advocate — for changes in policies and practices

Be the Change We Wish to See in the World — by reducing our harmful impacts that lead to climate injustices and supporting projects that create local solutions in communities most impacted by climate injustice.

[Read more on the CJP Website](#)

### What is climate justice?

The climate crisis is directly connected to human activities and not merely due to normal patterns of nature. For example, people and ecosystems have endured water, land, and air contamination from industrial pollution and toxic agricultural practices, soil erosion, desertification, and species and habitat loss due to extensive deforestation, and an increase in frequency and intensity of disastrous weather patterns, such as typhoons.

### IFSW Climate Justice Program



While the climate crisis impacts all of us, those who are marginalized or oppressed are experiencing it to an even greater extent, creating climate injustice for people and our planet. Much of the burden of unsustainable consumption patterns has fallen disproportionately on the most vulnerable people in the world, who typically have the smallest consumption patterns. In addition, these vulnerable people receive fewer of the benefits of the environmental resources. These collective patterns of unsustainable consumption contribute to the climate crisis, making it a global justice issue for people and the planet, this is known as climate injustice.

**CONTRIBUTE**

# Research on the Working Environment Of Social Workers



The International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) is leading a long-term, global campaign, working closely with member organisations, to improve the working conditions and environment of social workers.

A core element of the campaign is research to gain the first-ever global overview of the working conditions of social workers, aiming to shine a spotlight on the everyday working environments of social workers around the world.

Working through IFSW member organisations and social media, a pilot global study of social workers was launched in November 2019. Social workers everywhere are invited to complete the online survey, which is available in several languages. The research is being undertaken in a

partnership between IFSW and Bath Spa University Centre for Health and Cognition (in association with Ulster University Social Work Department). The first report will be published in 2020 and launched at the global social work conference in Calgary, Canada in July 2020.

## Complete the Questionnaire:

[English](#)

[Español](#)

[Français](#)

[Latvian](#)

# Free Online Course: Caring For Children Moving Alone



All around the world, thousands of children are travelling across and between borders as unaccompanied and separated children. Different countries may respond to the needs of these children in different ways, but the concern for children on the move is a global one. More than 20 organisations, including IFSW, ISS, UNICEF, and UNHCR, have come together to design a course for social workers and others concerned with the welfare of children.

The course will equip learners with an understanding of how to discern and respond to the needs, circumstances and wishes of unaccompanied and separated children on the move as well as those at risk of separation. This includes resources and information to support prevention of family/primary caregiver separation; prevention of unnecessary placement of a child in alternative care; and, when such care is necessary, ensuring the availability of suitable alternative care.

Pascal Rudin, IFSW Representative to the United Nations on Children's Rights, has been involved in the production of the course. He says «Children's Rights are universal – they do not stop at borders or

in countries of transit and destination. This course really emphasises the importance of inter-sectoral working and delivery of alternative care within national child protection systems – a field in which Social Workers play a key role.»

Priska Fleischlin, IFSW United Nations Commissioner, is excited about the new course and the cooperation of IFSW with several UN agencies and NGOs. She said «we are grateful to all those partners who have come together to contribute to establish this new learning resource. This MOOC is a model to realize the Agenda 2030; through partnerships and by using modern technology this group offers a vital, unique opportunity to equip our Social Work colleagues with the means to act in the best interests of some of the most vulnerable children and young people.»

Guidance in the course takes into account international standards and policies, including principles and commitments agreed to under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children; and the Global Compacts on Migration and on Refugees.

To make it widely accessible, the course is free of charge, can be studied on one's own pace and is available in four languages: **Arabic, English, French and Spanish.**

More information can be found here:

[www.childrenonthemovemooc.com/](http://www.childrenonthemovemooc.com/)

# International Social Work Assessment of Children

### Policy

When undertaking cross border social work, professional practice is consistent with the international conventions, agreements and the IFSW ethical principles which all enshrine the concept of the best interests of the child being paramount. Social work assessments are concerned with the whole person and the context within which the child lives including family and cultural identity; and should seek to recognise all aspects of a child's life.

An assessment in a different country is always best undertaken by a local social worker. Such an assessment would form a part of the overall assessment of options for the child / vulnerable person which the 'home' social worker considers in order to make the final recommendations to the requesting authority. It is likely to be illegal, unethical and unsafe for a social worker to undertake an assessment outside their own country on their own. Travelling overseas to undertake an assessment carries multiple risks of misunderstanding local circumstances and consequently producing a misleading assessment. A 'visiting' social worker may work alongside a 'local' social worker to complete an assessment if no alternative option is available. The 'local' social worker in the country being visited has a duty to inform themselves about the nature of the assessment required by courts or agencies and to do their best to meet these requirements. The 'visiting' social work-

er has a responsibility to provide clear briefing to the 'local' social worker and, where possible, to support them to deliver the assessment required.

IFSW recognises and endorses linkages between social workers via a Central Agency (in countries which are signatories to The Hague Conventions and the Brussels (11a) Regulation) and / or the professional partnerships such as those involving the International Social Services (ISS) to ensure high quality, accountable, safe and legal international social work services are provided.

### Scope

This policy concerns the practice of social workers where assessments are required when individual cases are being considered, especially in legal settings.

This policy does not address the situation of children caught up in large population migrations as refugees or asylum seekers. There are specific UN Conventions and agreements relating to those circumstances although many similar principles apply. This policy also does not apply to abduction cases.

## More Information

[Read the full policy](#), including definitions, guiding principles and case examples.

# Socially Just, Fair and Sustainable World Trade Agreements

### Policy

IFSW promotes the need for international trade agreements to be socially just, fair and sustainable as measured against the World Fair Trade Organisation's principles, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the standards of the International Labour Organisation and consistent with the IFSW Ethical principles.

IFSW members will advocate for the realisation of socially just trade agreements.

### Background

Trade agreements impact on all aspects of our lives. The lives of millions of the most marginalised and vulnerable peoples of this earth are severely affected by international trade agreements that promulgate exploitation, inequality and the division of wealthy and poor countries. Such trade agreements sanctioned by the World Trade Organization are one of the major reasons why six- sevenths of the world's population continue to live in poverty and have little opportunity for real and meaningful economic development. IFSW advocates that trade agreements promote human rights, fair pricing, international standards of labour, enforced corporate social responsibilities, capacity building for developing countries, agreed forms of dialogue underpinning supply and demand agreements – enabling all

parties to participate, and share in benefits.

Following the mandate from the General meeting in Seoul in 2016 (see Appendix 2), the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) has investigated the establishing of a working group to consider the impacts of international trade agreements on our communities. Concerns surround the potential of several international trade agreements to act as catalysts for social and human rights injustices.

Following some difficulties establishing the working group, as the next step it was agreed that a guiding framework for socially just, fair and sustainable trade be established for IFSW to use as the basis for evaluating any international trade agreement. Following such an evaluation, IFSW could issue a position statement on any international trade agreement enabling the profession to voice its concerns and make recommendations to the parties concerned and IFSW members.

## More Information

[Read the full policy, including guiding principles and appendices.](#)

## Partnerships

# Partnerships with Other Organisations

### IASW, ICSW, IFSW



In February 2019, Presidents Silvana Martines (IFSW), Anna Maria Campanini (IASSW) and Eva Holmberg-Herrström (ICSW) together with IFSW Secretary-General, Rory Truell, IASSW Secretary Barbara Shank and ICSW Executive Director Sergei Zelenev met to advance their organisations' joint interests and to strengthen the partnership steering a common path.

During the two days meeting, the three presidents worked on how to create a stronger and loyal cooperation at the tripartite level. One of the main outcomes of this meeting was the agreement to organize together a Global Conference on Social Work and Social Development on 2022.

### IASW – IFSW



The International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) and the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) have initiated a joint process of reviewing and updating the Global Standards for Social Work Education and Training.

The current version of the Global Standards for Social Work Education and Training document was adopted at the IASSW and IFSW General Assemblies in Adelaide, Australia in 2004. Over the last fifteen years, this document has served as an aspirational guide setting out the requirements for excellence in social work education.

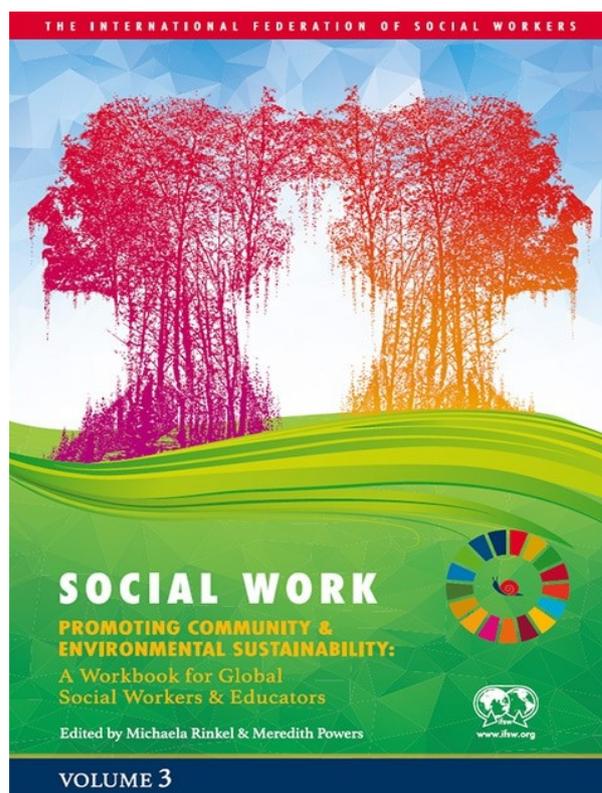
Read more [online](#).

## Publications

# Social Work Promoting Community and Environmental Sustainability Volume 3

Around the world social workers are coming alongside communities that are unfairly impacted by climate injustices and helping to create solutions. In these roles, we must consider the opportunities of promoting community and environmental sustainability, within and beyond the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While we need to be well versed in the language and concepts and be involved in conversations and actions with global partners for the SDGs, we must maintain a critical eye on the limitations of this framework and help shift the conversation towards real solutions (i.e., which can be sustained in the long term). We maintain that this shift involves embracing an ecosocial worldview and taking a degrowth approach for transformational alternatives to sustainable development.

This volume of the workbook series is thus, an attempt to demonstrate to the profession our relevance to the SDGs, as well as to demonstrate to the world that social work is essential to the realization of sustainability, within and beyond the SDGs. This book is intended as a tool for international social work practitioners, students, and educators to help advance the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development theme of "working toward environmental sustainability". It is the third volume in the series and is formatted as a workbook, with short lessons and exercises to help you apply the lessons theoretically and in your own prac-



tice. These lessons could apply to research, policy, ethics, practice, theory, interdisciplinary work, and more. Whether you are a longtime supporter of social workers investing in social and environmental sustainability work, or if you are new and curious about the topic, we hope this resource will inspire and equip you.

Editors:

Meredith Powers and Michaela Rinkel

**Free PDF**

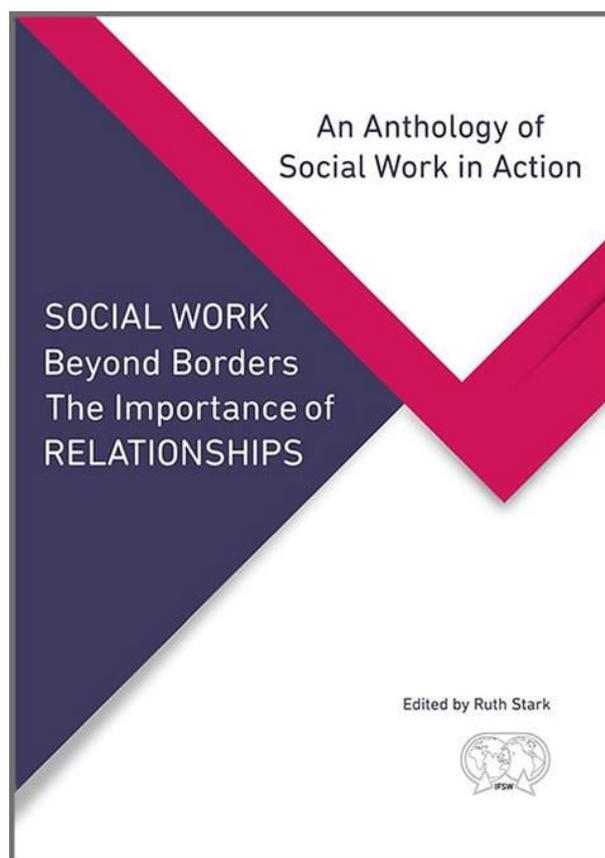
[Get your free copy of the book.](#)

## Publications

# Social Work Beyond Borders: The Importance of Relationships

Social work happens where people work together to create social development. The approach in this book provides living demonstrations of the social work role. It takes as its theme the fourth pillar of the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development. Every story relates to relationships that are created to achieve change. Telling people's stories, describing their experience, using reflective practice, has significant advantages over more traditional social science research methodologies which all too often squeeze practice approaches into non-functional linear frameworks.

Rather than following an 'evidence-approach', which usually minimises complexity and always lags behind adaptive and innovation practice, this anthology illuminates social worker's applying the profession's principles in contexts of significant complexity. Strengthening relationships, building solidarity and realising people's real interdependent power is at the heart of this book. Many more publications of this nature are needed to arouse discussion and reflection that will inspire future actions with families, communities and societies.



Editor: Ruth Stark

**Free PDF**

[Get your free copy of the book.](#)

## Publications

# International Journal of Social Work

## Journal

IASW, ICSW and IFSW jointly own the journal published by Sage: International Social Work. In 2019 the number of submissions increased for the fifth years running, from 159 in 2015 to more than 200 new original submissions. In 2019, the number of original submissions was 211 and the revised submissions was 165.

The rate of acceptance in 2019 was 36% (in 2018 it was 41%).

In 2019, there were 6 issues and there were 10,932 total circulation. 268,907 full-text downloads in 2019 and in 2018 there were 22,739 full-text downloads.

Geographical spread of papers is wide showing the journal has international reach. In 2019 we saw an increase in papers from Canada, China, Estonia, Hong Kong, Nigeria, Turkey, the UK and the US, but fewer submission from Korea, Norway, and Spain.

In 2019, the number of original choices from practice papers was 40% more than in 2018.

The International Social Work Prize Winner 2019 was "[Social work in East Africa: A mzungu perspective by Helmut Spitzer](#)".

[See more articles with open access.](#)

## ISW Book Reviews

A new look book reviews page was launched on our website, people can also do peer reviews. You can find more information on how submit contributions to ISW book reviews [here](#).

Latest book review: [Handbook of Social Work with Refugee Children and Families](#)



## Governance

# Executive Meeting in Rheinfelden

Representatives and commissioners from all the IFSW regions have finished several days of meetings in Switzerland where they discussed the priorities of the social work profession.

IFSW President Silvana Martinez said, "The Executive is made up of extremely competent individuals who bring a wide range of skills in terms of governance, procurement, accountancy, running large organizations and advocacy. They are all wonderful people with passion, commitment and it is a pleasure to serve with them to achieve social justice".

The Executive members, commissioners, and officials came together to share their visions and to develop exciting plans. Their discussions included the Global Agenda of Social Work and Social Development, building relationships with global partners to expand the profession's vision for social justice, policy development, action campaigns, and advocacy strategies.

Secretary-General, Rory Truell said: "The meeting was able to address a range of issues as the profession faces a new and exciting point of transition. Recent years have seen a plethora of new countries-level members joining the IFSW. They bring rich and dynamic histories from places such as Bangladesh, Botswana, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Egypt, Grenada, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Nepal, Paraguay, Poland, Puerto Rico, Senegal, Vietnam, Yemen, and Zimbabwe. These new insights are now joined



with the wisdom of the older IFSW country members. The garden of international social work has never before had such diversity, richness, and beauty as we prepare for the next period of the profession's development"

### Participants in the meeting were:

**IFSW President:** Silvana Martinez

**Secretary-General:** Rory Truell

**IFSW Treasurer:** Victor Garcia

**Executive Members:** Noel Muridzo and Joachim Mumba (Africa). Rose Henderson & Irene Leung (Asia-Pacific). Ana Radulescu & John Brennan (Europe). Larry Alicea & Tania Ramos (Latin America and the Caribbean). Kathy Wehrmann & Jan Christenson-Wood (North America)

**Ambassador:** Suzanne Dworak-Peck

**Commissioners:** Dawn Hobdy (Ethics), Priska Fleischlin (UN) and Colleen Lundy (HR)

**International Relationship Manager:** Lola Casal – Sanchez

**International Operations Manager:** Pascal Rudin

**Translators:** Alba Rozalen and René Schegg

## Governance

# Meetings and Statements

## Skype Meetings

IFSW President and IFSW Secretary General held regional Skype meetings in December to follow up on the regional chal-



lenges and to report on the developments of global matters. Regional Minutes were combined and shared among all regional representatives

Also, all the global commissioners got the opportunity to meet via Skype with Silvana Martinez and Rory Truell to discuss the implementation of the commissioners plans and the working proposals for 2020 .

## Israel Censure Working Group

Following the endorsement by the 2018 General Meeting to censure the Israeli Union of Social Workers, and the General Meeting mandate that the Executive created a working group to work with the Israeli Union of Social Workers, to attempt to

find a resolution. A group has been formed comprising the IFSW President, IFSW Secretary-General, Ethics Commissioner, Human Rights Commission and the IFSW European Regional President and Vice-president who are continuing to hold discussions with representatives of the Israeli Union of Social Workers.



## Global Statements

Statements in relation to international days:

[International Women's Day](#)  
(President)

[International Woman's Day](#)  
(Commission)

[International Workers Day](#)

[International Day For The Eradication Of Poverty](#)

[International Day Of Peace](#)

[World Mental Health Day](#)

Statements in relation to issues:

[On Amazon Fires](#)

[On Violence And Conflict](#)

[On The Situation In Ecuador](#)

## Governance

# Executive Committee

### Global



**Silvana Martinez**  
President



**Rory Truell**  
Ex Officio Member



**Noel Muridzo**  
Vice President



**Victor I. Garcia-Toro**  
Treasurer

### Africa Region

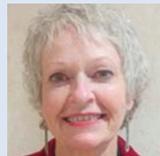


**Noel Muridzo**  
Regional President



**Joachim Mumba**  
Regional Vice President

### Asia and Pacific Region



**Rose Henderson**  
Regional President



**Irene Leung**  
Regional Vice President

### Europe Region



**Ana Radulescu**  
Regional President



**John Brennan**  
Regional Vice President

### Latin America and the Caribbean Region



**Larry Alicea Rodríguez**  
Regional President



**Tania Maria Ramos**  
Regional Vice President

### North America Region



**Jan Christianson-Wood**  
Regional President



**Kathryn C. Wehrmann**  
Regional Vice President

Read more about the strategic aims  
and the regulations of IFSW:

Constitution: [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#)

By-Laws: [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#)

## Events

# Preparation of Upcoming Events

## SWSD 2020 Calgary



In 2020, IFSW holds the SWSD2020 Global Social Work Conference in Canada, where all five IFSW regions will advance global social work strategies.

In 2019, IFSW President the President and the Secretary-General have held monthly meetings with the Calgary Conference Steering Group. This has led to the inclusion of indigenous and service user representatives in the conference planning and organisation, to the launch of the website and to the launch of the conference methodical concept, hotel arrangement and social events.

### Read more

[www.swsd2020.org](http://www.swsd2020.org)

[The river running through SWSD2020](#)

[IFSW President welcome participants to Calgary \(Video\)](#)

## WSWD 2022



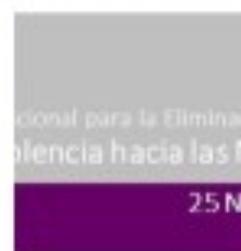
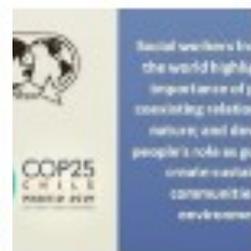
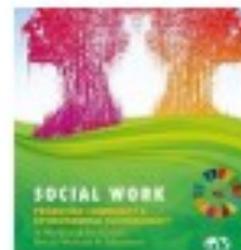
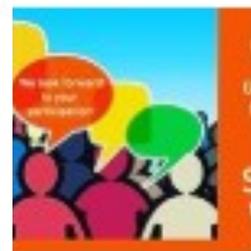
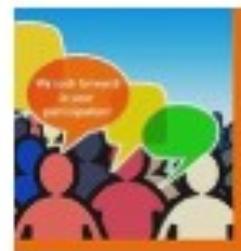
New Developments in The Global Agenda and World Social Work Conferences.

IASSW, ICSW and IFSW are delighted to announce their ongoing joint commitment to the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social development and that the three organisations will be jointly holding world conferences in 2022 and 2024 with the expectation that joint conferences will continue into the future.

The call for expressions of interest has been launched and it is agreed that an IASSW representative will oversee the conference arrangements and planning. A decision on which country will host conference will be made in 2020

### Read more

here <https://www.ifsw.org/new-developments-in-the-global-agenda-and-world-social-work-conferences/>



Follow us!



Copyright © 2020 by IFSW

## Thank you!

Please accept our appreciation of your continuing interest in and contribution to IFSW! Sign up to our newsletter and never miss any IFSW news!

[SIGN UP](#)

