



Aotearoa New Zealand IFSW Co-ordinating Body



Appendix A

Resolution seeking ratification of the IFSW's position regarding the voice of Indigenous Social Workers

PROPOSED BY members of the **Tangata Whenua Social Workers Association of Aotearoa (TWSWA)** (New Zealand) and the **National Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Workers Association (NCATSISWA)** (Australia).

We submit to delegates present at this, the 2nd "*International Indigenous Voices in Social Work*" Conference, held July 8-11, 2013, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada the following resolution seeking ratification of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) policies regarding equal status for indigenous social work, indigenous social workers and indigenous social work associations:

To the Secretary-General of the International Federation of Social Workers:

- Whereas Indigenous peoples globally suffer greatest from the consequences of historic injustice, including colonization, dispossession of their lands, territories and environmental resources, oppression and discrimination;
- Whereas indigenous people lack control over their intellectual and spiritual resources inclusive of language;
- Whereas indigenous peoples rights to increase capability are denied by colonial and modern states in the pursuit of capitalist economic growth with the results of widening disparities in health and wellbeing; educational and employment potential and political participation;

Be it resolved that:

We, the Tangata Whenua Social Workers Association of Aotearoa and the National Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Workers Association, hereby appeal to the International Federation of Social Workers to adopt the following actions in respect to its *Policy on Indigenous Peoples*:

That the IFSW:

1. Ratify its membership/affiliate policies to give equal recognition and representation to Indigenous Social Worker Associations that have legitimate and autonomous rights and status within their respective countries;
2. Support the establishment of an Indigenous Social Work Caucus Committee to represent the voices and views of indigenous social workers and indigenous social work associations on policy and governance matters;
3. Assign to its Executive Board representation of an Indigenous Social Worker voting member, to be elected by indigenous Social Worker Associations, to provide voice in addressing issues and concerns relevant to indigenous social workers and their communities;
4. In actioning Points 1, 2, & 3 above, seeks special consultative status to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

We maintain the above resolution affirms not only the IFSW's policy statements acknowledging that, "indigenous peoples are entitled to rights and dignities equal to all other peoples", and that "indigenous peoples must be actively involved participants in the creation of international policies, especially those affecting them" but, supports the 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We also contend this ensures the indigenous social worker voice is equally represented at national, regional and international levels.