

IFSW Ambassador Update to the IFSW General Meeting 2020 - Virtual

I would like to thank the General Meeting, including all the member associations, for providing me with the continued opportunity to serve IFSW.

The General Meeting first appointed me to the role of Ambassador in 1994. This followed a period of 8 years on the Executive Committee as Member, President for North America, and as global President of IFSW. A role description was approved by the 1996 General Meeting.

The Ambassador works on behalf of IFSW's mission and goals. She always serves at the request of the General Meeting and within the policies and priorities set by it. The Ambassador is accountable to the General Meeting, IFSW's highest policy making body.

The appointment was established to officially make use of existing networks, expertise and in depth understanding and experience with IFSW for IFSW's benefit. Upon request, the Ambassador carries out special global assignments and representation for IFSW.

Some of the Ambassador's activities for IFSW have included: representation at meetings, seminars, conferences and events by facilitating important IFSW issues, relationships, and providing organizational presence; promoting the IFSW Friend's Program (founded during my Presidency) to position IFSW to engage in outreach and recruitment of persons and organizations to become supporters of IFSW (involving education, promotion and fund development);

providing information, marketing, and public relations via media, workshops, meetings and public speaking with social workers, organizations, governmental agencies, and the public about IFSW. The Ambassador has also performed specific tasks of program and policy significance for IFSW i.e. participation in the evaluation of the Officers' Meeting, the Steering Committee, and the Secretary General, etc. Other service has included work with: the Structure and Operations Committee, Elections Committee, Non-Dues Revenue/Income Development Task Force, Friend's Advisory Committee, IFSW Archives, and other areas/programs.

In 2016, she received the Andrew Mouravieff-Apostol Medal from the IFSW General Meeting for her contributions to international social work.

This past year the ambassador attended the Executive Committee Meeting in Switzerland (non – virtual).

She will present the Inaugural Gayle Gilchrist-James Lecture for the global conference to be held in Calgary (now virtual). Gayle was IFSW's 10th global President from Canada. There will be a video of the lecture which can be used by the IFSW global conference, IFSW and the IFSW Archives in the future. The lecture speaks to Gayle's leadership with IFSW on the world stage.

IFSW's preparation for our 1st virtual General Meeting and conference is noteworthy with much credit due to the leadership of the Executive Committee, the Secretary General, and the IFSW staff. The trial sessions, which I participated in, illustrated a great deal of initiative by IFSW to provide an opportunity for our governance and conference activities to continue to fully function

during this unprecedented pandemic environment. I look forward to joining you all for these virtual events in July.

The Ambassador is committed to performing a meaningful and important role for IFSW at no expense to IFSW.

Los Angeles, June, 2020

Suzanne Dworak-Peck

IFSW Ambassador