



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

ELECTIONS OFFICER REPORT TO GENERAL MEETING

11 July 2020

The report of the Elections Officer has traditionally been given orally at the meeting. Given the new arrangements with the Virtual General Meeting in 2020, a written report is being provided.

This report is presented on behalf of the Nominations Committee, which is chaired by the Elections Officer.

MEMBERSHIP

The Nominations Committee is a constitutional requirement consisting of an Elections Officer as Chair of the Committee and one representative from each of the regions of IFSW. The role of the Committee is to organise and direct the election process. The members in 2018-2020 are: David N Jones (Elections Officer, Chair), Daniel Asiedu (Africa), Teoh Ai Huah (Asia Pacific), Nicolai Paulsen (Europe), Kenia Batista (Latin America Caribbean), Morel Caissie (North America).

LATE NOMINATIONS

No late nominations will be accepted after 07.00 UTC on Saturday 11 July 2020. It is usual practice to stop accepting late nominations early in the General Meeting. I am therefore giving notice of the deadline in this report. Any late nomination **MUST** have full documentation as specified on the IFSW website including a formal resolution of support from the Board of the nominating organisation.

NOMINATIONS

The Committee reviewed all nominations received for elections during the two years. In all cases nominees were required to present the documents specified on the website before being accepted; in some cases the correct documents were not submitted at the beginning and the missing documents were requested and provided. Additional material from candidates was also accepted. All the papers are on the General Meeting website. Member organisations nominating candidates must be 'in good standing' (i.e. must have paid their fees) at the start of the General Meeting.

For the 2020 elections at the General Meeting, all the nominations are placed on the website with the relevant documents. Four nominees did not send their documents before the constitutional deadline. These late nominations are identified on the website. The General Meeting will be asked to vote on whether to accept the late nominations; a 75 % majority is required.

There is a proposal for a constitutional change regarding the position of the Honorary Treasurer. If that constitutional proposal is agreed by the General Meeting, there will not be an election for Treasurer.

CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUE

The constitution (Article 14) specifies the number of terms that people can serve in all positions, which is two terms (8 years). However the Chair and Treasurer can have served for two terms in another position before being elected Chair or Treasurer (i.e. maximum of term 3 terms).

The constitution does not refer at all to the status of an Executive Committee member (usually a Regional Vice President) who is required to step up into a higher position because of a resignation or because of a new election. In other words the individual serves part of a term in the lower role and a full term in the new higher role.

The Elections Officer and Parliamentarian considered the clear spirit of the constitution which is to encourage stability (i.e. members serve overlapping terms with half the Executive being elected at each General Meeting). It is also recognised that it takes time to learn the role and to be able to make a constructive contribution at global level.

The Elections Officer and Parliamentarian also noted custom and practice and took note of practice in other organisations.

It was concluded that serving part of a term (i.e. less than the full term of four years) did NOT count towards the total period for serving on the Executive. In other words, a candidate who serves for a shorter period than a full term in a lower role is still eligible to serve for two full four year terms in the new role.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Nominations Committee recommends that the Executive Committee reviews the constitution and brings proposals to the next General Meeting to clarify the constitution on this matter.

The Nominations Committee will review the administration of elections before the next General Meeting to ensure that the Federation is following best practice.

David N Jones
Elections Officer

8 July 2020