



IFSW

2018 END OF YEAR REPORT

Rheinfelden, Switzerland
December 2018

The International Federation of Social Workers
Maiengässli 4
4310 Rheinfelden
Switzerland

Web: www.ifsw.org
Email: global@ifsw.org



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Preface from the IFSW President

We are reaching the end of 2018. It has been a very important year for each one of us and for the social work profession. IFSW entered a new phase this July with the election of new executive that along with myself, comprises a Treasurer and representatives from each of the regions. Our work has been to balance the many global needs and demands. The end of the year is always a good time for managing balance sheets and today I want to tell our members that our balance is positive. We have learned and grown as an organization. There are always difficulties, but together with a spirit of solidarity and collaboration, we have been able to face obstacles and strengthen each other.

I am proud of the work that everyone in the profession has undertaken in their own countries and regions. Work that reflects a lot of commitment in the pursuit of social justice and the defence of human rights. IFSW is also working every day for you and to build a more just, more democratic and less violent world.

We have many challenges ahead and more to do, but by continuing to work together we will be successful, strengthening the profession in 2019 and in the years to come through the new Global Agenda of Social Work and Social Development: The next 10 years.

On behalf of the Executive, I wish you all happy holidays and an excellent start to the year.

Dr. Silvana Martínez President IFSW



Introduction from the Secretary-General

It is a time of growing confidence and influence for the social work profession. IFSW's membership-base has extended. Countries new to the profession are working with the Federation to form new national associations and promote the profession's essential and unique contributions to all societies and global social development has been advanced.

This strategic multi-leveled influence of the profession at the community and global levels has also been recognised by others with senior United Nations officials identifying IFSW as an essential partner in realising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This increased visibility and recognition of the social work profession however has not come easily. It has been a result of the hard work of many IFSW members advancing the profession's perspectives and implementing solutions in their countries. Likewise, the Federation's regional structures have also played a major role in unifying responses and building partnerships that address specific regional concerns. These local and regional actions have also been coordinated with the global level resulting in common international messages, activities, unwavering stands on human rights and mass illustrations of solidarity in World Social Work Day events.

This year the Federation and its partners highlighted 'environmental justice'. Only a few years ago many in the profession commented that 'climate change' was beyond the scope and not directly related to social work practice, but as a result of our global actions, such issues are now confidently embedded among the profession's pillars for social development. Evidence of this is found in the IFSW publication of: 'Volume 2, Social Work Promoting Community And Environmental Sustainability', which was launched at the 2018 global conference demonstrating social work practice examples from throughout the world. A third and more volumes will be published in 2019 and beyond.

The Federation's role in promoting member's actions of non-violent advocacy and action also won significant praise in 2018 from UN agencies and human rights organisations throughout the world. Consequently, the OHCHR has now identified social workers as 'Human Rights Defenders' and are currently in discussions with IFSW on how each entity can support one another. The International Labour Organization also stated this year that it wants to officially classify social work as a profession which will add social work's visibility and status in all countries.

Other high-level outcomes in 2018 have included members working with the Federation in leading complex global processes to successfully deliver the 2018 Joint World Social Work and Social Development Conference and World Social Work Day. Each of these events has created opportunities for the wider profession to come together for shared-learning, planning and joint action. The 2018 IFSW General Meeting also launched two new Commissions for further engagement with the United Nations and with the bodies representing social work education. This year also saw the expansion of the Federation's relationships with other partners such as international organisations representing service-users and indigenous representatives in preparation for hosting the 2020 World Social Work Conference. Each of these outcomes further builds the professions capability, capacity and extends the influence of social work and social justice into the future.

There are many other significant steps that have occurred in the past 12 months. The pages below describe and provide links to these as well as adding detail to the results mentioned above. I hope you



enjoy reflecting on these significant achievements that so many people have made possible through volunteering commitment and passion for the profession and a better world.

Happy celebrations of 2018 to all IFSW members. For those celebrating Christmas, I further wish you a very happy Christmas.

On behalf of the whole Federation I extend love, respect and best wishes to all,

Rory Truell

IFSW Secretary-General
December 2018

Events and outcomes

World Social Work Day

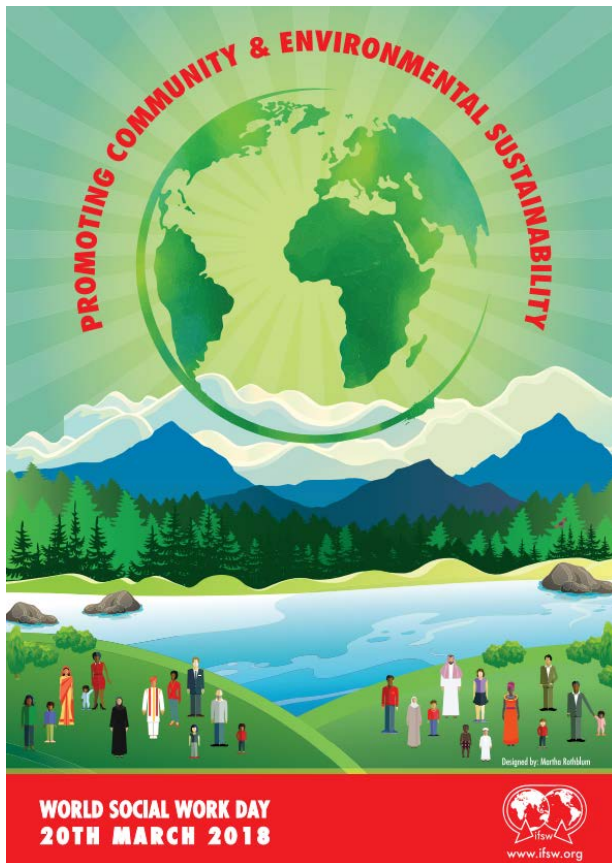


Figure 1: 2018 WSWD Poster

Visibility and global participation in WSWD has significantly increased in the past years. This year's celebrations and actions were no exception. The poster and theme message were translated into 48 languages by IFSW members that wanted their communities, colleagues, employers, governments and partner organisations to be able to join in supporting the theme: 'Promoting Community and Environmental Sustainability'.

Events on World Social Work Day 2018

IFSW organised events on World Social Work Day as part of its representation work at the United Nation offices in Geneva and New York. Figure 2 (below) provides a glimpse of the many activities that were organised throughout the world. These social work led events included community-wide peaceful protests promoting awareness of the theme. Meetings with politicians, workplace talks, student action and much more.

World Social Work Day on Social Media

Images of the WSWD events and celebrations were vividly shared on social media under the hashtag #WSWD2018.



Figure 2: Collection of images posted around the globe with hashtag #WSWD2018 on Facebook

Conferences

Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development



Figure 3: SWSD 2018 Banner

IFSW also co-hosted The Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development. The chief facilitator and [conference chairperson John Brennan](#) utilised his years of experience in IFSW to ensure the best balance between the Federation's members and partner's throughout the conference proceedings, resulting in a vibrant inclusive place of international exchange and shared learning. The conference theme echoed the third pillar of The [Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development](#), 'Environmental and Community Sustainability: Human Solutions in Evolving Societies'. Conference evaluations highlighted that the theme strongly resonated across the broader profession. The most popular presentations focused on the social work experience of embedding environmental



justice into practice, social work in extreme challenging circumstances such as war and conflict, and the profession's role in shaping the political environment.

[High-Level Keynote Addresses](#)

The following keynote addresses were presented by IFSW representatives:

- Intersectionality, knowledge and power: A decolonizing look for the practice of social work.
Author: Larry Emil Alicea Rodríguez, IFSW Regional President, Latin America and the Caribbean
- Social Work's untold political histories; learning from the past to shape the future.
Author: Vasilios Ioakimidis, IFSW Global Interim Education Commissioner

Executive Meetings

The IFSW Executive maintained a heavy workload throughout 2018 overseeing all of the IFSW strategies and outcomes. The Executive faced significant complexities in needing to respond to the new perspectives and positions emerging within global partner organisations balancing their requirements with IFSW member expectations, the Federation's own policies and procedures and the desire to consolidate a strong united profession. Consequently, the Executive held an extra face-to-face meeting in New York in addition to the planned meeting in Dublin as well as the Skype meetings that take place throughout the year.

New York

In New York the Executive was joined by the IFSW global Commissioners and jointly they considered feedback on the proposed new Education Commission (later renamed the interim Education Commission) and United Nations Commission. Other key considerations in this executive meeting included the Executive's review of the correspondence between the IFSW Member, the Israeli Union and the Executive. This resulted in the Executive issuing a formal public censure on the Israeli Union of Social Workers for not exercising an independent social work voice that is consistent with the Federation's policies and in particular the Statement of Ethical Principles 4.1.1. The Executive decided that the Censure would only remain in place until the following General Meeting of IFSW members and that any further actions, if any, would be determined by the direction of the membership.

The Executive then attended a World Social Work Day Event at the United Nations New York headquarters, where the Secretary-General provided a [speech](#) on behalf of the Federation.



Figure 4 IFSW Executive in March 2018 at the United Nations, New York

Dublin

The Executive met twice in Dublin, before and after the General Meeting. Outcomes included appointing Colleen Lundy as the new Human Rights Commissioner, reconfirming Dawn Hobdy as Commissioner for Ethics and agreeing a nomination and selection process for the Commissioners of the interim Education Commission and UN Commission. Vasiliou Ioakimidis and Priska Fleischlin were invited by the Executive to act as Commissioners until the open nomination and selection process was completed. The Executive also considered the expectations that members articulated during the General Meeting and affirmed a list of priority working agenda and plans. Noel Muridzo was reelected as the IFSW global Vice President.

Executive Skype meetings between August and December

The President and Secretary-General held skype calls with each region's representatives to exchange reports, affirm the 2019 to 2024 budget and to review progress on Executive agreed plans. It was also agreed via correspondence between the Executive members that two proposed policies that were not discussed at the General Meeting due to lack of time, would be discussed, amended (if necessary) and approved by the Executive as an alternative to a lengthy and complex process involving members email amendments and votes. If requested any agreed policies can be further discussed and altered at the 2022 General Meeting. Further correspondence included reviewing a concern raised by the IFSW member in Russia suggesting that the processes leading to the General Meeting and the General Meeting itself were not legitimate and that their nominee for the position of global President was not treated fairly. The executive involved other IFSW bodies in reviewing the concern and determined that all processes and outcomes surrounding the general meeting, including the election process fully complied with IFSW policies, procedures and the constitution. The Executive further noted that if any member wished to ask for changes in the democratic processes outlined in the constitution, they are encouraged to propose a motion for decision at the next General Meeting, as per constitutional requirements.

General Meeting



Figure 5: General Meeting 2018 Banner

The [2018 IFSW General Meeting](#) took place in Dublin, Ireland on 1 and 2 July 2018. It recorded the highest level of participation with 70 countries registered to vote. As part of the agenda, IFSW General Meeting responded to challenging agenda items, including the censure of the Israeli Union of Social Workers, the 'closing the gaps' strategy between social work education and practice and revising the profession's statement of ethical principles (conducted jointly with the International Associations of Schools of Social Work).

Elections

In addition, elections were held for positions on the [IFSW Executive](#). Following the elections, the successful nominees were announced:

Silvana Martinez from Argentina as the President,
Victor Ivan García-Toro from Puerto Rico as Treasurer,
Ana Radulescu from Romania as Vice President in Europe,
Rose Henderson from New Zealand as the Regional President of Asia-Pacific,
Joachim Mumba from Zambia as Regional Vice President of Africa,
Larry Alicea as President Latin America and Caribbean Region,
Tania Maria Ramos from Brazil as Vice President Latin America and Caribbean Region,
Jan Christianson-Wood from Canada as President North American Region, and
Kathy Wehrmann from USA as Vice President North American Region.

They join the executive members that were previously elected in 2016:

Noel Muridzo as IFSW Regional President Africa
Ana Lima from Spain as IFSW Regional President Europe



Note: the IFSW Regional Vice President Asia-Pacific was vacant after the General Meeting 2018. The IFSW executive roles are held for four-year terms and the elections for various positions are staggered to provide a level of continuity in the executive team.

The outgoing members of the executive were thanked for their hard work and dedication during a very successful part of IFSW's history. Outgoing President Ruth Stark received a standing ovation for her contributions in leading IFSW between 2014 and 2018.

Completion of the Ethics Review

The General Meeting also ratified a new [global social work statement of ethical principles](#) that had been jointly developed with the International Association of Schools of Social Work.

The Israeli Censure

The General meeting upheld and extended the Executive's [censure of the Israeli Union of social workers](#). After lengthy discussion which included the leadership of the Israeli Union, motions were passed that reinforced the censure and also encouraged ongoing dialog and support that would enable the censure to be lifted.

The formation of the UN Commission and the interim Education Commission"

The General Meeting also ratified an [interim Education Commission](#) to engage and work with social work education partners to build a stronger framework at national, regional and global levels that supports cooperation between national associations of social work and educational bodies. In addition the General Meeting further ratified a proposal to establish a UN Commission. The UN Commission's aims are to promote the IFSW objectives and policies in the UN.

Awards

During the General Meeting five awards were issued in recognition of outstanding contributions to the social work profession:

David Jones from the UK was honoured for his contributions and leadership to the Global Agenda of Social Work and Social Development. Mariko Kimura for her leadership in the Asia-Pacific region, Angela Fielding for contributions to social work in Australia, The Costa Rica Association of Social Workers for their contributions to social work globally and Munther Amira for his leadership in promoting social work non-violent resistance.



Global News

News

IFSW News items were issued throughout the year. The following links are provided in date order below, regional news items are listed further down.

January

3rd [POWER, POLITICS AND SOCIAL WORK: THE NEED TO REINVENT SOCIAL WORK WORLDWIDE – CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LATIN AMERICAN THOUGHT](#)

[Article in Spanish](#)

[Article in French](#)

16th [UPDATE CONCERNING DETENTION OF MUNTER AMIRA 15TH JANUARY 2018](#)

February

19th [IFSW JOINS IN DRAFTING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UNHCR ON THE NEEDS OF OLDER REFUGEES](#)

27th [INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORK JOURNAL LOOKING FOR NEW EDITOR\(S\)](#)

March

7th [IFSW MEETS WITH UN OFFICE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS](#)

7th [IFSW REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN GENEVA, PRISKA FLEISCHLIN ON 2018 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY](#)

16th [IFSW HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: CONCERN ON IMPRISONMENT OF SOCIAL WORKER](#)

20th [UNITED NATION GENEVA CELEBRATION OF WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY](#)

29th [IFSW EXECUTIVE CENSURES THE ISRAELI UNION OF SOCIAL WORKERS](#)

29th [IFSW CALLS FOR THE JOINING OF THE PROFESSIONAL GLOBAL SOCIAL WORK ORGANISATIONS](#)

April

1st [STATEMENT FROM THE PALESTINIAN UNION OF SOCIAL WORKERS AND PSYCHOLOGISTS](#)

13th [MESSAGE FROM IFSW PRESIDENT RUTH STARK](#)

June

13th [SOCIAL WORK AND NON-VIOLENT RESISTANCE](#)

19th [UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR THANKS IFSW FOR SUPPORT OF PALESTINIAN SOCIAL WORKER](#)

20th [WORLD REFUGEE DAY: MESSAGE FROM IFSW PRESIDENT RUTH STARK](#)

21st [COSW ENSURES SOCIAL WORK VOICE AND CONCERNS ARE HEARD DURING COMMONWEALTH SUMMIT](#)

27th [IFSW IS DELIGHTED TO LAUNCH A NEW WEBSITE](#)



28th [SWSD BOOK LAUNCH](#)

July

3rd [70 COUNTRY-LEVEL MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN THE 2018 IFSW GENERAL MEETING](#)

4th [LAUNCH OF MAJOR GLOBAL REPORT ON SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT](#)

25th [IFSW AT THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM 2018](#)

28th [MESSAGE FROM IFSW PRESIDENT TO HELLENIC ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS](#)
[Article in Spanish](#)

August

29th [IFSW SELECTS NEW HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER](#)

September

14th [IFSW LAUNCHES CONSULTATION PROCESS ON THE GLOBAL AGENDA 2020 TO 2030](#)

20th [IFSW REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN CRITICISES MEDICALISATION OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS](#)

21st [INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE 21ST SEPTEMBER: ACKNOWLEDGING THE SOCIAL WORK CONTRIBUTIONS](#)

October

11th [SOCIAL WORK RESPONDS TO AUTHORITARIANISM](#)

17th [INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY](#)

20th [‘NEW ERA’ AS SERVICE-USER AND INDIGENOUS REPRESENTATIVES JOIN IFSW WORLD CONFERENCE PLANNING](#)

26th [IASSW – WORLD CENSUS OF SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION PROGRAMS – 2020 DIRECTORY](#)

November

22nd [IFSW UN AND INTERIM EDUCATION COMMISSIONERS ANNOUNCED](#)

22nd [WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY POSTER FOR 2019](#)

December

10th [AN INTERVIEW WITH IFSW SECRETARY-GENERAL ON HUMAN RIGHTS DAY](#)

2018 Policies

March 2nd [CÓDIGO DEONTOLÓGICO DE LA PROFESIÓN DE DIPLOMADO EN TRABAJO SOCIAL](#)

July 2nd [GLOBAL SOCIAL WORK STATEMENT OF ETHICAL PRINCIPLES](#)
[Article in Spanish](#)

2018 Statements

January 7th [RELEASE SOCIAL WORKER MUNTHER AMIRA IMMEDIATELY! STATEMENT BY IFSW HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION](#)

[Statement in Spanish](#)

January 14th [FREEDOM FOR MUNTER AMIRA: REFLECTIONS FROM THE SOCIAL WORK](#)

April 23rd [ARGENTINA AND "LOS DESAPARECIDOS"](#)

[Statement in Spanish](#)

June 20th [UNITED STATES WITHDRAWS FROM UNHRC: IFSW HRC STATEMENT](#)

October 25th [STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF SOCIAL WORK STUDENT ELIN ERSSON](#)

October 25th [IFSW STATEMENT ON THE ELECTIONS IN BRAZIL](#)

[Statement in Spanish](#)

November 7th [IFSW STATEMENT ON THE CENTRAL AMERICAN CARAVAN](#)

[Statement in Spanish](#)

[Statement in Portuguese](#)

December 9th [IFSW HUMAN RIGHT COMMISSION – STATEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS DAY](#)

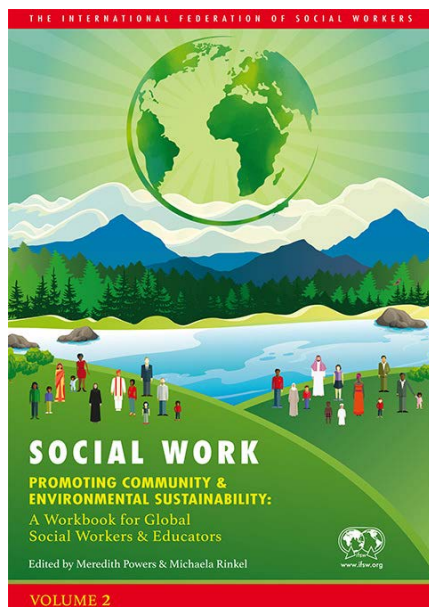
December 9th [IFSW UN COMMISSION – STATEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS DAY](#)

December 13th [LA REGIÓN DE AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE RECONOCE EL AVANCE EN EL DERECHO A LA EDUCACIÓN EN MÉXICO](#)

December 24th [PARAGUAY NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS JOINS IFSW](#)

Books

Social Work Promoting Community and Environmental Sustainability

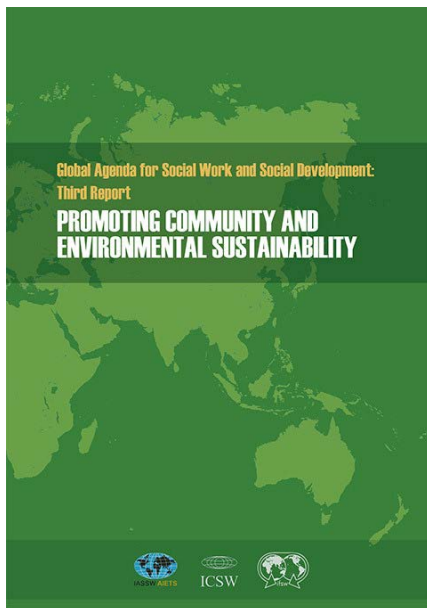


At the opening of the Social Work and Sustainable Development Joint World Conference in Dublin, IFSW launched the second volume of an important series:

[Social Work Promoting Community and Environmental Sustainability: A Workbook for Global Social Workers and Educators, Volume 2](#). The 19 chapters demonstrate the incredible work that is being done all over the world by social workers addressing issues at the nexus of community and environmental sustainability. This volume of the workbook series focuses primarily on Indigenous voices and knowledge, eco-therapeutic practices, and the interdisciplinary nature of sustainability in social work. The workbook 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.”

Download the report as a [free PDF](#) or buy a [printed copy](#) in our [IFSW shop](#).

Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development: Third Report



A major report on the practice of social work and social development was published by IFSW. The report jointly developed by IFSW, IASSW and ICSW and edited by former IFSW President David Jones draw on contributions from social workers, social work service users, and other key communities from all over the world. It was launched at the World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development (#SWSD2018) in Dublin:

[Promoting Community and Environmental Sustainability – Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development: Third Report.](#)

The 270 page report gives examples of how social work and social development are actively promoting sustainable communities and sustainable environments in five regional reports and a global overview.

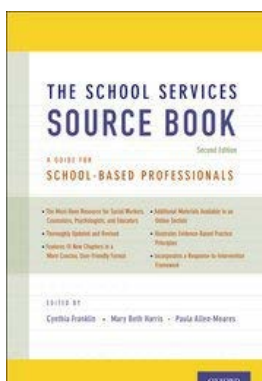
The overview chapter drew on the findings in the regional reports, examines the impact on and implications for social work and social development of: the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the challenge to neo-liberal economic approaches, the rise of nationalism and populism, the global migration crisis, the rights of Indigenous peoples and challenges facing the workforce.

Download the report as a [free PDF](#) or buy a [printed copy](#) in our [IFSW shop](#).

Book Reviews Published

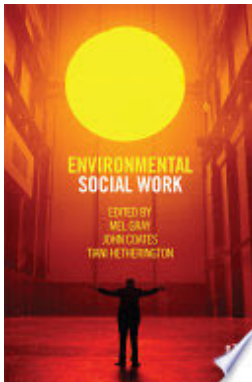
IFSW has continued to publish [book reviews](#) for the Journal International Social Work. In 2018, the following book reviews have been published:

The School Services Sourcebook



The [School Services Sourcebook](#) is a comprehensive resource that covers the most important and timely information needed for school based practices. It is a unique resource of this kind available for international audiences. This educational resource offers practice briefs that busy school professionals could quickly consult for help in their work. This book is an excellent “desk reference” that provides an extraordinary overview of the updated knowledge, tools, and resources that can help practitioners to improve their work in the schools. Read the full review [here](#).

Environmental Social Work



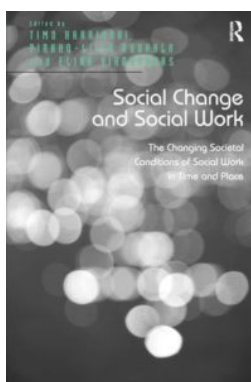
Social work has been 'defined' as a profession of many faces; an art and a science, whose knowledge base is eclectic. The increasing incidence of human and natural disasters, have resulted in a clarion call being made for the social work profession to play a meaningful role in tackling environmental challenges. Over the years, the social work profession has and began to with the environmentalist movement, and in the process terms such as "green social work", and "environmental social work" have emerged. It is for this reason that the publication, [Environmental Social Work](#) is most welcome. Read the full review [here](#).

Social and Caring Professions in European Welfare States



The book [Social and Caring Professions in European Welfare States](#) is edited by 3 colleagues from the Department of Social Work at Umeå University, a city in the North of Sweden and although some of the contributors come from Sweden, there is research and contributions from Austria, Denmark, Finland, Hong Kong, Italy, Norway, Poland and the UK. As a result, the book takes an explicitly European (rather than global) approach to social and caring professions and there is significant focus on Scandinavian welfare practices. The book is divided into 4 parts to look at the current 'key aspects of social and caring professions', and the book explicitly aims itself at the 'caring professions' and includes physicians, physiotherapist, elderly care workers, psychologists, family assistance, community workers, psychiatrists and job centre offices, although its not until Chapter 9 that a profession other than social work (physiotherapy) comes under the spotlight. Read the full review [here](#).

Social Change And Social Work



The book [Social Change And Social Work: The changing societal conditions of social work in time and place](#), described as a 'jubilee anthology', is written by a group of contributors united through their commitment to scholarship and their research network connection with Mirja Satka, Professor of Social Work Practice Research at the University of Helsinki and the Heikki Waris Institute. The three editors, social work academics at Universities in Finland, published it to celebrate her 60th birthday. It certainly contributes in a meaningful way, to the critical discourse on the shaping of social work and its mandate in current changing societal conditions. Read the full review [here](#).

Conference Planning

World Conference 2020 in Calgary

[The Global Social Work Agenda: The Next Ten Years](#). Calgary, Canada 15th to 18th July 2020



Figure 6: SWSD 2018 Banner

The 2020 World Social Work Conference in Calgary is being led by IFSW and includes a broad range of partners which it is intended will strengthen and further unify the broader profession. Partners to the conference include, UN agencies, international service user networks, national education associations, and indigenous social work representatives. The conference will finalise a global consultation process that will set the strategic priorities for the social work profession from 2020 to 2030.

Consultation processes have already commenced (see **Consultation process on Global Agenda** further down in this document). The Calgary conference will set the final themes concluding the consultation process for the Global Agenda for Social Work: 2020 to 2030. The International Association of Schools of Social Work and the International Council on Social Welfare will be holding a complimentary conference earlier in 2020.

The Calgary 2020 programme has been designed to maximise inclusiveness, discussion and worldwide decision making. It will be exciting and dynamic. More information will be sent to IFSW members in the new year.

Consultation process on Global Agenda

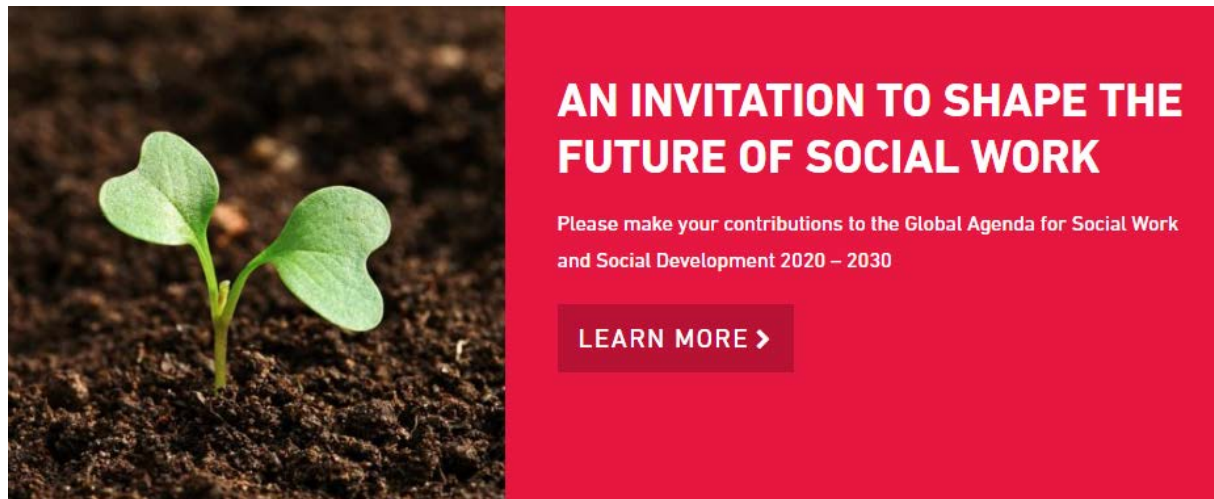


Figure 7: Invitation to be part of the Global Agenda consultation process as posted on ifsw.org

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.

Now, the social work profession needs to develop new themes and a new process to expand the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development for the years 2020 to 2030. From IFSW, we are launching a [consultation process](#), where your input is essential to build a robust and inclusive Global Agenda that meets the real needs of all people



Regions

News

January

8th [BASW CALLS FOR THE IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF MUNTER AMIRA](#)

10th [AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS CONDEMNS THE ARREST OF PALESTINIAN SOCIAL WORKER](#)

10th [STATEMENT BY THE PALESTINIAN UNION OF SOCIAL WORKERS ON THE ARREST OF MUNTER AMIRA](#)

14th [TURKISH ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS STATEMENT ON THE ARREST OF MUNTER AMIRA](#)

14th [MORE SOCIAL WORKERS ARRESTED IN PALESTINE: STATEMENT BY THE PUSWP](#)

February

1st [NEW ZEALAND SOCIAL WORKERS EXPRESS SOLIDARITY WITH COLLEAGUES IN MALTA](#)

13th [GRENADA ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS CONGRATULATES MRS. ANN GREAVES IN RECEIVING THE QUEEN'S AWARD](#)

April

24th [AN OPEN LETTER TO THE ISRAELI UNION OF SOCIAL WORKERS FROM BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS](#)

25th [ANA LIMA VISITS APSS IN LISBON](#)

26th [IFSW EUROPEAN VICE PRESIDENT ENCOURAGES SOCIAL WORKERS TO TAKE PART ON THE DEBATES ORGANISED DURING THE EMIN BUS JOURNEY](#)

28th [PRONUNCIAMIENTO ANTE LAS MUERTES DE INMIGRANTES EN EL MEDITERRÁNEO](#)

28th [IFSW EMPHASISES 'SOCIAL RIGHTS FOR DIGNITY' AT ITALIAN CONFERENCE](#)

May

1st [INTERNATIONAL LABOUR DAY MESSAGE FROM THE PUSWP](#)

19th [IFSW REGIONAL PRESIDENT AWARDED HONORARY DOCTORATE](#)

June

6th [IFSW EUROPEAN PRESIDENT PARTICIPATES IN THE III INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON UNACCOMPANIED MINORS, IN MELILLA \(SPAIN\)](#)

11th ["TODAY, SOCIAL WORKERS FROM BASW BECAME OUR COMMON VOICE ON MAKING VISIBLE THE IMPACT OF AUSTERITY"](#)

14th [SOCIAL WORK IN LATIN AMERICA](#)



21st [PRONUNCIAMIENTO DE REGIÓN AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE DE LA FITS, COLACATS Y ALAIETS SOBRE POLÍTICA MIGRATORIA DE CERO TOLERANCIA DE ESTADOS UNIDOS DE NORTE AMÉRICA](#)

27th [SPANISH SOCIAL WORKERS HAVE OFFERED TO COLLABORATE IN THE WELCOMING TO THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE ARRIVED TO VALENCIA INSIDE THE 'AQUARIUS'](#)

August

5th [PALESTINIAN SOCIAL WORKERS OPPOSE CUTS TO UNRWA](#)

10th [TEXAS SOCIAL WORKERS ACT AGAINST THE SEPARATION OF IMMIGRANT FAMILIES](#)

September

6th [THE 2019 ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL SOCIAL WORK CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED](#)

October

4th [IFSW EUROPEAN PRESIDENT ANA LIMA APPOINTED AS SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SOCIAL SERVICES IN SPAIN](#)

11th [PRONUNCIAMIENTO Y LLAMADO A LA MOVILIZACIÓN DE LAS Y LOS PROFESIONALES DEL TRABAJO SOCIAL EN AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE](#)

19th [SOCIAL WORKERS IN ICELAND SPREAD OUT AGAINST POVERTY](#)

25th [SOCIAL WORKERS IN ICELAND ARE PART OF THE PROTEST REGARDING THE WAGE GAP AND OTHER ISSUES THAT SPECIFICALLY AFFECT WOMEN IN ICELAND](#)

29th [CELEBRACIÓN DEL DÍA DEL TRABAJO SOCIAL EN PUERTO RICO: ENTREVISTA AL PRESIDENTE DE LA FITS LAC](#)

29th [ANA RADULESCO, NEW IFSW EUROPEAN PRESIDENT](#)

November

5th [SOCIAL WORKERS IN POLAND FIGHTING FOR BETTER CONDITIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK](#)

6th [IFSW ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL OFFICE – NEWS FROM IFSW AP PRESIDENT – ROSE HENDERSON – OCTOBER 2018](#)

8th [INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHILD DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS HELD IN BAKU, AZERBAIJAN](#)

17th [IFSW AFRICA REGION: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO SERVE ON COMMISSIONS](#)

7th [SOCIAL WORKERS IN PUERTO RICO JOIN CAMPAIGN OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE](#)

22nd [IFSW EUROPE AT THE MOST REMOTE AREA OF EUROPE – VLADIVOSTOK CITY ON PACIFIC OCEAN](#)

23rd [IFSW ASIA-PACIFIC VICE PRESIDENT ELECTED](#)

28th [CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO HOST IFSW EUROPEAN CONFERENCE 2021](#)



December

4th [CALL FOR ABSTRACT – INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHANGE AND INNOVATION FOR A BETTER WORLD – JUNE 27-28 2019 -HONG KONG](#)

4th [THE 2ND “BELT AND ROAD” INITIATIVES SOCIAL WORK COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT FORUM](#)

13th [The Latin American And Caribbean Region Recognizes The Advance In The Right To Education In Mexico](#)

14th [THE MANA WHĀNAU PROGRAMME](#)

IFSW Regional and Members Statements

March 18th [SOCIAL WORKERS FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL AND SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL PROTECTION IN EUROPE](#)

April 24th [‘SOCIAL WORK IN NEW ZEALAND UNDER ATTACK’](#)

May 4th [PRONUNCIAMIENTO DE LA REGIÓN AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE DE LA FITS Y COLACATS POR ACONTECIMIENTOS EN PUERTO RICO](#)

June 12th [DECLARACIÓN DE FITS-ALC Y COLACATS POR ACONTECIMIENTOS EN NICARAGUA](#)

September 19th [IFSW AFRICAN REGION ISSUES STATEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CAMEROON](#)

October 11th Pronunciamiento y llamado a la movilización de las y los profesionales del trabajo social en América Latina y el Caribe

November 7th [IFSW NORTH AMERICAN REGION SPEAKS OUT ON DISCRIMINATION](#)
[Statement in French](#)

Regional Conference Planning

Throughout 2018 the IFSW regions with support of the global Executive and Secretariat have been planning the 2019 regional conference.

African Region



Figure 8: 2019 IFSW African Region Conference Banner

The 2019 IFSW Africa Region Conference will be held next year on October 29th to 31st in Kampala, Uganda.

Asia Pacific Region



Figure 9: 2019 IFSW Asia-Pacific Region Conference Logo

The [2019 Asia-Pacific Regional Conference](#) will be held in Bangalore, India next year on September 18th to 20th. A pre-conference seminar will also be held on 17th September. The theme of the conference is 'Social Work Partnerships Towards an Equal Society'. The conference organizers are expecting around 800-1000 delegates of which half will be from India.

European Region



Figure 10: 2019 IFSW Europe Region Conference Logo

The Austrian Association of Social Work (obds) hosts the [2019 IFSW European Conference](#). It will be composed of a broad variety of keynotes, panels and paper sessions. Meet colleagues from all over the world in workshops at the locations where social work is provided!

Latin-America and the Caribbean Region

Save the date: 24th to 30th of March in Panamá.

Details will be posted soon on www.ifsw.org/events



Ambassador and Commissioners

Ambassador

The General Meeting appointed Suzanne Dworak-Peck as the IFSW Ambassador in 1994. This role was established for the purpose of officially providing an opportunity to use existing networks, expertise, in-depth understanding and experience with IFSW for its benefit.

The IFSW Ambassador is accountable to the General Meeting. At all times, the IFSW Ambassador serves the mission and goals of IFSW within the policies set by the General Meeting. The IFSW Ambassador acts at the request of IFSW to carry out special assignments of programmatic and policy importance to IFSW.

Duties performed as the IFSW Ambassador include:

- Participating in the planning of the Calgary 2020 Global Conference
- Supporting activities to preserve and enhance IFSW Archives
- Engaging in outreach and recruitment of persons and organizations to become "Friends of IFSW"

The full report of the Ambassador to the 2018 General Meeting can be found [here](#).

Commissions

United Nations

Following the IFSW General Assembly 2018 in Dublin where IFSW members voted to establish a United Nations Commission, the IFSW Executive called for nominations for commissioners to lead of the commissions. On 22 November 2018 the executive confirmed Priska Fleischlin as Commissioner for the UN Commission.

The IFSW UN Commission's primary focus is to promote the IFSW objectives and policies in the UN. Many UN agencies historically have tended towards an 'aid approach' with multiple siloed strategies. The social work perspective focuses more on and holistic /systemic approach to self-led development, community self-determination and social justice.

Human Rights

Former IFSW Global Human Rights Commissioner, Nigel Hall, handed over the role to Colleen Lundy. There will be an HRC meeting to plan further strategic action, which may include some of the following areas

1. Continue with the focus on austerity.
2. Continue to produce relevant statements on issues of concern
3. Continued statements on Human Rights Day.
4. Continued collaborative work with other members of the Commission and in particular work towards enhancing regional reporting mechanisms.



5. Consider whether the Social Work Defenders' Committee, or similar organisation, is a worthwhile idea.

Read the full report to the 2018 General Meeting of the former IFSW Global Human Rights Commissioner Nigel Hall [here](#).

Statements of Concern released by the HRC:

20 June 2018: [United States withdraws from UNHRC](#). IFSW HRC Statement Expressing our concern that the United States of America under the Trump administration has withdrawn from the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), an action that has been roundly condemned by rights groups. Although there may be need for reform of the Human Rights Council, the Council plays a vital role in addressing serious rights abuses around the world.

23 April 2018: [Argentina and the Disappeared](#). This commemorated the more than 40 years on from the military coup in Argentina that led to gross human rights abuses against social workers and others in that country. Also termed 'The Dirty War', and lasting from 1976 to 1983, and was a seven-year campaign by the Argentine government against suspected 'dissidents and subversives'.

16 March 2018: Concern on Imprisonment of Social Worker Munther Amira. Expressing concern at the imprisonment of the former President of the Palestinian Social Workers Association, convicted by the Israeli authorities for peacefully protesting against the detention of Palestinian minors.

16 January 2018: [Update concerning detention of Munther Amira](#). Noting on behalf of more than 15000 persons from all over the world who have signed the petition calling for the immediate release of Munther Amira, the IFSW Human Rights Commission, together with the IFSW Main Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, have sent letters to relevant agencies at the United Nations.

7 January 2018: [Release Social Worker Munther Amira Immediately!](#) The IFSW Human Rights Commission calls for the immediate release of Munther Amira, a Palestinian Social Worker who was arrested on the 27th December 2017 while peacefully protesting to defend the rights of children who had been detained by Israeli authorities. Mr Amira has previously served as the Secretary-General of the Palestinian Union of Social Workers & Psychologists (PUSWP).

Ethics

In July of 2016, the Secretary of The Permanent Committee on Ethical Issues of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) was appointed to work collaboratively with members of the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) to review the IFSW Statement of Ethical Principles and determine whether there was a need for revisions.

Consultation

While conducting the collaborative work, IASSW and the IFSW Ethics Committee were challenged with agreeing on the purpose and goal of the Statement. IASSW expressed a strong desire to expand upon the language of the Statement. IASSW also expressed a requirement that the document serve as a springboard for debate and dialogue in the decolonization agenda and wanted to introduce the concept of "recognition of the embodied vulnerability of humanity".



This was problematic for IFSW as feedback in the consultation survey overwhelmingly stated need to provide a clear guidance principles that would set out the requirements for ethical practice outcomes. After significant debate between IFSW and IASSW it was decided that both the IASSW and IFSW statements would use the same agreed base principles, and that IASSW could independently develop a longer version for the academic community that set the profession's principles in a context of thought and reflection. The final IFSW draft statement was designed however to provide guidance to national associations and practitioners that need to establish standards ethical frameworks that can be used monitor and enhance practice standards.

The Federation's General Meeting 2018 in Dublin finally ratified the IFSW four page [statement of ethical principles](#). Please read the full report of the Ethics committee [here](#).

Interim Education

As mentioned above the 2018 General Meeting 2018 ratified the interim Education Commission.

The overarching aim of the interim Education Commission is to create a single, vibrant and inclusive structure for the transfer of knowledge between social work education and practice where both are informed and learning from one another.

Consultation Process

Prior to the proposal to establish the Education Commission an extensive consultation and a participatory process was undertaken to encourage dialogue with social work educators, representatives of people the use social services, the national associations of social work, employers and relevant government bodies. The consultation resulted 1028 submissions.

The consultation identified:

- There is an urgent need for a platform that facilitates discussion and transfer of knowledge between education and practice.
- The "realities on the ground" suggest that the dichotomy between theory and practice is artificial and social work curricula need to ensure a meaningful and dynamic synthesis between both elements.
- The global definition, the statement of ethical principle and policies developed by the global profession are the main pillars for the development of social work education.

Read the full report presented to the General Meeting 2018 in Dublin [here](#).

Indigenous Committee

In December the Secretary-General met with the Aotearoa New Zealand Coordinating Body to support plans to establish regional representatives to the Committee, terms of reference and objectives.

Global Secretariat Staffing

The lack of resources to support staffing in the global secretariat has been an ongoing challenge for the Federation. Past Executive committees have considered there should be seven full time positions to meet the requirements of work expectations. Due to lack of funds however, there have been fluctuations in paid staffing which have included one fulltime staff member with no additional staff for a period of 1 year; and over the last 3 years additionally the employment of a further staff member for 15 hours per-week. Recognising the successful increasing of budget and surpluses in recent years, the Executive in 2018 agreed to employ an additional contractor to work alongside the one fulltime and 15 hours per week roles. In December 2018 the Executive further ratified a proposal to increase staffing levels to a full-time Secretary-General, and two four-days per week positions, an Operations Manager and a Relationships Manager. The increase in staffing capacity will take effect in January 2019. Volunteer roles for specific projects and the volunteer contribution of staff over their paid roles has enabled the Secretariat to function and the new arrangements will enable the Secretariat to be more sustainable and increase its outputs.

Registration in Swiss Canton (province) Aargau



Figure 11: City of Rheinfelden, Switzerland: the new headquarters of IFSW

In 2018, the Secretariat has successfully re-registered IFSW as an NGO in the Canton of Aargau. Due to administrative and legal requirements, but also changes in the constitution of the executive, this process took almost two years to complete. The registered address of IFSW is Maiengässli 4, 4310 Rheinfelden, Switzerland, and the officially assigned charity number CHE-109.240.290.

Archives



Figure 12: Fiona Robertson, IFSW Archivist

IFSW archivist Fiona Robertson spend two weeks at the Secretariat in 2018 continuing the preserving and digitisation of the files that date back 90 years.

Friends

Under the guidance of Fiona Robertson in the role of IFSW Friends Co-ordinator, the Federation has been able to maintain and consistently improve the Friends Programme. As a part of the Website and technology review and investment in 2018 the friends programme will be supported by better electronic infrastructure in 2019. Read Fiona Robertson's report to the 2018 General Meeting [here](#).

Website

The [new website](#) has been launched during the 2018.

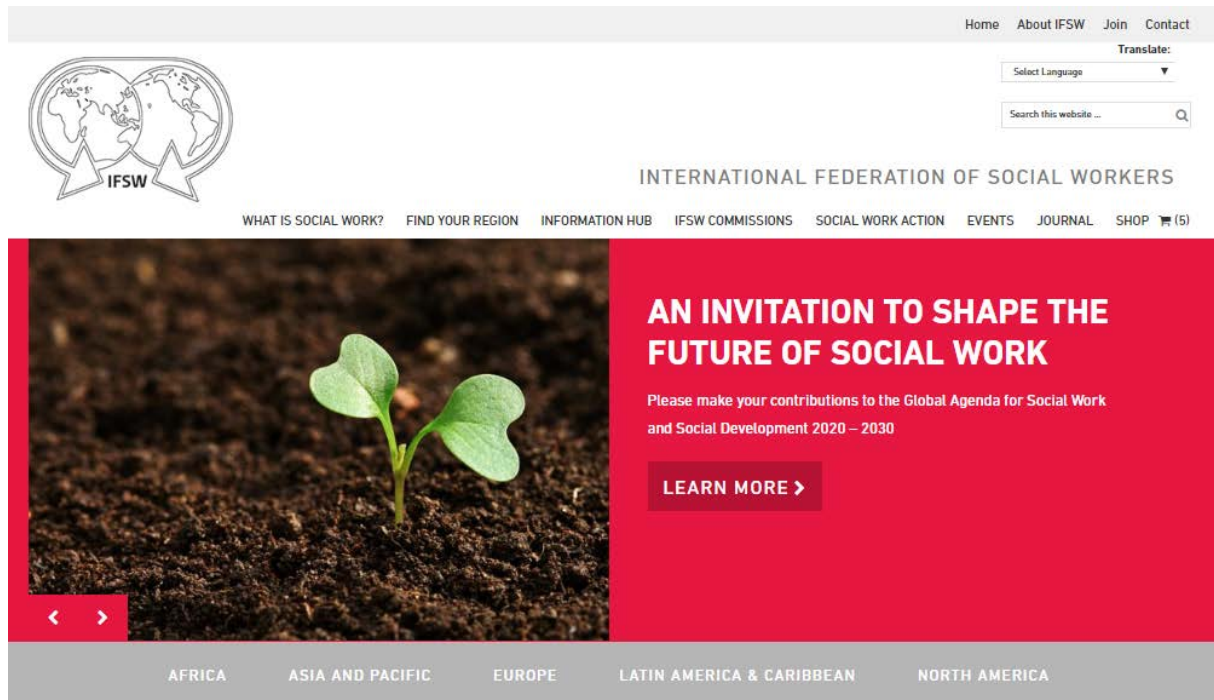


Figure 13: New IFSW Website (2018)

The aims for the new site were to ensure that its images and content reflected social work experience throughout the world and that it was user-friendly in every language and for all people. A further aim was to create an Information Hub that makes content easier to search by information type, topic, region and country. The new site also has micro-sites dedicated to each region so that the five IFSW regions can build their own profiles and provide information that is relevant to the social workers and others in their geographical areas. In addition, the new site has an events calendar and an expandable news section so that all people can access the latest information from the first page.

Membership Management



Figure 14: World Map Indicating IFSW Member organisations

As part of the new website, IFSW has also implemented a membership management system. The new website therefore comes with a new membership directory so that people can search for the IFSW member organisations, learn about them and obtain their contact information. Furthermore, IFSW Friends and member organisations will have log-on access to their dedicated space so that they can update their information as required, pay their dues and download their certificates of membership. The system will be fully operational from 1 January 2019.