



IFSW ETHICS COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

July 2, 2020

Submitted by Dawn M. Hobdy, Global Ethics Commissioner

The ethics commission experienced a productive year. Since the approval of Global Social Work Statement of Ethical Principles approved in 2018, the committee has been busy promoting the Principles thought the regions. Group efforts for the year include:

- Designing a logo for the commission
- 4 skype meetings
- Participation in the COVID 19 survey

Activities by region include:

North American Region/Global Ethics Commissioner Activities

- Presentation: July 2020 -IFSW Conference - International Social Work Practice: Ethical Issues and Responses
- Research: June 2020 - The IFSW Ethics Commission has formed a partnership with the Social Work Ethics Research Group (SWERG) to undertake rapid research on the ethical dilemmas that social workers are experiencing globally when responding to the COVID-19 crisis. The report from the research will be presented at the online IFSW Global Conference on Saturday 18th July.
- Presentation: June 2020 – NASW National conference virtual presentation: Hot Topics in Social Work Ethics: An Exploration of Common Ethical Dilemmas and Opportunities – reviewed the Statement of Ethical Principles.
- Panelist: June 2020 - IFSW Africa Region webinar conversation: Say No to Racism
- Panelist: May 2020 – Participated in an IFSW webinar: IFSW & SWAN webinar Ethical Challenges for SW during COVID 19 Pandemic
- Meeting: March 2020 – met with Brian Auslander of the Israel region to assist with resolving the current sanction
- Presentation: October 2019 - CSWE presentation Ethics in International Social Work Practice: Preparing Students

- Webinar: April 2019 - Webinar with Vishanthie Sewpaul: Implementing a global code of ethics to ensure professional standards for the Global Social Service Workforce Alliance
- Meetings: Participated in several skype meetings regarding the Israel Union sanction
- Reviews: Reviewed Codes of Ethics including Mexico, Congo, Jordan, Togo and others

Goals for the next two years include:

- AN NASW webinar on International Social Work and Ethical Principles
- Paper developed by the ethics commission
- Continued reviews of country Codes of Ethics
- Addressing Racism and Ethics
- Developing tips on how to manage post COVID 19

Europe Region

- In May / June 2019 a survey was sent to members in the European Region asking for evidence of how the IFSW Principles were being used in practice and whether Codes of Ethics had been updated since 2018.
- The findings were presented and further debated at the IFSWE delegates meeting in Austria, followed up by a workshop at the IFSWE Conference.
- The UK BASW Code of Ethics was also updated as were many in the European region.
- An abstract was submitted from the Ethics Commission in October 2019 for the Global Conference and accepted.
- BASW hosted an online meeting in April 2020 for IFSWE members and their delegates.
- IFSW Ethics Commission joined with the Social Work Ethics Research group to carry out a global survey on the impact of COVID-19 on social workers' ethical dilemmas and decision-making.
- The report from the research will be presented at the online IFSW Global Conference on Saturday 18th July.

Planning for the next two years will focus on the publication of an article in an International Journal and further work on developing resources, including continuing professional development practice guides, on ethical decision-making for social workers

African Region

- WhatsApp group on AR Ethics Commission is currently running as a platform for AR Commissioner to meet and interact with national associations presidents and secretaries on the activities of the Ethics Commission.
- Report on the activities of the ethics commission was presented to the executive meeting of the AR at Kampala, Uganda during the 2019 IFSW AR conference.
- The template for the dissemination of ethical principles was distributed through the national associations' contacts email addresses and the WhatsApp group platform.

- AR ethics Commissioner was one of the speakers at a webinar on COVID-19 AFRICA: ETHICAL DILEMMAS AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS.
- AR ethics Commissioner also made a statement to the IFSW AR Facebook page on covid-19 response and African Youth social workers WhatsApp group platform (a platform opened to actualize the decisions taken at the 2019 AR regional conference on social work students and youths.)
- Challenge:
 - Response to information shared to national associations were not encouraging. Only two countries responded to the template shared on statement of ethical principles
- Achievement:
 - Support and Cooperation from the IFSW AR executive committee to the AR Commissioner was encouraging.
 - Planning for the next two years:
 - There is need to build the capacity of members countries on the importance of ethics/ ethical principles in the workplace and amongst the students.
 - A sponsored physical workshop needs to be organized in a country and the recorded video shared to national associations and social work institutions.

Asian Pacific and Latin American Regions

I did not receive a report from the Asian Pacific nor the Latin American region, however, I am aware of their hard work and efforts to promote the Statement including presenting at conferences, developing templates for teaching the Principles, working with agencies to promote social work ethics, etc.

North American Region Ethics Commissioner Recommendation

We do not currently have a North American Region Commissioner. I would like to recommend Kim Strom. She has an extensive history of commitment to ethics in the North American region. She has published many books and received an Excellence in Ethics award from the National Association of Social Workers in 2015. She currently serves as the Director of UNC Office of Ethics Education and Policy Management, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina and the Smith P. Theimann Jr. Distinguished Professor of Ethics and Professional Practice, School of Social Work, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina. She also works with The Social Work Ethics Research Group and helped to develop the recent survey on COVID 19. Her resume was submitted to Rory in a separate email. Thank you.