



Report of IFSW Global Ethics Commission 2021

This report covers the period ***January 2021 – December 2021***.

The report provides a summary of the activities of the Commission and is structured into three sections:

1. Activities in 2021
2. Workplans for 2022
3. Acknowledgements and Changes in Commissioners.

1. Activities 2021.

1.1 Governance

Global Ethics Commission approved the Codes of Ethics for the Barbados Association of Professional Social Workers; The Association of Social Workers in Gambia and the Suriname Association of Social Workers.

1.2 Research

In partnership with the Social Work Ethics Research Group (SWERG) and IFSW central office, members of the Commission carried out a global survey of ethical challenges facing social workers during the early stages of the COVID pandemic.

1.3 Publications

A number of publications have been produced as a result of the research activity including an academic article; reports; practice guide and continuing professional development resources.

1.4 Presentations

Members of the Commission participated in a range of presentations including webinars, seminars, IFSW regional conferences and media events, across different stakeholder communities. The Commissioners made use of different digital platforms to carry out sessions to both disseminate to, and learn from social worker practitioners, about how they apply the statements of ethical principles in their work, especially during such challenging times of service delivery.

2. Workplans for 2022

2.1 Commission meetings

The Commission aims to meet quarterly in 2022.

2.2 Co-production with colleagues

The Global Ethics Commissioners are eagerly anticipating the opportunities available to continue to work with the SWERG, as well as identifying where activities can be co-produced with other IFSW Commissions. This will be discussed at the next joint meeting on 25.1.22.

2.3 Research

Building on previous research activity, a draft proposal for a 'phase 2' has been developed and a small amount of funding secured to support a research assistant. The Commissioners are committed to involving practitioners in scientific conversations and practitioner research activity on professional ethics.

2.4 Publications

Based on the finding of the research there will be opportunities to develop publications and resources. This may take the form of a research and resource repository on the IFSW website and/or a special edition of the International Journal of Social Work Ethics and Values. Input into the editorial board by IFSW Commissioners will facilitate these discussions.

2.5 Presentations

Commissioners will continue to seek out national, regional and global opportunities to disseminate IFSW's and the Commission's work across the social work community.

3. Acknowledgements and Changes in Commissioners.

Thank you to Teoh Al Hua who has stepped down as regional commissioner for IFSW Asia Pacific and to Olu Jacob who has served as the IFSW African regional commissioner. Welcome to Stephano Akuzike Joseph (Africa), and Asia Pacific regional support representatives, Sukrita Basnet and Yvonne Crighton-Hill. Welcome also to Kim Strom, who joins the commission as the North American commissioner. Sincere thanks to Dawn Hobdy for her leadership and commitment to the Commission. She stepped down as Global Commissioner in December 2021.

Hassan Mousavi Chelak (Asia Pacific) and Jane Shears (Europe) will act as Co-Commissioners until a substantive replacement is appointed by the IFSW Executive.

Report prepared on behalf of the Global Ethics Commission by Jane Shears and Hassan Chelak.

10.1.22