



International Federation of Social Workers Latin America and the Caribbean Region



April 28, 2022

I. Member Countries:

1. Argentina
2. Barbados
3. Brazil
4. Chile
5. Colombia
6. Costa Rica
7. Cuba
8. El Salvador
9. Haití
10. Grenada
11. México
12. Nicaragua
13. Panamá
14. Paraguay
15. Perú
16. Puerto Rico
17. Dominican Republic
18. Uruguay
19. Suriname

II. Board of Directors:

- a. Larry Emil Alicea-Rodríguez – Puerto Rico – President.
- b. Tânia Maria Ramos de Godoi Diniz – Brazil – Vice President.
- c. Commissioners:
 - i. Jenny Linares – Perú– Indigenous Commission
 - ii. Kenia Batista – Panamá – Ethics Commission
 - iii. Alicia Yáñez - Chile – UN Santiago Representative
 - iv. Iván De Jesús – Puerto Rico – Global Agenda Coordinator
 - v. Marinilda Rivera – Puerto Rico – Interim Education Commission
 - vi. Norma Angélica Gómez Ríos – México - Human Rights Commission

III. Report on member countries:

- During the pandemic, the School of Puerto Rico initiated and led more than 100 government organisations and NGOs in what it called the "People's Social Task Force",



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denouncing the need to work with social issues such as food, security, protection, domestic violence, education, among others. It also continued with pronouncements, for organisational support and in matters of human rights and social justice, as well as the recognition of Social Work as an essential profession in response to socio-environmental crises.

- The **Nicaragua** Association promoted the strengthening of trade union relations in the Central America and Mesoamerican region, searching for the exchange of experiences and the development of specific binational, trilateral or regional projects.
- In **México**, the Federation continues to work towards the national social work law, based on the analysis of state laws, with the support of IFSW LAC.
- **El Salvador** Association seeks to finalise the Social Work Law project and achieve the approval of the Law.
- The **Uruguay** Association Uruguay partnered with the University of the Republic (Faculty of Social Sciences / Department of Social Work) for the Latin American Association for Teaching and Research in Social Work ([ALAEITS](#)) 23rd Seminar, which will take place on November 21, 22 and 23, 2022, in the city of Montevideo, Uruguay.
- In **Brazil**, the government promotes destruction, placing the burden on the workers, and persecution of those who denounce and protest such situations. Public University, scientific research, culture, are all under threat. Still, actions in favour of human diversity are being taken: the Council fights daily for funds for health, education, social assistance, guaranteed income, the right to quarantine, job protection and security, housing and stability.
- The **Chile** Association is working to achieve the formulation and approval of the Social Work Law.
- The **Paraguay** Association has issued public statements denouncing the violation of the rights of indigenous peoples who are being violently expelled from their ancestral territories by large landowners, soy farmers and cattle ranchers, who, under the protection of the government, force these communities to move to areas that are unsuitable for their way of life, many of them even going to the capital to live and beg in the streets. They have established the commission for indigenous affairs and human rights in the union and are taking a position against the expulsion of the peoples from their lands. They are also addressing the deprofessionalisation and psychologisation of social problems.
- The **Granada** Association advocated for recognition of social workers as professionals: the pandemic has shown that it is an essential service, albeit with limited resources. Structured policies and procedures were implemented, mainly to deal with an increase in the abuse of very young children by men aged 50 and over. The Association is currently in the process of developing a code of ethics and closer links with social work education.
- The **Costa Rica** Association is discussing the law. At the moment, the project continues in the Social Affairs Commission and is waiting for it to have all the technical-legislative elements to advance to the plenary between January and April 2022. On July 19, 2021, the new COLTRAS Code of Ethics was published in the official newspaper La Gaceta N°138 and fully effective by August 19, 2021.
- The **Panama** Association is discussing the deprofessionalisation of social workers.



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- The School of **Perú** is also against deprofessionalisation and the replacement of social workers by nurses. They have Law 30112, the Law on the Professional Practice of Social Work, but the regulations have not been implemented. They are working on it, despite institutional weaknesses that caused rejection from other groups and labour sectors who do not feel included in this law.
- The **Suriname** Association reached out to IFSW, looking for strengthening strategies in the region despite the language barrier.
- The **Dominican Republic** Association changed its board of directors in 2020 with a strategic work plan to boost the dissemination of the profession's importance for the country's public policies' application.

IV. Report on activities and general achievements during the period in the Region:

- Attendance at six Global Executive online meetings.
- July 31st, 2021. Celebration of online Regional Meeting, with the presence of the commissions and member countries.
- International forum on Social Work as an Essential Service in Perú.
- Support to El Salvador in defence of Social Work's professional spheres, surveillance faculties and professional identities within the Social Sciences.
- *Challenges of Social Work in Latin America and the application of the Regulation of Law 6220/ 19* forum in Paraguay .
- Support for social workers and the Panamá Association in their claims in the context of COVID 19.
- International Conversation in the context of the National Social Work Day in México, in regards to *Strengthening Human Relations in the Union Organization*.
- Participation of the Region in the Colombian Federation of Social Workers (FECTS) online forum regarding *The union organisation in Social Work and the professional challenges of the 2030 Agenda*.
- Celebration of the Puerto Rico's School 80th anniversary and the 25th anniversary of La Guajira's University Social Work Program.
- Indigenous Commissioner of the Region (Perú) participated in the Colombian forum *Ethnic World and cultural relevance of indigenous peoples and agriculture: Latin American and National Context*.
- Panamá Association webinar on the *Role of Social Workers in Intervention with Children and Adolescents*.
- *The Law of professional practice in the framework of an ethical-political project* forum in El Salvador.
- University of Santo Tomás de Chile Conference on the 2020-2030 Global Agenda.
- Uruguay Association *XIII National Congress of Social Work. Professional regulation is Law: Challenges and Perspectives of Social Work in Uruguay today*.
- Grenada Association seminar *Ubuntu: I am because We are – Strengthening Social Solidarity and Global Connectedness*.



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- Network for the Rights of Children and Youth forum on reparative therapies and children's rights.
- Panamá *Social Work's contribution forum in the midst of the pandemic* forum.
- El Salvador *National and International Congress of Social Work*.
- Work regarding the ethical guidelines of Covid-19.
- Dissemination of the World Health Organisation's recognition of Social Work as a health profession.
- Participation in global survey on working conditions (Dr Esterla Barreto (PR) and Dr Tânia Diniz (BR)).
- Dissemination of countries' activities on World Social Work Day
- Letters and videos for National Social Work Days and World Social Work Day.
- University of Mar del Plata (Buenos Aires, Argentina) *Ubuntu and Global Agenda* forum / Celebration of the World Social Work Day.
- Support for 8M and for the 16 days of activism against gender violence.
- Support for Chile in its opposition to the Mental Health Law.
- Statement and call to action in the face of the repression of protests and murders in Colombia
- Comprehensive Committee for the New CPTSPR bill in Puerto Rico
- IFSW-CLACSO partnership.
- Declaration of World Social Work Day 2022, calling on Social Work education and professional groups.

1. Highlighting the environmental issue as a topic of discussion, in line with Social Work's ethical-political principles and actions.

2. Denouncing all the depraving practices of the capitalist system that promote the precariousness of our peoples.

3. Supporting movements, social projects and political movements in favour of inclusion and social development, with respect for Mother Earth and the equitable distribution of social resources.

4. Promoting and participating in public policies of solidarity that promote buen vivir and freedom of individuals and peoples.

5. Promoting eco-social awareness in our different actions and professional practices with people, groups, families, communities and organisations.

6. Developing the environmental issue as an essential and transversal aspect in Social Work education.

- The Human Rights Commissioner for the Latin American and Caribbean Region (México) sought to build bridges of trust, through dialogue, to support social processes and the strengthening of democracy. As an ethical-political exercise of the profession, the LAC region emphasized those human rights that are most frequently violated.
- Support and dissemination of a statement from the Association of Uruguay expressing its deep concern about the gradual dismantling of the social protection matrix -social policies, plans, programs and services- responsible for the support of most vulnerable sectors.



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- The LAC Indigenous Commissioner is working with the Shipibo Conibo community (residing in San Juan de Lurigancho, Lima, Perú) to establish ties of integration for the dissemination of indigenous culture, art, music, and everything ancestral, as well as having an exhibition space for their products.
- Support unions in the development of Social Work laws in countries where they do not exist.
- Support and strengthening of Social Work against deprofessionalisation and the precariousness of working conditions.
- Articulation between associations and academia.

Submitted by:

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