



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS/

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GLOBAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

GENERAL REPORT ON ACTIVITIES DURING 2021-2022 AND 2022-2023 GOALS

Respect for human rights is central to social work and the key motivation behind the creation of the Human Rights Commission. The Commission, with its regional representatives, monitors and protects, to the extent possible, the rights of social workers who may be in jeopardy for supporting vulnerable populations or individuals. The Commission is also concerned with promoting human rights around the world, particularly in situations where social workers may already be involved in advocating for the rights of people facing discrimination or marginalisation.

GLOBAL COMMISSIONER: Xanthis Suárez García (From June 15, 2021 to date)

Colleen Lundy (Until February 2021)

REGIONAL COMMISSIONERS AND COMMISSIONERS:

AFRICA REGION: Adetoun Oreoluwa Ogedengbe / Kgomotso Jongmanel

ASIA-PACIFIC REGION: Raed Amira / Luis Arévalo (until March 2022)

EUROPE REGION: Marcin Boryczko

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN REGION: Norma Angélica Gómez Ríos (As of July 31, 2021)

NORTH AMERICAN REGION: Mark Lusk

GLOBAL CONTEXT AND ACTIONS 2021-2022

The IFSW/FITS Global Commission on Human Rights, during 2021 and so far in 2022, developed and develops its work in a complex context of multiple socio-political and war crises in different regions of the world, aggravated by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the consequences of the war against Ukraine. In the case of the pandemic, the inequities, human rights violations and the appearance of new rights have been revealed, which demand the attention of both those who define and those who execute social and protection policies for the populations and, above all, above all, to the sectors with the highest degrees of insecurity and poverty. Meanwhile, the war unleashed against Ukraine, as of February 24, 2022, involves hundreds of social workers as victims of the conflict as equals, in their capacity as practicing professionals caring for the victims of the war. Another concern and concern of this Commission are the events between Israel and Palestine, as well as the serious situation of forced and irregular migration and its consequences.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, which shows different levels of development, showed marked attention and interest from associations and organizations affiliated to the IFSW, especially in 2020 and 2021, for the development of activities that respond and respond to carrying out actions to find answers regarding issues of vulnerability to

the pandemic, both at the biosafety level, in unequal access to vaccines, ethical dilemmas and defense of professional and salary status, as well as that of forced migration and displacement, the effects of natural disasters, violence against women, children and other sectors such as indigenous populations, Afro-descendants and sexual diversity, as well as the consequences of sexual and commercial exploitation, discrimination based on gender; the problems represented by historical territorial disputes and the new problems generated by geopolitical reasons, nationalism, democratic fragilities, corruption and the effects of organized crime with all its manifestations, to a greater or lesser extent and according to the regions and countries. This Commission was aware of the activities promoted and multiple forms of action by social workers, together with the populations in mobilizations and demonstrations of protest and/or rejection, considering that there were and are, injuries to the consecrated human rights, being opportune moments of demonstration, World Social Work Day celebrations.

Examples of actions are those that occurred within the framework of the 16 days of activism against Gender Violence, or in the case of Africa, that supported press releases about the White Paper Report on the Lekki toll gate massacre. in Nigeria; They had extensive participation in the commemoration of the International Human Rights Day, in the World Social Work Day, International Women's Day or the Day of Persons with Disabilities. Both the Global Commissioner and the Regional Commissioners participated in virtual activities and in other cases, face-to-face, organized by their national and local associations and/or in regional events.

Of concern and special attention in the period, it is the alarming and continuous and accentuated increase in Islamophobia throughout the world, and according to surveys, the rates of mistrust towards the Muslim population exceeds 40%60%. The Commission issued a statement at the beginning of February 2021, in which it expresses its condemnation of all forms of discrimination and persecution against Muslims and asks that all organizations and governments in the world join the fight to put an end to this behavior. abhorrent.

Particular concern about recent developments in Afghanistan is worth mentioning.

The IFSW Human Rights Commission, through a statement from the Asia Pacific Region, condemned the military coup in Myanmar, which took place on February 1, 2021, in which the army of that country took power declaring a state of emergency for One year, he arrested Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi and dozens of senior National League for Democracy (NLD) officials, artists and journalists. IFSW Asia-Pacific, expressed support for the brave people of Myanmar, in their struggle for democracy, for the social workers of that country and called on all nations, urgent and active support for the transition back to democracy in said country. country.

The Palestinian-Israel conflict continues to be very sensitive, on which the IFSW/FITS has a public position, and which in May 2021, the Commission took up in view of the events that have occurred and continue to occur in the area. One of the Federation's Regional Human Rights Commissioners was even directly affected, along with his family, for

what will continue to be this and others in the region, of attention and monitoring by the Commission in 2022. The Commission pays special attention to this situation.

The refugee crisis on the borders of Belarus and Poland was also the reason for a special statement by the Human Rights Commission, Europe Region, issued on November 16, 2021, which draws attention to the violation of human rights and conventions signed by the Polish government, such as the European Convention on Human Rights, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. In the wake of the war in Ukraine, the Regional Human Rights Commissioner for Europe has taken a leading role in seeking solidarity with social workers in Ukraine and with the full support of IFSW.

In another order, the IFSW Rights Commission, in a statement issued on February 22, 2021, highlighted its concerns for LGBTQI people, calling on both civil society and representative leaders of all nations, to adhere to these principles, publicly condemn these injustices and move forward in a more inclusive way.

The situation of violations of Human Rights, due to the excessive use of force, in Colombia, is in force despite 30 years of the signing of the Peace Agreements, which led to an appeal from the President of the IFSW on the situation of the President of the IFSW and then, the Global Commissioner has learned about the position of the Colombian Federation of Social Workers. Other notable events are those that take place in Nicaragua, about which there are convincing reports from the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and other international human rights organizations, which are rejected by the Nicaraguan government.

Affiliated members of the IFSW/FITS in Latin America and the Caribbean, emphasized those human rights most violated as part of the "exercise of political ethics of the profession, in the face of the existence of dictatorships and non-democratic, colonialist and patriarchal governments with little respect for diversity. cultural, ethnic and sexualities and countries of the Latin American region", as indicated by a statement from the Latin American and Caribbean region, which did not escape social outbursts due to the lack of basic guarantees of rights, dissatisfaction of elementary needs for coexistence and human life , a situation aggravated by the pandemic. The migratory caravans are a reflection of the crisis in various countries of the region, mainly in Central America and the Caribbean, Andean countries and Africa, which is of constant concern to this Commission, given how serious this migratory reality has become. , by identifying multiple forms of human rights violations, especially in the cases of unaccompanied migrant children on the US-Mexico borders.

From the North American Region, it has contributed to preparing a declaration on World Refugee Day and will organize a webinar on migrant children.

In January 2022, a statement was issued on the *State of human rights in the Africa region*, at the region's own initiative in expressing concern about

the recurring cases of xenophobia in South Africa; the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon, the reduction of civic space in Ethiopia which increases cases of banditry and extrajudicial executions; Nigerian Boko Haram terrorism and banditry cases; the consequences of the coup in Burkina Faso and the continuation of the civil war in Ethiopia, Tigray region.

The IFSW/FITS Human Rights Commission, in its complex and arduous mission, continues in a process of reviewing what has been done in the last three years in which around 40 or more, declarations, pronouncements, documents with human rights issues, have been issued from different levels, just as there are issues in other commissions and bodies of the IFSW, which must be reviewed and updated in accordance with the resolutions and recommendations of the last general assembly, held in 2020 and taking into account the adjustments required by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the sociopolitical and war contexts that occur in the different regions.

ACTIVITIES AND KEY EVENTS PLANNED FOR 2022 AND FORECASTS FOR 2023

The IFSW/FITS Global Commission on Human Rights, during 2021, experienced changes in the middle of the year, in the positions of Global Commissioner and Regional Commissioner for Latin America and the Caribbean; held four virtual meetings (January 28, May 25, July 29 and December 6, 2021) and at the level of its Global Commissioner, it participated in two remote meetings with the Secretary General and other global commissioners (July 20 and October 5, 2021). So far in 2022, the Global Commission has had virtual meetings (February 2, March 3 and April 5) and two meetings with the General Secretariat). During the transition period in the coordination of the Global Commission, the support of the IFSW/IFS General Secretary has been vital; IFSW global operating regulations have been analyzed and the duties and responsibilities of the Commission have been reviewed, as well as important dates related to both global and international human rights have been taken into account and the global messages issued by the management levels and others have been considered. IFSW/FITS commissions. On May 5, 2022, a first workshop is held to delve into organizational aspects for the strengthening of the Commission and the collective preparation of its work plan.

As we reported at the end of 2021, and we resume today, the Commission intends to establish joint work, with a systemic vision, considering that the mandates, in addition to being voluntary, must be complementary, in effective solidarity, with simultaneous actions that allow increasing the impact that corresponds to have and grow in training and updating opportunities, in social research and the dissemination of their work, remembering that the intangible becomes an adversary of good purpose in the face of the majority of social workers, who will always demand more action, more concreteness and better results for himself and for the community.

The 2022-2023 period will be to identify, ways and methods, in which there will be follow-up and intervention given the breadth that Human Rights represent, which in turn become the transversal axis and backbone of our work as Labor professionals. Social. Progress will be made in defining the set of principles, guidelines and elements

what, as a Commission, based on our powers and mandates, should be taken into account for timely and accurate action, especially in those conflict situations that transcend the powers of the Commission. Guidelines for action will be defined and recommended to take into account when developing actions in case they consider it necessary in each of the regions and/or recommend intervention by the Global Commissioner or main authorities. It will be very important to establish a roadmap for the documentation and monitoring of cases of human rights violations of our member organizations and their affiliates, as necessary.

Given the realities seen, it will be imperative to generate strategic alliances with respect to the denunciation, pronouncements and local, regional and international actions to maintain the strength of the collective work created through axes that allow promoting action where it remains in force, the UBUNTU , “I am because we are”, a motto adopted by the IFSW.

We insist in this report, as we have expressed in meetings of Global Commissioners from other areas, that it is very important to articulate strategic action between the Global Commissions on Human Rights, Education, Ethics and Indigenous Peoples, and with special interest with the Human Rights Commission. United Nations, whose work and reports will be followed up, as well as the regional commissions of the existing integration bodies. The Commission will continue to carefully analyze the work and reports of the specialized human rights organizations at the United Nations level, International and Inter-American and will participate in some of their informative or training activities.

By 2022, the Commission intends to hold at least four regular meetings for organizational information, training and positioning and advocacy on issues within its competence, after carrying out a diagnosis on the thematic and organizational positioning of human rights, as well as participating IFSW/FITS global and regional events. Bimonthly bilateral meetings have been established between the Global Commissioner and the Regional Commissioners, with the purpose of following up on the specific actions by region and supporting the process of organization and corresponding action of their work to the extent possible and as requested. .

As a general result of the first round of bilateral meetings, held between March and April 2022, we can report that it was possible to hold five bilateral meetings in which the first results reveal that there is an uneven development in the exercise of the understanding of the role that to the regional commissioners for the exercise of their functions and in some cases, without clarity about the scope of their work in relation to the Executive of the IFSW or regional presidencies. We will advance in the precision of this aspect.

It reflects what was discussed in the first bilateral round, that concerns about the war in Russia against Ukraine, focus the attention of many of the European organizations and other continents, overcoming the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, as they also continue to be, specific cases in Latin America and the Caribbean, due to the fragile democracies and their impact; the migration issue, violence against women and girls, especially,

what are situated as cross-cutting issues to the work of the IFSW, as well as socio-political violence, trafficking, migrations, violence against children, deprofessionalization due to lack of adequate legal frameworks, femicides, forced disappearances, violence against peoples indigenous, situation of penitentiary systems and others. The effects and violations of the human rights of social workers, -except when it comes to deprofessionalization-, we insist must begin to be documented.

In all cases, there is agreement on the importance of fine-tuning the Commission's work processes in order to have timely pronouncements or communications, as well as in the follow-up and identification of human rights violations of professionals of the Social work. There is an agreement to continue holding the bilateral meetings every two months and to carry out the activities to specify the procedures that result in a better work of the commission.

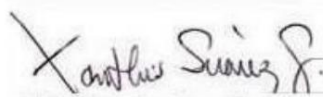
In the context of the so-called "triple planetary crisis", as the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has called it, the Commission will maintain the focus of attention and continue to deepen its analysis and understanding of the participation of social work in situations of war and conflicts, as well as in post-war times and peacebuilding, on the impact of climate change, pollution and environmental losses on human rights, especially the rights to adequate food, water, education, housing, health and development, discrimination, systemic racism, xenophobia, misogyny, hate conspiracies, white supremacy, neo-Nazi ideologies, modern slavery and other manifestations that violate the human rights of populations.

The Commission will promote at least one global virtual event on human rights in 2022 and will support the organization of programs and actions to promote awareness of human rights; It will promote bi-regional and inter-institutional collaboration between IFSW/FITS members and other governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, with the aim of efficiently processing cases and/or finding an echo in complaints of human rights violations. For this, it will be necessary to create and strengthen the capacities of the Commissioners, Commissioners and those in charge of Human Rights in each of the six geopolitical zones, promoting and developing virtual and face-to-face training and training activities or combined modality. In addition, the advisability of proposing the designation of support teams and/or the appointment of one to two more commissioners per region will be reviewed, according to the number of countries to be served.

In the period 2022 and 2023, new declarations will be worked on the issues that concern us, it will be necessary to deepen through training actions on different and urgent issues, such as situations of Migration and forced displacement and others that derive from the preliminary diagnosis to be carried out. Special relevance, charged in 2022, to document the violations of the human rights of social workers, individually and their organizations, as well as merit follow-up, the condition and situation of professionals already retired for reasons of age or health.

The Commission will pay attention to the socio-labor conditions of a significant sample of the union, taking into account that there are signs of deprofessionalization in some countries and sectors; It will be important for the fulfillment of these purposes to hold exchanges with Schools of Social Work and other related entities, as well as to analyze the results of studies carried out by other instances and initiatives of the IFSW.

Our thanks to the Executive Committee, General Secretariat, all the IFSW Regional Commissioners for Human Rights, for their trust and contributions to the fulfillment of the powers of the Global Commission on Human Rights.



Xanthis Suarez Garcia

Global Human Rights Commissioner IFSW

April 2022