



International Federation of Social Work 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. Haiti
10. Grenada
11. Mexico
12. Nicaragua
13. Panama
14. Paraguay
15. Peru
16. Puerto Rico
17. Dominican Republic
18. Uruguay
19. Suriname

II. Board of Directors:

- a. Larry Emil Alicea – Puerto Rico – President
- b. Tania Ramos – Brazil – Vice President
- c. Commissioners
 - i. Jenny Linares – Peru – Original Peoples Commission
 - ii. Kenya Batista – Panama – Ethics Commission
 - iii. Alicia Yáñez - Chile – Representative at UN Santiago
 - iv. Iván De Jesús – Puerto Rico – Global Agenda Coordinator
 - v. Marinilda Rivera – Puerto Rico – Interim Education Commission
 - vi. Norma Angélica Gómez Ríos – Mexico - Human Rights Commission

III. Report on member countries:

- During the pandemic, the College of **Puerto Rico** initiated and led the organization of more than 100 government organizations and NGOs in what it called the “Social Task Force of the



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People” denouncing the need to work with social issues such as food, security, protection, domestic violence, education, among others. It also continued with the Pronouncements aligned to organizational support and in matters of human rights, social justice, as well as the recognition of social work as essential to recognize itself as an initial response profession in the midst of socio-environmental crises.

- The Association, in **Nicaragua** , promoted the strengthening of trade union relations in the SICA and Mesoamerican region, in search of the exchange of experiences and the development of specific binational, trinational or regional projects.
- In **Mexico**, the Federation works towards the national social work law, from the analysis of state laws, with the support of IFSW ALC.
- The Association in **El Salvador** seeks to finalize the Social Work Law project and achieve the approval of the Law.
- The Association in **Uruguay** is integrating spaces with the University of the Republic – Faculty of Social Sciences / Department of Social Work, forming the team for the ALAEITS meeting that will carry out the 23rd Seminar of the Latin American Association of Teaching and Research in Social Work (ALAEITS), which will take place on 21, 22 and November 23, 2022, in the city of Montevideo, Uruguay.
- In **Brazil**, the government promotes destruction, transferring the burden to the workers and also the persecution of those who denounce and protest these situations. The public University, scientific research, culture are under actions to destroy, but actions in favor of human diversity have been carried out and the Council fights daily, for funds for health, education, social assistance, for guarantee of income, for the right to quarantine, for job protection and security, for housing and job stability.
- In **Chile**, the Association is working to achieve the formulation and approval of the Law of Social work.
- The Association, in **Paraguay** , has made public statements, denouncing the violation of the rights of the Original Peoples who are being violently expelled from their ancestral territories, by the large landowners, soy farmers and ranchers, who, protected by the government, force these communities to move to spaces that are not suitable for their way of life, many of them even move to the capital to live in the squares and beg in the streets. He installed the commission for indigenous affairs and human rights in the union and is taking a position against the expulsion of the peoples from their lands. He is also discussing the deprofessionalization and psychologization of social problems.
- In **Granada**, the Association fought for the recognition of social workers as professionals, despite the fact that the pandemic has shown that it is an essential service, albeit with limited resources. And there was the implementation of structured policies and procedures, mainly because there was also an increase in the abuse of very young children by men over 50 years of age and older. The Association is currently in the process of developing a code of ethics and also developing closer links with social work education.



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- In **Costa Rica**, the College is discussing the law and for now 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 the months of January-April 2022. On July 19, 2021, the new COLTRAS Code of Ethics was published in the official newspaper La Gaceta No. 138, which acquired full citizenship on August 19, 2021.
- In **Panama**, the Association is discussing the deprofessionalization of social workers.
- The Colegio del **Perú** is also in the fight against deprofessionalization and the replacement of social workers by nurses. They have Law 30112 Law on the Professional Exercise of Social Work, the regulation was not executed and is working on it, but from an Association, which due to institutional weaknesses assumed it, also generating rejection from other groups and labor sectors, which are not feel included in this law.
- The **Suriname** Association made contact with IFSW looking for strategies for empowerment in the region despite the language barrier.
- The Association of the **Dominican Republic** changed its board of directors in 2020 and took charge with a strategic work plan with the intention of boosting the dissemination of the importance of the profession at all levels of the application of the country's public policies.

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

- Participation in 6 virtual meetings of the Global Executive.
- Realization of the virtual Regional Meeting with the presence of the member countries in 07/31/2021.
- Participation of the commissions in the meeting.
- International Forum on Social Work as an Essential Service in Peru. • Support to El Salvador in the defense of the professional spaces of Social Work, its vigilance faculties and professional identities within the Social Sciences.
- Participation in Forum: Challenges of Social Work in Latin America and the application of the Regulation of Law 6220/19 in Paraguay.
- Support for social workers and the Panamanian Association in their claims in the context of COVID 19.
- Support and participation in the International Conversation in the context of the National Day of Social Work in Mexico under the theme Strengthening Human Relations in the Union Organization.
- Participation of the Region in the Virtual Forum of the Colombian Federation of Social Workers FECTS under the theme: The union organization in social work and the professional challenges of the 2030 agenda.
- Participation in the activities to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the College in Puerto Rich.



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- Commissioners participated in the 25 years of the Social Work Program in the University of Guajira. • Indigenous Commissioner of the Region (Peru) participated in the forum: Ethnic World and cultural relevance of indigenous peoples and agriculture: Latin American and National Context organized by the Colombian Federation.
- Commissioner participated in the Webinar on the Role of Social Workers in Intervention with Children and Adolescents organized by the Association of Social Workers of Panama.
- Participation in the Forum: The Law of professional practice in the framework of the ethical project politician in El Salvador.
- Participation in the Conference of the University of Santo Tomás de Chile on the Global Agenda 2020-2030.
- Participation in the XIII National Congress of Social Work Uruguay ADASU: Professional regulation is Law: Challenges and Perspectives of Social Work in Uruguay today.
- Participation in the Seminar "Ubuntu: I Am Because We are – Strengthening Social Solidarity and Global Connectedness" with the Social Work Association in Grenada.
- Participation in the Forum on reparative therapies and children's rights organized by the Network for the Rights of Children and Youth.
- Participation in the Social Work Forum in Panama under the theme "The Contribution of Social Work to the Population in the Face of the Pandemic"
- Participation in the National and International Congress of Social Work in El Salvador. • Work from the region to guarantee the ethical guidelines of Covid-19.
- Dissemination of the World Health Organization Recognition of Social Work as one of the professions that works in health.
- Participation in the interview for the study on working conditions at a global level (Dr. Esterla Barreto (PR) and Dr. Tânia Diniz (BR)).
- Celebration of the World Day with the University of Mar del Plata in Argentina with the Forum: Ubuntu and Global Agenda.
- Letters and videos for National Social Work Days and videos for World Social Work Day.
- Diffusion of activities of the countries on World Social Work Day.
- Support for 8m activities from our organizations.
- Support and dissemination for the 16 days of activism against gender violence. • Support for Chile in opposition to the Mental Health Law.
- Comunicqué on denunciation and call to action in the face of the repression of protests and murders in Colombia.
- Participation in the Broad Committee for the New Bill of the CPTSPR in Puerto Rich.
- FITS-CLACSO Regional and World Agreement.
- Declaration of the World Social Work Day 2022, with a call to the collectives professionals and spaces for training in social work:



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1. Locate the environmental issue as a topic of discussion associated with the ethical-political principles and actions of the profession.
 2. Denounce all the depraving practices of the capitalist system that promote the precariousness of our peoples.
 3. Accompany the movements, social projects and political movements that develop inclusion and social development projects based on respect for Mother Earth and the equitable distribution of social resources.
 4. Promote, manage and participate in public policies of solidarity that promote good living and freedom of individuals and peoples.
 5. Incorporate eco-social awareness in the different actions and professional practices with people, groups, families, communities and organizations.
 6. Develop the theme of the environmental issue as an essential and transversal aspect in the processes of professional training in social work.
- The Human Rights Commissioner for the Latin American and Caribbean Region (Mexico) sought to build bridges of trust, through dialogue, to accompany social processes and the strengthening of democracy. The LAC region emphasized the activities of those human rights that are most violated as an ethical-political exercise of the profession. • Support and dissemination of a statement from the Uruguayan Association expressing its deep concern about the changes that are taking place in social policies, which imply a gradual dismantling of the social protection matrix, linked to the closure and/or change in objectives of plans, programs and services that provided support to the sectors in situations of greater vulnerability.
 - The Commissioner for Native Peoples coordinated with the Shipibo Conibo community (indigenous community residing in San Juan de Lurigancho, Lima, Peru), in order to establish joint work from the institution, strengthening ties of integration for the dissemination of indigenous culture, the art, music, and everything ancestral, as well as having an exhibition space for the products they make from their culture.
 - Support and strengthening of unions in the development of social work laws in countries where they don't exist.
 - Support and strengthening of social work against deprofessionalization and the precariousness of working conditions.
 - Support and strengthening of the articulation between associations and academia.

Submitted by:

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