

## **Nigel Hall**

Nigel has represented the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) over 30 years in several capacities, and until 2018 was IFSW's global Human Rights Commissioner. He is also a member of the Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work (COSW).

Growing up in the colonial context of Rhodesia, Nigel completed a Sociology degree at the local multi-racial University. As the state became increasingly autocratic and racist, he left for political reasons, moving to the UK. He started his career in social work in local authority children and family services and qualified with a Master of Social Work degree at Southampton University.

Returning to live in the new Zimbabwe after Independence in 1983, Nigel worked at the University of Zimbabwe's School of Social Work for 15 years helping change the curriculum to reflect social development realities. As Director of Fieldwork, he was responsible for placing students who worked with refugees and poor urban and rural communities, also developing various field manuals for social work in an African context. As the Secretary for the National Association of Social Workers in Zimbabwe, he led on a six-year project to rebuild the Association with funding from organisations in Denmark.

Nigel was editor of the *Journal of Social Development in Africa* produced at the School and initiated the *African Journal of Social Work*. He later worked on publication production and dissemination for an HIV/AIDS charity serving 8 countries in the Southern Africa region.

Nigel was the Africa President for IFSW and Africa representative on the Human Rights Commission for several years.

In the increasingly repressive situation under President Mugabe, he and his family returned to the UK. As a Senior Social Worker Nigel helped develop and run Adult Help Desks and Community Care teams in West Sussex and also taught Health and Social Care with the Open University.

Until recently Nigel was Senior Lecturer in the School of Social Work at Kingston University and Course Director for the MA programme for social workers working in adult social care. He initiated the International Social Work course on this programme and led on the Applied Social Work Practice module.

Nigel authored and edited a variety of publications on international social work and for many years was the IFSW representative to the Editorial Policy Committee of the journal *International Social Work*.

Nigel also worked as a trustee of the voluntary group Children and Families International on a project to extend social work degree level education at the University of Malawi. He retired from academia in 2015 but is still active in his IFSW role and is assisting with the Archives re-organisation.