



RESPECTING
DIVERSITY
*THROUGH JOINT
SOCIAL ACTION*

2023 End of Year Report
The International Federation of Social Workers



Imprint

Published by The International Federation of Social Workers
Maiengässli 4, 4310 Rheinfelden, Switzerland

Cover art: Martha Rothblum
Layout: Pascal Rudin

Web: www.ifsw.org
Email: global@ifsw.org

V240119.F1
Copyright © 2024 by IFSW

Contents

President and Secretary-General's Report	Español p.19	Français p.34	5
World Social Work Day			49
News From Members			51
Regions			
Africa	Français p.57		55
Asia and Pacific			59
Europe			78
Latin America and Caribbean	Español p.101		88
North America			117
Commissions			
Education			125
Ethics			131
Indigenous			135
United Nations			139
Ambassador's Report			144
Meet the Global Executive			145
Meet the Secretariat Team			146
Projects and Programs			147
Publications			152
Upcoming Events			156



150

National social work organisations are **Members** of IFSW



5

Regions represent IFSW around the globe



5+ mio

Social Workers are represented by IFSW



13



4

Members of the Global **Executive** are responsible for the strategic government of IFSW

Commissions are advancing the impact and visibility of IFSW

IFSW President and Secretary-General's End of Year Report

«Throughout the year, social workers have played a crucial role in responding to natural disasters, advocating for peace, and addressing emerging social problems»



Joachim Mumba
IFSW President



Pascal Rudin
IFSW Acting CEO

Dear colleagues and friends, this report provides a comprehensive overview of the key events, activities, and achievements of the IFSW throughout the year. In a year filled with challenges and opportunities, our federation remained committed to its mission of advancing social work and social justice worldwide. From co-building capacity and shared learning with our members to celebrating the contributions of our dedicated volunteers. This report offers a glimpse into the resilience, solidarity, and dedication of our global social work community. Join us as we reflect on the milestones and progress made in 2023, and the ongoing commitment to building a more just and sustainable world.

Running the Secretariat in Times of Change

After serving as the IFSW Secretary-General for 12 years, Dr Rory Truell embarked on a well-deserved 6-month sabbatical, commencing on September 1, 2023. During his absence, Dr Pascal Rudin stepped in as the Acting CEO / Secretary-General while concurrently fulfilling his role as the Head of Operations. On this occasion, Pascal noted:

"Working alongside the Executive, the Commissions, our dedicated volunteers, our sister organisations, and our valued partners has been an incredibly fulfilling experience. I have truly enjoyed collaborating with all of you, and I am excited about the meaningful work we have ahead of us".

IFSW President and Secretary-General's End of Year Report

Consequently, this year's annual report is presented to you by Joachim and Pascal. The order of topics largely follows the chronological order in which they occurred throughout the year.

Co-Building Capacity and Shared Learning

In the months of January through March, IFSW representatives delved into a series of visits to IFSW member organisations, fostering capacity building and facilitating shared learning experiences.

Afghanistan

In a time of immense challenges for Afghanistan, marked by imminent withdrawal of support from international humanitarian agencies, IFSW has took action in response to a request from the Afghanistan Social Workers Organisation (ASO) to introduce its member to UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Afganistan. IFSW was in regular communication with Massoud Ayoubi, President of ASO, who has been tirelessly working with the government, local communities, and NGOs to promote social and economic development in Afghanistan. This collaboration led to an important visit by IFSW representatives, including Secretary-General Rory Truell, Global Vice President Ana Radulescu, and Hamed Olamaee

from the Iranian Association in January 2023.

The primary objective of the visit was, to offer support to social workers and the development of community and state-based social services, with a strong focus on supporting women in these roles. The trip emphasised the crucial role of social work in Afghanistan's social and economic development and forged stronger partnerships for inclusive development. This visit also paved the way for ASO's recognition as an independent professional association and as a full member of IFSW. Welcome to the IFSW family, ASO!



ASO board members with IFSW representatives in Kabul

The joint press conference held in Kabul at the end of the visit underscored the significance of social workers as a valuable resource within communities, particularly in the face of extreme poverty and isolation resulting from infrastructure challenges and geopolitical decisions. The collaboration between ASO and IFSW reaffirms their commitment to building resilient and sustainable futures for Afghanistan through social development. We would like to take

IFSW President and Secretary-General's End of Year Report

this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Iranian Association of Social Workers for their continued, invaluable mentorship and support provided to the Afghan organisation.

Norway

In March, 2023, Rory Truell and Ana Radulescu had the privilege of visiting the Norwegian Association of Social Workers, FO. During this visit, FO hosted a fascinating podcast with both IFSW representatives. In this interview, the discussion delved into the continuous learning process within the social work profession, drawing examples from significant global events like the pandemic and how lessons from the Syrian refugee crisis have informed responses to Ukrainian refugees. The conversation also highlighted the invaluable insights gained from social workers in Yemeni and Northern Ireland, contributing to the development of effective social work strategies amidst challenging conditions such as war in Ukraine. Furthermore, the interview explored the distinctions between humanitarian aid and the practice of social work.

Finland

Invited by Talentia, the Finnish Association and Union of Social Workers, Rory Truell and Ana Radulescu participated in a national conference on World Social Work Day. Their conversations with the Finnish social work colleagues shed light on the challenges posed by complex welfare bureaucracy, where overlapping laws and regulations have often left vulnerable indi-

viduals falling through the cracks. Notably, they learned about the outreach work carried out by social workers in Helsinki, emphasising trust-building and accompanying individuals to relevant services. This approach, akin to community-oriented social work, stood out as a model of deep respect and collaboration, distinct from bureaucratic systems seen elsewhere.

The Finnish social workers' dedication and passion culminated in a significant change, as the Social Welfare Act would soon incorporate community-oriented social work, reflecting their commitment to social integration and well-being for all residents. We thank Talentia for sharing their valuable wisdom, reinforcing the global aspiration for sustainable, just, and inclusive societies.

Showing Solidarity in Times of Disaster

The past year has presented a multitude of challenges, marked by devastating earthquakes in several regions, including Afghanistan, Morocco, Syria, and Turkey. These catastrophic events brought immense hardship and suffering to communities already grappling with numerous other crises. The resilience and solidarity displayed by local populations, alongside the tireless efforts of social workers, were crucial in providing support, relief, and hope to those affected. As we reflect on the difficulties faced throughout the year, it underscores the importance of global cooperation and preparedness in the face

IFSW President and Secretary-General's End of Year Report

of natural disasters, reaffirming the need to prioritise disaster management and relief efforts to mitigate the impact on vulnerable populations.

In response to the earthquakes, the global community of social workers demonstrated remarkable solidarity and support. The federation highlighted the significance of this international collaboration, particularly noting the profound solidarity among social workers worldwide. IFSW expressed its deep gratitude to all contributors, emphasising the critical role of social workers on the frontlines in addressing the complex challenges posed by the earthquakes and facilitating the recovery process. This collective effort exemplifies the unwavering commitment of the global social work community to provide assistance and relief when it is needed most.



Social Workers in Turkey providing assistance after the earthquake

Social workers in Turkey played a pivotal role in responding to the disaster caused by the recent earthquake, collaborating with other professionals to provide psy-

chosocial first aid. Their efforts include establishing safe spaces for survivors, co-ordinating the distribution of essential supplies, assessing individuals' needs, and providing Trauma First Aid. These initiatives aim to support survivors, especially children and the elderly, as they navigate the challenges brought about by these natural disasters.

In Afghanistan and Syria, the social work community faced significant challenges due to years of war and international sanctions, resulting in limited resources and professional support. International aid delivery has also been hindered by sanctions. However, in spite of all adversities, the worldwide social work community has come together to support their fellow professionals, showcasing an enduring dedication to aiding individuals impacted by natural disasters and assisting in their journey towards recovery.

Celebrating World Social Work Day

2023 World Social Work Day was celebrated and used as a moment of action by national associations of social work across the globe. This year's theme was 'Respecting diversity through joint social action'. It stems from the People's Charter for a New Eco Social World and recognises that change happens locally through our diverse leaderful communities.

IFSW President and Secretary-General's End of Year Report



WSWD 2023 Poster, designed by Martha Rothblum

The theme highlighted the pivotal role of social workers in fostering inclusive and diverse communities and acknowledges their ability to drive change at the local level. It serves as a powerful reminder that social work is deeply rooted in community engagement and action, emphasizing the importance of embracing diversity as a catalyst for positive social transformation.

In addition to IFSW members and partners' actions, the IFSW UN Commission co-organised online events at the UN headquarters in New York and Geneva as well as in regional offices. The Geneva event was co-sponsored by The United Nations Research Institute for Social Development who recognises social work as an essential and key reference point to social development.

Gathering in Prague

The IFSW Europe Conference, held in Prague, centred around the theme "Against all Odds – A Social Europe is Possible Where Nobody is Left Behind!" This conference

provided a platform for social workers to come together in-person and online, organised by IFSW Europe in collaboration with the Czech Association. In the face of challenging times marked by war, violence, economic inequality, and technological advancements, social work emerges as a vital response. Social workers addressed these complex issues with a foundation of fundamental values and ethical principles, seeking solutions to improve lives and advocate for those in need. The conference aimed to explore the root causes of global dysfunction and demonstrate how social work can contribute to building a more inclusive and just Europe where no one is left behind.



The IFSW Executive, Commissioners and Secretariat at work

Both Joachim Mumba and Rory Truell were present. We wish to express our sincere appreciation to Ana Radulescu and her colleagues from IFSW Europe and the Czech Association of Social Workers for

IFSW President and Secretary-General's End of Year Report

their outstanding efforts in organising this conference. Your dedication, meticulous planning, and hard work have been pivotal in creating a memorable and enriching experience for all participants.

Following the successful IFSW Europe Conference, the first post-pandemic face-to-face IFSW Executive meeting convened in Prague. Hosted aboard a boat hotel, the members of the Executive engaged in crucial discussions encompassing various critical topics. These discussions included matters related to IFSW Vision and Mission, finances and budgeting, the appointment of Joan Davis-Whelan as the new Global Vice President, comprehensive reports received from Regions and Commissions, proposals concerning the structure of Commissions, and the reconstitution/refreshing of the disbanded Human Rights Commission. Additionally, the meeting delved into themes for World Social Work-day and preparations for the 2024, 2026 and 2028 World Conferences.

The global commissioners who lead our four commissions also participated in the meeting in Prague. These commissions, which are vital components of our federation, are composed of committed and highly skilled social work volunteers. They devote their time to crafting statements, overseeing projects, and offering well-considered guidance on complex issues. They are an essential part of the larger IFSW volunteer network, and their contributions are crucial to the ongoing expansion and achievements of the federation.

Without their valuable efforts, IFSW would not be the organisation it is today.

Gathering at the United Nations in Geneva



Meeting of the UN Commission in Geneva, Switzerland

During their first face to face gathering in Switzerland, the IFSW UN Commissioners, representing diverse regions across the world, convened to enhance relationships between the IFSW UN Commission and various UN agencies. Fruitful discussions took place with officials from prominent organisations such as the World Health Organisation, the International Labour Organisation, the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner, and the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development. These meetings underscored the crucial role of social workers in nurturing grassroots social development, earning recognition and appreciation from UN officials. Both sides acknowledged the need for a more systematic collaboration between

IFSW President and Secretary-General's End of Year Report

UN agencies and the IFSW UN Commission.

Key points included the importance of shared methodologies and language and the need for UN country-level projects to involve local national associations of social workers. Additionally, the Commissioners engaged in productive exchanges with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and local universities, reaffirming their commitment to promoting World Social Work Day and advancing curriculum development in the field. The visit concluded with the Commissioners updating their statement of intent, aligning it with the People's Charter for an Eco-Social World—a visionary document that calls for collaborative efforts to address global challenges. Priska Fleischlin, the Global UN Commissioner, expressed satisfaction with the successful development of relationships and plans, highlighting the vital role of social work practitioners in shaping a more sustainable and just world through cooperation between communities, people, and the UN.

Mourning the Sad Loss of Mit Joyner

With heavy hearts, we shared the heart-breaking news of the passing of Mit Joyner, a cherished member of our community and the esteemed North America Vice President. Mit's sudden departure has left an irreplaceable void, not only within IFSW but also in the hearts of all who had the

privilege of knowing and working alongside her.



Mit Joyner

Mit was a determined advocate for social justice, a devoted leader in the field of social work, and her unwavering commitment to improving the lives of the most vulnerable was palpable in every endeavour she undertook. Her tireless efforts played a pivotal role in advancing our profession, inspiring countless social workers, and shaping policies to confront the numerous challenges of our time.

Let us reflect on her extraordinary contributions to our field and the lasting mark she left on the lives she touched. May we draw strength and inspiration from her legacy, carrying forward her vision of a more just and equitable world. On behalf of IFSW, we offer our deepest condolences to Mit's family, friends, and colleagues.

IFSW President and Secretary-General's End of Year Report

Calling for Lasting Peace and Justice

IFSW remains deeply concerned about the social workers and communities affected by ongoing conflicts and wars in various regions around the world. While we acknowledge that each conflict has its unique dynamics and complexities, we emphasise the importance of promoting peace, self-determination, and equal rights for all people living in these conflict zones. The social work profession has consistently witnessed that one-sided support and acts of reprisal only perpetuate cycles of violence and hinder the prospects of future peace agreements.

Amidst conflicts, encompassing but not limited to those in Eastern DRC, Israel/Palestine, Russia/Ukraine, and Sudan IFSW urgently appeals for an immediate ceasefire, the delivery of humanitarian aid, and a dedicated commitment to meaningful dialogues aimed at resolving the root causes of these crises. We believe that peace and reconciliation processes are essential for achieving sustainable development, and we have seen first-hand that trust can be built between communities that have been embroiled in deadly conflicts.

As social workers, we are committed to promoting the well-being of all individuals and communities affected by conflict. IFSW continues calling on governments, organisations, and individuals to support the path of peace, cease cycles of retaliation, and encourage all affected communi-

ties to engage in trust-building measures to address the root causes of these conflicts. Our goal is to contribute to a world where peace and justice prevail, and we stand ready to work towards that vision in all regions facing the devastating impact of war and conflict.

Joining Forces with the Global Action and Research Network

The People's Summit partners convened on October 13, decided to merge into the Global Action and Research Network for a New Eco-Social Contract, co-facilitated by UNRISD and the Green Economy Coalition. This strategic shift responds to the need for a clear focus and the risk of losing momentum.

The Network serves as a dynamic platform for dialogue, collaboration, and practical actions around the concept of an eco-social contract. Comprising diverse organisations and individuals, its mission encompasses broadening understanding, defining terms, and identifying actionable steps for eco-social contracts that integrate climate and environmental justice, human rights, and more.

To preserve the unique characteristics of the People's Summit process, a proposal was made to establish a new working group within the Network, aiming to pursue practical initiatives, potentially including future global or regional summits. This

IFSW President and Secretary-General's End of Year Report

transition consolidates efforts while upholding the values and goals of the People's Summit.

Researching Working Conditions

Social workers worldwide were invited to play a pivotal role in creating a comprehensive overview of their often-challenging working conditions. The global survey, which began in 2018 and underwent a new rollout in October, aimed to shed light on the realities of social workers' working conditions. In collaboration with Bath Spa University and other institutions, this IFSW research initiative worked diligently to gather insights into the working conditions of social workers across the globe.

Initial findings revealed that social workers often worked under some of the most demanding conditions compared to equivalent professions. These challenges led to increased stress, burnout, and retention issues, ultimately hindering the delivery of essential services to individuals and communities in need. Social workers' participation in the survey helped in shaping policies and advocacy messages for better working conditions globally, with a particular focus on regions that were underrepresented. Their valuable experiences and insights contribute to driving positive change in the social work profession. The research served as more than just an

eye-opener; it represents a compelling call to action.

Coexisting Harmoniously With Nature

In October, the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW), and IFSW jointly announced the theme for the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development 2024: "Buen Vivir: Shared Future for Transformative Change." This theme builds upon the People's Global Summit and aligns profoundly with the current challenges and aspirations of global social work. In a world grappling with complex crises encompassing environmental degradation, violent conflicts, persistent poverty, and socio-economic disparities, social work is called upon to evolve and embrace innovative, community-led approaches steeped in indigenous wisdom.

"Buen Vivir" underscores the belief that genuine well-being is attainable when communities harmoniously coexist with nature, collectively striving for equitable development. This indigenous philosophy underscores the significance of interconnectedness, reciprocity, correspondence, and complementarity in human relationships and our connection to the natural world. Our shared mission is to champion this principle, nurturing an eco-social world that thrives on inclusion, respect, mutual understanding, and the safeguard-

IFSW President and Secretary-General's End of Year Report

ing of human rights. We express our gratitude to all those who contributed to shaping this theme, acknowledging the invaluable role of our colleagues in the Latin America and Caribbean region. Together, we are committed to forging a future that upholds the values of humanity, nature, and transformative change.

Emphasising Collaboration and Innovation in Humanitarian Efforts



Representatives of IASSW, ICSW and IFSW among other partners in Lisbon

On November 16, 2023, in Lisbon, a significant step was taken towards advancing social work and humanitarian action in the 21st century. During the gathering, which involved Joachim, as well as the presidents of IASSW and ICSW, along with representatives from partner organisations in Turkey, Spain, Portugal, Colombia, and Brazil, the Lisbon Declaration was signed. This declaration underscores the importance of strengthening humanitarian aid, enhancing social workers' competencies, developing new training programs, and promoting participation and co-design as strategies to enhance social inclusion. It marks a pivotal commitment to shaping a

more equitable and responsive global social work landscape.

It represents a pivotal contribution to the field of humanitarian aid, emphasising collaboration and innovation in humanitarian efforts. The Lisbon Declaration reflects a collective commitment to creating a more equitable and responsive global social work environment, with a focus on specialised training, digitalisation, peace, security, and good governance as foundational principles. It also calls for international cooperation and the creation of a digital platform, ushering in a future characterised by shared knowledge and innovative practices in the field of social work and humanitarian action.

Gathering in Cebu and Lagos

November witnessed the convening of two big gatherings: the IFSW Africa regional Conference and the IFSW Asia-Pacific regional Conference. These conferences provided a platform for social workers from diverse regions to come together, exchange knowledge, and discuss critical issues related to their respective communities and the broader global context.

Asia-Pacific

During the 27th IFSW Asia-Pacific Conference held in Cebu, The Philippines, social workers from the Asia Pacific region and beyond came together to reflect on progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the midway

IFSW President and Secretary-General's End of Year Report

point. Organised by the Philippines Association of Social Workers, this gathering showcased the crucial role that social workers play in translating the SDGs into tangible actions within local communities. As the world reached this pivotal midpoint, these dedicated professionals emerged as leaders in efforts to create an inclusive future where no one is left behind.



Participants of the 2023 Asia-Pacific Conference in Cebu, The Philippines

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Eva Ponce de Leon and Roy Luntayao of the Philippines Association for their invaluable support in hosting the Asia Pacific regional conference. Their willingness to step in, despite the unexpected change in location from Iran due to the political situation, has been truly commendable. Their dedication and efforts were instrumental in ensuring the success of this important event, and we are deeply thankful for their unwavering commitment.

Both Joachim and Pascal were present in Cebu, alongside the regional president, Machiko Ohara, and vice president Sriganesh MV. They highlighted the urgent need for collective action and transforma-

tive change to address global challenges, recognising social workers as unsung heroes of sustainable development. Social work's community-driven approach, rooted in indigenous wisdom, empowers local populations to initiate efforts promoting peace, environmental conservation, and social justice.

Africa

The IFSW Africa Region Conference 2023, held at the University of Lagos, Nigeria, highlighted the essence of Ubuntu, gathering a diverse assembly of social work professionals, academics, policymakers, and students under the overarching theme of "Emerging Social Problems in Africa: The Response of Social Work Practice." Facing unique challenges in Africa, including the aftermath of conflicts, poverty, and climate change impacts, participants fervently discussed a broad spectrum of subthemes, from strengthening the social service workforce to addressing mental health and the rights and well-being of older persons.

While both Joachim Mumba and Pascal Rudin had intended to be physically present alongside the regional president Noel Muridzo and vice president Oluwatoni Adeleke, Pascal had to join the proceedings online due to geopolitical tensions affecting his visa. We would like to take this opportunity to warmly thank Oluwatoni and her colleagues of the Nigerian Association of Social Workers for their exceptional ef-

IFSW President and Secretary-General's End of Year Report

forts and commitment in hosting the IFSW Africa Regional Conference. Your dedication to organising and hosting this important event is a testament to your tireless support for the social work community in Africa.



Participants of the IFSW Africa Region Conference 2023

In line with the principles of Ubuntu and the aspirations of the People's Charter, the conference highlighted the pivotal role of social workers in fostering inclusive growth, sustainable development, and social justice across the continent, aligning with the Africa Union Agenda 2063. By strengthening the social work response, fostering collaborations, advocating for transformative policies, and embracing Ubuntu principles, participants reaffirmed their commitment to building a prosperous, equitable, and united Africa.

Emphasising the Role of Social Work as an Academic Discipline



David Jones with Vice Chancellor Wendy Thomson, Social Worker

On November 22, 2023, the University of London celebrated its Foundation Day and awarded an honorary degree to Dr. David N. Jones, a distinguished social worker renowned for his global impact and advocacy. David's contributions extended to the development of global standards for social work education and training. His dedication to global social work issues is evident throughout his career, from volunteering as a teacher in Kenya to his role as the Global President of IFSW. During his tenure, he played a key role in launching World Social Work Day and coordinating the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development.

This recognition by the University of London underscores the vital role of social work as an academic discipline and profession in society. David Jones's lifetime of

IFSW President and Secretary-General's End of Year Report

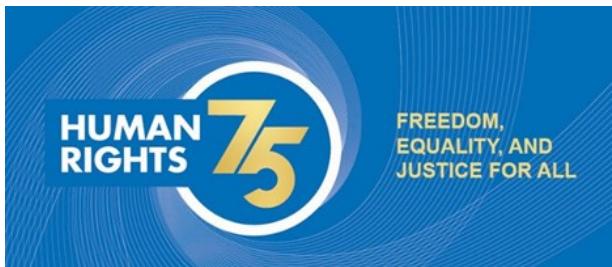
work and this prestigious honour emphasise the importance of continued support and recognition for social work as a profession that empowers communities worldwide to co-build transformative change and a sustainable future for all.

We extend our warmest congratulations to David on receiving this well-deserved honour. We also wish to express our sincere gratitude to him for his ongoing commitment and invaluable contributions in various capacities within IFSW.

The Backbone of Our Federation: Our Volunteers

On International Volunteer Day, Joachim and Pascal took the opportunity to express their heartfelt gratitude to all our dedicated volunteers. As we release this end-of-year report, we want to take a moment to warmly thank you once more. Your unwavering commitment, whether as archivists, creative minds, working group members, regional secretaries, or global ambassador, has been instrumental in the success of IFSW. The theme, "The Power of Collective Action," resonates deeply with your efforts, reminding us that together, we can create positive social change and build a more just and sustainable world. Your contributions are invaluable, and we are proud to have you as part of the IFSW family. Thank you for your exceptional dedication.

Celebrating Human Rights



Human Rights 75 Initiative

On the momentous occasion of the 75th anniversary of the adoption of human rights, celebrated on United Nations Human Rights Day 2023, IFSW embraced the theme "Freedom, Equality, and Justice for All." This theme underscores the indispensable role of social work in our collective pursuit of a more equitable and sustainable world. Recognising the urgency of addressing the multifaceted crises of our times, from climate change to social inequalities, pandemics, and armed conflicts, we reaffirm our commitment to advancing a new eco-social world.

IFSW envisions a holistic human rights framework, and we call for transformative actions that balance the rights of individuals, communities, and the natural world. Through collaborative efforts, we strive to transform our world into one where human rights, care for the environment, and social justice are not just ideals, but lived realities for every person on this planet. Social workers were invited throughout the year to participate in the Human Rights 75 initiative, including to share their expertise on how to improve global social security systems. During a seminar, IFSW

IFSW President and Secretary-General's End of Year Report

Vice President Joan Davis-Whelan shed light on the pivotal role of social workers in advancing human rights and social justice.

Conclusion

The year 2023 has been a year of challenges, opportunities, and significant achievements for IFSW. From addressing the complex issues in Afghanistan and various regions affected by conflicts to celebrating the life and legacy of esteemed colleagues, the global social work community has shown remarkable resilience, solidarity, and dedication.

The adoption of the Lisbon Declaration marked a pivotal moment, reaffirming the commitment of IFSW, IASSW, ICSW, and partner organisations to strengthen humanitarian aid, enhance social worker competencies, and promote inclusive development strategies. This declaration signifies a collective step towards shaping a more equitable and responsive global social work landscape.

Throughout the year, social workers have played a crucial role in responding to natural disasters, advocating for peace, and addressing emerging social problems. The importance of social workers in fostering inclusive and diverse communities was underscored by the theme of World Social Work Day, emphasising their role as catalysts for positive social transformation.

The transition of the People's Summit partners into the Global Action and Re-

search Network and the ongoing research on the working conditions of social workers reflect IFSW's commitment to fostering collaboration and improving the profession's overall well-being.

As we commemorate the 75th anniversary of human rights, IFSW renews its dedication to advancing freedom, equality, and justice for all. Social workers remain at the forefront of building a more equitable and sustainable world, weaving together the strands of human rights, social justice, and environmental sustainability.

We extend our warmest gratitude to Lucia Gandolfi for joining our Secretariat team and to Bernard Mayaka for his continuing dedication to our Secretariat. Together, we eagerly anticipate achieving remarkable accomplishments.

Finally, we would like to thank all our dedicated volunteers and express our profound gratitude for the tireless work of our social work colleagues around the globe. Together, we continue to make a positive impact, working towards a future where justice, equality, and freedom are not just ideals but the very foundations of our global community.

Yours sincerely,



Joachim Mumba



Pascal Rudin

Informe de fin de año del Presidente y Secretario General de la FITS

«A lo largo del año, los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales han desempeñado un papel crucial en la respuesta a los desastres naturales, la construcción de la paz y el abordaje de los problemas sociales emergentes »



Joachim Mumba
Presidente de la FITS



Pascal Rudin
CEO interino de la FITS

Estimados colegas, amigos y amigas, este informe proporciona una descripción de los eventos, actividades y logros clave de la FITS a lo largo del año. En un año lleno de desafíos y oportunidades, nuestra federación siguió comprometida con su misión de promover el Trabajo Social y la justicia social en todo el mundo. Desde la creación conjunta de capacidades y el aprendizaje compartido con nuestros miembros hasta la celebración de las contribuciones de nuestros dedicados voluntarios y voluntarias. Este informe muestra la resiliencia, la solidaridad y la dedicación de nuestra comunidad global de Trabajo Social. Les invitamos a reflexionar junto a nosotros/as sobre los hitos y avances logrados durante el 2023 y el compromiso continuo de construir un mundo más justo y sostenible.

Dirigir la Secretaría en tiempos de cambio

Después de desempeñarse como Secretario General de la FITS durante 12 años, el Dr. Rory Truell se embarcó en un merecido año sabático de 6 meses, que comenzó el 1 de septiembre de 2023. Durante su ausencia, el Dr. Pascal Rudin intervino como director ejecutivo interino / Secretario General, al tiempo que continuaba desempeñando su rol como Jefe de Operaciones. En esta ocasión, Pascal señaló:

"Trabajar junto al Ejecutivo, las Comisiones, nuestros dedicados voluntarios y voluntarias, nuestras organizaciones hermanas y nuestros valiosos socios ha sido una experiencia increíblemente satisfactoria. Realmente disfruté esta labor col-

Informe de fin de año del Presidente y Secretario General de la FITS

borativa y estoy entusiasmado con el importante trabajo que tenemos por delante”

Por esta razón, Joachim y Pascal les presentan el informe anual de este año. El orden de los temas sigue en gran medida el orden cronológico en el que ocurrieron a lo largo del año.

Capacidad de construcción y aprendizaje compartidos

En los meses de enero a marzo, los y las representantes de la FITS realizaron una serie de visitas a organizaciones miembros de la FITS, con el objetivo de fomentar el desarrollo de capacidades y experiencias de aprendizaje compartidos.

Afganistán

En una época de inmensos desafíos para Afganistán, marcada por la inminente retirada del apoyo de las agencias humanitarias internacionales, la FITS ha tomado medidas en respuesta a una solicitud de la Organización de Trabajadores Sociales de Afganistán de contacto con el Coordinador Humanitario de la ONU en Afganistán. La FITS estuvo en comunicación regular con Massoud Ayoubi, presidente de la Organización de Trabajadores Sociales de Afganistán, quien ha estado trabajando incansablemente con el gobierno, las comunidades locales y ONGs para promover el desarrollo social y económico en Afganistán. Esta colaboración condujo a una importante visita de representantes de la FITS, incluido el Secretario General Rory

Truell, la Vicepresidenta Global Ana Radulescu y Hamed Olamaee de la Asociación Iraní en enero del 2023.



Miembros de la junta de la Organización de Trabajadores Sociales de Afganistán con representantes de la FITS en Kabul

El objetivo principal de la visita fue ofrecer apoyo a los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales en el desarrollo de servicios sociales comunitarios y estatales, con un fuerte énfasis en el apoyo a las mujeres en estos roles. El viaje resaltó el papel crucial del Trabajo Social en el desarrollo social y económico de Afganistán y forjó alianzas más sólidas para el desarrollo inclusivo. Esta visita también allanó el camino para el reconocimiento de la Organización de Trabajadores Sociales de Afganistán como asociación profesional independiente y como miembro de pleno derecho de la FITS.

¡Bienvenido a la familia de la FITS, Organización de Trabajadores Sociales de Afganistán!

La conferencia de prensa conjunta celebrada en Kabul al final de la visita subrayó la importancia de los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales como un recurso valioso dentro de las comunidades, particularmente frente a la pobreza extrema y el aislamiento resultantes de los problemas

Informe de fin de año del Presidente y Secretario General de la FITS

de infraestructura y las decisiones geopolíticas. La colaboración entre Organización de Trabajadores Sociales de Afganistán y la FITS reafirma su compromiso de construir futuros resilientes y sostenibles para Afganistán a través del desarrollo social. Nos gustaría aprovechar esta oportunidad para expresar nuestro más sincero agradecimiento a la Asociación Iraní de Trabajadores Sociales por su continua e invaluable guía y apoyo brindados a la organización afgana.

Noruega

En marzo de 2023, Rory Truell y Ana Radulescu tuvieron el privilegio de visitar la Asociación Noruega de Trabajadores Sociales, FO. Durante esta visita, FO organizó un fascinante podcast con ambos representantes de la FITS. La discusión ahondó en el proceso de aprendizaje continuo en Trabajo Social a partir de ejemplos de eventos globales importantes como la pandemia y cómo las lecciones de la crisis de refugiados/as sirios/as han determinado las respuestas a los refugiados/as ucranianos/as. La conversación también destacó los valiosos conocimientos adquiridos por los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales en Yemen e Irlanda del Norte, que contribuyeron al desarrollo de estrategias efectivas de Trabajo Social en medio de condiciones adversas, como la guerra en Ucrania. Además, la entrevista exploró las distinciones entre la ayuda humanitaria y la práctica del Trabajo Social.

Finlandia

Invitados por Talentia, la Asociación y Sindicato Finlandés de Trabajadores Sociales, Rory Truell y Ana Radulescu participaron en una conferencia nacional en el Día Mundial del Trabajo Social. Sus conversaciones con los colegas finlandeses de Trabajo Social arrojan luz sobre los desafíos que plantea la compleja burocracia de la asistencia social, donde la superposición de leyes y regulaciones a menudo ha dejado a las personas vulnerables al margen. En particular, conocieron el trabajo de divulgación realizado por los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales en Helsinki, haciendo hincapié en la creación de confianza y acompañando a las personas en los servicios pertinentes. Este enfoque, similar al Trabajo Social orientado a la comunidad, se destacó como un modelo de profundo respeto y colaboración, distinto de los sistemas burocráticos vistos en otros lugares.

La dedicación y pasión de los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales finlandeses culminaron en un cambio significativo, ya que la Ley de Bienestar Social pronto incorporaría el Trabajo Social orientado a la comunidad, reflejando su compromiso con la integración social y el bienestar de todos los residentes. Agradecemos a Talentia por compartir su valiosa sabiduría, reforzando la aspiración global de sociedades sostenibles, justas e inclusivas.

Informe de fin de año del Presidente y Secretario General de la FITS

Mostrando solidaridad en tiempos de desastre

El año pasado presentó una multitud de desafíos, marcados por devastadores terremotos en varias regiones, incluidos Afganistán, Marruecos, Siria y Turquía. Estos acontecimientos catastróficos trajeron inmensas dificultades y sufrimiento a las comunidades que ya se enfrentaban a muchas otras crisis. La resiliencia y la solidaridad mostradas por las poblaciones locales, junto con los esfuerzos incansables de los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales, fueron cruciales para brindar apoyo, alivio y esperanza a los afectados. Al reflexionar sobre las dificultades enfrentadas a lo largo del año, se subraya la importancia de la cooperación y la preparación globales frente a los desastres naturales, reafirmando la necesidad de priorizar la gestión de desastres y los esfuerzos de socorro para mitigar el impacto en las poblaciones vulnerables.

En respuesta a los terremotos, la comunidad global de trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales demostró una solidaridad y un apoyo notables. La federación destacó la importancia de esta colaboración internacional, destacando particularmente la profunda solidaridad entre los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales de todo el mundo. La FITS expresó su profunda gratitud a todos los/as contribuyentes, enfatizando el papel fundamental de los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales en primera línea para abordar los complejos desafíos planteados

por los terremotos y facilitar el proceso de recuperación. Este esfuerzo colectivo ejemplifica el compromiso inquebrantable de la comunidad mundial del Trabajo Social para brindar asistencia y alivio cuando más se necesita.



Trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales en Turquía prestan asistencia tras el terremoto

Los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales en Turquía desempeñaron un papel fundamental en la respuesta al desastre causado por el reciente terremoto, en colaboración con otros/as profesionales para brindar primeros auxilios psicosociales. Sus esfuerzos incluyen establecer espacios seguros para los/as sobrevivientes, coordinar la distribución de suministros esenciales, evaluar las necesidades de las personas y brindar primeros auxilios en casos de trauma. Estas iniciativas tienen como objetivo apoyar a los/as sobrevivientes, especialmente niños/as y ancianos/as.

En Afganistán y Siria, la comunidad del Trabajo Social enfrentó desafíos importantes debido a años de guerra y sanciones internacionales, lo que resultó en recursos

Informe de fin de año del Presidente y Secretario General de la FITS

y apoyo profesional limitados. La entrega de ayuda internacional también se ha visto obstaculizada por las sanciones. Sin embargo, a pesar de todas las adversidades, la comunidad mundial del Trabajo Social se ha unido para apoyar a sus colegas, mostrando una dedicación duradera para ayudar a las personas afectadas por desastres naturales en su recuperación.

Celebrando el Día Mundial del Trabajo Social

El Día Mundial del Trabajo Social del 2023 fue celebrado y utilizado como momento de acción por las asociaciones nacionales de Trabajo Social de todo el mundo. El tema de este año fue "Respetar la diversidad a través de la acción social conjunta". Proviene de la Carta de los Pueblos para un Nuevo Mundo Ecosocial y reconoce que el cambio ocurre localmente a través de nuestras diversas comunidades de líderes.



Póster del DMTS 2023, diseñado por Martha Rothblum

El tema destacó el papel fundamental de los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales en el fomento de comunidades inclusivas y diversas y reconoce su capacidad para im-

pulsar el cambio a nivel local. Sirve como un poderoso recordatorio de que el Trabajo Social está profundamente arraigado en la participación y la acción comunitaria, enfatizando la importancia de aceptar la diversidad como catalizador para una transformación social positiva.

Además de las acciones de los miembros y socios de la FITS, la Comisión de las Naciones Unidas de la FITS coorganizó eventos en línea en las sedes de las Naciones Unidas en Nueva York y Ginebra, así como en las oficinas regionales. El evento de Ginebra fue copatrocinado por el Instituto de Investigación de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo Social, que reconoce el Trabajo Social como un punto de referencia esencial y clave para el desarrollo social.

Reunión en Praga

La Conferencia Europea de la FITS, celebrada en Praga, se centró en el tema "Contra todo pronóstico: ¡una Europa social es posible, donde nadie se quede atrás!" Esta conferencia proporcionó una plataforma gestionada por FITS Europa en colaboración con la Asociación Checa para que los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales se reunieran en persona y en línea. Frente a tiempos difíciles marcados por la guerra, la violencia, la desigualdad económica y los avances tecnológicos, el Trabajo Social surge como una respuesta vital. Los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales abordaron estos temas complejos con una base de valores fundamentales y principios éticos, buscando soluciones para me-

Informe de fin de año del Presidente y Secretario General de la FITS

jorar vidas y abogar por los/as necesitados/as. La conferencia tenía como objetivo explorar las causas fundamentales de la disfunción global y demostrar cómo el Trabajo Social puede contribuir a construir una Europa más inclusiva y justa donde nadie se quede atrás.

Estuvieron presentes tanto Joachim Mumba como Rory Truell. Deseamos expresar nuestro sincero agradecimiento a Ana Radulescu y sus colegas de la FITS Europa y la Asociación Checa de Trabajadores Sociales por sus destacados esfuerzos en la organización de esta conferencia. Su dedicación, planificación meticulosa y arduo trabajo han sido fundamentales para crear una experiencia memorable y enriquecedora para todos los/as participantes.



El Ejecutivo, los/as Comisionados/as y la Secretaría de la FITS en acción

Tras la exitosa conferencia europea de la FITS, se celebró en Praga la primera reunión ejecutiva cara a cara de la FITS después de la pandemia. Alojados a bordo de un hotel-barco, los miembros del Ejecutivo entablaron debates cruciales que

abarcaron diversos temas críticos. Estas discusiones incluyeron asuntos relacionados con la Visión y Misión de la FITS, finanzas y presupuestos, el nombramiento de Joan Davis-Whelan como nueva Vicepresidenta Global, informes completos recibidos de las Regiones y Comisiones, propuestas relativas a la estructura de las Comisiones y la reconstitución/actualización de la disuelta Comisión de Derechos Humanos. Además, el encuentro profundizó en temas para el Día Mundial del Trabajo Social y los preparativos para las Conferencias Mundiales de 2024, 2026 y 2028.

En la reunión de Praga también participaron los/as comisionados/as globales que dirigen nuestras cuatro comisiones. Estas comisiones, que son componentes vitales de nuestra federación, están compuestas por voluntarios y voluntarias comprometidos y altamente capacitados. Dedican su tiempo a redactar declaraciones, supervisar proyectos y ofrecer orientación bien meditada sobre cuestiones complejas. Son una parte esencial de la red más amplia de voluntarios y voluntarias de la FITS y sus contribuciones son cruciales para la expansión y los logros continuos de la federación. Sin sus valiosos esfuerzos, la FITS no sería la organización que es hoy.

Reunión en las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra

Durante su primera reunión cara a cara en Suiza, los/as comisionados/as regionales de la FITS-ONU se reunieron para mejorar las relaciones entre la Comisión de la FITS

Informe de fin de año del Presidente y Secretario General de la FITS

de la ONU y varias agencias de la ONU. Se llevaron a cabo fructíferos debates con funcionarios/as de organizaciones destacadas como la Organización Mundial de la Salud, la Organización Internacional del Trabajo, la Oficina del Comisionado de Derechos Humanos y el Instituto Nacional de Investigación para el Desarrollo Social de las Naciones Unidas. Estas reuniones subrayaron el papel crucial de los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales en el fomento del desarrollo social de base.



Ambas partes reconocieron la necesidad de una colaboración más sistemática entre las agencias de la ONU y la Comisión de la FITS de la ONU.

Durante su primera reunión cara a cara en Suiza, los/as comisionados/as regionales de la FITS-ONU se reunieron para mejorar las relaciones entre la Comisión de la FITS de la ONU y varias agencias de la ONU. Se llevaron a cabo fructíferos debates con funcionarios/as de organizaciones destacadas como la Organización Mundial de la Salud, la Organización Internacional del Trabajo, la Oficina del Comisionado de De-

rechos Humanos y el Instituto Nacional de Investigación para el Desarrollo Social de las Naciones Unidas. Estas reuniones subrayaron el papel crucial de los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales en el fomento del desarrollo social de base.

Ambas partes reconocieron la necesidad de una colaboración más sistemática entre las agencias de la ONU y la Comisión de la FITS de la ONU.

Los puntos clave incluyeron la importancia de compartir metodologías y lenguaje y la necesidad de que los proyectos a nivel local de la ONU involucren a las asociaciones nacionales de trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales. Además, los/as comisionados/as participaron en intercambios productivos con la Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja y universidades locales, reafirmando su compromiso de promover el Día Mundial del Trabajo Social y su desarrollo curricular. La visita concluyó con los/as comisionados/as actualizando su declaración de intenciones, en línea con la Carta de los Pueblos para un Mundo Ecosocial, un documento visionario que exige esfuerzos de colaboración para abordar los desafíos globales. Priska Fleischlin, Comisionada Mundial de la ONU, expresó su satisfacción con el desarrollo exitoso de relaciones y planes, destacando el papel vital de los/as profesionales del Trabajo Social en la configuración de un mundo más sostenible y justo a través de la cooperación entre las comunidades, las personas y la ONU.

Informe de fin de año del Presidente y Secretario General de la FITS

De luto por la triste pérdida de Mit Joyner



Mit Joyner

Con gran pesar, compartimos la desgarradora noticia del fallecimiento de Mit Joyner, un querido miembro de nuestra comunidad y vicepresidenta de Norteamérica. La repentina partida de Mit ha dejado un vacío irreemplazable, no sólo dentro de la FITS sino también en los corazones de todos/as quienes tuvieron el privilegio de conocerla y trabajar junto a ella.

Mit era una defensora decidida de la justicia social, una líder devota en el campo del Trabajo Social y su compromiso inquebrantable de mejorar las vidas de los/as más vulnerables era palpable en cada esfuerzo que emprendía. Sus incansables esfuerzos desempeñaron un papel fundamental en el avance de nuestra profesión, inspiraron a innumerables trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales y dieron forma a políticas para enfrentar los numerosos desafíos de nuestro tiempo.

Reflexionemos sobre sus extraordinarias contribuciones a nuestro campo y la huella duradera que dejó en las vidas que tocó.

Obtengamos fuerza e inspiración de su legado, llevemos adelante su visión de un mundo más justo y equitativo. En nombre de la FITS, ofrecemos nuestro más sentido pésame a la familia, amistades y colegas de Mit.

Llamado a una paz y una justicia duraderas

La FITS sigue profundamente preocupada por los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales y las comunidades afectadas por los conflictos y guerras en curso en varias regiones del mundo. Si bien reconocemos que cada conflicto tiene sus dinámicas y complejidades únicas, enfatizamos la importancia de promover la paz, la autodeterminación y la igualdad de derechos para todas las personas que viven en estas zonas de conflicto. La profesión del Trabajo Social ha sido testigo de que el apoyo unilateral y los actos de represalia sólo perpetúan los ciclos de violencia y obstaculizan las perspectivas de futuros acuerdos de paz.

En medio de conflictos que abarcan, entre otros, aquellos en Armenia/Azerbaiyán, este de la República Democrática del Congo, Israel/Palestina, Rusia/Ucrania y Sudán, la FITS hace un llamado urgente a un alto el fuego inmediato, la entrega de ayuda humanitaria y un compromiso dedicado a diálogos significativos destinados a resolver las causas fundamentales de estas crisis. Creemos que los procesos de paz y reconciliación son esenciales para lograr el desarrollo sostenible, y hemos visto de primera mano que se puede generar con-

Informe de fin de año del Presidente y Secretario General de la FITS

fianza entre comunidades que se han visto envueltas en conflictos mortales.

Como trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales, estamos comprometidos/as con el bienestar de todos los individuos y comunidades afectados por los conflictos. La FITS pide a gobiernos, organizaciones e individuos que apoyen el camino de la paz, pongan fin a los ciclos de represalias y alienten a todas las comunidades afectadas a participar en medidas de fomento de la confianza para abordar las causas fundamentales de estos conflictos. Nuestro objetivo es contribuir a un mundo donde prevalezcan la paz y la justicia, y estamos dispuestos/as a trabajar para lograr esa visión en todas las regiones que enfrentan el impacto devastador de la guerra y los conflictos.

La Red Global de Acción e Investigación

Los socios de la Cumbre de los Pueblos convocados el 13 de octubre decidieron fusionarse en la Red Global de Acción e Investigación para un Nuevo Contrato Ecosocial, coordinada por el Instituto de Investigación de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo Social y la Coalición de Economía Verde. Este cambio estratégico responde a la necesidad de un enfoque claro y al riesgo de perder impulso.

La Red sirve como una plataforma dinámica para el diálogo, la colaboración y acciones prácticas en torno al concepto de contrato ecosocial. Compuesta por diversas organizaciones e individuos, su misión abarca la comprensión y definición de tér-

minos e identificación de pasos viables para contratos ecosociales que integren la justicia climática y ambiental, los derechos humanos y más.

Para preservar las características únicas del proceso de la Cumbre de los Pueblos, se hizo una propuesta para establecer un nuevo grupo de trabajo dentro de la Red, con el objetivo de llevar a cabo iniciativas prácticas, incluyendo potencialmente futuras cumbres globales o regionales. Esta transición consolida esfuerzos y al mismo tiempo defiende los valores y objetivos de la Cumbre de los Pueblos.

Investigar las condiciones laborales

Se invitó a trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales de todo el mundo a desempeñar un papel fundamental en la creación de una visión integral de sus condiciones de trabajo, a menudo desafiantes. La encuesta global, que comenzó en 2018 y se reanudó en octubre, tenía como objetivo arrojar luz sobre las realidades de las condiciones laborales de los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales. En colaboración con la Universidad de Bath Spa y otras instituciones, la FITS trabajó diligentemente para recopilar información sobre las condiciones laborales de los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales en todo el mundo.

Los hallazgos iniciales revelaron que los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales a menudo trabajaban en algunas de las condiciones más exigentes en comparación con profesiones equivalentes. Estos desafíos provocaron un aumento del estrés y el agotamiento, lo que en última instancia obstaculizó la prestación de servicios

Informe de fin de año del Presidente y Secretario General de la FITS

esenciales a las personas y comunidades necesitadas. La participación de los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales en la encuesta ayudó a dar forma a políticas y mensajes de promoción para mejores condiciones laborales a nivel mundial, con especial atención en las regiones que estaban subrepresentadas. Sus valiosas experiencias y conocimientos contribuyen a impulsar un cambio positivo en la profesión del Trabajo Social. La investigación sirvió como algo más que una simple revelación; representa un llamado a la acción.

Coexistir armoniosamente con la naturaleza

En octubre, la Asociación Internacional de Escuelas de Trabajo Social (AIETS), el Consejo Internacional de Bienestar Social CIBS y la FITS anunciaron conjuntamente el tema de la Agenda Global para el Trabajo Social y el Desarrollo Social 2024: "Buen Vivir: un Futuro Compartido para el Cambio transformador." Este tema se basa en la Cumbre Global de los Pueblos y se alinea profundamente con los desafíos y aspiraciones actuales del Trabajo Social global. En un mundo que se enfrenta a crisis complejas que abarcan degradación ambiental, conflictos violentos, pobreza persistente y disparidades socioeconómicas, el Trabajo Social está llamado a evolucionar y adoptar enfoques innovadores, liderados por la comunidad y la sabiduría indígena.

"Buen Vivir" subraya la creencia de que el bienestar genuino es alcanzable cuando

las comunidades coexisten armoniosamente con la naturaleza, en un colectivo tendiente a un desarrollo equitativo. Esta filosofía indígena subraya la importancia de la interconexión, la reciprocidad, la correspondencia y la complementariedad en las relaciones humanas y nuestra conexión con el mundo natural. Nuestra misión compartida es defender este principio, con miras a un mundo ecosocial que prospere en la inclusión, el respeto, el entendimiento mutuo y la salvaguardia de los derechos humanos. Expresamos nuestro agradecimiento a quienes contribuyeron a darle forma a este tema, reconociendo el invaluable papel de nuestros/as colegas en la región de América Latina y el Caribe. Juntos, estamos comprometidos/as a forjar un futuro que defienda los valores de la humanidad, la naturaleza y el cambio transformador.

La colaboración y la innovación en los esfuerzos humanitarios

El 16 de noviembre de 2023, en Lisboa, se dio un paso significativo hacia el avance del Trabajo Social y la acción humanitaria en el siglo XXI. Durante la reunión, en la que participaron Joachim, así como los/as presidentes de la AIETS y el CIBS, junto con representantes de organizaciones asociadas en Turquía, España, Portugal, Colombia y Brasil, se firmó la Declaración de Lisboa. Esta declaración subraya la importancia de fortalecer la ayuda humanitaria, mejorar las competencias de los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales, desa-

Informe de fin de año del Presidente y Secretario General de la FITS

rrollar nuevos programas de capacitación y promover la participación y el codiseño como estrategias para mejorar la inclusión social. Marca un compromiso fundamental para dar forma a un panorama global del Trabajo Social más equitativo y receptivo.



Representantes de AIETS, CIBS y FITS, entre otros socios, en Lisboa

Representa una contribución fundamental al campo de la ayuda humanitaria, enfatizando la colaboración y la innovación en los esfuerzos humanitarios. La Declaración de Lisboa refleja un compromiso colectivo para crear un entorno de Trabajo Social global más equitativo y receptivo, con un enfoque en la capacitación especializada, la digitalización, la paz, la seguridad y la buena gobernanza como principios fundamentales. También pide cooperación internacional y la creación de una plataforma digital como inicio de un futuro caracterizado por conocimientos compartidos y prácticas innovadoras en el campo del Trabajo Social y la acción humanitaria.

Reunión en Cebú y Lagos

En noviembre se celebraron dos grandes reuniones: la Conferencia regional de la FITS de África y la Conferencia regional de

la FITS de Asia-Pacífico. Estas conferencias proporcionaron una plataforma para que trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales de diversas regiones se reunieran, intercambiaron conocimientos y discutieron cuestiones críticas relacionadas con sus respectivas comunidades y el contexto global más amplio.

Asia-Pacífico



Participantes de la Conferencia Asia-Pacífico 2023 en Cebú, Filipinas

Durante la 27^a Conferencia de Asia-Pacífico de la FITS celebrada en Cebú, Filipinas, trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales de la región de Asia-Pacífico y otros/as se reunieron para reflexionar sobre el progreso hacia el logro de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS). Organizada por la Asociación de Trabajadores Sociales de Filipinas, esta reunión mostró el papel crucial que desempeñan los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales a la hora de traducir los ODS en acciones tangibles dentro de las comunidades locales. Cuando el mundo alcanzó este punto medio fundamental, estos dedicados profesionales emergieron como líderes en los esfuerzos por crear un futuro inclusivo donde nadie sea dejado atrás.

Informe de fin de año del Presidente y Secretario General de la FITS

Extendemos nuestro más sincero agradecimiento a Eva Ponce de León y Roy Luntao de la Asociación de Filipinas por su invaluable apoyo como anfitriones de la conferencia regional de Asia-Pacífico. Su voluntad de intervenir, a pesar del inesperado cambio de ubicación de Irán debido a la situación política, ha sido verdaderamente encomiable. Su dedicación y esfuerzos fueron fundamentales para garantizar el éxito de este importante evento y estamos profundamente agradecidos por su compromiso inquebrantable.

Tanto Joachim como Pascal estuvieron presentes en Cebú, junto con el presidente regional, Machiko Ohara, y el vicepresidente Sriganesh MV. Destacaron la necesidad urgente de una acción colectiva y un cambio transformador para abordar los desafíos globales, reconociendo a los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales como héroes anónimos del desarrollo sostenible. El enfoque comunitario del Trabajo Social, arraigado en la sabiduría indígena, empodera a las poblaciones locales para iniciar esfuerzos que promuevan la paz, la conservación ambiental y la justicia social.

Africa

La Conferencia de la Región de África de la FITS 2023, celebrada en la Universidad de Lagos, Nigeria, destacó la esencia de Ubuntu. Reunió a una asamblea diversa de profesionales del Trabajo Social, académicos/as, formuladores de políticas y estudiantes bajo el tema general de "Problemas sociales emergentes en África:

ca: la Respuesta del Trabajo Social." Al enfrentar desafíos únicos en África, incluidas las secuelas de los conflictos, la pobreza y los impactos del cambio climático, se discutieron fervientemente un amplio espectro de subtemas, desde el fortalecimiento de la fuerza laboral de los servicios sociales hasta el abordaje de la salud mental, los derechos y el bienestar de las personas mayores.



Participantes de la Conferencia de la Región de África de la FITS 2023

Si bien tanto Joachim Mumba como Pascal Rudin tenían la intención de estar físicamente presentes junto al presidente regional Noel Muridzo y a la vicepresidenta Oluwatoni Adeleke, Pascal tuvo que unirse al proceso de firma virtual debido a tensiones geopolíticas que afectaban su visa. Nos gustaría aprovechar esta oportunidad para agradecer calurosamente a Oluwatoni y sus colegas de la Asociación Nigeriana de Trabajadores Sociales por sus excepcionales esfuerzos y compromiso al albergar la Conferencia Regional Africana de la FITS. Su dedicación a la organización y acogida de este importante evento es un testimonio de su incansable apoyo a la comunidad del Trabajo Social en África.

Informe de fin de año del Presidente y Secretario General de la FITS

En línea con los principios de Ubuntu y las aspiraciones de la Carta de los Pueblos, la conferencia destacó el papel fundamental de los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales en el fomento del crecimiento inclusivo, el desarrollo sostenible y la justicia social en todo el continente, en sincronía con la Agenda 2063 de la Unión Africana, que fomenta colaboraciones, aboga por políticas transformadoras y adopta los principios de Ubuntu. Se reafirmó el compromiso de construir un África próspera, equitativa y unida.

El Trabajo Social como disciplina académica

El 22 de noviembre de 2023, la Universidad de Londres celebró su fundación y otorgó un título honorífico al Dr. David N. Jones, un distinguido trabajador social reconocido globalmente. Las contribuciones de David se extendieron al desarrollo de estándares globales para la educación y capacitación en Trabajo Social. Su dedicación a las cuestiones globales del Trabajo Social es evidente a lo largo de su carrera, desde su voluntariado como profesor en Kenia hasta su papel como Presidente Global de FITS. Durante su mandato, desempeñó un papel clave en el lanzamiento del Día Mundial del Trabajo Social y en la coordinación de la Agenda Global para el Trabajo Social y el Desarrollo Social.

Este reconocimiento por parte de la Universidad de Londres subraya el papel vital del Trabajo Social como disciplina académica y profesión en la sociedad. La trayec-

toria laboral de David Jones y este prestigioso honor enfatizan la importancia del apoyo y reconocimiento continuos al Trabajo Social como una profesión que empodera a las comunidades de todo el mundo para la construcción de un cambio transformador y un futuro sostenible para todos y todas.



David Jones con la vicecanciller Wendy Thomson, trabajadora social

Extendemos nuestras más sinceras felicitaciones a David por recibir este merecido honor. También deseamos expresarle nuestro sincero agradecimiento por su compromiso continuo y sus invaluables contribuciones en diversas capacidades dentro de la FITS.

La columna vertebral de nuestra Federación: nuestros voluntarios y voluntarias

En el Día Internacional del Voluntario, Joachim y Pascal aprovecharon la oportunidad para expresar su más sincero agra-

Informe de fin de año del Presidente y Secretario General de la FITS

decimiento a todos nuestros dedicados voluntarios y voluntarias. Al publicar este informe de fin de año, queremos tomarnos un momento para agradecerles calurosamente una vez más. Su compromiso inquebrantable, ya sea como encargados/as de archivos, mentes creativas, miembros de grupos de trabajo, secretarios/as regionales o embajadores/as globales, ha sido fundamental para el éxito de la FITS. El tema, "El poder de la acción colectiva", resuena profundamente con sus esfuerzos y nos recuerda que juntos/as podemos crear un cambio social positivo y construir un mundo más justo y sostenible. Sus contribuciones son invaluables y estamos orgullosos de tenerlos/as como parte de la familia FITS. Gracias por su dedicación excepcional.

Celebrar los derechos humanos

En la trascendental ocasión del 75º aniversario de la adopción de los derechos humanos, celebrado el Día de los Derechos Humanos de las Naciones Unidas de 2023, la FITS adoptó el tema "Libertad, Igualdad y Justicia para Todos". Este tema subraya el papel indispensable del Trabajo Social en nuestra búsqueda colectiva de un mundo más equitativo y sostenible. Reconociendo la urgencia de abordar las crisis multifacéticas de nuestros tiempos, desde el cambio climático hasta las desigualdades sociales, las pandemias y los conflictos armados, reafirmamos nuestro compromiso de promover un nuevo mundo ecosocial.



Iniciativa Derechos Humanos 75

La FITS visualiza un marco holístico para los derechos humanos y solicitamos acciones transformadoras que equilibren los derechos de los individuos, las comunidades y el mundo natural. A través de esfuerzos colaborativos, nos esforzamos por transformar nuestro mundo en uno donde los derechos humanos, el cuidado del medio ambiente y la justicia social no sean sólo ideales, sino realidades vividas por cada persona en este planeta. A lo largo del año se invitó a trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales a participar en la iniciativa Derechos Humanos 75, incluso para compartir sus conocimientos sobre cómo mejorar los sistemas globales de seguridad social. Durante un seminario, la vicepresidenta de la FITS, Joan Davis-Whelan, arrojó luz sobre el papel fundamental de los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales en la promoción de los derechos humanos y la justicia social.

Conclusión

El año 2023 ha sido un año de desafíos, oportunidades y logros significativos para la FITS. Desde abordar cuestiones complejas en Afganistán y varias regiones afecta-

Informe de fin de año del Presidente y Secretario General de la FITS

das por conflictos hasta celebrar la vida y el legado de estimados colegas, la comunidad mundial del Trabajo Social ha demostrado una resiliencia, solidaridad y dedicación notables.

La adopción de la Declaración de Lisboa marcó un momento crucial. Reafirma el compromiso de la FITS, la AIETS, el CIBS y las organizaciones asociadas para fortalecer la ayuda humanitaria, mejorar las competencias de los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales y promover estrategias de desarrollo inclusivas. Esta declaración significa un paso colectivo hacia la configuración de un panorama global del Trabajo Social más equitativo y receptivo.

A lo largo del año, los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales han desempeñado un papel crucial en la respuesta a los desastres naturales, la defensa de la paz y los problemas sociales emergentes. La importancia de los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales en el fomento de comunidades inclusivas y diversas fue subrayada por el tema del Día Mundial del Trabajo Social, que enfatiza su rol como catalizadores de una transformación social positiva.

La transición de los socios de la Cumbre de los Pueblos a la Red Global de Acción e Investigación y la investigación en curso sobre las condiciones laborales de los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales reflejan el compromiso de la FITS de fomentar la colaboración y mejorar el bienestar general de la profesión.

Mientras conmemoramos el 75º aniversario de los derechos humanos, la FITS renueva su dedicación a promover la libertad, la igualdad y la justicia. Los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales siguen a la vanguardia de la construcción de un mundo más equitativo y sostenible, con derechos humanos, justicia social y sostenibilidad ambiental.

Extendemos nuestro más cálido agradecimiento a Lucía Gandolfi por unirse a nuestro equipo de la Secretaría y a Bernard Mayaka por su continua dedicación a nuestra Secretaría. Juntos, anticipamos logros notables.

Finalmente, nos gustaría agradecer a todos nuestros dedicados voluntarios y voluntarias y expresar nuestra profunda gratitud por el trabajo incansable de nuestros colegas de Trabajo Social en todo el mundo. Continuamos generando un impacto positivo, trabajando por un futuro donde la justicia, la igualdad y la libertad no sean solo ideales sino los cimientos mismos de nuestra comunidad global.

Nuestros cálidos saludos,



Joachim Mumba



Pascal Rudin

Rapport de fin d'année du président et du secrétaire général de la FITS

«Tout au long de l'année, les travailleur·euses sociaux·ales ont joué un rôle crucial en réagissant aux catastrophes naturelles, en plaident pour la paix et en s'attaquant aux problèmes sociaux émergents »



Joachim Mumba
Président de la FITS



Pascal Rudin
PDG par intérim de la FITS

Chers collègues et ami·e·s, ce rapport fournit une vue d'ensemble des principaux événements, activités et réalisations de la FITS tout au long de l'année. Au cours d'une année remplie de défis et d'opportunités, notre fédération est restée fidèle à sa mission de promotion du travail social et de la justice sociale dans le monde. Qu'il s'agisse du renforcement des capacités et de l'apprentissage partagé avec nos membres ou de la célébration des contributions de nos bénévoles dévoués. Ce rapport offre un aperçu de la résilience, de la solidarité et du dévouement de notre communauté mondiale du travail social. Rejoignez-nous pour réfléchir aux étapes et aux progrès réalisés en 2023, ainsi qu'à l'engagement continu de construire un monde plus juste et plus durable.

Faire fonctionner le secrétariat en période de changement

Après avoir été secrétaire général de la FITS pendant 12 ans, le Dr Rory Truell a pris un congé sabbatique bien mérité de six mois, à compter du 1er septembre 2023. Pendant son absence, le Dr Pascal Rudin est passé PDG / secrétaire général par intérim tout en remplissant ses fonctions de chef des opérations. À cette occasion, Pascal a déclaré :

«Travailler aux côtés de l'exécutif, des commissions, de nos bénévoles dévoués, de nos organisations sœurs et de nos précieux partenaires a été une expérience incroyablement enrichissante. J'ai vraiment apprécié de collaborer avec vous

Rapport de fin d'année du président et du secrétaire général de la FITS

tous, et je suis enthousiaste à l'idée du travail significatif qui nous attend.»

Le rapport annuel de cette année vous est donc présenté par Joachim et Pascal. L'ordre des sujets suit en grande partie l'ordre chronologique dans lequel ils ont été abordés au cours de l'année.

Renforcement des capacités et apprentissage partagé

De janvier à mars, les représentants de la FITS ont effectué une série de visites dans les organisations membres de la FITS, favorisant le renforcement des capacités et facilitant le partage des expériences d'apprentissage.

Afghanistan

Alors que l'Afghanistan est confronté à d'immenses défis, marqués par le retrait imminent du soutien des agences humanitaires internationales, la FITS a répondu à la demande de l'Organisation des travailleurs sociaux d'Afghanistan (ASO) de présenter son membre au coordinateur humanitaire de l'ONU en Afghanistan. La FITS a été en contact régulier avec Massoud Ayoubi, président d'ASO, qui a travaillé sans relâche avec le gouvernement, les communautés locales et les ONG pour promouvoir le développement social et économique en Afghanistan. Cette collaboration a débouché sur une importante visite de représentants de la FITS, dont le secrétaire général Rory Truell, la vice-

présidente mondiale Ana Radulescu et Hamed Olamaee de l'association iranienne, en janvier 2023.



Les membres du conseil d'administration d'ASO avec les représentants de la FITS à Kaboul

L'objectif principal de la visite était d'offrir un soutien aux travailleurs sociaux et au développement des services sociaux communautaires et nationaux, en mettant l'accent sur le soutien aux femmes dans ces rôles. Ce voyage a permis de souligner le rôle crucial du travail social dans le développement social et économique de l'Afghanistan et de forger des partenariats plus solides pour un développement inclusif. Cette visite a également ouvert la voie à la reconnaissance d'ASO en tant qu'association professionnelle indépendante et membre à part entière de la FITS. Bienvenue à ASO dans la famille FITS !

La conférence de presse conjointe qui s'est tenue à Kaboul à l'issue de la visite a souligné l'importance des travailleurs sociaux en tant que ressource précieuse au sein des communautés, en particulier face à l'extrême pauvreté et à l'isolement résultant des problèmes d'infrastructure et des décisions géopolitiques. La collabora-

Rapport de fin d'année du président et du secrétaire général de la FITS

tion entre ASO et la FITS réaffirme leur engagement à construire un avenir résilient et durable pour l'Afghanistan par le biais du développement social. Nous aimeraisons profiter de cette occasion pour exprimer notre sincère gratitude à l'Association iranienne des travailleurs sociaux pour le mentorat et le soutien inestimables et continus qu'elle a apportés à l'organisation afghane.

Norvège

En mars 2023, Rory Truell et Ana Radulescu ont eu le privilège de rendre visite à l'Association norvégienne des travailleurs sociaux, FO. Au cours de cette visite, FO a organisé un podcast fascinant avec les deux représentants de la FITS. Dans cet entretien, la discussion a porté sur le processus d'apprentissage continu au sein de la profession de travailleur social, en s'appuyant sur des exemples d'événements mondiaux importants tels que la pandémie et la façon dont les leçons tirées de la crise des réfugiés syriens ont éclairé les réponses apportées aux réfugiés ukrainiens. La conversation a également mis en lumière les connaissances inestimables acquises par les travailleurs sociaux au Yémen et en Irlande du Nord, contribuant à l'élaboration de stratégies de travail social efficaces dans des conditions difficiles telles que la guerre en Ukraine. En outre, l'entretien a permis d'explorer les distinctions entre l'aide humanitaire et la pratique du travail social.

Finlande

Invités par Talentia, l'association et le syndicat finlandais des travailleurs sociaux, Rory Truell et Ana Radulescu ont participé à une conférence nationale à l'occasion de la Journée mondiale du travail social. Leurs conversations avec les collègues travailleurs sociaux finlandais ont mis en lumière les défis posés par la bureaucratie complexe de l'aide sociale, où le chevauchement des lois et des réglementations a souvent laissé les personnes vulnérables passer entre les mailles du filet. Ils ont notamment découvert le travail de proximité effectué par les travailleurs sociaux à Helsinki, qui met l'accent sur l'instauration d'un climat de confiance et l'accompagnement des personnes vers les services compétents. Cette approche, qui s'apparente à un travail social axé sur la communauté, s'est imposée comme un modèle de respect et de collaboration profonds, distinct des systèmes bureaucratiques observés ailleurs.

Le dévouement et la passion des travailleurs sociaux finlandais ont abouti à un changement significatif, puisque la loi sur la protection sociale allait bientôt incorporer le travail social axé sur la communauté, reflétant leur engagement en faveur de l'intégration sociale et du bien-être de tous les résidents. Nous remercions Talentia d'avoir partagé leur précieuse sagesse, renforçant ainsi l'aspiration mondiale à des sociétés durables, justes et inclusives.

Rapport de fin d'année du président et du secrétaire général de la FITS

Faire preuve de solidarité en cas de catastrophe

L'année écoulée a présenté une multitude de défis, marqués par des tremblements de terre dévastateurs dans plusieurs régions, dont l'Afghanistan, le Maroc, la Syrie et la Turquie. Ces événements catastrophiques ont entraîné d'immenses difficultés et souffrances pour des communautés déjà aux prises avec de nombreuses autres crises. La résilience et la solidarité dont ont fait preuve les populations locales, ainsi que les efforts inlassables des travailleurs sociaux, ont été essentiels pour apporter soutien, aide et espoir aux personnes touchées. Les difficultés rencontrées tout au long de l'année soulignent l'importance de la coopération et de la préparation au niveau mondial face aux catastrophes naturelles, et réaffirment la nécessité d'accorder la priorité à la gestion des catastrophes et aux opérations de secours afin d'en atténuer l'impact sur les populations vulnérables.



Travailleurs sociaux en Turquie fournissant une assistance après le tremblement de terre

En réponse aux tremblements de terre, la communauté mondiale des travailleurs

sociaux a fait preuve d'une solidarité et d'un soutien remarquables. La fédération a souligné l'importance de cette collaboration internationale, en particulier la profonde solidarité entre les travailleurs sociaux du monde entier. La FITS a exprimé sa profonde gratitude à tous les contributeurs, soulignant le rôle essentiel des travailleurs sociaux en première ligne pour relever les défis complexes posés par les tremblements de terre et faciliter le processus de rétablissement. Cet effort collectif illustre l'engagement inébranlable de la communauté mondiale des travailleurs sociaux à fournir de l'aide et du secours lorsque le besoin s'en fait le plus sentir.

En Turquie, les travailleurs sociaux ont joué un rôle central dans la réponse à la catastrophe causée par le récent tremblement de terre, en collaborant avec d'autres professionnels pour fournir une première aide psychosociale. Ils s'efforcent notamment de créer des espaces sûrs pour les survivants, de coordonner la distribution de fournitures essentielles, d'évaluer les besoins des personnes et d'apporter les premiers soins aux victimes de traumatismes. Ces initiatives visent à aider les survivants, en particulier les enfants et les personnes âgées, à surmonter les difficultés engendrées par ces catastrophes naturelles.

En Afghanistan et en Syrie, la communauté des travailleurs sociaux a été confrontée à des défis importants en raison d'années de guerre et de sanctions internationales, ce qui s'est traduit par des ressources et un soutien professionnel limités. L'acheminement de l'aide internatio-

Rapport de fin d'année du président et du secrétaire général de la FITS

nale a également été entravé par les sanctions. Cependant, en dépit de toutes les adversités, la communauté mondiale des travailleurs sociaux s'est unie pour soutenir ses collègues professionnels, faisant preuve d'un dévouement durable pour aider les personnes touchées par les catastrophes naturelles et les accompagner dans leur parcours vers la guérison.

Célébration de la Journée mondiale du travail social

La Journée mondiale du travail social de 2023 a été célébrée et utilisée comme un moment d'action par les associations nationales de travail social du monde entier. Le thème de cette année était : « Respecter la diversité grâce à une action sociale conjointe ». Il découle de la Charte des peuples pour un nouveau monde éco-social et reconnaît que le changement se produit localement par l'intermédiaire de nos diverses communautés dirigeantes.



Affiche JMTS 2023, conçue par Martha Rothblum

Le thème a mis en évidence le rôle essentiel des travailleurs sociaux dans la promotion de communautés inclusives et diversifiées et reconnaît leur capacité à con-

duire le changement au niveau local. Il rappelle avec force que le travail social est profondément ancré dans l'engagement et l'action communautaires, et souligne l'importance d'embrasser la diversité en tant que catalyseur d'une transformation sociale positive.

En plus des actions des membres et partenaires de la FITS, la commission de la FITS auprès des Nations unies a co-organisé des événements en ligne au siège de l'ONU à New York et à Genève, ainsi que dans les bureaux régionaux. L'événement de Genève était coparrainé par l'Institut de recherche des Nations unies pour le développement social, qui reconnaît le travail social comme un point de référence clé essentiel du développement social.

Rassemblement à Prague

La conférence de la FITS Europe, qui s'est tenue à Prague, s'est articulée autour du thème : « Contre vents et marées - Une Europe sociale est possible, où personne n'est laissé pour compte ! ». Cette conférence, organisée par la FITS Europe en collaboration avec l'Association tchèque, a permis aux travailleurs sociaux de se réunir en personne et en ligne. Face à des temps difficiles marqués par la guerre, la violence, l'inégalité économique et les avancées technologiques, le travail social apparaît comme une réponse vitale. Les travailleurs sociaux ont abordé ces questions complexes en s'appuyant sur des valeurs fondamentales et des principes éthiques, en cherchant des solutions pour améliorer les conditions de vie et défendre

Rapport de fin d'année du président et du secrétaire général de la FITS

les personnes dans le besoin. La conférence visait à explorer les causes profondes des dysfonctionnements mondiaux et à démontrer comment le travail social peut contribuer à la construction d'une Europe plus inclusive et plus juste, où personne n'est laissé pour compte.

Joachim Mumba et Rory Truell étaient présents. Nous souhaitons exprimer notre sincère reconnaissance à Ana Radulescu et à ses collègues de la FITS Europe et de l'Association tchèque des travailleurs sociaux pour leurs efforts remarquables dans l'organisation de cette conférence. Votre dévouement, votre planification méticuleuse et votre travail acharné ont joué un rôle essentiel dans la création d'une expérience mémorable et enrichissante pour tous les participants.



L'exécutif, les commissaires et le secrétariat de la FITS au travail

Après le succès de la conférence de la FITS Europe, la première réunion de l'exécutif de la FITS après la pandémie s'est tenue à Prague. Accueillis à bord d'un bateau-hôtel, les membres de l'exécutif se

sont engagés dans des discussions cruciales portant sur divers sujets essentiels. Ces discussions ont porté sur des questions liées à la vision et à la mission de la FITS, aux finances et à la budgétisation, à la nomination de Joan Davis-Whelan en tant que nouvelle vice-présidente mondiale, aux rapports détaillés reçus des régions et des commissions, aux propositions concernant la structure des commissions et à la reconstitution/au renouvellement de la commission des droits de l'homme, qui a été dissoute. En outre, la réunion a permis d'approfondir les thèmes de la Journée mondiale du travail social et de préparer les conférences mondiales de 2024, 2026 et 2028.

Les commissaires mondiaux qui dirigent nos quatre commissions ont également participé à la réunion de Prague. Ces commissions, qui sont des composantes vitales de notre fédération, sont composées de bénévoles engagés et hautement qualifiés dans le domaine du travail social. Ils consacrent leur temps à rédiger des déclarations, à superviser des projets et à offrir des conseils avisés sur des questions complexes. Ils constituent une partie essentielle du réseau de bénévoles de la FITS, et leurs contributions sont cruciales pour l'expansion et les réalisations de la fédération. Sans leurs efforts précieux, la FITS ne serait pas l'organisation qu'elle est aujourd'hui.

Rapport de fin d'année du président et du secrétaire général de la FITS

Rassemblement aux Nations Unies à Genève

Lors de leur première réunion en Suisse, les commissaires de l'ONU de la FITS, représentant diverses régions du monde, se sont réunies pour renforcer les relations entre la Commission de l'ONU de la FITS et diverses agences de l'ONU. Des discussions fructueuses ont eu lieu avec des fonctionnaires d'organisations importantes telles que l'Organisation mondiale de la santé, l'Organisation internationale du travail, le Bureau du commissaire aux droits de l'homme et l'Institut national de recherche pour le développement social. Ces réunions ont souligné le rôle crucial des travailleurs sociaux dans la promotion du développement social à la base, ce qui leur a valu la reconnaissance et l'appréciation des fonctionnaires de l'ONU. Les deux parties ont reconnu la nécessité d'une collaboration plus systématique entre les agences des Nations unies et la Commission des Nations unies de la FITS.



Réunion de la Commission des Nations Unies à Genève, Suisse

Parmi les points clés, citons l'importance d'une méthodologie et d'un langage com-

muns et la nécessité pour les projets des Nations unies au niveau national d'impliquer les associations nationales locales de travailleurs sociaux. En outre, les commissaires ont eu des échanges fructueux avec la Fédération internationale des sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge et les universités locales, réaffirmant leur engagement à promouvoir la Journée mondiale du travail social et à faire progresser l'élaboration des programmes d'études dans ce domaine. La visite s'est achevée par la mise à jour de la déclaration d'intention des commissaires, qui l'ont alignée sur la Charte des peuples pour un monde éco-social, un document visionnaire qui appelle à des efforts de collaboration pour relever les défis mondiaux. Priska Fleischlin, la commissaire mondiale des Nations Unies, s'est déclarée satisfaite du développement réussi des relations et des plans, soulignant le rôle vital des praticiens du travail social dans l'élaboration d'un monde plus durable et plus juste grâce à la coopération entre les communautés, les personnes et les Nations Unies.

En deuil après la perte de Mit Joyner

C'est avec le cœur lourd que nous avons partagé la nouvelle déchirante du décès de Mit Joyner, membre appréciée de notre communauté et estimée vice-présidente pour l'Amérique du Nord. Le départ soudain de Mit a laissé un vide irremplaçable, non seulement au sein de la FITS, mais aussi dans le cœur de tous ceux qui ont eu le privilège de la connaître et de travailler à ses côtés.

Rapport de fin d'année du président et du secrétaire général de la FITS

Mit était une défenseure déterminée de la justice sociale, une dirigeante dévouée dans le domaine du travail social, et son engagement inébranlable à améliorer la vie des plus vulnérables était palpable dans toutes les entreprises qu'elle entreprenait. Ses efforts inlassables ont joué un rôle essentiel dans l'évolution de notre profession, en inspirant d'innombrables travailleurs sociaux et en élaborant des politiques visant à relever les nombreux défis de notre époque.



Mit Joyner

Réfléchissons aux contributions extraordinaires qu'elle a apportées à notre domaine et à l'empreinte durable qu'elle a laissée sur les vies qu'elle a touchées. Puissions-nous puiser force et inspiration dans son héritage, en perpétuant sa vision d'un monde plus juste et plus équitable. Au nom de la FITS, nous présentons nos plus sincères condoléances à la famille, aux amis et aux collègues de Mit.

Appel à une paix et une justice durables

La FITS reste profondément préoccupée par les travailleurs sociaux et les communautés affectés par les conflits et les guerres en cours dans diverses régions du monde. Tout en reconnaissant que chaque conflit possède une dynamique et une complexité uniques, nous soulignons l'importance de promouvoir la paix, l'autodétermination et l'égalité des droits pour toutes les personnes vivant dans ces zones de conflit. Les professionnels du travail social ont toujours constaté que le soutien unilatéral et les actes de représailles ne font que perpétuer les cycles de violence et entraver les perspectives d'accords de paix futurs.

Au milieu des conflits, y compris, mais sans s'y limiter, ceux de l'Est de la RDC, d'Israël/Palestine, de la Russie/Ukraine et du Soudan, la FITS lance un appel urgent pour un cessez-le-feu immédiat, l'acheminement de l'aide humanitaire et un engagement résolu en faveur de dialogues significatifs visant à résoudre les causes profondes de ces crises. Nous pensons que les processus de paix et de réconciliation sont essentiels pour parvenir à un développement durable, et nous avons constaté de première main que la confiance peut être établie entre des communautés qui ont été impliquées dans des conflits meurtriers.

En tant que travailleurs sociaux, nous nous engageons à promouvoir le bien-être de toutes les personnes et communautés touchées par un conflit. La FITS continue

Rapport de fin d'année du président et du secrétaire général de la FITS

d'appeler les gouvernements, les organisations et les individus à soutenir la voie de la paix, à cesser les cycles de représailles et à encourager toutes les communautés touchées à s'engager dans des mesures de confiance pour s'attaquer aux causes profondes de ces conflits. Notre objectif est de contribuer à un monde où règnent la paix et la justice, et nous sommes prêts à œuvrer en faveur de cette vision dans toutes les régions confrontées à l'impact dévastateur de la guerre et des conflits.

Unir ses forces avec le réseau mondial d'action et de recherche

Les partenaires du Sommet des peuples, réunis le 13 octobre, ont décidé de fusionner au sein du Réseau mondial d'action et de recherche pour un nouveau contrat éco-social, co-facilité par l'IRNUDS et la Coalition pour une économie verte. Ce changement stratégique répond à la nécessité d'une orientation claire et au risque de perte de vitesse.

Le réseau sert de plateforme dynamique pour le dialogue, la collaboration et les actions pratiques autour du concept de contrat éco-social. Composé de diverses organisations et personnes, il a pour mission d'élargir la compréhension, de définir les termes et d'identifier des mesures concrètes pour les contrats éco-sociaux qui intègrent la justice climatique et environnementale, les droits de l'homme et bien d'autres choses encore.

Afin de préserver les caractéristiques uniques du processus du Sommet des

peuples, il a été proposé de créer un nouveau groupe de travail au sein du réseau, visant à poursuivre des initiatives pratiques, pouvant inclure de futurs sommets mondiaux ou régionaux. Cette transition permet de consolider les efforts tout en maintenant les valeurs et les objectifs du Sommet des peuples.

Recherche sur les conditions de travail

Les travailleurs sociaux du monde entier ont été invités à jouer un rôle central dans la création d'une vue d'ensemble de leurs conditions de travail souvent difficiles. L'enquête mondiale, qui a débuté en 2018 et a fait l'objet d'un nouveau déploiement en octobre, visait à mettre en lumière les réalités des conditions de travail des travailleurs sociaux. En collaboration avec l'Université de Bath Spa et d'autres institutions, cette initiative de recherche de la FITS a travaillé avec diligence pour recueillir des informations sur les conditions de travail des travailleurs sociaux à travers le monde.

Les premières conclusions ont révélé que les travailleurs sociaux travaillaient souvent dans des conditions parmi les plus exigeantes par rapport à des professions équivalentes. Ces difficultés ont entraîné une augmentation du stress, de l'épuisement professionnel et des problèmes de rétention, ce qui a finalement entravé la fourniture de services essentiels aux personnes et aux communautés dans le besoin. La participation des travailleurs sociaux à l'enquête a contribué à l'élabora-

Rapport de fin d'année du président et du secrétaire général de la FITS

tion de politiques et de messages de plaidoyer en faveur de meilleures conditions de travail au niveau mondial, en mettant l'accent sur les régions sous-représentées. Leurs expériences et leurs points de vue précieux contribuent à susciter des changements positifs dans la profession de travailleur social. Plus qu'une simple révélation, cette étude est un appel à l'action.

Coexister en harmonie avec la nature

En octobre, l'Association internationale des écoles de travail social (AIETS), le Conseil international de l'action sociale (CIAS) et la FITS ont annoncé conjointement le thème de l'Agenda mondial pour le travail social et le développement social de 2024 : « *Buen Vivir* : un avenir partagé pour un changement transformateur ». Ce thème s'appuie sur le Sommet mondial des peuples et s'aligne profondément sur les défis et les aspirations actuels du travail social mondial. Dans un monde aux prises avec des crises complexes qui englobent la dégradation de l'environnement, les conflits violents, la pauvreté persistante et les disparités socio-économiques, le travail social est appelé à évoluer et à adopter des approches novatrices, dirigées par les communautés et imprégnées de la sagesse indigène.

« *Buen Vivir* » souligne la conviction qu'un véritable bien-être est possible lorsque les communautés coexistent harmonieusement avec la nature et s'efforcent collectivement de parvenir à un développement

équitable. Cette philosophie autochtone souligne l'importance de l'interconnexion, de la réciprocité, de la correspondance et de la complémentarité dans les relations humaines et notre lien avec le monde naturel. Notre mission commune est de défendre ce principe, en favorisant un monde éco-social qui prospère grâce à l'inclusion, au respect, à la compréhension mutuelle et à la sauvegarde des droits de l'homme. Nous exprimons notre gratitude à tous ceux qui ont contribué à l'élaboration de ce thème, en reconnaissant le rôle inestimable de nos collègues de la région Amérique latine et Caraïbes. Ensemble, nous nous engageons à forger un avenir qui respecte les valeurs de l'humanité, de la nature et du changement transformateur.

Mettre l'accent sur la collaboration et l'innovation dans les efforts humanitaires

Le 16 novembre 2023, à Lisbonne, une étape importante a été franchie pour faire progresser le travail social et l'action humanitaire au 21e siècle. La déclaration de Lisbonne a été signée lors de cette réunion à laquelle participaient Joachim, les présidents de l'AIETS et du CIAS, ainsi que des représentants d'organisations partenaires en Turquie, en Espagne, au Portugal, en Colombie et au Brésil. Cette déclaration souligne l'importance du renforcement de l'aide humanitaire, de l'amélioration des compétences des travailleurs sociaux, de l'élaboration de nouveaux programmes de formation et de la promotion de la partici-

Rapport de fin d'année du président et du secrétaire général de la FITS

pation et de la co-conception en tant que stratégies visant à améliorer l'inclusion sociale. Il s'agit d'un engagement essentiel pour façonner un paysage mondial du travail social plus équitable et plus réactif.

Elle représente une contribution essentielle au domaine de l'aide humanitaire, en mettant l'accent sur la collaboration et l'innovation dans les efforts humanitaires. La déclaration de Lisbonne reflète un engagement collectif à créer un environnement mondial du travail social plus équitable et plus réactif, en mettant l'accent sur la formation spécialisée, la numérisation, la paix, la sécurité et la bonne gouvernance en tant que principes fondamentaux. Elle appelle également à la coopération internationale et à la création d'une plateforme numérique, ouvrant la voie à un avenir caractérisé par le partage des connaissances et des pratiques innovantes dans le domaine du travail social et de l'action humanitaire.



Représentants de l'AIETS, du CIAS et de la FITS parmi d'autres partenaires à Lisbonne

Rassemblement à Cebu et Lagos

Le mois de novembre a été marqué par deux grands rassemblements : la conférence régionale de la FITS pour l'Afrique et la conférence régionale de la FITS pour

l'Asie-Pacifique. Ces conférences ont permis aux travailleurs sociaux de diverses régions de se réunir, d'échanger des connaissances et de discuter de questions cruciales liées à leurs communautés respectives et au contexte mondial plus large.

Asie-Pacifique

Lors de la 27e conférence Asie-Pacifique de la FITS qui s'est tenue à Cebu, aux Philippines, les travailleurs sociaux de la région Asie-Pacifique et au-delà se sont réunis pour réfléchir aux progrès accomplis dans la réalisation des Objectifs de développement durable (ODD) à mi-parcours. Organisée par l'Association philippine des travailleurs sociaux, cette rencontre a mis en lumière le rôle crucial que jouent les travailleurs sociaux dans la traduction des ODD en actions tangibles au sein des communautés locales. Alors que le monde est arrivé à ce tournant, ces professionnels dévoués se sont révélés être des leaders dans les efforts visant à créer un avenir inclusif où personne n'est laissé pour compte.



Participants à la Conférence Asie-Pacifique 2023 à Cebu, Philippines

Rapport de fin d'année du président et du secrétaire général de la FITS

Nous exprimons notre sincère gratitude à Eva Ponce de Leon et Roy Luntayao de l'Association des Philippines pour leur soutien inestimable dans l'organisation de la conférence régionale Asie-Pacifique. Leur volonté d'intervenir, malgré le changement inattendu de lieu de l'Iran en raison de la situation politique, est tout à fait louable. Leur dévouement et leurs efforts ont été déterminants pour assurer le succès de cet événement important, et nous leur sommes profondément reconnaissants de leur engagement inébranlable.

Joachim et Pascal étaient présents à Cebu, aux côtés de la présidente régionale, Machiko Ohara, et du vice-président, Sri-ganesh MV. Ils ont souligné le besoin urgent d'une action collective et d'un changement transformateur pour relever les défis mondiaux, reconnaissant les travailleurs sociaux comme des héros méconnus du développement durable. L'approche communautaire du travail social, enracinée dans la sagesse indigène, permet aux populations locales d'entreprendre des efforts en faveur de la paix, de la conservation de l'environnement et de la justice sociale.

Afrique

La conférence de la région Afrique de la FITS 2023, qui s'est tenue à l'Université de Lagos, au Nigeria, a mis en évidence l'essence de l'Ubuntu, en rassemblant une assemblée diversifiée de professionnels du travail social, d'universitaires, de décideurs politiques et d'étudiants sous le thème général suivant : « Problèmes sociaux émergents en Afrique : la réponse de

la pratique du travail social ». Confrontés à des défis uniques en Afrique, notamment les conséquences des conflits, la pauvreté et les effets du changement climatique, les participants ont discuté avec ferveur d'un large éventail de sous-thèmes, allant du renforcement de la main-d'œuvre des services sociaux à la santé mentale, en passant par les droits et le bien-être des personnes âgées.



Participants à la Conférence Afrique 2023 de la FITS

Joachim Mumba et Pascal Rudin avaient prévu d'être physiquement présents aux côtés du président régional Noel Muridzo et du vice-président Oluwatoni Adeleke, mais Pascal a dû se joindre aux débats en ligne en raison de tensions géopolitiques affectant son visa. Nous aimerais profiter de cette occasion pour remercier chaleureusement Oluwatoni et ses collègues de l'Association nigériane des travailleurs sociaux pour leurs efforts et leur engagement exceptionnels dans l'organisation de la Conférence régionale africaine de la FITS. Votre dévouement à l'organisation et à l'accueil de cet événement important témoigne de votre soutien inlassable à la communauté du travail social en Afrique.

Rapport de fin d'année du président et du secrétaire général de la FITS

Conformément aux principes de l'Ubuntu et aux aspirations de la Charte des peuples, la conférence a souligné le rôle essentiel des travailleurs sociaux dans la promotion d'une croissance inclusive, d'un développement durable et de la justice sociale sur le continent, conformément à l'Agenda 2063 de l'Union africaine. En renforçant la réponse du travail social, en encourageant les collaborations, en plaident pour des politiques de transformation et en adoptant les principes de l'Ubuntu, les participants ont réaffirmé leur engagement à construire une Afrique prospère, équitable et unie.

Souligner le rôle du travail social en tant que discipline universitaire

Le 22 novembre 2023, l'Université de Londres a célébré sa Journée de la Fondation et a décerné un diplôme honorifique au Dr David N. Jones, un travailleur social réputé pour son impact mondial et ses activités de plaidoyer. Les contributions de David se sont étendues à l'élaboration de normes mondiales pour l'éducation et la formation en matière de travail social. Son dévouement aux questions de travail social mondial est évident tout au long de sa carrière, depuis son volontariat en tant qu'enseignant au Kenya jusqu'à son rôle de président mondial de la FITS. Au cours de son mandat, il a joué un rôle clé dans le lancement de la Journée mondiale du travail social et dans la coordination de l'Agenda mondial pour le travail social et le développement social.

Cette reconnaissance par l'Université de Londres souligne le rôle vital du travail social en tant que discipline universitaire et profession dans la société. L'œuvre de David Jones et cette prestigieuse distinction soulignent l'importance d'un soutien et d'une reconnaissance continués du travail social en tant que profession qui donne aux communautés du monde entier les moyens de co-construire un changement transformateur et un avenir durable pour tous.



David Jones avec la vice-chancelière Wendy Thomson, assistante sociale

Nous adressons nos plus vives félicitations à David pour cet honneur bien mérité. Nous souhaitons également lui exprimer notre sincère gratitude pour son engagement constant et ses contributions inestimables à divers titres au sein de la FITS.

Rapport de fin d'année du président et du secrétaire général de la FITS

L'épine dorsale de notre fédération : nos bénévoles

À l'occasion de la Journée internationale des volontaires, Joachim et Pascal ont saisi l'opportunité d'exprimer leur sincère gratitude à tou-te-s nos volontaires dévoué-e-s. À l'occasion de la publication de ce rapport de fin d'année, nous tenons à prendre un moment pour vous remercier chaleureusement une fois de plus. Votre engagement sans faille, que ce soit en tant qu'archivistes, esprits créatifs, membres de groupes de travail, secrétaires régionaux ou ambassadeurs mondiaux, a joué un rôle déterminant dans le succès de la FITS. Le thème : « Le pouvoir de l'action collective », résonne profondément avec vos efforts, nous rappelant qu'en ensemble, nous pouvons créer un changement social positif et construire un monde plus juste et plus durable. Vos contributions sont inestimables et nous sommes fiers que vous fassiez partie de la famille de la FITS. Merci pour votre dévouement exceptionnel.

Célébration des droits de l'homme

À l'occasion du 75e anniversaire de l'adoption des droits de l'homme, célébré lors de la Journée des droits de l'homme des Nations unies en 2023, la FITS a adopté le thème : « Liberté, égalité et justice pour tous ». Ce thème souligne le rôle indispensable du travail social dans notre quête collective d'un monde plus équitable et plus durable. Conscients de l'urgence de

s'attaquer aux crises multiformes de notre époque, du changement climatique aux inégalités sociales, en passant par les pandémies et les conflits armés, nous réaffirmons notre engagement à faire progresser un nouveau monde éco-social.

La FITS envisage un cadre holistique des droits de l'homme et appelle à des actions transformatrices qui équilibrivent les droits des individus, des communautés et du monde naturel. Grâce à des efforts concertés, nous nous efforçons de transformer notre monde en un monde où les droits de l'homme, la protection de l'environnement et la justice sociale ne sont pas seulement des idéaux, mais des réalités vécues par tous les habitants de la planète. Les travailleurs sociaux ont été invités tout au long de l'année à participer à l'initiative 75 pour les droits de l'homme, notamment pour partager leur expertise sur la manière d'améliorer les systèmes mondiaux de sécurité sociale. Au cours d'un séminaire, la vice-présidente de la FITS, Joan Davis-Whelan, a mis en lumière le rôle central des travailleurs sociaux dans la promotion des droits de l'homme et de la justice sociale.



Initiative 75 pour les droits de l'homme

Rapport de fin d'année du président et du secrétaire général de la FITS

Conclusion

L'année 2023 a été une année de défis, d'opportunités et de réalisations significatives pour la FITS. Qu'il s'agisse de s'attaquer aux problèmes complexes de l'Afghanistan et de diverses régions touchées par des conflits ou de célébrer la vie et l'héritage de collègues estimés, la communauté mondiale du travail social a fait preuve d'une résilience, d'une solidarité et d'un dévouement remarquables.

L'adoption de la déclaration de Lisbonne a marqué un tournant, réaffirmant l'engagement de la FITS, de l'AIETS, du CIAS et des organisations partenaires à renforcer l'aide humanitaire, à améliorer les compétences des travailleurs sociaux et à promouvoir des stratégies de développement inclusives. Cette déclaration représente une étape collective vers la création d'un paysage mondial du travail social plus équitable et plus réactif.

Tout au long de l'année, les travailleurs sociaux ont joué un rôle crucial en réagissant aux catastrophes naturelles, en plaidant pour la paix et en s'attaquant aux nouveaux problèmes sociaux. Le thème de la Journée mondiale du travail social souligne l'importance des travailleurs sociaux dans la promotion de communautés inclusives et diversifiées, en insistant sur leur rôle de catalyseurs d'une transformation sociale positive.

La transition des partenaires du Sommet des peuples vers le Réseau mondial d'action et de recherche et la recherche en cours sur les conditions de travail des tra-

vailleurs sociaux reflètent l'engagement de la FITS à encourager la collaboration et à améliorer le bien-être général de la profession.

Alors que nous commémorons le 75e anniversaire des droits de l'homme, la FITS renouvelle son engagement à faire progresser la liberté, l'égalité et la justice pour tous. Les travailleurs sociaux restent à l'avant-garde de la construction d'un monde plus équitable et durable, en tissant des liens entre les droits de l'homme, la justice sociale et la durabilité de l'environnement.

Nous remercions chaleureusement Lucia Gandolfi d'avoir rejoint l'équipe du secrétariat et Bernard Mayaka pour son dévouement constant à notre secrétariat. Ensemble, nous sommes impatients d'accomplir des réalisations remarquables.

Enfin, nous tenons à remercier tous nos bénévoles dévoués et à exprimer notre profonde gratitude pour le travail inlassable de nos collègues travailleurs sociaux dans le monde entier. Ensemble, nous continuons à avoir un impact positif, en travaillant à un avenir où la justice, l'égalité et la liberté ne sont pas seulement des idéaux, mais les fondements mêmes de notre communauté mondiale.

Cordialement,



Joachim Mumba



Pascal Rudin

Events

World Social Work Day



World Social Work Day on 21 March 2023 was a significant event, embracing the theme 'Respecting Diversity through Joint Social Action'. This theme aligns with the People's Charter for a New Eco-Social World, emphasizing the importance of local, diverse, leaderful communities in driving change.

#WSWD2023 served as a platform to recognize and celebrate the impactful actions communities can undertake for inclusive social transformation. The IFSW website showcased numerous events, illustrating the vital role of social work in

guiding communities on this transformative path.

IFSW President Joachim Mumba stated, "We invite all stakeholders to join us in our journey towards a new sustainable eco-social world. By uniting our local and global experiences, we are committed to making transformative change a reality." This year's World Social Work Day not only highlighted the profession's achievements but also reinforced the collective commitment to fostering a more inclusive and sustainable world.

IFSW successfully gathered over 100 translations of the WSWD poster, highlighting the event's global impact. We also disseminated information on more than 300 events, videos, and initiatives from member organizations, international partners, supportive friends, governments, and communities across the globe.

Our sincere thanks go to all who lent their voice to our social work profession, significantly contributing to the remarkable success of WSDW 2023.

Read more

[Click here to read more about celebrations around the globe.](#)

You may find a collage of the hashtag **#WSWD2023** on the next page.



#WSWD2023

Members

News From Members

Afghanistan



The Afghanistan Professional Organization of Social Workers (ASO) formalised an MoU with the Afghanistan Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry:

[Read the article](#)

Congo (DRC)



In the face of ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the National Association of Social Workers (NASW-DRC) has made significant strides in empowering vulnerable communities .

[Read the article](#)

Austria

The Austrian Professional Association of Social Work (OBDS) supported the FAIR alliance's call for investment in care work.

[Link to the article](#)

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Social workers in Bosnia and Herzegovina report how they confront numerous challenges while upholding their professional commitment to assisting people during their most trying moments.

[Read the article](#)

Denmark

The Danish Association of Social Workers is dedicated to promoting the rights and well-being of social workers, recognizing the vital role they play in society. .

[Read the article](#)

Finland

The Finnish Association of Social Workers shares insights into the unique challenges and innovations in Helsinki's community-focused approach.

[Read the article](#)

Members

News From Members

Hungary



The Hungarian Federation of Social Workers is proudly marking its 35th anniversary. Social workers from across the country gathered to celebrate.

[Read the article](#)

Norway



The expert group on children in impoverished families in Norway delivered a report titled outlining recommendations to improve the living conditions of children in low-income families.

[Read the article](#)

Israel and Uganda

Cross- Learning between Israeli Union of Social Workers and Ugandan Social Workers- a positive step towards achieving the Global Social Work Agenda.

[Read the article](#)

Malta

Malta recently celebrated a significant milestone in the realm of social work—the 20th anniversary of its esteemed Department of Social Work, University of Malta.

[Read the article](#)

Philippines

The Philippine Association of Social Workers celebrated a significant milestone with its Platinum Jubilee National Convention in Cebu City, commemorating 75 years of unwavering dedication to professional excellence and social welfare.

[Read the article](#)

Members

News From Members

Sierra Leone



Sierra Leone hosts a two-day national social work conference resulting in the establishment of a national professional association for social workers .

[Read the article](#)

South Korea

The Korean Association of Social Workers Supports Social Work organisations in Syria and Turkey in the wake of devastating earthquakes.

[Read the article](#)

Sweden

The Swedish Social Work trade union criticised government plans that require social and health professionals to report any persons living in Sweden without a permit.

[Read the article](#)

Syria



Syrian Social workers talk about the social work response following the earthquakes (note: Syria is not yet a member of IFSW).

[Read the article](#)

Turkey

Update of the Turkish Association of Social Workers on the local social work response to the devastating earthquakes.

[Read the article](#)

Uganda

In an effort to strengthen the social service workforce in Uganda, the National Association of Social Workers of Uganda (NASWU) has been actively engaging in modeling the INSPIRE Global tool for child protection.

[Read the article](#)

Join and become an IFSW Friend today!

Anyone can join as a Friend of IFSW. Friends join to show their support for international social work and to become a world-wide community. As a Friend of IFSW you receive:

- Free online access to the journal: International Social Work (ISW) published by Sage publications. You will be able to access all the articles in the journals dating back to January 1959.
- Advance access to all IFSW publications at reduced cost.

- Discounted conference registration fees (whenever possible).
- The opportunity to create and/or participate in international, regional or local social work or social justice campaigns.
- The certificate of 'IFSW Friends Status' membership



Individual Friend
membership

\$50 for 1 year

[SIGN UP NOW](#)



Student Friend
membership

\$25 for 1 year

[SIGN UP NOW](#)



Life Friend
membership

\$600

[SIGN UP NOW](#)



Organisational
Friend membership

\$1000 for 1 year

[SIGN UP NOW](#)

Regions

IFSW Africa



Members

Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, DRC, Djibouti, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leon, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

- Charles Mbugua, Kenya, United Nations
- Charles Rutikanga, Uganda, Indigenous Commission
- Stephano Akudike Joseph, Malawi, Ethics Commission

Regional Conference

The International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) Africa Region Conference was held from November 22nd – 24, 2023 at the University of Lagos, Nigeria. The bi-annual conference brought together 550 participants from Africa and beyond- Burkina Faso, Canada, Ghana, Ireland, Israel, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, United Kingdom, the United States, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The theme of the conference was Emerging Social Problems in Africa: The Response of Social Work Practice.

Executive

- Noel Muridzo, Zimbabwe, Regional President
- Oluwatoni Adeleke, Nigeria, Regional Vice President
-

Representatives

- Antoinette Lombard, South Africa, Education Commission

Regions

IFSW Africa

General Activities and Achievements

- The International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) Africa Region Conference, November 22nd – 24, 2023 at the University of Lagos, Nigeria.
- World Social Work Day 2023
- Translation of World Social Work posters
- Sharing of best practices by members. Examples are Modeling INSPIRE Global tool for Child Protection to Strengthen Social Service
- Workforce in Uganda: A reflection on interventions by the National Association of Social Workers of Uganda-NASWU.
- Professionalization: The Social Workers Association of Zambia (SWAZ) Act was passed in the year under review.



Congo (DRC), Agricultural Empowerment



Sierra Leone, National Conference

Planned Activities and Events

- The following are key events in 2024:
- Call for interest to host the 2025 Regional Conference
- Elections for Regional President
- Global Conference Panama
- Bid for the 2026 Global Conference



Uganda, Students and staff of Bugema University after INSPIRE training

News and Statements

[Statement on the International Day For The Eradication Of Poverty Message From Africa](#)

[Statement on the International Day Of The Girl Child: Let Us Renew Our Commitment To Investing In Girls' Rights](#)

Please [click here](#) to read more news and statements of the IFSW Africa Region

Regions

FITS Afrique



Membres

L'Angola, le Bénin, le Botswana, le Burundi, le Cameroun, le Congo, la République démocratique du Congo, Djibouti, l'Égypte, la Gambie, le Ghana, la Guinée, la Guinée Bissau, le Kenya, le Lesotho, le Libéria, la Libye, Madagascar, le Malawi, le Maroc, l'île Maurice, le Niger, le Nigéria, le Rwanda, le Sénégal, la Sierra Leone, l'Afrique du Sud, le Soudan, le Swaziland, la Tanzanie, le Togo, l'Ouganda, la Zambie, et le Zimbabwe

Membres du comité exécutif

- **Noel Muridzo**, Zimbabwe, Président régional
- **Oluwatoni Adeleke**, Nigéria, Vice-président régional
-

Représentants

- **Antoinette Lombard**, Afrique du Sud, Commission de l'éducation

- **Charles Mbugua**, Kenya, Nations Unies
- **Charles Rutikanga**, Ouganda, Commission indigène
- **Stephano Akudike Joseph**, Malawi, Commission d'éthique

Conférence régionale

La conférence de la Fédération internationale des travailleurs sociaux (FITS) pour la région Afrique s'est tenue du 22 au 24 novembre 2023 à l'Université de Lagos, au Nigéria. La conférence bisannuelle a rassemblé 550 participants d'Afrique et d'ailleurs : Burkina Faso, Canada, Ghana, Irlande, Israël, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Sénégal, Afrique du Sud, Rwanda, Tanzanie, Ouganda, Royaume-Uni, États-Unis, Zambie et Zimbabwe. Le thème de la conférence portait sur les problèmes sociaux émergents en Afrique et la réponse apportée par les professionnels du travail social.

Regions

FITS Afrique

Activités générales

- La conférence de la Fédération internationale des travailleurs sociaux (FITS) pour la région Afrique, 22 au 24 novembre 2023 à l'Université de Lagos, au Nigéria.
- Journée mondiale du travail social 2023
- Traduction d'affiches sur le travail social mondial
- Partage des meilleures pratiques par les membres. Les exemples sont la modélisation de l'outil mondial INSPIRE pour la protection de l'enfance afin de renforcer les services sociaux
- Main-d'œuvre en Ouganda : réflexion sur les interventions de l'Association nationale
- des travailleurs sociaux de l'Ouganda (NASWU).
- Professionnalisation : la loi sur l'association des travailleurs sociaux de Zambie (SWAZ) a été adoptée au cours de l'année écoulée



Congo (RDC), Autonomisation agricole

Activités et événements prévus

- Appel à candidature pour l'organisation de la Conférence Régionale de 2025
- Élections au poste de président régional
- Conférence mondiale au Panama
- Candidature pour la Conférence mondiale de 2026



Ouganda, Les étudiants et le personnel de l'université de Bugema après la formation INSPIRE

Nouvelles et déclarations (anglais)

[Statement on the International Day For The Eradication Of Poverty Message From Africa](#)

[Statement on the International Day Of The Girl Child: Let Us Renew Our Commitment To Investing In Girls' Rights](#)

Please [click here](#) to read more news and statements of the IFSW Africa Region

Regions

IFSW Asia and Pacific



Members

Australia; Bahrain; Bangladesh; China; Fiji; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Iran; Japan; Jordan; Republic of Korea; Kuwait; Kyrgyzstan; Lebanon; Macau, China; Malaysia; Mongolia; Nepal; Aotearoa / New Zealand; Palestine; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Singapore; Sri Lanka; Tajikistan; Thailand; Vietnam; Yemen.

New member(s): **Afghanistan**

Executive

Regional President: **Machiko Ohara**, Japan

Regional Vice-President: **Sriganesh M.V.**, India

Secretary: **Amran Jamil**, Singapore

Treasurer: **Viktor Virág**, Japan

Publication Team: **Nattapat Sarabol**, Thailand; **Daranee Narudomphong**, Thailand; **Vasudeva Sharma**, India; **Saowatarn Phoglad**, Thailand

Immediate Past President: **Rose Henderson**, Aotearoa New Zealand

Representatives

Education Commission: **Mariko Kimura**, Japan; **Teoh Ai Hua**, Malaysia

Human Rights Commission: **Rose Henderson**, Aotearoa New Zealand

Ethics Commission: **Hassan Mousavi Chelak**, Iran (Regional Co-ordinator);

Regions

IFSW Asia and Pacific

Yvonne Crichton-Hill, Aotearoa New Zealand; **Sukrita Rai**, Nepal

United Nations Commission: **Sebastian Cordoba**, Australia (Regional Commissioner (2022-2023); **Kae (Wilaiporn) Kotbungkair**, Thailand; **Suresh Pathare**, India; **Hamed Olamee**, Iran

Indigenous Commission: **Carole Tana-Tepania**, Aotearoa New Zealand, (Regional Co-ordinator); **Ling How Kee**, Malaysia; **Yangjian (Yvonne)**, China; **Linda Ford**, Australia

The year 2023 has been an year of significant activities and achievements. With COVID-19 behind us, IFSW-AP has undergone a transition with the new leadership team headed by President Prof. Machiko Ohara, and has been able to bring back momentum to the activities of IFSW-AP. The reconstituted Executive worked as a team setting strategic goals and objectives, and took upon tasks to achieve these goals.

The begining of the year started with a big challenge in respect of holding the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference as the designated host Iran Association of Social Workers had difficulties in proceeding to organise the event. The previous regional conference in the year 2021 in Australia had to be mostly a virtual conference and every one was looking for a physical conference that was to be held in Iran, but due to the uncertainties that prevailed there, the Iran Association of Social Workers had expressed its inability to host the con-

ference in either physical, virtual or hybrid mode. However, the Executive quickly reviewed the situation and identified potential alternative candidate countries to host and finally chosen Philippine Association of Social Workers, Incorporated (PASWI) to host the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference 2023 and PASWI shouldered the responsibility and has successfully organised and hosted the 27th Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of IFSW-AP and APASWE. A detailed summary of the report of the conference is attached with this report. IFSW-AP Executive would like to place on record our sincere thanks to PASWI, its President Mr Rosauro Luntayao, Executive Director Ms Eva Ponce de Leon and all its Board of Directors for accepting IFSW-AP's proposal to host the conference and for the commendable work done by them to organise the conference very successfully.

Another significant achievement is building a new team for publication with Dr Nattapat Sarabol leading the team, that has been doing a marvellous work and has started publishing newsletters for the region.

Another important decision that is taken by the Executive is deciding on the next host country for 2025 Asia-Pacific Regional Conference. IFSW-AP along with APASWE had sought interests and bids and we had two bidders, one being Sri Lanka Association of Professional Social Workers and another being Thailand Association of Social Workers. Both were qualified for the bid and were invited to

Regions

IFSW Asia and Pacific

make presentations on their preparedness to host the conference. Both associations showed their willingness and preparedness, and it was assessed that both had capability to organise and host a regional event. However, as Thailand Association of Social Workers had hosted the event in 2015 and Sri Lanka Association of Professional Social Workers had not held any regional conference until now, a joint committee with IFSW-AP and APASWE took a decision that Sri Lanka Association of Professional Social Workers will host the 2025 Regional Conference.

This year has also seen a new member joining the IFSW from the region the Afghanistan Association of Social Workers.

Regional Delegates Meeting:

The Regional Delegates Meeting was held on 7th November 2023, during the Regional Conference in Cebu City, Philippines. A Brief Report:

1. Welcome and Roll-Call, Approval of the Agenda, and Minutes of Previous Meeting:

- Country members present at the meeting: Aotearoa New Zealand, China, Hong Kong , India, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia , Singapore, South Korea , Sri Lanka, Thailand; Nurul Eka Hidayati attended as an observer for Indonesia; Rose Henderson attended as an observer for Aotearoa New Zealand.

- Minutes of previous General Meeting held on 5 March 2022 was accepted by voice vote (clapping) of those present.
- Aotearoa New Zealand proposed a minor amendment to the name stated in the minutes from Sharon to Shannon Pakura.

2. Welcome Address and President's Report

- Machiko Ohara welcomed all present at the meeting. In her President's Report, Machiko highlighted the initiatives of the Executive. She specially mentioned and thanked PASWI who agreed to host the regional conference as the earlier hosts Iran Association had difficulties and hence alternative had to be looked at. She commended the excellent work done by PASWI. She also sought suggestions from members for future activities. The Treasurer Viktor Virag presented financial report. Nattapat Sarabol who is heading the publication team gave a brief report on the publication and sought member associations to contribute news and articles for ensuing newsletters.

3. The members of various Commissions gave brief report:

- Teoh Ai Hua presented for the Education Commission.
- IFSW-AP Hon. Secretary shared on behalf of Hassan Mousavi Chelak for Ethics Commission and on behalf of

Regions

IFSW Asia and Pacific

Caroline Tana-Tepania for Indigenous Commission (details can be found in the following section).

- Rose Henderson who has drafted a proposal for restructuring of the global commissions including Human Rights Commission was requested to brief the members on the same. She briefed that the global Executive is reviewing the proposals and the human rights commission's structure, commission's purpose maybe redefined and further discussion on the same is likely to be held at next global general meeting in Panama.
- Kazakhstan shared a reflection on the social work agenda and human rights and that there should not be a difference between social work and human rights.
- UN Regional Commission: Sebastian Cordoba shared that though IFSW has access to UN, it currently, however, does not have a consistent presence at ESCAP. Plans for next year will be on expanding membership in the UN and ensuring a wider representation from various regions and areas, commemorating the ESCAP's 80th anniversary, and continuing IFSW's involvement in high-level UN forums.
- Indigenous Commission: 11 meetings were held between 2022 and 2023. The commission had issued various statements highlighting the issues. It

had also participated in online events, webinars, and conferences in raising awareness on the issues and challenges experienced by the indigenous communities. It has created a workplan for 2024 working on the central theme of "Integrating Indigenous Knowledge into Social Work Practice and Education".

- Ethics Commission: 2 actions were proposed to the regional executive office to be carried out under the regional commission: >To assess how the content of the Ethics Statement is being implemented throughout the region by the cooperation of national associations; and >To organize a special webinar (virtual or in-person) on the Statement.

4. Global Agenda and Updates:

- IFSW Global President Joachim C. Mumba who was a special invitee at the meeting, noted that despite the Human Rights Commission taking a pause, engagements with UN Human Rights will continue to take place for discussions and raising awareness on human rights issues.
- The IFSW Global President also highlighted the need to continue working with partners on issues relating to social and education which will be brought up at the next Global General Meeting that will be held on 1

Regions

IFSW Asia and Pacific

and 2 April 2024 in Panama during the IFSW conference.

- Pertaining to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, Palestine, he further said that IFSW will continue to issue relevant statements. However, he noted that at times, the content can be seen as opposing and conflicting as IFSW, IFSW -Europe, and IFSW-AP had issued their respective statements. The UN then felt that will be more appropriate for IFSW to come up with a statement that is more aligned.
- Pascal Rudin the Acting Secretary-General of IFSW Global who also attended the meeting as a special invitee, shared that the theme of the Global Agenda for World Social Work Day 2024 (19 March 2024) has just been launched on the IFSW website i.e. Buen Vivir (translated as Shared Future for Transformative Change).

5. Announcement of Host of Next Conference in 2025:

- IFSW-AP President announced that Sri Lankan Association of Social Workers will be hosting the next Asia-Pacific Regional Conference in 2025 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- The association's representative, Shamini Attanayake, extended an invite to all members to attend the next conference in 2025. She briefly shared on the proposed theme for the conference and extended appreciation

to those involved in supporting the association with its bid to host the next conference. She sought further support from all members and hoped to see them at the 2025 conference.

6. Presentation of Country Member Reports:

- Aotearoa New Zealand: The Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Social Workers (ANZASW) updated some of its work over the past year that included ratification on pay equity against male-dominated professions, organizing a conference held in Christchurch, and plans to commemorate its 60th year anniversary in 2024. ANZASW also highlighted its focus is on growing indigenous social work knowledge and practice. It has conducted a decolonising social work wananga (learning space) and more recently the rangitiratanga (leadership) national conference.
- China: The Vice President of the China Association of Social Workers (CASW) shared on history of CASW and the work they have done, and the various engagements held. It was highlighted that a gathering was convened in Shenzhen among social workers to discuss issues and developments in social work in China.
- Hong Kong: The Hong Kong Social Workers Association (HKSWA) shared

Regions

IFSW Asia and Pacific

on development of chapters on mental health, and ethnically diverse social work, as well as a new chapter that has been formed for volunteer groups and the establishment of a hotline support, among other initiatives. It had also collaborated with 2 neighbourhood centres to run programmes that reach out to low income and vulnerable people in the communities. HKSWA had also produced podcast programmes that featured challenges faced by communities living post-COVID as well as inspirational stories that had been incorporated into casework intervention and programmes.

- India: The India Network of Professional Social Workers' Association (INPSWA) shared about the upcoming international conference that will be held in Chennai in February 2024. All members are welcomed to participate.
- Iran: Full details can be found in the following section.
- Japan: The Japanese Federation of Social Workers (JFSW) shared on the work around responding to child abuse, strengthening support, and advocating for children's rights through consultation with agencies and enhancing systems. It also noted that various associations had been taking the lead in launching the new

certification and support systems. JFSW had also been involved in discussions with local government with the hope of engaging in and organizing trainings and increasing the number of qualified and registered social workers in Japan.

- Malaysia: The Malaysian Association of Social Workers (MASW) shared on its efforts to map out curriculum for social work studies as well as respond to the needs of children affected by migration. MASW had also invited IFSW Rory Truell to engage with its ministry on development of a Social Workers bill and to help push its new minister to promote and pass the bill. MASW had also been actively promoting the incorporation of indigenous knowledge into social workers' practice, celebrating the 50th (golden) jubilee of MASW with National Social Work Summit that was held in 2023. With funding from UNICEF, MASW will be launching a video that highlights social work contributions to Malaysia' nation building efforts.
- South Korea: With the new executive committee of the Korean Association of Social Workers (KASW) having had taken up office since March 2023, there had been several major issues that it had been working on and especially with a general election next year. Moving forward, KASW is keen to

Regions

IFSW Asia and Pacific

raise awareness of social work and trying to get a social worker elected as a congressman so as to help in influencing budget allocation for social services in the country.

- Thailand: The Thailand Association of Social Workers (TASW) updated about its work with UNICEF office that is currently located in Bangkok, organized the World Social Work Day in 2023 and invited the IFSW Global President to the event. The association had been invited to various policy making meetings with various government bodies and consulted on various laws and regulations from protection of children and adolescents to rehabilitation after national disasters.
- Iran Association of Social Workers (read in absentia as the representatives of the Association could not attend the meeting in person): Held lobbies to enact the Social Work Organizations Act in parliament. Conducted the 5th International Conference on Social Work and Social Diversity in conjunction with World Social Work Day 2023. Organized workshops for social workers and counsellors in governmental, non-governmental and private sectors in national or provincial levels. Conducted various research activities with non-governmental organizations and government bodies.

Invited to a meeting with the special rapporteur on Human Rights.

Pre-Conference Workshop



Pre-Conference Workshop in Cebu, Philippines

Title: Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation and Rehabilitation: Social Work Perspective. Saturday, 4 November 2023, Cebu City, Philippines.

Attended by about 70 delegates from over 15 IFSW-AP country members, the workshop opened with an introduction by IFSW-AP Vice President Sriganesh M. V., a welcome message from PASWI National President Rosauro R. Luntayoa and a speech by workshop Chairperson and Moderator, IFSW-AP Immediate Past President Rose Henderson.

This was followed by the presentations by the 3 invited speakers on social work interventions in areas of disaster relief work in the various countries. The speakers are:

Regions

IFSW Asia and Pacific

- Nurul Eka Hidayati, Secretary General of the Indonesian Consortium of Social Work;
- Tatsuhiro Mishina, Sendai Probation Officer/Tohoku Fukushi University; and
- Maria Gemma P. Dalena, PASWI's Deputy Chair for Special Projects on SDGs.

After a short tea break, the delegates were put into 4 groups for a group discussion for about 30 minutes on the following questions:

- Discuss the value, role, and place of social work in disaster relief work and identify the top 5 critical competencies that social workers need to work in this field of practice?
- How do you think that IFSW-AP can support in this work? List 2 to 3 ideas.
- What knowledge and skills that you have learnt here that can you bring back to apply at your workplace?
- Any other thoughts that the group feels relevant to discuss and share.

Thereafter, the groups then presented their views and recommendations. Moderator Rose Henderson summarised their points and concluded the workshop.

Publication of the Newsletter

This year has seen the renewed efforts to bring back publication of the newsletter periodically and the committee led by Dr Nattapat Sarabol has taken keen interest and started the work. The main objective of the publication is to disseminate information about IFSW-AP, highlight IFSW activities and also of the commissions and working groups and create an opportunity for the member associations and its individual members to contribute articles on their significant initiatives, activities and best practices in the Asia-Pacific region.

The first issue of the newsletter for the year, was published in June 2023 and contained messages from President Machiko Ohara, Vice President Sriganesh M. V., an introduction to IFSW-AP with organisation structure, an Article on Diversity and Climate Action, WSWD 2023 brief reports with photographs and an article about the National Alliance of Professional Social Workers of Kazakhstan. It has been well appreciated and the Publication Team is geared up to come out with periodical publications and has invited research-based articles from member associations.

World Social Work Day

Summary of the World Social Work Day 2023 at Thailand with Participation from

Regions

IFSW Asia and Pacific

IFSW-AP, UN Regional Commission and Hosted by Ministry of Social Development, Thailand:

It has been a flagship regional initiative annually to celebrate the World Social Work Day at Bangkok with the participation from UN Regional Office representative. On 21st March 2023, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security through Department of Social Development and Welfare hosted a hybrid (physical and virtual) event to celebrate WSWD 2023 with the theme of 'Respecting Diversity through Joint Social Action'. The event was attended by the Executives of the Ministry of Social Development and Welfare, social work academicians and practitioners and attracted about 1,800 participants, most of whom had logged in through Zoom and Facebook platforms.



WSWD Event Thailand

The conference was presided over by H.E. Chuti Krairiksh, Minister of Social

Development and Human Security. He emphasized amongst others the crucial role that the social workers and practitioners play in improving the people's quality of life and fostering social development. The keynote was delivered on the topic 'UN's Role in Promoting the Co-Existence in Diverse Communities' by H.E. Mrs Gita Sabharwal, the UN's Resident Coordinator in Thailand. Prof. Machiko Ohara, President of IFSW-AP also addressed the event. The members of Thailand Association of Social Workers, as well as social work academicians from Thammasat University were actively associated with the event.

Regional Conference



Photo of the Inauguration of the IFSW-AP conference : Left to Right: Dr Evangeline M. Guinto (PASWI National Treasurer), Mr Rosauro R. Luntayao (PASWI National President), Ms Rose Henderson (Former Regional President of IFSW-AP), Dr Machiko Ohara (President of IFSW-AP), Mr Joachim

Regions

IFSW Asia and Pacific

Mumba (Global President of IFSW), Archbishop Jose Palma of Cebu and Mrs Eva P. Ponce de Leon (PASWI National Executive Director)

A Summary Report of the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference held from 5 to 7 November 2023 in Cebu City, Philippines:

We would like to present the following summary of the report of the conference along with our year-end report. We thank PASWI for facilitating the documentation of the proceedings and deliberations of the sessions that has captured critical highlights of the presentation by experts in the field.

The Asia-Pacific Conference was conducted from 5 to 7 November 2023 at the Waterfront Hotel, Cebu City, Philippines. About 1,100 delegates from the member-countries of the IFSW attended the conference with Japan forming the largest delegation. Social workers from the Philippines numbering about 986 also attended the conference.

The delegates were met with a warm welcome; there were inspiring messages from the Presidents of the IFSW, Asian and Pacific Association for Social Work Education (APASWE) and the Philippine Association of Social Workers, Inc. (PASWI).

Guest Speakers, Keynote Speakers, plenary and panel speakers, and discussants, set the tone for the subsequent discussions on the Sustainable Development Goals, sharing

perspectives, roles and contributions of the social work profession.

Prof. Eric Chui, Head, Department of Applied Social Sciences, Co-Director, Policy Research Centre for Innovation and Technology the Hong Kong Polytechnic University discussed on 'Advancing Sustainable Social Work Education for Building Resilient and Equitable Communities' which included conceptualizing eco-spiritual social work, a green humanistic perspective for social work innovation, interdisciplinary and inclusion were discussed and examples given as well as discussions on future perspectives in Social Work Education. The key statement was that the environment has to be protected. Core principles were on advocating for the rights of nature, recognizing interconnectedness of humans and environment, social and ecological justice, incorporating indigenous knowledge systems into social work practice. Also discussed was the needed change in the paradigm "that humans are superior to nature" narrative and provided holistic context for social work education.

Prof. Datuk Dr Denison Jayasooria, Head of the Secretariat, APPGM SDG and President, Society for the Promotion of SDGs and Social Work spoke on 'A Review of Opportunities, Challenges and Possibilities', discussed SDGs as a development framework. Cited UN Events in 2023, a serious review on status of SDG

Regions

IFSW Asia and Pacific

implementation: Setting an agenda for SDG Acceleration and SDG Accountability. The Professor quoted the UN Secretary-General, at midpoint of SDG implementation, that the SDGs are in peril. Only 15% of the targets are on track with many going on reverse. Outlined 5 Key Action Points. Social workers and their organizations must intensify the implementation of SDGs at the local level. A review of SDGS and Social Work: Global Advocacy and Local Action was reviewed and how social work supports SDGs. Gave an example on an organization localizing SDGs. Shared their approach to reach those being left behind in society, to build partnerships among all the actors – multi stockholder engagement and to play a stronger advocacy role at the national level and local levels. Recommended that social workers must document these stories /action in systematic way for national and global data analysis.



View of the Conference Venue

Rose Henderson, Immediate Past President, IFSW Asia-Pacific and Past IFSW Vice President ANZASW Life

Member, presented The Global Progress on 'The Sustainable Development Goals and the Contributions of the Social Work Profession'. Per UNs 2020 SDG Progress Report, "The effects of the pandemic and the measures taken to mitigate its impact have overwhelmed the health systems globally, caused businesses and factories to shut down and severely impacted the livelihoods of half of the global workforce, kept 1.6 billion students out of schools, disrupted global value chains and the supply of products, and is expected to push tens of millions of people back into extreme poverty and hunger." Cascading and interlinked crises are putting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in grave danger, along with humanity's very own survival. The report highlights the severity and magnitude of the challenges before us. The confluence of crises, dominated by COVID-19, climate change, and conflicts, are creating spin-off impacts on food and nutrition, health, education, the environment, and peace and security, and affecting all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)." IFSW affirms and supports UN SDGs, cited Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development and Global Themes. Concluded SDGs significant step forward, mixed success despite many major challenges and highlighted IFSW continued contribution to social development building on SDGs.

The plenary session continued with the sharing by our colleagues of their various efforts and innovations in the field of the

Regions

IFSW Asia and Pacific

social work profession that contribute to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Evelyn Balais-Serrano, former executive director, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (Forum-Asia) and regional coordinator for Asia-Pacific, Coalition for The International Criminal Court (CICC) discussed on 'The Critical and Alternative Perspectives of the Social Work Profession on the Sustainable Development Goals'. All the SDGs, without exception have corresponding parallel rights. Like the core principles of human rights, all the SDG goals are universal, indivisible and interdependent. Social worker's role is key, at any level of practice, are in the best position to influence decision-making related to SDGs and other related concerns. Their training and grasp of situations on the ground can provide more realistic and effective inputs for planning strategies and other strategic data needed for decision-making. Also underscored that participation and empowerment as well as monitoring of SDG implementation is crucial.

SW PTR. Sug Pyo Kim, former Representative of IFSW-AP to UN, Critical and Alternative Perspectives of the Social Work Profession on SDGs. Presented on 'The Beginnings of SDGs from the Millennium Development Goals". Noted that the ambiguous goals and the challenges contributed to a more comprehensive and inclusive SDGs, the

development of social indicators and the SDG progress in the Asia-Pacific. 117 out of 169 indicators are related in social work practices, the detailed indicators were covered in the field of social welfare or were to be dealt with interest in the future. This realization highlights the pivotal position of social welfare as a key player that can and should contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

Teoh Ai Hua, PhD, Senior Lecturer, School of Applied Psychology, Social Work and Policy, University Utara Malaysia, President, Malaysian Association of Social Workers (MASW), Regional President, South East Asia and the Pacific - International Council of Social Welfare (ICSW-SEAP), Education Committee, International Federation of Social Workers -Asia Pacific (IFSW-AP) presented on 'Social Work and Transformational Leadership for SDGs: Reflections and Suggestions'. The critical roles of social workers in addressing the multi-dimensional issues encapsulated in the SDGs are frequently overlooked. Emphasized the Importance of exploring and investigating the intersection of social work, transformational leadership, and the SDGs - how these elements synergize to create meaningful and lasting impacts. Stressed the important relationships of good governance and sustainable development. Also discussed the 'Social Work Transformational Leadership and Relationship between Governance and

Regions

IFSW Asia and Pacific

Sustainable Development', such that the effectiveness of social work intervention can be enhanced by transformational leadership where visionary leadership inspires and motivates individuals, teams and organizations, advocate for systemic change and policy reforms that align with SDG objectives, utilizing their influence for broader societal benefit, that by adopting an outcome-based approach in governance, transformational leadership in social work serves as a catalyst for innovative approaches and sustainable development and aligning their efforts with the global agenda of achieving a more equitable and sustainable world.



IFSW-AP thanking the President of PASWI and Executive Director and presenting a memento

Gemma B. Gabuya, a member of Board of Directors PASWI, on the same subject presented on 'A Journey in The Implementation of the Philippines' Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT)' or 'The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program

(4Ps)' in the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Conditional Cash Transfer is equal to Grants Plus Behavior Change. (To break the intergenerational cycle of poverty.) Kilos Unlad Social Case Management Strategy. To achieve improved well-being towards self-sufficiency within the 7-year period. Family Development Session (FDS) 7 Year Transformative Learning Path. The importance of family in influencing the behavior change of its members through FDS (i.e. education and health seeking behavior, responsible financial behavior, positive family life management, etc.) scorecard. Indicators for the clientele to assess the progress and change. Discussed that social work is a profession dedicated to promoting social change, including the well-being of individuals, families, and communities and addressing social issues and challenges in the country. That the Philippines' Conditional Cash Transfer Program is the largest and best targeted programme of the

government. SWDI Booklet as a basic in determinant whether the client is progressing or reach the self-sufficiency level. The Transformational Leadership involves inspiring and motivating people to achieve their full potentials, and that good governance is a way of decision making and implementation that aims to achieve desirable and beneficial results for both those who govern and are being governed. It upholds the principles of

Regions

IFSW Asia and Pacific

transparency, accountability, and participation. Identified that Purpose, programme, plans, people, partnership, and public are the elements of transformational leadership. Continued innovation and redesigning the programme to ensure its responsiveness to the needs of the people. The framework uses building and sustaining resilience towards self-sufficiency. Throughout the process, there is convergence and Partnership with LGUs, DSWD, NGAs, CSOs and other stakeholders. The journey which presented how the 4Ps Program illustrated DSWD's contribution to the SDGs with the context of transformational leadership and governance.

Dr Sebastian Cordoba, Dr Wilaiporn Kotbungkair and Hamed Olamaee presented on 'Social Workers and The SDGS: IFSW Advocacy In The United Nations For Asia and The Pacific Region' with an overview of the work of the IFSW UN commission in the region, including key SDG advocacy efforts at UN summits, general meetings, and committees SDGs and lack of progress.

- The Asia-Pacific region is not on track to achieve any of the 17 SDGs by 2030.
- On its current trajectory, the region may achieve less than 10 per cent of the SDG targets.
- While there are impressive national accomplishments, none of the countries in the region are on track to

reach them and overall achievement is much lower than anticipated for the midpoint.

- Some sub-regions are well positioned to achieve a few of the goals. For example, East and North-East Asia are on track to eradicate poverty (Goal 1) and provide clean water and sanitation for all (Goal 6) while South-East Asia is on track to promote sustainable industry and innovation (Goal 9). SDG 13: Climate Action: The region is regressing on critical goals of climate action (Goal 13); Climate change is a social justice issue. Advocacy is needed to assure governments take meaningful action on climate change.
- Despite the fact that 86% of countries in the Asia-Pacific Region had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, it is evident that persons with disabilities continue to face numerous barriers to their full inclusion and participation in society. Disability is a cross-cutting/intersectional issue, and the 2030 Agenda also includes seven targets and 11 indicators explicitly referring to persons with disabilities. SDGs are considered a powerful framework to guide all stakeholders at regional, national, and local community levels to gear toward the achievement of disability-inclusive development. Social workers realize the need for more considerable attention and

Regions

IFSW Asia and Pacific

affirmative actions of all stakeholders to tackle key issues: discrimination and violence against persons with disabilities; the disproportionate level of poverty; limited access to education, health care services and productive rights, justice, education, employment, assistive technology and public transportation., etc. Persons with Disabilities and Social Protection Addressing fundamental barriers causing exclusion of persons with disabilities; Mainstreaming disability in the implementation of SDGs at all levels; Improve monitoring and evaluation of progress towards SDGs for persons with disabilities inclusion of persons with disabilities and their representative in all states of decision-making and in carrying out the policies and programmes. Inclusion of persons with disabilities and their representative in all states of decision-making and in carrying out the policies and programmes. Toward Disability-Inclusive Sustainable Development; Empowering individuals with disabilities and their families to engage in self-advocacy. This can be achieved through providing resources, information, and support to enable them to express their needs, rights, and concerns effectively. Promote social justice and foster social change at both individual and collective levels. This involves challenging discriminatory practices and attitudes

towards individuals with disabilities and advocating for the removal of barriers and the creation of inclusive environments; Mainstream disability issues into development agendas and programmes to ensure that the needs and rights of individuals with disabilities are addressed. Collaborate with allied professionals, organizations, and stakeholders to challenge and dismantle institutional structures that perpetuate discrimination against individuals with disabilities. This collaboration can lead to the development and implementation of inclusive policies, practices, and strategies. Social Work in Disability Sector Macro Mezzo Micro.



Machiko Ohara

Our region is affected with several ongoing conflicts and humanitarian crisis. Several UN agencies are responding to these conflicts including OCHA, UNHCR,

Regions

IFSW Asia and Pacific

UNRWA, UNICEF etc. Many social workers are dealing with the people affected by conflicts in the region which the IFSW-AP UN committee makes effort to making sure that policies of UN be in line with the core values of social work.

Mr Joachim Cuthbert Mumba, Global President IFSW presented and discussed the topic on 'Social Workers and the SDGs: IFSW Advocacy in the UN for Asia and the Pacific Region'. IFSW has a membership of well over 150 country members. The Federation provides a global voice for the profession. Social workers make a unique, professional and critical contribution to society. They facilitate sustainable social outcomes that enable people and their communities to reach their potential for this and future generations. IFSW supports social workers to achieve this through the following aims: Partnerships, Action, Policy and Advocacy. On Policy, developing ethical statements and policies that enhance best social work practice. On Advocacy, Advocating at global, regional and national levels for social justice, and individual, group, civic and cultural human rights. Advocating professional social work values, standards, ethics, human rights, recognition, training and working conditions. IFSW UN Advocacy in the Asia Pacific: work with the UN system (bodies, commissions committees), Member States and civil society groups: building partnerships and collaborating. Main focus of advocacy: Achieving the SDGs

through partnership and collaboration; UN Reform and new eco-social contracts, Highlight the role of social work in achieving SDGs, Advocacy through direct action, written/oral statements and participation in regional summits and workshops.

In between plenary sessions, SDG 1 to 17 were simultaneously presented in 12 Panels. Facilitating and hindering factors or conditions that promote or hinder the achievement of the SDG as well as critical roles of the social work profession in responding to these factors or conditions were discussed.

The presentations and discussions with regards as to where we are in the mid-point of SDGs say that we will not be able to achieve SDG goals by 2030. The limited impact is attributed to the pandemic, intersecting societal and global crisis and social, economic, and ecological challenges. Many AP countries remain off track (<10%-15% compliance) in achieving SDGs; while it varies from country to country depending on geographical locations and situations - gender equality, maternal health, environmental sustainability. There is mixed success despite many challenges (decrease in rates of global poverty, primary school enrollment, literacy, gender representation in national parliament as of 2015).

Other points raised include but not limited to: 17 SDGs interconnected (poverty

Regions

IFSW Asia and Pacific

reduction linked with improving health, education, gender equality, etc.) Both a reality and a goal - the alignment of SDGs with global & national commitments or agenda (child protection).



Auction for the Jane Hovey Fund

The Key messages were: 'Leave No One Behind. Unity in Diversity' - shared lived experiences, vision, perspectives, and learnings. Partnership (global, national, local) is essential in achieving the SDGs.

Some Shared Values identified are: Peace; Human rights; Social justice; Inclusion; Accountable and transformational leadership and governance; Sustainable environment and institutions.

Common Principles or Approaches Adopted by AP Countries: Inclusiveness; PWDs, IPs, SOGIE; international solidarity and global cooperation; rights-based; interdisciplinary; innovation and creativity; integrated response; transformational; empowering; sustainable; bottom-up approach - grassroots engagement; person-centered care; equitable resource allocation.

Major Challenges in SDG Implementation:

Ambitious goals: no poverty, zero hunger (aspirational) SDG concepts not relatable/ understandable to people in communities; no buy-in at local government level; knowledge and data - accessibility, availability, clarity; cultural and religious diversity; language barrier; conflict between Islamic law and national law on gender violence; limited human, technical and financial resources (including investments), systems and facilities; lack of local government priority and support to and understanding of SDGs.

Specific areas of areas of strength and/or weakness of the social work profession, as well as facilitating and hindering factors as it sought to contribute towards achieving specific SDG. To name a few, facilitating factors identified are: Availability of the existing government programmes like Pantawid Pamilya, KALAHII, institutionalization of RA11130, staff welfare, sufficient funding from Japan, empowerment of PWD, judiciary and child-friendly environment, dedication and commitment of social workers, collaboration with partners and stakeholders support family, hybrid education, flexible learning, networking. On the other hand, some of the hindering factors identified are: limited targets, budget is short-based, governance, no localization/translation of SDG, lack of technical and financial resources to address the needs of the PWDs, lack of mechanism for PWD, armed conflict, poverty, limitation in funds, lack of staffing, lack of training, stigma, cultural

Regions

IFSW Asia and Pacific

diversity, lack of resources, lack of management and understanding towards SDG, implementation, support from the government to schools/educational institutions, lack of facilities, and digital skills.

Strengthening The Roles of Social Workers and Other Service Professionals:

- Partnership builder - Developing and implementing policies and programmes, delivering services, establishing links with professional (social service workforce) and community groups.
- Innovator - Stimulating people's mindset.
- Capacity builder - Educator, trainer, mentor.
- SDG Champion - Linking global goals with national, local and community realities and responses.
- Human rights defender (including child protection rights) - Advocate of social justice, gender equality, child protection.
- Empowered social worker and clients-competence (with knowledge, education, training), e.g., to address gender violence (Thailand), poverty reduction (Sri Lanka); access to resources; financial autonomy. \
- Researcher, monitor (data and information, indicators, targets); evidence-based practice.

It can be deduced that the conference aims to locate and highlight the critical

role and significant contributions of social workers in the Asia-Pacific region towards the achievement of the SDGs was achieved, with the presentations and discussions, with the SDGs Status at Mid-Point identified, as well as Social Work's Contribution to Social Development threshed out. Delegates shared and benefitted from various perspectives, insights and experiences toward achieving the examined further the opportunities, and challenges that SDGs offer to social work as a profession as well as its future directions.

As our presentations and documentation show, roles and contributions of social work in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as the possibilities, opportunities, and challenges faced by social workers in working towards achieving specific SDGs were identified.

Some Ways Forward:

- Integrate SDGs in social work education (including eco-spiritual/green humanistic perspective for social work, transformational leadership and governance).
- Maximize the use of digital technology in social work education and practice to improve access to resources and enhance communication and linkages.
- Tap the private sector (including multinational corporations) to finance and help increase investment for SDGs.

Regions

IFSW Asia and Pacific

- To localize SDGs to accelerate their implementation.

As gleaned from the evaluation, speakers were rated highly (excellent to very good) and their presentations and sharing were very much appreciated, with the rating on clarity, it being clear and on point; mastery, strong knowledge on the subject matter demonstrated; delivery and sequence, with the points of discussion presented in a logical easy-to-follow sequence; relevance, the content was relevant to one's profession/work and presentation: visual aids/handouts, powerpoint presentation with visual illustrations, and examples, charts etc. to elucidate the presentation.

Invariably, the topics discussed were viewed by the delegates as interesting and fascinating because they were timely, appropriate and practical in their field of work.

We are glad that the IFSW President, Joachim Mumba and the Acting Secretary-General Pascal Rudin participated in the event.

The Conference also gave the delegates new knowledge/skills/attitudes. Foremost among these is the significant view that "Leaders are not born, they are made" as well as new insights on communication and networking skills, leadership, initiative and innovation, and critical competencies.

Majority considered their expectations to have been met in the conference because the SDGs were extensively and thoroughly

discussed. There is also the awareness that Asia-Pacific, considering where we are at the moment, will not meet any of the 17 SDGs as projected in 2030, maybe only less than 10% despite impressive accomplishments.

Overall, the conference was very satisfying and successful and provided great learning, sharing best practices and networking opportunities for the delegates who had converged from throughout the region. There were about 96 foreign delegates from 18 countries and 1003 delegates from the host country, besides invitees.

With this report, while thanking the Global President, Secretary-General and the secretariat staff, we look forward for continued support from IFSW Global for further strengthening the activities in the region.

2023 Year End Report Prepeared, on behalf of President Machiko Ohara and Executive of IFSW-AP, by Sriganesh M. V., Vice President and submitted to IFSW Global Secretariat.

News and Statements

Please [click here](#) to read the latest news and statements of the IFSW Africa Region

Regions

IFSW Europe



IFSW Europe operates as a legal entity, offering a formal platform for collaboration, advocacy, and addressing the varied challenges and opportunities in the field of social work for both social work professionals and national social worker organizations in Europe.

IFSW Europe's legal standing enables it to engage in various advocacy efforts, projects, and partnerships to advance the field of social work. It likely has a constitution or bylaws that outline its organizational structure, objectives, and operational guidelines.

Additionally, being a legal entity allows IFSW Europe to represent social workers at regional levels, participate in policy discussions, and contribute to the development of social work practices within the European context, represent social workers at regional levels, participate in policy discussions, and contribute to the develo-

pment of social work practices within the European context.

Members

Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Faroe Island, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kosovo, Luxembourg, Lithuania, Malta, Moldova, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, Ukraine

New member(s): none.

IFSW Europe continues its engagement with social workers and universities in social work in the following countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Estonia, Latvia, Slovenia.

Regions

IFSW Europe

Executive

- **Ana Radulescu** (Romania) – President
- **John Brennan** (Ireland) – Vice president

Members of the Executive

- **Brian Auslander** (Israel) – Treasurer
- **Paola Pontarollo** (Italy)
- **Andreas Kikvik** (Norway)
- **Ruth Allen** (United Kingdom)

Deputy Members

- **Birthe Povlsen** (Denmark)
- **Josien Hofs** (Netherlands)

IFSW European Honorary Secretary

- **Teodora Dobre** (Romania)

Representatives

- Representative to European Social Platform - **John Brennan** (Ireland)
- Representative to INGO / Council of Europe – **Ruth Allen** (UK)
- Representative to European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) - **Enric Torras** (Austria)
Representative to European Anti-Poverty Network - **Birthe Povlsen** (Denmark)
- Representative to Eurochild - **Anna Deneher** (Ireland)
Representative to International Psychogeriatric Association (IPA) – **Gerry Nosowska** (United Kingdom)

- United Nation, Vienna, Geneva – **Herbert Paulischin** (Austria)
- IFSW Global Education Commission - **Nicolai Paulsen** (Denmark)
IFSW Global Ethic Commissions – **Gabriele Stark-Angermeier** (Germany)
- IFSW Global Human Rights - **Marcin Boryczko** (Poland)
IFSW Global Indigenous Committee - **Margareta Uttjek** (Sweden)

Delegates meeting



Delegates Meeting 2023, Prague

IFSW Europe held its annual Delegates Meeting in Prague in May 2023. The meeting was very successfully with 24 countries present: Austria, Armenia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Israel, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom

Regions

IFSW Europe

We thank our Czech Republic colleagues for their excellent organisation and hospitality. The next Delegates Meeting will be in Portugal in October 2024.

Regional Conference

The IFSW European Conference held in Prague in 2023 was a resounding success.



With over 500 participants, the event brought together professionals both in person and online, fostering a dynamic exchange of ideas and experiences.

Social workers, social work students, social service managers, policy makers and university professors from more than 50 countries on all continents actively participated in the conference, contributing various perspectives and ideas.

The conference had a comprehensive program with over 50 organized sessions covering a wide range of topics relevant to social work. This approach using a dual platform, accommodating both face-to-face and virtual presence, enabled broad participation and enriched the overall conference experience.

The successful outcome highlights the importance of collaboration and knowledge sharing within the social work community.

The conference served as a melting pot of ideas, experiences and expertise, reflecting the inclusive and collaborative nature of the social work profession on a global scale.

Activities and achievements

In 2023, IFSW Europe focused on several key priorities for action:

1. Enhancing the capacity of national associations of social workers and supporting the impactful inclusion of social work perspectives in national decision-making processes

The aim of activities focused on increasing the capacity of national associations of social workers involved empowering these organizations with the necessary resources and knowledge to effectively impact actions at the national level. This included the exchange of best practices and the promotion of collaboration between associations. By strengthening their capacity, national associations can better fulfil their crucial role as the voice of the social work profession.

At the same time, supporting the impactful inclusion of social work perspectives in national decision-making processes means ensuring that the unique knowledge and expertise of social workers are considered and valued in national policy and decision-making. This involves actively engaging with policy makers, government agencies and other stakeholders

Regions

IFSW Europe

to highlight the importance of social work in addressing societal challenges.

This dual approach aims to support the collaborative relationship between national associations and policy makers, where social workers are not only well-equipped at the grassroots level, but also actively contribute to the wider societal discourse, ultimately influencing policies that have a positive impact on communities and individuals.

In that sense, IFSW European supported the activity of OBDS Austria to develop a legislation to protect the title of social work profession. The achievements of OBDS stand as an inspiring example of effective advocacy for the social worker profession, particularly noteworthy for the strategic establishment of title protection. This accomplishment not only fortifies the professional identity of social workers but also sets a positive example for other countries.

Also, as an example, IFSW Europe contributed to the International Conference on child protection in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, where discussions highlighted the significant challenges faced by social workers in the country. These challenges include inadequate working conditions, legal ambiguities, administrative burdens, a lack of social workers in education and healthcare, and a scarcity of supervision opportunities, all of which impede their ability to provide comprehensive support ([Link to news article](#)).



International Conference on child protection, Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Another example is the successful collaboration endorsed by IFSW Europe that took place between social workers from Greece, Turkey, and the UK, led by the Turkish Association of Social Workers, the Hellenic Association of Social Workers, Liverpool Hope University, and the University of West Attica, resulted in the 'Social Work Summer Camp.' Spearheaded by the Mula Branch of the Turkish Association of Social Workers and the Mula Metropolitan Municipality, this transformative initiative focused on the role of social work in the climate crisis. The event produced a joint declaration, echoing a global call for support for social workers and broader movements advocating for climate justice, emphasizing the need for widespread dissemination within the global social work community.

IFSW Europe President participated and endorsed several events organized by our member organizations in: Island, Denmark, Malta, Turkey, Armenia, Hungary, Romania, Austria.

Regions

IFSW Europe

2. Enhancing engagement in key European Union processes and promoting constructive dialogues with decision makers through the dedicated efforts of our representatives

IFSW Europe sustains its collaboration with the European Commission and members of the European Parliament to strengthen engagement in crucial European Union processes. This ongoing partnership with European Social Platform involves dedicated efforts from our representatives to foster constructive dialogues with decision-makers, aiming to positively influence key policy discussions and outcomes.

Here are some examples of IFSW Europe activities:

- IFSW Europe remains actively engaged in contributing to the EU Care Strategy by collaborating with the European Social Platform. This involves participation in a task force established with representatives of the Social Protection Committee. The primary focus of this collaboration is to facilitate exchanges and discussions regarding the ongoing development of indicators related to social care work. This joint effort aims to enhance the effectiveness of social care strategies within the European context.
- IFSW Europe is actively involved in shaping policies aimed at combating both structural and economic aspects of poverty. Moreover, a significant fo-

cus is placed on ensuring that individuals experiencing poverty receive essential social support to empower them to effect positive changes for themselves and their families. A concrete illustration of these efforts is evident in the work undertaken for the IFSW Poverty Watch Report 2023 ([Link to news article](#)).

INTERNATIONAL DAY for the ERADICATION of POVERTY

17 OCTOBER

3. Increasing the visibility and advocacy role of social workers in addressing issues that directly impact the provision of social services and the overall well-being of individuals

IFSW Europe, at the forefront of social work advocacy in Europe, takes an active lead in initiatives aimed at increasing the visibility and advocacy role of social workers. With a focus on addressing issues that have a direct impact on the provision of social services and the general well-being of individuals, IFSW Europe works with member organizations to achieve these goals. Some of the initiatives include:

Regions

IFSW Europe

- IFSW Europe has actively supported and endorsed the initiatives of its member organizations, including the Maltese Association of Social Workers and the Ministry of Social Affairs. Their collaborative efforts aim to safeguard social workers and distinguish the social services provided by various professions. This ongoing process ensures the delivery of quality services while respecting professional differences and associated qualifications.
- In the region, IFSW Europe has endorsed the report titled "A Childhood for Life" by the Norwegian Union of Social Educators and Social Workers. The report presents recommendations to enhance the living conditions of children in low-income families and prevent the perpetuation of poverty.



Report "A Childhood for Life"

- Additionally, IFSW has endorsed OBDS Austria's alternative budget speech to parliament, addressing key issues related to care work, poverty, distributive

justice, and their economic implications.

- The Hungarian Federation of Social Workers received support from IFSW Europe in conveying strong messages to decision-makers. These messages emphasize that social work cannot be replaced by charity work, and social workers express their readiness to engage in discussions with the government regarding the future of the social work profession.

IFSW Europe continues its support for member organizations in countries facing natural disasters and crises resulting from war. Notable instances include supporting the association of social workers in Armenia during the influx of over 120,000 people from Nagorno-Karabakh, aiding the association of social workers in Turkey following an earthquake, assisting the association of social workers in Israel after the attack on October 7, and advocating for the protection of all individuals affected by armed conflicts.

Furthermore, ongoing efforts are in place to build support for social workers and the people in Ukraine.

4. Improving and refining our communication strategies to effectively convey the vital role of social workers

In 2023, IFSW is enhancing its communication strategy as follows:

- Expanding narratives by presenting a broader range of experiences from so-

Regions

IFSW Europe

cial workers and social work associations who are members of IFSW Europe. This involves highlighting different contexts, challenges, and successes, providing a more comprehensive and realistic portrayal of the social work profession and the role of social work associations. Diverse voices, including those of social workers from various backgrounds, can contribute to a more inclusive understanding of the profession, reflecting the diverse populations that social workers serve. IFSW Europe is promoting these diverse voices to foster a more comprehensive appreciation of the social work profession. All the articles are available [here](#).

- Embracing the potential of social media to promote diversity in social work can be a transformative approach. Social media platforms have become powerful tools for communication, information dissemination, and community building within IFSW Europe. In 2023 we have enhanced the IFSW Europe account on various platforms, including Facebook pages and groups, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn. The accounts have also been expanded with specific pages related to IFSW Europe Projects.

5. Continuing our collaborative projects at European level to address pressing challenges and promote positive change within the social work community

IFSW Europe is actively involved in a diverse range of projects that address pressing social issues and advocate for vulnerable populations. In addition, the organization is committed to increasing the representation of the social work profession both nationally and internationally.

From promoting eco-wisdom in the face of global warming to empowering the younger generation of social workers for transformative change, the IFSW Europe demonstrates a commitment to fostering positive societal impacts and enhancing the visibility and respect for the social work profession.

A few ongoing projects in 2023 include:

- **Project: Eco-Wisdom for social workers (March 2022 – ongoing):** It aims to involve social workers in supporting vulnerable populations, particularly in relation to global warming. The objective is to share experiences and increase the capacity of social workers, enabling their active participation in the development of social and environmental policies at national level. IFSW Europe is planning a European conference on eco-wisdom to be held in June 2024 in the Netherlands.

Regions

IFSW Europe

- **Project: A Social Europe is Possible! (2020 – ongoing):** Despite the end of the project, ongoing discussions highlight the importance of improving strategies for new social workers entering the labour market. The focus is on sharing knowledge and practices to prepare the next generation for impactful and transformative roles in addressing evolving societal challenges.
- **Project: Social workers for transformative and sustainable social protection in Europe (2017 – ongoing):** The project aims to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights, promoting access to education, employment, and social protection. It involves collaboration with the European Social Platform, the European Commission, the European Parliament, and relevant networks. The role of IFSW Europe is to highlight the crucial role of social workers in advancing and ensuring the effective implementation of these social rights.
- **Project: Increasing responsiveness to citizens' voice in social services across Europe (2023 – ongoing):** This is an EU-funded Horizon Europe research and innovation project, launched on 1 March 2023, with a duration of 36 months. The project aims to improve the responsiveness of social services across Europe to the input of diverse citizens, particularly in disability and mental health, child protection and

services for young people at risk. The project focuses on understanding and improving official channels and public actions for citizen input, identifying factors shaping change in social services, and co-designing innovations to expand the use of citizen knowledge. The ultimate goal is to promote the adoption of innovations that contribute to the effective integration of diverse citizen perspectives in social services at different levels.

In addition to these broader initiatives, IFSW Europe collaborates on projects specifically focused on Ukraine. These are the projects run in 2023:

- **Kamianets-Podilskyi Community Social Work Center:** the project focused on providing social and emotional support, along with activities for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), in collaboration with Kamianets-Podilskyi District, Ukraine, ASproAS Association of Social Workers and Association of Social Workers of Ukraine.
- **Investments in social partnership:** the project has as objective of supporting a network of volunteers and NGOs conducting activities in the community to sustain community support efforts in Ukraine.
- **Improving shelter conditions for internally displaced persons:** the project, funded by Volkshilfe Austria (January 2023 – March 2024), focuses on im-

Regions

IFSW Europe

proving shelter conditions for internally displaced persons. The aim is to renovate two buildings – one for the elderly and the other for families with children. Renovation works continue until February 2024. Both centers are being modernized to meet European standards and have successfully applied for and obtained the status of accredited social centers conferred by the Ukrainian state.

- **Prevent, Protect, and Provide for Children in Ukraine:** This initiative is funded by ERIKS Development Partner and the Association of Social Workers from Romania, with support from IFSW Europe. The primary goal is to develop supportive practices informed by the assessment of children's situations. The project will be carried out in collaboration with the Social Work Faculty, the University of Kamianets-Podilskyi, and the Association of Social Workers in Ukraine.
- **Innovation in Social Services in Ukraine:** This project is funded by the Federation of Social NGOs from Transylvania, Romania. The objective of the project is to train social workers and students in developing innovative concepts for various social services. The anticipated outcome of the project is a proposal for a number of essential social services required in Ukraine to support the most vulnerable populations.



Ukraine Marks Milestones in Developing Social Support System

- **One-Year Celebration:** Ukraine Marks Milestones in Developing Social Support System: The International Federation of Social Workers in Europe (IFSW Europe) organized an event to celebrate 1 year of support in Ukraine. The event aimed to highlight the importance of social assistance and social services in Ukraine as essential in promoting well-being and overall quality of life for people and communities during and after war. The event was attended by: deputy Mykola Stefan-chuk, adviser to the prime minister Olga Lugach, deputy of the Regional Council Valentin Sokolyuk and representative of the Khmelnytsia Regional Military Administration Catherine Burduvalis, more than 30 heads of local administration from Ukraine (district and oblast councils). The event served as a platform for meaningful discussions, collaborations and solutions, all

Regions

IFSW Europe

of which will significantly influence the future of the social work and social service profession in Ukraine. It emphasized the vital role of local governments, including district councils and regions, in building and implementing support systems for people. Public administrations, being closest to the communities they serve, can adapt policies and services to effectively respond to local needs. Their commitment ensures that policies are inclusive and responsive to the specific challenges each region faces. The 1st year report is available [here](#).

Additional information on social work in Ukraine can be found [here](#).

IFSW Europe's collaborative efforts in these projects demonstrate its commitment to addressing multifaceted challenges in social work, from global issues to specific initiatives on the ground. For more details, visit the [IFSW Europe Projects page](#).

6. Conferences and Webinars that contribute to the promotion of social work practice, policy and awareness

IFSW European Regional Conference: A Social Europe is Possible where no one is Left behind, Prague, May 2023.

On one year of partnership and shared efforts strengthening the field of social work

in Ukraine and foster resilience during the most challenging times of war, September 2023

IFSW Europe Webinar to Mark Human Rights Day 2023 – Social Work Practice and The Protection Of Human Rights In Europe: Freedom, Equality And Human Rights For All: An IFSW Webinar to mark Human Rights Day, December 2023

Ana Radulescu

John Brennan

News and Statements

[Solidarity With Social Workers In Israel And Palestine](#)

[The Aegean Declaration On Climate Justice And Social Work](#)

[IFSW Statement On The Situation In Nagorno-Karabakh](#)

[Turkish Association Of Social Workers Stands In Solidarity With Morocco After Devastating Earthquake](#)

Please [click here](#) to read the latest news and statements of the IFSW Europe Region

Regions

IFSW Latin America and Caribbean



Members

Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Haiti, Grenada, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Uruguay, Suriname

New Members: none

Executive

- **Kenia Batista**, Panama, President
- **Tania Ramos**, Brazil, Vice President

Representatives

- Indigenous Commission: **Jenny Linares** (Peru); **Alexi Perez Sierra** (Colombia); **Hector Domingo Chasoy Ortega**

(Colombia); **Osila Ayarza Perez** (Panama); **Elizângela Cardoso de Araujo Silva** (Brazil); **Angelica Rivera Ortega** (Mexico); **Noelia Sonia Lizondo** (Argentina).

- Ethics Commission: **Sharon-Rose Gittens** (Barbados).
- UN: **Alexi Perez Sierra** (Colombia).
- Global Agenda: **Iván De Jesús** (Puerto Rico).
- Education Commission: **Marinilda Rivera** (Puerto Rico).
- Human Rights Commission: **Vilma Magnone** (Uruguay); **Silvana Mara Moraes dos Santos** (Brazil); **Jean Claude Dorsainville** (Haiti); **Elba Nunez** (Paraguay); **Gabriela Rodriguez** (Mexico).

Regions

IFSW Latin America and Caribbean

Regional Meetings

- January 14. Agenda: Reports; 2024 Global Conference; 2023 Regional Conference.
- December 16. Agenda: Reports; 2024 Global Conference; GM elections.

Regional Conference



Regional Conference in Cali, Colombia

Colombia (FECTS), Cali, March 1-3, 2023—First LAC presidents' meeting after the health, political and economic COVID crisis, attended by the regional president and vice president -Kenia Batista and Tania Ramos-, eight national association's presidents, the coordinating representative of COLACATS -Jorge Arturo Sáenz-, and two members of the operational team of the Colombian Federation of Social Workers (TECTS), representing two regional associations in Colombia.

The meeting began after the registration of attendance and the introduction of the attendees. Subsequently, topics of vital importance were addressed, including the socio-political situation in the American countries, regional progress and projection, strategic proposals to improve the relationship with regional federations and schools, cooperation and solidarity activities to strengthen unions in Latin America and the Caribbean; analysis, reflection and guidance from the leading organisations (IFSW-LAC and COLACATS) to the Colombian federation, providing guidelines and recommendations to follow in the face of political reforms, professional links with peoples and other organisations.

During the second day, reports from each of the schools were presented on actions, difficulties and progress, agreeing on the need to work to improve communication and interaction, strengthen regional support to organisations, maintaining assertive, updated and continuous communication to strengthen regional participation, share experiences and generate common interest on the part of non-affiliated schools.

Subsequently, the COLACATS bylaws were presented by Jorge Saenz and vice president Tania Ramos shared some considerations. Designation of the representations. LAC's conclusions and recommendations were presented, taking into account the specific characteristics of each region.

Regions

IFSW Latin America and Caribbean

At the end of the meeting, the 2023 CALI COLOMBIA DECLARATION on inequalities and injustices was signed by the national associations.

Within the framework of this meeting, the 45th FECTS anniversary was commemorated, as its contribution to the growth and development of the profession. The "RUTH PATIÑO ZULUAGA" Medal of Merit was awarded. The presidency of IFSW-LAC and representatives of the other federations and schools attended this event as special guests.

TECTS, the national associations, the social workers of Colombia, express our gratitude to the IFSW GLOBAL, to the IFSW-LAC, to COLACATS and its presidency and representatives, to all the presidents of the countries that accompanied us and the colleagues who visited us and made this experience possible. We hope to have the opportunity to share significant and valuable social work experiences in Colombia, our land.

Activities and Achievements

Argentina

Ordinary Annual Assembly, First Government Board 2023 and meeting of the Ethics Commission, held in the city of Santa Rosa, province of La Pampa on dates March 31, February 1 and 4. At the Assembly, balance sheets and reports for the year 2022 were approved, and an up-

date to the membership fee was also agreed upon. The Board worked on issues related to the 2023 Conference, and Collective Protection in progress for the incorporation of the profession in the Superintendence of Social Works. Provincial reports and plans to modify the logo.

Governing Board, Ethics Commission meeting and Gender and Diversity Forum held in La Plata, Province of Buenos Aires on August 25 and 26. At this meeting agreements were reached in regards to the Conference. Likewise, work was done on the socio-political-economic situation of the country within the context of the elections. The presentation initiated by the Schools of the Province of Buenos Aires and the Federal Capital before the national Ministry of Health for the recognition of the specialty in Socio-sanitary Social Work was shared among other topics of interest to the profession.

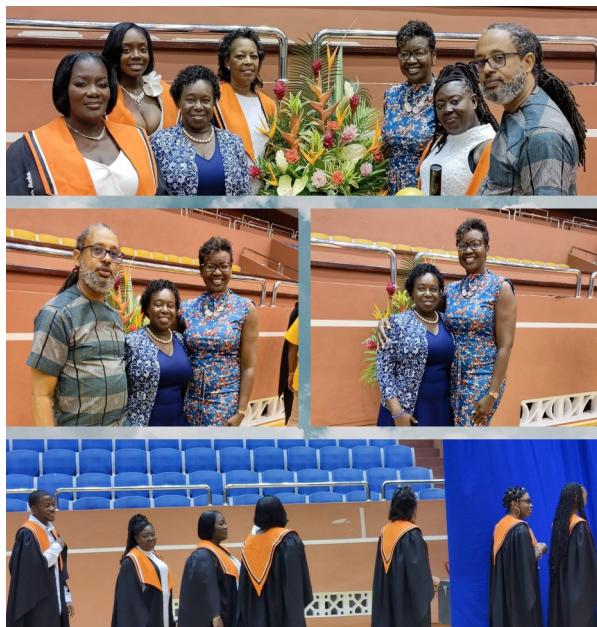
The XXX National Conference and VI Latin American Meeting of Social Work was held on November 9, 10 and 11 in the province of Córdoba in coordination with the School of Social Service professionals and the National University of Córdoba. Within the framework of the Conference -a space for reflection, meeting and socialisation of experiences-, the Government Board decided on the next venue for the 2025 Conference, to be held in the Province of Chaco.

Regions

IFSW Latin America and Caribbean

Within the framework of the sociopolitical context that Argentina is going through, statements were made.

Barbados



Barbados— Graduates of Social Work

Membership increase, retirees, BCC students, UWI students, public and privately employed social workers. Social workers employed in all social work agencies: National Assistance Board (NAB), Department of Social Welfare (WD), Child Care Board (CCB), Probation Department, Police, MPEA, Ministry of Youth, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health.

Increased local and international partnerships between MPEA, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth, Faith Marshall-Harris Sandy Lane Charitable Trust Child-

ren's Helpline, International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW). Increased hiring of social workers to fill new social work vacancies. Improving the capabilities of social workers in key areas such as psychological first aid, childhood trauma, trauma and social work.

Improved governance structure with government subsidy. Celebration of Social Workers with disabilities on World Social Work Day.

Brazil

Preparation and publication of the "Social Service and International Relations" brochure. The publication allows us to understand the contributions of the Brazilian Social Service to advance Latin American and Caribbean collaborations and the effort to create the dissemination of the professional ethical-political project among professional entities around the world. The book also presents the speeches of the speakers of the 2022 Latin American and Caribbean "Social Services, Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights" Seminar, with the participation of IFSW-LAC representatives (president, Indigenous Commission and Human Rights'), representatives of indigenous movements and peoples (Brazil, Peru, Mexico, Panama and Costa Rica). (Available [here](#).)

Participation in the IFSW-LAC meeting held on March 1 and 2, in the city of Cali, Colombia.

Regions

IFSW Latin America and Caribbean

Participation in the Conference of the Colombian Association, held on March 3 and 4 in the city of Cali, Colombia.

CFESS Plenary regarding the participation of 3 representatives in the SWSD Global Conference, to be held from April 4 to 7, 2024 in Panama. SWSD Global Conference video launch, calling for the participation of Brazilian social workers.

Discussions on international political cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean. Proposal to conduct training on the particularities of Latin America and the Caribbean in the global context, promoting the exchange of experiences.

Chile

Participation of the CTTS in the Civil Society Council of the Undersecretariat of Social Security in regards to pension reforms and diagnoses of the social reality that affects individuals and their families. This year, two Pension Reform update sessions were held, with more than 500 colleagues participating. On August 30, a training session was held on the implementation of the reduction in the 40-hour working day.

Meeting of the National Human Rights Commission to plan activities for the recovery of Historical Memory and Human Rights in the Commemoration of the 50 years of the Civil-Military Coup d'état.

At the national level, various activities were carried out to commemorate the 50

years of the Civil Military Coup d'état in Chile, such as performances, forums, tributes to the survivors, memory routes, social work magazine "Break ranks".

Reactivation of the National Chilean Social Work Law Commission, including Alfonso Barria (Valdivia) and Alberto Blest (Valparaíso). Currently, the commission is carrying out the systematisation of the National Day for a Social Work Law in Chile.

The health sector has been the largest field of employment for social workers in our country. The School of Social Workers of Chile, faced with their just demands for the incorporation of the health code, together with the National Health Commission, is working on a draft to modify the Health Code of the Chamber of Deputies demanding the incorporation of social workers as professionals of the health team.

Colombia



Colombia—Event at the University

After overcoming the pandemic, and a 2022 filled with uncertainty, 2023 was a year dedicated to the defence of the insti-

Regions

IFSW Latin America and Caribbean

tutionality of the union, and the interest of the field-work associations and social work professionals in the country, through communication and actions that aim to influence a change in perception and decision-making for the recovery and strengthening of the union, taking as an example the historical value of collective struggles and unions. FECTS facilitated the approach for participation, dialogue and coordination of the organisations with the National Board (made up of non-affiliated organisations, unions, collectives, among others) for the updating of Labour regulations. After several discussions in board meetings with the three organisations: -National Council of Social Work, National Council for Social Work Education and the Colombian Federation of Social Work- the agreement to form a group with representativeness of the participants, who will be in charge of preparing the methodological proposal and guidelines to resume the review process for the reform of Law 53 (1977), its Regulatory Decree and the Code of Professional Ethics, was reached.

With 10 active affiliated regional organisations, 2 withdrawn and 5 potential, the federation closes the 2023 period. FECTS did not record operational income due to the difficult employment and salary situation of the regional members. For the 2024 Ordinary Assembly of Delegates, FECTS projects the Statutory Reform, with adjustments and proposals to strengthen

the organisational structure (administrative and financial), flexibility for membership in the organisation, expansion of coverage and territory participation, among others. Considerations demanded by the union and the federation, also taking into account the reality of the territories, the country, the profession and the professionals.

Costa Rica

Supervision of professional practice; Preparation of technical criteria; defence of work spaces, review of job offers and issuance of criteria when irregularities are detected.

As part of the training processes for professional development, various activities have been taught, such as: self-directed courses -a methodology that consists of short training courses that are maintained on the COLTRAS virtual platform, accessible to members-; virtual courses and workshops; course on the Reform of the Family Procedural Code: Implications for Social Work. In response to the reforms of the Family Procedural Code, COLTRAS made a significant economic investment to train social work professionals from the Judiciary, the National Children's Trust and the Directorate of Student Life of the Ministry of Public Education on this matter.

Complementary training for social work with the objective of providing the union

Regions

IFSW Latin America and Caribbean

with update options in areas of data analysis, management of office packages, tools for the labour market, and guidance in budgets. Webinars on Human Rights.

Study and research group on the professional practice of Costa Rican social work. Booklets on human rights, population deprived of liberty, childhood and adolescence, and migrants.

Book collection "Reality from a social work perspective". In 2023, the first book on the topic "Transformations in the world of work and the professional practice of Costa Rican social work" was published.

A national presence was made in the discussion of essential issues for the profession. As part of its ethical-political stance, COLTRAS has regularly participated in national demonstrations and organised activities on school facilities.

2023 marked the 80th anniversary of the official formation of Social Work in the Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS), through the Constitutive Law of 1943, specifically in Article 20 on the figure of social visitors. Within this framework, the National Social Work Advisors of the Health Insurance and Pension Insurance of the CCSS requested support from COLTRAS, for the development of an event.

Articulation with federations, schools and associations of Social Work at the level of Latin America and the Caribbean; articulation with international Social Work organisations (IFSW, COLACATS, ALAETS): the presidency assumed the coordination of

COLACATS, and is part of the International Academic Committee of the 2024 SWSD Conference. Active participation is maintained in IFSW meetings, with representations from all continents.

Traditionally, each year in the month of July, the Week of Professionals in Social Work is celebrated, within the framework of the National Social Worker's Day, made official by Executive Decree No. 39779-MP.

Cuba



Cuba—Conference

WSWD: scientific methodological workshops were held to enrich the actions of social workers in these difficult times.

On May 9, National Health Social Worker Day was celebrated.

From June 27 to 30, the 10th International Conference of Social Work was held under the motto "Social Work and social development. Promoting community sustainability, inclusion and social equality in times of COVID-19"

Scientific Conferences were held in the month of September.

Regions

IFSW Latin America and Caribbean

El Salvador

On July 29, 2023, the Ordinary General Assembly was held, in which the report of the outgoing Board of Directors and the Surveillance Board of Directors (2021-2023) was presented, and the financial statements of the Association were validated. The Board of Directors and the Surveillance Board of Directors 2023-2025 were also elected.

A Diploma in Clinical Social Work was developed, in coordination with the University of El Salvador (UES) and the Chilean Institute of Clinical Social Work (ICHTSC), from August 28 to October 25, 2023.

Within the framework of the celebration of the National Day of Social Work (November 30), a conference was organised with international speakers. ATSES (part of CAPES, an entity that brings together professional associations from different disciplines) has participated in processes related to the validation of the National Higher Education Policy.

The president of the Board of Directors, Professor María Aracely Linares Palacios, has represented the Association in the international webinar directed by the ICHTSC "Reimagining Clinical Social Work for Latin America and the Caribbean" (November 10, 2023).

Grenada



Grenada—Social Workers

We attended several seminars, including: Disability validation workshop by the Caribbean Bank; Training Workshop on the National Standard Operating Procedure for Gender Violence.

The Royal Grenada Police Force again fires at incidents of mentally ill people and pleads for a hearing before the coroner's court. Support for family members in coroner's court for fatal shooting by police.

Minister of Social Development shares information from the seminar on inclusion of people with disabilities in society.

Tertiary institution does training for social workers with discussion on the curriculum and criteria for the SW course.

Development of the code of ethics with the assistance of the Triangulation consultancy. World Social Work Day Seminar

Regions

IFSW Latin America and Caribbean

held in collaboration with the School of Social Sciences at Florida State University.

Grenada Social Work Day with the theme: "Positively addressing and embracing the inclusion of persons with disabilities in society".

Mexico



Mexico—FENACOTSMEX Conference

We attended the Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Region, in the City of Cali, Colombia, with the presidents of the schools of the State of Durango, Jalisco and Zacatecas, participating for the first time as active members of FENACOTSMEX.

FENACOTSMEX Conference Current Trends of the Profession. Presentation of the proposed national Social Work law, with Kenia Batista, president of IFSW-LAC and Dr. Jorge Arturo Sáenz Fonseca. On August 24, the assembly of the schools affiliated to FENACOTSMEX was held. The new school of the City of Morelia, which

joined the federation, was welcomed. The 2023-2025 council was sworn in. The same council was reelected, only changing two members. This meeting was attended by 100% of the schools belonging to the organisation.

Likewise, the proposal for the Law on the Professional Practice of Social Work in Mexico was presented.

We attended the Conference held in Mexico City by AMIETS in May. In the month of October we attended the Global Conference of the National School of Social Work, at the Mining Palace in Mexico City. Workshops and courses are carried out so that all schools have their mission, vision and values and give continuity and build the FENACOTSMEX Code of Ethics.

Panama

Participation in the review of the Social Work Code of Ethics and the approval of law 408 (November 16, 2023) on the ranking and nomenclature of social workers' positions.

Meetings were held at the Ombudsman's Office to establish mechanisms for cooperation and discussion of issues that are affecting the country; also with the Ministry of Housing to discuss social work issues.

Organisation of the Global Conference on Social Work and Social Development

Regions

IFSW Latin America and Caribbean

(IFSW/IASSW/ICSW) with the University of the Americas, to be held at the ATLAPA Convention Center.

Various statements were made in the defence of rights and against sexual violence. Social Worker's Day was celebrated on September 6.

Paraguay

The VII National Social Work, Public Policies and Human Rights Guarantees Conference for a Paraguay with Social Justice was held on July 27, 28 and 29 in the City of Asunción, with the participation of the president of IFSW-LAC, Kenia Batista, as well as colleagues from different parts of the country and abroad (430 participants in total).

There were also 2 Pre-Conference days, one at the National University of Pilar, with more than 110 participants, and one in the city of Encarnación, at the National University of Itapuá, with 120 participants.

Peru

Participation in the meeting of the Indigenous Committee of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW), April 19.

The Forum on Social Work, Participation, Health, Rights, Territory, in intervention and actions with Indigenous Peoples, was held on April 21.



Peru—Social Workers

Marginalisation within the National Health System: Culture, Language, Ethnicity, Addictions and Mental Health presentation in Argentina.

VII International Social Work and Areas of Intervention. Challenges of Contemporary Social Work Conference (July 25).

Control of the Body: The Subjectivity of Women workshop (Lima, Peru, July 25).

Gender Violence from a Multidisciplinary Approach activity aimed at professionals in Social Work, Psychology, Obstetricians, Nurses, Sociologists, Lawyers, Doctors, Professors, communities, and Human Resources Management, held by the Social Theory, Decolonial Studies and Critical Thinking Group (CLACSO).

Webinar on decolonial Black Feminisms in Latin America and the Caribbean in the face of a new international decade of Afro-descendant peoples.

Regions

IFSW Latin America and Caribbean

Puerto Rico

Action for approval of Law No. 16 of the year 2023, to recognize the profession of Social Work as a Priority Service in Emergency Situations.

Suriname

Community kitchen in the fight against poverty
Development of competence profile.
General training.

General Activities

- Trip to Mexico to consolidate the Federation;
- Trip to Cuba to strengthen BSW;
- Trip to Argentina to participate in its Latin American and National Conference and establish ties. IFSW-LAC - ALAIETS meeting with Sonia Brito (president and COLACATS) and Jorge Arturo, (coordinator).
- Trip to Paraguay to support its National Conference.
- Trip to Colombia for the IFSW-LAC Regional Conference in Cali.

Planned Activities

Barbados

- Registration of all social workers.

- Advocate for hazard pay, overseas work opportunities, and long-serving social work managers to be granted sabbaticals.
- Conducting Social Work Conferences.
- Celebration of National Social Work Professionals Day for all social workers.
- Licensing of a regulatory body to address unethical behaviour within the profession, overseas employment, and other practice opportunities. Develop a Social Work research approach in areas of climate change, non-communicable diseases and entrepreneurship.
- Recognition and Award Ceremony for (1.) 10/20 year-old (2) Over 20 year-old Social Workers
- Promotion of salary and benefit increases for public service managers and assistant managers.
- Social work radio or television program led by social workers to discuss social problems.

Brazil

- Continue with the meetings of the International Relations Committee and the Expanded IR. Participate in the IFSW Global Conference, to be held from April 4 to 7, 2024 in Panama. Continue participating in the Latin American and Caribbean Committee of

Regions

IFSW Latin America and Caribbean

Professional Organizations of Social Services (COLACATS).

- Address and support the organisation of the category in Portuguese-speaking African countries (2024).
- Participate in the main activities promoted by IFSW, IFSW-LAC and COLACATS.
- Hold an online event to mobilise participation in the Conference.
- Discuss the challenges faced by social workers on the borders of the Amazon region, as well as issues related to migration and shelters.

Colombia

- National: Reform of the regulatory and legal framework of the profession in Colombia • International: articulate actions and make strategic alliances to strengthen the union and promote identity and professional development
- Promote the signing of agreements and institutional agreements as a management strategy
- Promote spaces that provide job opportunities
- Develop an update and qualification plan for certified professionals
- Promote articulated actions with the IFSW-LAC and Global organisations.

Costa Rica

- Informative notebooks on human rights on Afro-descendant population.
- Launch of the Regression of social policy: its impact on people's daily lives and on the professional work of Social Work book. A call to the union was published with the aim to extend the invitation to participate in the project through submissions.
- Conferences on justice, social and structural inequalities and their impact on Social Work services.

El Salvador

- There is a draft Law on the professional practice of Social Work, which has been validated by an Academic Committee. We are waiting for the provisions of the Executive for the Constitutional reform of Membership.
- There is a Code of Ethics, published in 2019, which was validated by an Academic Committee. A validation process is being planned with people associated with ATSES.

Grenada

- Continue advising Social Work students.
- Meeting with the Public Service Commission to discuss criteria for hiring Social Workers.

Regions

IFSW Latin America and Caribbean

- Excursion for Social Work students from Florida State University. Seminar for World Social Work Day. Emphasis on new membership.
- Request from the Ministry of Social Development for representation on the Board of Directors of one of our nursing homes.
- Support family members at the coroner's court hearing.

Mexico

- 3rd National and 2nd International FENACOTSMEX Conference (August 2024, in Uruapan, Michoacán, Mexico).
- Local conferences promoting Social Work law after national elections to be held in July 2024.

Panama

- Global Conference on Social Work and Social Development (IFSW/IASSW/ ICSW), with more than 1,300 approved works, including presentations, posters, workshops, symposiums and creative arts.

Paraguay

- Socialisation of the Code of Ethics and Law 6220/19 for Social Work.
- Interinstitutional cooperation agreements with Universities.

Peru

- Review of the Code of Ethics.
- Sexual Violence and Child and Youth Abuse diploma.
- Forum on Buen Vivir in Indigenous Communities. (Celebration of World Social Work Day).

Puerto Rico

- Disseminating Law No. 16 (2023), recognising the profession of Social Work as a priority service in emergency situations.

Suriname

- Social workers' training and profile.
- Networking with colleagues abroad.

Submitted by:

Kenia Batista, President IFSW-LAC

Tania Ramos, IFSW-LAC Vice President

News and Statements

Please [click here](#) to read the latest news and statements of the IFSW Latin America and Caribbean Region

Regiones

FITS Latinoamericana y Caribeña



Países Miembros

Argentina, Barbados, Brasil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Haití, Grenada, México, Panamá, Paraguay, Perú, Puerto Rico, República Dominicana, Uruguay, Suriname.

Nuevos miembros: ninguno

Mesa Directiva

- **Kenia Batista** – Panamá– Presidente
- **Tania Ramos** – Brasil – Vicepresidenta

Comisionados/as

- Comisión Indígena y Pueblos Originarios ALC: **Jenny Linares** (Peru); **Alexi Perez Sierra** (Colombia);

Hector Domingo Chasoy Ortega (Colombia); **Osila Ayarza Perez** (Panamá); **Elizângela Cardoso de Araujo Silva** (Brasil); **Angelica Rivera Ortega** (México); **Noelia Sonia Lizondo** (Argentina).

- Comisión Ética ALC: **Sharon-Rose Gittens** (Barbados).
- Representante ALC en ONU: **Alexi Perez Sierra** (Colombia).

Encuentros Regionales

Reuniones de los miembros de la Región América Latina y el Caribe en 2023:

- el 14/01 con los objetivos: Informes de la región; Repaso de la Conferencia Mundial 2024; Asunto de la Conferencia Regional 2023;

Regiones

FITS Latinoamericana y Caribeña

- el 16/12 con los objetivos: Informes de la región; Repaso de la Conferencia Mundial 2024; Asunto de las elecciones en la Asamblea General.

Conferencia Regional



Conferencia Regional, Cali, Colombia

Colombia, Cali, marzo 1, 2 y 3 de 2023 (balance elaborado por FECTS) - Reunidas y reunidos en Cali, Colombia, los días 1 y 2 de marzo de 2023, en su primera reunión después de la crisis sanitaria, política y económica que vivimos con la COVID 19, se llevó a cabo el encuentro anual regional de presidentes de la región de la FITSALC, América Latina y el Caribe, en el cual se contó con la presencia de la presidenta de FITSALC Kenia Batista, 8 presidentes de federaciones/colegios, la vicepresidenta de FITSALC Tania Ramos, el representante coordinador de COLACATS, Jorge Arturo Sáenz, y 2 miembros del equipo operativo de la Federación Colom-

biana de Trabajadores Sociales "FECTS", en representación de dos asociaciones regionales de Colombia.

La reunión dio inicio después del registro de asistencia y la presentación de los(as) asistentes. Posteriormente, fueron abordados temas de vital importancia para el gremio, entre ellos, análisis y debate de la situación sociopolítica en los países americanos, avances de la gestión y proyecto de gremial desarrollado hasta el momento desde la FITSALC; se trabajó propuestas estratégicas para mejorar el relacionamiento con las federaciones y colegios regionales, factor clave para la vinculación y oferta en actividades de cooperación y solidaridad realizadas para fortalecer los gremios en América Latina y el Caribe.

Cabe destacar en esta primera jornada, el espacio de análisis, reflexión y orientación de los(as) presidentes de las organizaciones líderes (FITSALC y COLACATS) a la federación de Colombia, aportando lineamientos y recomendaciones a seguir frente a la actual situación gremial profesional en que se encuentra, producto de reformas políticas, y el escenario gremial entre los organismos, las bases y otras organizaciones independientes.

Durante el segundo día, se presentaron informes de cada una de las federaciones/colegios, enfatizando en las acciones realizadas, dificultades y avances, desde los cuales se evidencia la necesidad de trabajar en mejorar la comunicación e interacción, fortalecer el acompañamiento de la

Regiones

FITS Latinoamericana y Caribeña

FITSALC a las organizaciones en temas gremiales, además del apoyo con personal cualificado y propositivo, la entrega de información periódica y continua de los colegios y federaciones con el propósito de mantener una comunicación assertiva, actualizada y continua, esto para fortalecer la participación regional, compartir experiencias y generar interés común por parte de las federaciones/colegios no afiliados.

Posteriormente, se realizó la presentación de los estatutos de COLACATS, por parte de Jorge Saenz, algunas consideraciones compartidas con la vicepresidenta de la FITSALC, Tania Ramos y la designación de las representaciones. Para finalizar la jornada, se presentaron las conclusiones de la jornada y recomendaciones de la FITSALC a los diferentes colegios/federaciones, teniendo en cuenta las características específicas de cada región.

Al final de la reunión, se elaboró colectivamente la DECLARACIÓN DE CALI, COLOMBIA, 2023, destacando la profundización de las desigualdades existentes y la intensificación de las injusticias y muertes, documento que fue firmado por las organizaciones profesionales de Trabajo Social/Servicio Social en representación del Comité Latinoamericano y Caribeño de Organizaciones Profesionales de Trabajo Social y de la Federación Internacional de Trabajo Social - Región América Latina y el Caribe

En el marco del Encuentro de la FITSALC, se conmemoró los 45 años de existencia de la Federación Colombiana de Trabajadores Sociales "FECTS", con un sencillo, pero significativo evento, en el cual se hizo reconocimiento de trabajadores(as) sociales que han sobresalido en el desempeño y ejercicio profesional, su liderazgo y aporte al crecimiento y desarrollo de la profesión y el gremio en el país, como también a la organización afiliada a la FECTS, que ha sobresalido por sus aportes y lealtad con la organización, a quienes fue entregada la Medalla al Mérito "RUTH PATIÑO ZULUAGA". A este evento asistieron como invitados especiales los presidentes de la FITSALC y los representantes de las demás federaciones y colegios.

La Federación Colombiana de Trabajadores sociales "FECTS", la Junta Directiva, las organizaciones regionales, los trabajadores sociales de Colombia, expresamos nuestros agradecimientos a la FITS GLOBAL, a la FITSALC, a COLACATS y a sus presidentes y representantes, a todos los presidentes de los países que nos acompañaron y a las colegas que nos visitaron, y que hicieron posible esta experiencia. Esperamos tener nuevamente la oportunidad de atenderlos y compartir desde otra perspectiva y en otras condiciones experiencias significativas y muy valiosas del trabajo social y el gremio, en nuestra tierra Colombia.

Regiones

FITS Latinoamericana y Caribeña

Actividades y Logros Generales

Argentina

Asamblea Anual Ordinaria, Primer Junta de Gobierno 2023 y reunión de la Comisión de Ética, celebradas en la ciudad de Santa Rosa, provincia de La Pampa en fechas 31/03, 01 y 02/04/2023. En Asamblea se aprobaron balance y memorias del año 2022, también se acordó actualización de cuota de membresía. En Junta se trabajaron cuestiones vinculadas al Congreso 2023, Amparo Colectivo en curso para la incorporación de la profesión en la Superintendencia de Obras Sociales, Informes de provincia y proyección de modificar logo.

Junta de Gobierno, reunión comisión de Ética y Foro de Géneros y Diversidad celebradas en La Plata, Provincia de Buenos Aires en fechas 25 y 26 de agosto. En esta reunión se hicieron ajustes y se acordaron detalles con miras al Congreso. Asimismo, se trabajó sobre la situación sociopolítica-económica del país en contexto electoral, se compartió la presentación iniciada por los Colegios de Provincia de Buenos Aires y Capital Federal ante el Ministerio de Salud de la Nación para el reconocimiento de la especialidad en Trabajo Social Sociosanitario, entre otras temáticas de interés de la profesión.

El XXX Congreso Nacional y VI Encuentro Latinoamericano de Trabajo Social fue realizado el 09, 10 y 11 de noviembre en la provincia de Córdoba en articulación con

el Colegio de profesionales de Servicio Social y la Universidad Nacional de Córdoba. En el marco del Congreso, - espacio de reflexión, encuentro y socialización de experiencias - se decidió en Junta de Gobierno próxima sede del Congreso 2025, por mayoría de votos se eligió a la Provincia del Chaco.

En el marco del contexto sociopolítico que atraviesa la Argentina se elaboraron pronunciamientos.

Barbados



Barbados- Diplomados en Trabajo Social

Aumento de membresía: jubilados, estudiantes de BCC, estudiantes de UWI, trabajadores sociales empleados públicos y privados. Trabajadores sociales empleados en todas las agencias de trabajo social: Junta Nacional de Asistencia (NAB), Departamento

Regiones

FITS Latinoamericana y Caribeña

mento de Bienestar Social (WD), Junta de Cuidado Infantil (CCB), Departamento de Libertad Condicional, Policía, MPEA, Ministerio de la Juventud, Ministerio de Educación, Ministerio de Salud.

Aumento de asociaciones a nivel local e internacional, incluida la MPEA, el Ministerio de Educación, el Ministerio de la Juventud, Faith Marshall-Harris Sandy Lane Charitable Trust Children's Helpline, la Federación Internacional de Trabajadores Sociales (IFSW).

Mayor contratación de trabajadores sociales para cubrir nuevas vacantes de trabajo social.

Mejora de las capacidades de los trabajadores sociales en áreas clave como primeros auxilios psicológicos, trauma infantil, trauma y trabajo social.

Estructura de gobernanza mejorada con subvención gubernamental.

Celebración de los Trabajadores Sociales con discapacidad en el Día Mundial del Trabajo Social.

Brasil

Elaboración y publicación del folleto: "Servicio Social y Relaciones Internacionales". La publicación permite comprender las contribuciones del Servicio Social brasileño para avanzar en las articulaciones latinoamericanas y caribeñas y el esfuerzo por crear la difusión del proyecto ético-político profesional entre entidades pro-

fesionales de todo el mundo. El libro también presenta los discursos de los ponentes del Seminario Latinoamericano y Caribeño con el tema "Servicios Sociales, Pueblos Indígenas y Derechos Humanos", realizado en 2022, que contó con la participación de representantes de FITSALC (presidenta de ALC, comisión indígena y de derechos humanos), representantes de movimientos y pueblos indígenas (Brasil, Perú, México, Panamá y Costa Rica). (Disponible [aqui](#)).

Participación en la reunión de FITSALC realizada los días 1 y 2 de marzo, en la ciudad de Cali/ Colombia.

Participación en el Congreso de la Asociación Colombiana, realizado en los días 3 y 4 de marzo en la ciudad de Cali/Colombia.

Deliberación del Pleno del CFESS respecto de la participación de 3 representantes en la Conferencia Mundial de FITS, a realizarse del 4 al 7 de abril de 2024 en Panamá.

Lanzamiento del video, dando a conocer la Conferencia Mundial FITS y convocando a la participación de los trabajadores sociales brasileños.

Discusiones sobre articulaciones políticas internacionales, señalando como tema prioritario la capacitación sobre América Latina y el Caribe, con la propuesta de "Realizar capacitación sobre las particularidades de América Latina y el Caribe en el contexto global, promoviendo el intercambio de experiencias entre los actores sociales latinoamericanos y caribeños."

Regiones

FITS Latinoamericana y Caribeña

Chile

Participación del CTTS en el Consejo de la Sociedad Civil de la Subsecretaría de Previsión Social: el trabajo en materia de Previsión Social ha sido levantar todo el tema de reformas previsionales, trabajando en el diseño de diagnósticos de la realidad social que afecta a los individuos y sus familias, desde los distintos gremios y desde realidades disímiles. Este año se han realizado dos jornadas de actualización de la Reforma de Pensiones, participando alrededor de más de 500 colegas y el 30 de agosto se realizó una capacitación sobre la implementación de la reducción de la Jornada Laboral de 40 horas.

Reunión de la Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos en la planificación de actividades por la recuperación de la Memoria Histórica y los Derechos Humanos en la Conmemoración de los 50 años del Golpe de Estado Civil Militar.

A nivel nacional se realizaron diversas actividades de conmemoración de los 50 años del Golpe de Estado Civil Militar en Chile, tales como; comunicados, Obras Teatrales, Foros, Homenajes a los Sobrevivientes, Rutas de la Memoria, revista de Trabajo Social “Rompe filas”, todas acciones que dignifican nuestra profesión.

Reactivación de la Comisión Nacional Ley de Trabajo Social Chileno conformado por Alfonso Barría, presidente del Provincial Valdivia y Alberto Blest, presidente del Provincial Valparaíso. En la actualidad la comisión se encuentra realizando la siste-

matización de la Jornada Nacional para una Ley de Trabajo Social en Chile.

El sector salud ha sido el mayor campo laboral de las trabajadoras y trabajadores sociales en nuestro país. El Colegio de Trabajadoras y Trabajadores Sociales de Chile, frente a sus justas demandas en la incorporación del código sanitario, junto con la Comisión Nacional de Salud está trabajando en la defensa de un Anteproyecto de Ley de Modificación del Código Sanitario de la Cámara de Diputados que contiene la incorporación de las y los trabajadores sociales como profesionales del equipo de salud.

Colombia



Colombia—Evento en la universidad

Después de superar la pandemia y un 2022 lleno de incertidumbre, el 2023 fue un año dedicado en la mayor parte de su tiempo a defender la institucionalidad del gremio, e interés de las asociaciones territoriales y los(las) profesionales de trabajo social en el país. Defender dichos inte-

Regiones

FITS Latinoamericana y Caribeña

reses a través de un modo de comunicación y acciones que tienen por objetivo influenciar el cambio de rumbo de la percepción y toma de decisiones para la recuperación y el fortalecimiento del gremio, tomando como ejemplo de ello el valor histórico de las luchas colectivas y gremiales.

La FECTS facilitó el acercamiento para la participación, el dialogo y la concertación de los organismos con la Mesa Amplia Nacional (conformada por organizaciones no afiliadas, sindicato, colectivo, entre otros) para la actualización de la normativa de Trabajo. Se logra después de varias discusiones en reuniones de la mesa con los tres organismos: Consejo Nacional de Trabajo Social, Consejo Nacional para la Educación de Trabajo Social y la Federación Colombiana de Trabajo Social, llegar al acuerdo de conformar un grupo articulador con representatividad de los participantes, el cual será el encargado de elaborar la Propuesta metodológica y la Ruta de Trabajo para retomar el proceso de revisión, ajustes para la reforma de la Ley 53 de 1977, su Decreto Reglamentario y el Código de Ética profesional.

Con 10 organizaciones regionales afiliadas activas, 2 retiradas y 5 potenciales, cierra la federación el periodo 2023. La FECTS no registró ingresos operacionales debido a la difícil situación laboral y salarial de los asociados e las regionales, que impacta financieramente a la FECTS.

La FECTS, para la Asamblea Ordinaria de Delegados 2024, proyecta la Reforma Estatutaria, con ajustes y propuestas para fortalecimiento de la estructura organizacional (administrativa y financiera), flexibilidad para la afiliación a la organización, ampliación de cobertura y participación de territorio, entre otras consideraciones que demanda el gremio y la federación, teniendo en cuenta también la realidad de los territorios, el país, la profesión y los profesionales.

Costa Rica

Fiscalización del ejercicio profesional; Elaboración de criterios técnicos; Lucha y defensa de espacios laborales, revisión de ofertas laborales y emisión de criterios cuando en apariencia se detectan irregularidades.

Como parte de los procesos de capacitación para el desarrollo profesional, se han impartido diversas actividades como: cursos autodirigidos - metodología que consiste en cursos de capacitación cortos que se mantienen en la plataforma virtual del COLTRAS para el acceso libre a las personas agremiadas; cursos y talleres virtuales; curso sobre la Reforma del Código Procesal de Familia: Implicaciones para Trabajo Social. En atención a las reformas del Código Procesal de Familia, el COLTRAS realizó una importante inversión económica para capacitar a las y los profesionales en trabajo social del Poder Ju-

Regiones

FITS Latinoamericana y Caribeña

dicial, Patronato Nacional de la Infancia y Dirección de Vida Estudiantil del Ministerio de Educación Pública sobre este particular.

Capacitación complementaria para trabajo social con el objetivo de brindar al gremio opciones de actualización en áreas de análisis de datos, manejo de paquetes office, herramientas para el mercado laboral y la contratación y orientación en presupuestos para las personas a quienes les brindan intervención.

Webinars relacionados con temáticas transversales en la visibilización y garantía de Derechos Humanos.

Grupo de estudios e investigación sobre el ejercicio profesional del trabajo social costarricense.

Cuadernos informativos sobre derechos humanos: durante el año 2023 se confeccionaron cuadernos con las siguientes temáticas población privada de libertad, niñez y adolescencia, población migrante.

Colección de libros "Pensando la realidad desde el trabajo social". En el 2023 se publicó el primer libro sobre el tema "Las transformaciones del mundo del trabajo y el ejercicio profesional del trabajo social costarricense".

Se hizo presencia nacional en la discusión de temas esenciales para la profesión.

Como parte del posicionamiento ético político, el Coltras regularmente ha parti-

cipado en marchas nacionales y organizando actividades en las instalaciones del colegio.

En este 2023, se cumplen 80 años de la conformación oficial de Trabajo Social en la Caja Costarricense de Seguro Social (CCSS), mediante la Ley Constitutiva de 1943, específicamente en el Artículo 20 que define la figura de las visitadoras sociales. En este marco, las Asesoras Nacionales de Trabajo Social del Seguro de Salud y del Seguro de Pensiones de la CCSS solicitaron apoyo al Coltras, para el desarrollo de un evento.

Articulación con federaciones, colegios y asociaciones de Trabajo Social a nivel de América Latina y El Caribe; articulación con las organizaciones internacionales de Trabajo Social (FITS, COLACATS, ALAETS): la Presidencia asumió la coordinación de COLACATS, y forma parte del Comité Académico Mundial del Congreso Panamá 2024. Se mantiene una activa participación en las reuniones de FITS lo que permite establecer alianzas a las representaciones de todos los continentes.

Tradicionalmente cada año en el mes de julio se lleva a cabo la celebración de la Semana de las personas profesionales en trabajo social, en el marco del Día Nacional del Trabajador y la Trabajadora Social, oficializado mediante el Decreto Ejecutivo N°39779-MP.

Regiones

FITS Latinoamericana y Caribeña

Cuba



Cuba-Conferencia

En el mes de marzo y en saludo al día mundial del trabajo social, se realizaron talleres científicos metodológicos de profundización y búsqueda de alternativas para enriquecer el actuar del trabajador social en estos tiempos difíciles.

El 9 de mayo se celebró el día nacional del Trabajador Social de Salud.

Del 27 al 30 de junio se realizó el X Congreso Internacional de Trabajo Social bajo el lema "Trabajo Social y el desarrollo social. Promoviendo sostenibilidad comunitaria, inclusión e igualdad social en tiempos de covid-19"

Se hicieron Jornadas Científicas por cada capítulo en el mes de septiembre.

El Salvador

El 29 de julio de 2023 se desarrolló la Asamblea General Ordinaria, en la cual se presentó el informe de la Junta Directiva y la Junta Directiva de Vigilancia salientes (2021-2023), además, se presentaron y validaron los estados financieros de la A-

sociación. También se eligió a la Junta Directiva y la Junta Directiva de Vigilancia 2023-2025.

Se desarrolló un Diplomado en Trabajo Social Clínico en modalidad semipresencial, en coordinación con la Universidad de El Salvador (UES) y el Instituto Chileno de Trabajo Social Clínico (ICTSC), del 28 de agosto al 25 de octubre de 2023.

Para el mes de diciembre de 2023, en el marco de la celebración del día nacional de Trabajo Social (30 de noviembre) se está organizando un congreso con ponentes internacionales.

La ATSES forma parte de CAPES, instancia que agrupa a asociaciones profesionales de diferentes disciplinas. Desde este espacio se ha participado en procesos relacionados con la validación de la Política Nacional de Educación Superior.

La presidenta de la Junta Directiva, Maestra María Aracely Linares Palacios, ha representado a la Asociación en el webinar internacional dirigido por el ICTSC "Reimaginando en Trabajo Social Clínico para América Latina y el Caribe" (10 de noviembre de 2023).

Grenada

Asistimos a varios seminarios, entre ellos: Taller de validación de discapacidad por el Banco del Caribe; Taller de Capacitación sobre el Procedimiento Operativo Estándar Nacional para la Violencia de Género.

FITS Latinoamericana y Caribeña



Grenada—Granada-Trabajadoras sociales

La Real Policía de Grenada vuelve a disparar contra incidentes de personas con enfermedades mentales y aboga por una audiencia ante el tribunal forense.

Apoyo a familiares en el tribunal forense por tiroteo mortal perpetrado por la policía.

Ministro de Desarrollo Social comparte información del seminario sobre inclusión de personas con discapacidad en la sociedad.

Institución terciaria hace capacitación para trabajadores sociales con debate sobre el plan de estudios y los criterios para el curso de SW.

Desarrollo del código de ética con la asistencia de la consultoría Triangulación.

Seminario del Día Mundial del Trabajo Social celebrado en colaboración con la Facultad de Ciencias Sociales de la Universidad Estatal de Florida.

Día del Trabajo Social de Grenada con el tema: "Abordar y adoptar positivamente la

inclusión de las personas con discapacidad en la sociedad".

México

Asistimos a la Reunión de la Región de América Latina y el Caribe, a la Ciudad de Cali, Colombia, con las presidentas de los colegios del Estado de Durango Jalisco y Zacatecas, participando por primera ocasión ya como miembros activos de la FENACOTSMEX.

En el mes de agosto de este año, los días 24, 25 y 26, se realizó con éxito, el 2do. Congreso Nacional y 1ro. Internacional de la FENACOTSMEX, denominado Tendencias actuales de la profesión, con el posicionamiento del gremio y la inaplazable presentación de la propuesta de ley nacional de Trabajo Social, donde estuvieron presentes la Mtra. Kenia Batista, de Panamá, presidenta de la FITSALC, así como el Dr. Jorge Arturo Sáenz Fonseca, quienes vinieron a acompañarnos y ser testigos de los trabajos realizados por esta organización de recién creación.

El día 24 de agosto se realizó la asamblea de los colegios afiliados a la FENACOTSMEX, donde se dio la bienvenida al nuevo colegio de la Ciudad de Morelia, que se integró a la federación, y se tomó protesta al consejo 2023-2025, de la FENACOTMEX, en el que se reelegió al mismo consejo, solo haciendo cambio de dos vocales. En esta reunión se contó con la asistencia del

Regiones

FITS Latinoamericana y Caribeña

100% de los colegios pertenecientes a la organización

Asimismo, dentro de las actividades, se hizo la presentación de la propuesta de Ley del Ejercicio Profesional de Trabajo Social en México, a fin de que nos la revisen para que sea una realidad esta ley antes mencionada.



México-FENACOTSMEX Conferencia

Acudimos al Congreso en el mes de mayo de este año, realizado en la Ciudad de México por la asociación AMIETS, asimismo, en el mes de octubre acudimos al Congreso Mundial de la Escuela Nacional de Trabajo Social, en el Palacio de Minería en la Ciudad de México.

Se están realizando trabajos, como talleres, cursos con el fin de que todos los colegios tengan su misión, visión y valores, para después dar continuidad y construir el Código de Ética de la FENACOTSMEX.

Panamá

Participación en la revisión del Código de Ética de Trabajo Social.

Participación en las discusiones sobre el proyecto de revisión del Código Deontológico de Trabajo Social

Actuación en la aprobación de la ley 408 de 16 de noviembre de 2023 sobre el escalafón y la nomenclatura de cargos de trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales.

Se realizó reuniones en Defensoría del Pueblo para establecer mecanismos de cooperación y discusión de temas que están afectando al país.

Si realizó reuniones en Ministerio de Vivienda para tratar de temas de los trabajadores sociales de su cartera.

Se hizo cargo de la organización de la Conferencia Mundial de Trabajo Social y Desarrollo Social (IFSW/IASSW/ICSW), lo que se hace como un reto latinoamericano; se hizo reuniones para la realización de la conferencia, con la Universidad de las Américas y con el Centro de Convenciones ATLAPA

Se hizo pronunciamientos diversos en la defensa de los derechos y contra la violencia sexual.

Se hizo la celebración del Día del Trabajador Social el 06 de septiembre.

Regiones

FITS Latinoamericana y Caribeña

Paraguay

Se realizó el VII Congreso Nacional de Trabajo Social: Trabajo Social, Políticas Públicas y Garantías de Derechos Humanos. Por un Paraguay con Justicia Social, desarrollado los días 27, 28 y 29 de julio de 2023, en el Hotel Excelsior de la Ciudad de Asunción, donde se contó con la participación de la presidenta de la FITSALC Keenia Batista, con una participación de colegas Trabajadores Sociales de diferentes partes del país y del extranjero, totalizando una cantidad de 430 participantes.

También se realizó 2 jornadas de Precongreso en dos ciudades del interior del País, una jornada en la Universidad Nacional de Pilar, con más de 110 participantes y una en la ciudad de Encarnación, en la Universidad Nacional de Itapuá, con 120 participantes.

Perú



Peru—Trabajadoras Sociales

Participación en la reunión del Comité Indígena de la Federación Internacional de Trabajadores

Sociales (FITS), 19 de abril.

Se realizó el 21 de abril el Foro de Trabajo Social, Participación, Salud, Derechos, Territorio, en la intervención y acciones en Pueblos Indígenas.

Presentación en Argentina del tema: Marginación dentro del Sistema Nacional de Salud: Cultura, Idioma, Etnia, Adicciones y Salud Mental.

Realización del VII Congreso Internacional de Perú: Trabajo Social y Ámbitos de Intervención. Desafíos del Trabajo Social Contemporáneo el 25 de Julio.

Realización de taller en Lima/Perú: El Control del Cuerpo: La Subjetividad de las Mujeres, 25 de Julio de 2023

Diplomatura Violencia de Género desde un Abordaje Multidisciplinario. Actividad Académica dirigida a profesionales de Trabajo Social, Psicología, Obstetras Enfermeras, Sociólogos, Abogados, Médicos, Profesores, Relaciones comunitarias, y Gerencias de Recursos Humanos. Organizada por Grupo de Teoría Social, Estudios Descoloniales y Pensamiento Crítico. Consejo Latinoamericano de Estudios Sociales /CLACSO.

Webinar sobre los Feminismos Negros decoloniales en América Latina y el Caribe ante un nuevo decenio internacional de los pueblos afrodescendientes.

Regiones

FITS Latinoamericana y Caribeña

Puerto Rico

Actuación para aprobación de la Ley Num. 16 del año 2023, para reconocer la profesión del Trabajo Social como un Servicio Prioritario en Situaciones de Emergencia.

Suriname

Desarrollo de Cocina comunitaria en la lucha contra la pobreza

Comenzando con el desarrollo del perfil de competencias.

Entrenamiento general.

Actividades y Logros en la Región

- Viaje a México para consolidar la Federación;
- Viaje a Cuba para fortalecer el tema de Licenciatura en Trabajo Social;
- Viaje a Argentina para participar en su Congreso Latinoamericano y Nacional y establecer vínculos. Además de reunión de FITSALC con ALAIETS, con Sonia Brito, la presidenta y COLACATS, con Jorge Arturo, el coordinador.
- Viaje al Paraguay para acompañamiento en su Congreso Nacional y apoyo a sus estructuras.
- Viaje a Colombia para la Conferencia Regional de FITSALC en Cali.

Actividades Planificadas

Barbados

- Registro de todos los trabajadores sociales.
- Licencia de los trabajadores sociales para abogar por subsidios por riesgos, oportunidades laborales en el extranjero, y a los gerentes de trabajo social con muchos años de servicio que se les concedan años sabáticos.
- Realización de Conferencias de Trabajo Social.
- Celebración del Día Nacional del Profesional del Trabajo Social para todos los trabajadores sociales.
- Licencia de trabajadores sociales como organismo regulador para abordar comportamientos poco éticos dentro de la profesión, empleo en el extranjero y otras oportunidades de práctica.
- Desarrollar enfoque de investigación de Trabajo Social en áreas de cambio climático, enfermedades no transmisibles y emprendimiento.
- Ceremonia de Reconocimiento y Premiación de Trabajadores Sociales para aquellos: (1.) 10/20 años (2) Mayores de 20 años.
- Promoción de aumentos de salarios y beneficios a la par de otros gerentes y subgerentes de la función pública.

Regiones

FITS Latinoamericana y Caribeña

- Realizar Programa de radio o televisión de trabajo social dirigido por trabajadores sociales para discutir problemas sociales y el acceso a soluciones.

Brasil

- Continuar con las reuniones del Comité de Relaciones Internacionales y del RI Ampliado.
- Participar en la Conferencia Mundial de FITS, a realizarse del 4 al 7 de abril de 2024 en Panamá.
- Continuar con la participación en el Comité Latinoamericano y del Caribe de Organizaciones Profesionales de Servicios Sociales (COLACATS).
- Abordar y apoyar la organización de la categoría en los países africanos de habla portuguesa (2024).
- Participar en las principales actividades promovidas por FITS, FITSALC y COLACATS.
- Realizar un evento en línea para movilizar a la categoría para participar en la Conferencia Mundial FITS.
- Debatir sobre los desafíos que enfrentan los trabajadores sociales que se encuentran en las fronteras de la región amazónica, así como temas relacionados con la migración y los refugiados.

Colombia

- Nacionales: Reforma del marco normativo y legal de la profesión en Colombia
- Internacionales: articular acciones y realizar alianzas estratégicas para fortalecer el gremio y promover la identidad y desarrollo profesional
- Promover la firmas de convenios y acuerdos institucionales como estrategia de gestión
- Promover espacios que propicien oportunidad laboral u ocasión con la posibilidad de acceder a un trabajo digno
- Desarrollar un plan de actualización y cualificación a profesionales certificados
- Promover acciones articuladas con las organizaciones de la FITS-ALC y Global.

Costa Rica

- Programado para 2024 cuadernos informativos sobre derechos humanos con el tema población afrodescendiente.
- Para el 2024 se tiene programado el lanzamiento del segundo libro titulado "Retroceso de la política social: su incidencia en la vida cotidiana de las personas y en el trabajo profesional de
- Trabajo Social", para lo cual se publicó una convocatoria al gremio con el fin

Regiones

FITS Latinoamericana y Caribeña

de extender la invitación a participar del proyecto mediante la presentación de trabajos.

- Para el 2024, se tiene planeado la realización de congresos por sectores: Justicia, desigualdades sociales y estructurales, su impacto en los servicios de Trabajo Social.

El Salvador

- Se cuenta con un ante proyecto de Ley del ejercicio profesional de Trabajo Social, la cual ha sido validada por un Comité Académico. Se está en la espera de las disposiciones del Órgano Ejecutivo para la reforma Constitucional de Colegiación.
- Se cuenta con un Código de Ética, publicado en el año 2019, el cual fue validado por un Comité Académico. Se está planificando un proceso de validación con las personas asociadas a la ATSES.

Grenada

- Continuar asesorando a los estudiantes de Trabajo Social.
- Reunión con Comisión de Servicio Público para debatir criterios para contratación de Trabajadores Sociales.
- Organización de una excursión para estudiantes de Trabajo Social de la

Universidad Estatal de Florida y organización de un seminario para el Día Mundial del Trabajo Social.

- Énfasis en nueva membresía.
- Solicitud del Ministerio de Desarrollo Social para representación en la Junta Directiva de uno de los hogares de ancianos.
- Apoyar a los miembros de la familia en la audiencia del tribunal forense.

México

- Para el próximo año 2024, se tiene programado el 3er. Congreso Nacional y 2do. Internacional de la FENACOTS-MEX, agosto 2024, en Uruapan, Michoacán, México.
- Visitar Congresos locales, con el fin de hacer la promoción de la ley de Trabajo Social, posterior a que pasen las elecciones del país, que se realizarán en el mes de Julio del 2024.

Panamá

- La realización de la Conferencia Mundial de Trabajo Social y Desarrollo Social (IFSW/IASSW/ICSW), que tiene más de 1300 trabajos aprobados entre ponencias, posters, talleres, simposios y artes creativas.

Regiones

FITS Latinoamericana y Caribeña

Paraguay

- Continuar el proceso a la Ley 6220/19 que regula el ejercicio profesional, hasta la creación de la instancia para la vigilancia por el cumplimiento.
- Socialización del Código de Ética. Y la Ley 6220/19 que regula el Ejercicio Profesional de Trabajo Social.
- Hacer convenios de cooperación inter-institucional con la Universidades.

Perú

- Revisión del Código de Ética.
- Diplomatura de Violencia Sexual y Abuso Infanto Juvenil.
- Foro de Bienestar y Buen Vivir en Comunidades Indígenas. (Celebración del Día Mundial de Trabajo Social).

Puerto Rico

- Divulgar la Ley Num. 16 del año 2023 para Reconocer la Profesión del Trabajo Social como un Servicio Prioritario en Situaciones de Emergencia.

Suriname

- Formación adicional de trabajadores sociales.
- Finalizar perfil de competencias.
- Networking con colegas en el extranjero.
- Sometido por:

Kenia Batista, Presidenta FITSALC

Tania Ramos, Vicepresidenta FITSALC

Novedades y Declaraciones

25 De Julio: Trabajo Social Y Ámbitos De Intervención: Retos Del TS Contemporáneo

Declaración De ALC Sobre El Día De Los Derechos Humanos

Haga [clic aquí](#) para leer las últimas noticias y declaraciones de la Región de América Latina y el Caribe de la FITS

Regions

IFSW North America

IFSW North American Regional International Conference

Social Work Across Borders:
Canada & USA

Date: Tuesday March 28th 2023
Time: 11am - 3pm EDT

Register here:
<https://app.webinar.net/D0kWpQDMmxb>

QR code:

RESPECTING DIVERSITY
THROUGH JOINT SOCIAL ACTION

NASW
National Association of Social Workers

WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY
21ST MARCH 2023
#WSWD2023

ifsw.org

CASW ACTS

Members

Canada, United States of America.

Executive

- **Joan Davis-Whelan**, President, IFSW-North American Region; President, Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW)
- **Yvonne Chase**, Vice President, IFSW-North American Region; President, National Association of Social Workers, USA (NASW-USA)

Representatives

- Education: **Dr. Gary Bailey** (US), Regional Commissioner
- Ethics: **Kim Strom** (US), Regional Commissioner
- Indigenous: **Dr. Hilary Weaver** (US), Inaugural Global Commissioner; Hazel Berg (Canada)
- United Nations: **Michael Cronin** (US), Regional Commissioner; Representatives (New York) (all US): **Robin Mama**, **Elaine Congress**, **Anne C. Deepak**, **Evelyn P. Tomaszewski**, **Shenae Osborn**, **Kelsey Wills** (intern), **Julianna Larock** (intern)

Regions

IFSW North America

Report from CASW



Promote the Profession

The latter half of 2023 has been extremely busy for CASW. CASW has participated in the following:

- Social Work in Primary Care Consensus Workshop (August 18)
- attended the CMA Health Summit (August 17-18)
- attended the We Go Together planning meeting with Citizens for Public Justice regarding planning for the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (August 30)
- CASW participated in a Team Primary Care Interprofessional Practice Collaborative with the Canadian Interprofessional Health Collaborative (June 13)
- attended Annual Sleep Across the Lifespan Team Meeting hosted by Dr. Pen-

ny Corkum of Dalhousie University (June 14)

- CASW ED met with Natalie Brender of the Canadian Public Health Association to discuss topics including sex work and child welfare (June 19, June 29)
- CASW ED attended a Beyond Silence Advisory Team Meeting (June 22)
- CASW ED participated in an informational Public Health Agency of Canada - Health and Allied Health Meeting (June 26)
- CASW ED and Education & Communications Coordinator met with the Centre for Indigegogy (July 11)
- CASW ED and Education & Communications Coordinator discussed Emancipation Day Collaboration with the Association of Black Social Workers (July 13)
- CASW met with the Centre for Indigegogy to discuss collaboration including webinars as well as members to access training (Sep 5)
- CASW met with the Child Welfare League of Canada to discuss collaboration including the Beyond Neglect webinar series. (Sep 6)
- CASW participated in Introductions & Collaborative Planning for the We Go Together Network (Sep 7, 21)

Regions

IFSW North America

- CASW ED met with Alice Zheng of Women and Gender Equality Canada (Sep 7)
- CASW ED met with Jocelyne Voisin on improving national interoperability (Canada Health Infoway) (Sep 22)

Strategic Advocacy

- CASW published a [Submission for the Pre-Budget Consultations in Advance of the 2024 Budget](#) (August 2)
- CASW President sent welcome letters to new Ministers (Health, MH, Housing etc.) specific to its social justice and profession priorities
- CASW committed to support the creation of "We Go Together" network to collectively address poverty reduction in Canada. The proposed network is a replacement for the dissolution of the Dignity for All Campaign.
- CASW endorsed [Canada's National Nature Prescription Program, PaRx](#) (August).
- CASW provided a submission to the Government of Canada on its consultations for a Safe Long-Term Care Act. (August)
- CASW Board had Parliament Hill Day meeting with 12 key Parliamentarians promoting the profession and social justice priorities. (Sept 24) – see attached leave behind.
- CASW publishes A [Message From the CASW President](#): Honouring the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Sep 27)
- CASW publishes a [CASW Statement on 2SLGBTQIA+ Children and Youth](#) (Sep 28)
- CASW Board members participated in meetings with Parliamentarians on a Hill Day following the Board meeting (Sep 25)
- CASW [submitted a brief to the HOC Justice Committee on BILL C-295](#) - An Act to amend the Criminal Code (neglect of vulnerable adults) – June 7
- CASW Education and Communications Coordinator attended Act4QueerSafety Advocacy Planning with Momentum/Wisdom2Action (June 7)
- CASW ED met with the Office of the Minister of Labour and Santis Health on a Social Worker Sectoral Study (June 21)
- As a member of the Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO) Health Professional Forum's (the Forum) Indigenous Health Sub-Group, CASW supported the development and publication of the [Common Definitions on Cultural Safety](#) (June 20)
- CASW endorsed a call from Children's Healthcare Canada calling for the establishment of a Chief Child Health Officer under the auspices of the federal health portfolio.

Regions

IFSW North America

Coalitions and Partners

- HEAL
- Canadian Alliance for Mental Illness and Mental Health (CAMIMH): CAMIMH publishes a [submission to the 2024 Pre-Budget Consultation Process](#) (August 3)
- Extended Healthcare Professionals Coalition (EHPC)
- National Associations Active in Criminal Justice (NAACJ)
- Palliative Care Coalition of Canada (PCCC)
- Canadian Coalition for Public Health in the 21st Century

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility, and Belonging

- CASW supported the coordination of the Alberta Association of Black Social Workers (AABSW), the Nova Scotia Association of Black Social Workers (NSABSW), the Saskatchewan Association of Black Social Workers (SABSW) for a September webinar
- CASW Anti-Racism Statement Federation Committee met to continue refining the project (Sep 6)
- CASW provided the Saskatchewan Association of Black Social Workers (SABSW) a letter of support for their Mosaic of Black Joy photovoice project

grant application to the SaskCulture Multicultural Initiatives Fund. (Sept 8)

- CASW Board established an EDIB Committee that will seek federation participation to support evolving Governance. (Sept 22)
- The CASW President issued a [message honouring the 2023 National Day of Truth and Reconciliation](#) and circulated it with other resources to members. (Sept 27.)
- [CASW President Elected as IFSW Global Vice President](#) (June 6)
- CASW convened the Intersectoral Committee with updates on the Sector Study proposal, IESW national bridging program and Team Primary Care. (June 29)
- [CASW 2023 Annual Report made public](#). (July)
- [CASW Strategic Plan made public](#). (July)

Major Projects

Social Work in Primary Care

CASW ED attended Social Work in Primary Care Team Meeting. (June 7)

- Social Work in Primary Care Wanted held its first advisory committee meeting in June. 5 representatives joined from British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and Newfoundland and

Regions

IFSW North America

Labrador- members are composed with social workers in primary care and a patient partner.

Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Ethical Practice

- CASW revised Code of Ethics adopted at June 2023 federation meetings.
- CASW ED and BMG debriefed and discussed the final report (June 22) – the final report will be shared with the CASW Board in September.

Operations

- CASW Executive met and approved project funds to roll-out the Code of Ethics as well as EDIAB review of CASW foundational governance. (June 9, June 28)
- OASW & CASW hosted the CASW Federation meeting & AGM in Toronto. CASW Code of Ethics adopted and new Fee Formula Adopted. (June 10-11)
- CASW IESW Coordinator updated the Thesis/dissertation/memoire/research component of assessment manual and integrative seminars to reflect evaluator consensus on 2021 Standards of Accreditation (June)
- CASW hired a summer student to archive its historical documents through ESDC Grant (June).

- Antiracism Statement work continuing (June 16, June 29)
- CASW ED attended a workshop presented by the Canada Centre for Community Engagement and Prevention of Violence, from the Aurora Family Therapy Centre to learn about their initiative, Supporting Counter-Radicalization Efforts by Ethno-cultural Networks (SCREEN) is a community-based resilience and capacity building program to prevent youth radicalization to violence. (June 28)
- CASW ED attended Substance Use Patterns and Safer Supply Preferences webinar presented by BC Centre for Disease Control (July 13)

Strengthen the Profession and Association

- CASW met with SABSW and SASW to discuss areas of mutual support (August 1)
- CASW Education Coordinator initiated discussions with potential presenters on reconciliation, child welfare, Radicalization, and AI for fall webinars (August)
- CASW ED committed to the Child Welfare League of Canada (CWLC) to be an advisor on its next stage of the Beyond Neglect -- drawing attention to the growing crisis of frontline (child welfare) worker retention at a national level,

Regions

IFSW North America

and related risks to children and families. (August)

- CASW Education and Communications Coordinator met with The Centre for Indigegogy regarding webinars and a partnership for continuing education (August 25)
- CASW ED attended an ASWB Social Work Workforce Coalition meeting (August 25)
- Assessment of International Credentials developed Terms and Conditions for all applicants that apply to the IESW assessment service. (August)
- CASW Education and Communications Coordinator collaborated with the CWLC to develop and promote the Equitable Standard training services scheduled for October and November 2023 (August/September)
- CASW Program Coordinator – Assessment of International Credentials – distributed a memo regarding the digitization of the assessment service – see attached (Sept 15) – see attached.
- CASW Communications and Education Coordinator met with NBASW-ATTSNB Communications staff to discuss francophone and increasing overall French communications in social media (Sep 25)
- CASW Treasurer committed to and attended the first Advisory Committee meeting for the Policy Options for a Pan- Canadian MHSUH Workforce Strategy project

CASW Webinars

- Addressing Anti-2SLGBTQIA+ Hate: The Role of Social Workers (June 29)
- Prescribing Nature with Parx: What the Outdoors Can Do for You and Your Patients' Health (Sep 7)
- Justice for Our Seniors: Land Title Claims for African Nova Scotians (Sep 12)
- The Power of Ceremony Part 2: Indigenous Contemplative Practices, Neurodecolonization, and Indigenous Mindfulness (Sep 14)
- Bridging Worlds: Navigating Settler-Indigenous Relations, Allyship, and the Road to Reconciliation and Decolonization (Sep 29)

Board and CASW Operations

- CASW Board met in Ottawa – major topics included anti-racism statement, launch of Code, Strategic Implementation plan and EDIAB. Board established a EDIAB Governance Committee and Awards Committee. (Sept 22).
- CASW ED participated in TPC Partner-Led Dialogue: AFPC Academic Electronic Health Record (Sep 27)

Submitted by Joan Davis-Whelan, IFSW
North America President

Regions

IFSW North America

Report from NASW



This has been a busy year for NASW. I have included links to the full reports on various activities.

Promote the Profession

Practice Quality

- [Resources for Career Advancement](#)
- [Social Work Student Events](#)
- [Tips and Tools for Social Workers](#)
- [NASW Practice Standards Under Review in 2023](#)
- [Leadership Summit Review](#)
- [Palliative Care: Social Workers Help](#)

Public Awareness

- [Social Work Month Helps Boost NASW's Social Media Audience](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence](#)
- [Social Work Talks Podcast](#)
- [National Social Work Public Opinion Survey](#)

Strategic Advocacy

Workforce Advocacy

- [Congressional Bills to Support Social Workers - CMSA](#)
- [Social Work Leaders Attend NASW Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill](#)
- [Improving Access to Mental Health Act Reintroduced in Congress](#)
- [Provisions that benefit clinical social workers added to Senate bill](#)
- [NASW welcomes bill to create Interstate Licensing Compact](#)

Major Projects

Social and Racial Justice

- [NASW opposes anti-LGBTQIA2S+ legislation](#)
- [Increasing Voter Participation](#)
- [Why the John Lewis Voting Rights Bill is Crucial | Social Work Blog](#)
- [NASW's Legal Defense Fund: Providing Protections Since 1972](#)
- [Racial Equity](#)
- [A Step Backward Social Workers Weigh Impact of US Supreme Court Rulings](#)
- [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Matters](#)

Regions

IFSW North America

Operations

Membership Growth

- [Membership by the Numbers](#)
- [NASW Membership brochure](#)
- [www.socialworkers.org > About > Chapters > Membership By Chapter](#)

NASW Press | See New Titles and Summaries

- [NASW: eCommerce Website](#)

NASW Foundation

- [Foundation Names 2023 Scholarship Recipients](#)
- [Foundation Names W.E.B. Du Bois One of 25 New Social Work Pioneers](#)

2023 Annual Report | Program Priorities

- [ADA Compliant Text Version AR23 Text](#)
- [Slide Show Version with Images Annual Report 2023](#)

Strengthen the Profession and Association

Continuing Education and Professional Development

- [NASW Calendar of Events NASW Events Calendar](#)

List of Chapter Conferences and SPS

Webinars | Jan – Dec 2023

- [Calendar of Events October November 2023](#)
- [Calendar of Events August September 2023](#)
- [Calendar of Events: June / July 2023](#)
- [Calendar of Events April / May 2023](#)
- [Calendar of Events: February / March 2023](#)
- [Calendar of Events: December 2022 / January 2023](#)

Submitted by **Yvonne Chase**, IFSW North America Vice President

News and Statements

Please [click here](#) to read the latest news and statements of the IFSW North America Region

Commissions

Education Commission

The aim of the Education Commission is to create a structure for the transfer of knowledge between social work education and practice where both are informed and learning from one another. The Commission supports social work programmes and educators who experience pressures to make "concessions" on the quality of education to be able to meet the professions international standards.

[Read more about the Education Commission.](#)

Global Standards for Social Work Education

IFSW and IASSW have jointly updated the Global Standards for Social Work Education and Training.
[Read more.](#)

Commissioners

Global



Vasilios Ioakimidis
Global Commissioner

Africa Region



Antoinette Lombard
Regional Commissioner

Asia and Pacific Region



Mariko Kimura
Regional Commissioner

Europe Region



Nicolai Paulsen
Regional Commissioner

Latin America and the Caribbean Region



Marinilda Rivera Díaz
Regional Commissioner

North American Region



Gary Bailey
Regional Commissioner

Commissions

Education Commission

Summer School in Turkey and the 'Aegean Declaration on Climate Justice and Social Work'

In August, a pioneering collaboration, known as the 'Social Work Summer Camp', was initiated, bringing together social workers from Greece, Turkey, and the UK. This initiative was championed by the Turkish Association of Social Workers, the Hellenic Association of Social Workers, Liverpool Hope University, and the University of West Attica, and was spearheaded by the Mula Branch of the Turkish Association of Social Workers in collaboration with the Mula Metropolitan Municipality.

Over five days, participants engaged in comprehensive discussions, workshops, insightful lectures, hands-on field trips, and community-building activities, focusing on the role of social work in the escalating climate crisis. This event was not only a meeting of minds but also an opportunity for practical learning and community engagement.

A significant outcome of this initiative was the formulation of the 'Aegean Declaration on Climate Justice and Social Work.' This declaration is a unified call from all participating organizations and individuals, urging global support for social workers and movements advocating for climate justice. The declaration emphasizes the critical role of social workers in addressing climate change and its impacts on communi-

ties. The declaration can be accessed here: [The Aegean Declaration](#).



Participants of the Summer School in Turkey

Intensive Seminar on Social Work and Political Conflict (Belfast, Ireland)

Our Commission, through our Chair Professor Vasilios Ioakimidis, participated in the intensive seminar on the interplay between social work and political conflict in Cyprus, Northern Ireland, and Bosnia Herzegovina. This seminar was designed to explore emergent themes from the literature 'International Perspectives on Social Work and Political Conflict,' edited by Prof Joe Duffy, Prof Jim Campbell, and Prof Carol Tosone and published by Routledge.

The literature highlights the impact of political conflict on victims and survivors, social work practice, and social work education. This seminar included contributions from social work academics from each of the three case studies. Additionally, presentations by professionals and NGOs working with victims and survivors in Northern Ireland were integral to this

Commissions

Education Commission

seminar, providing real-world insights and applications of the discussed themes.



Seminar on Social Work and Political Conflict

These initiatives represent significant strides in the field of social work, linking academic discourse with practical application, and emphasizing the critical role of social workers in addressing both environmental and political challenges. The outcomes of these initiatives are expected to have a lasting impact on the global social work community and the populations they serve.



Participants; on the left, Vasilios loakimidis

International Conference

Participation to the Social Work and Social Policy in Times of Global Crises. 19 - 22 September 2023, Ohrid.

On the occasion of 65th Anniversary of the Institute of Social Work and Social Policy. Professor Vasilios loakimidis was invited to deliver the key note presentation focusing on challenges for social work education and practice.



International Conference

IFSW Africa Region Education Commission on Global Standards for Social Work and Education

With regard to our ongoing project of rolling out the Global Standards to schools of social work in the region, we have made less progress than intended. We have completed the analysis of the four university pilot project on the alignment of the social work curriculums with the Global Standards and next, we have to consolidate the analysis in terms of similarities and challenges among the participating universities. We have shared the self-developed 5-point scale for the alignment

Commissions

Education Commission

exercise widely with different regions across the globe to use and adapt as needed.

The Task Group had one online meeting on 6 June 2023. We intended to have webinars in the region to share the findings and in addition, to invite social work schools in the region to voluntary assess the alignment of the social work curriculum with the Global Standards. The webinars have not yet realised, but remain in the planning.

In other ways it has been a very busy year as members have been engaged in different events as representatives of the Africa Education Task Group to further the priorities of the Global Standards in social work education and practice; in the Africa region but also globally.

We've had three engagements with the global standards in the region, represented by Prof Janestic Twikirize:

- In April 2023, she discussed the global standards in a Webinar hosted by the Association of Social Work Educators in Kenya (ASWEK), as a framework to inform the development of minimum standards for their social work programmes in Kenya.
- In July 2023, she and the IASSW President, Prof Anna Maria Campanini presented the Global Standards in a workshop organised by the Inter University Council of East Africa (IUCEA) in Enteb-

be, Uganda. The IUCEA is the responsible body mandated with quality assurance mechanisms for higher education in the East African community. The IASSW has set up a Task Force to develop and e-learning programme on the GSSWET. The planning for this has commenced. Various academics are included in the modules and envisage to have this in place during 2024. The Global Standards informed the process of developing benchmarks for the Bachelor of Social Work in the East African Community.

- In December, 2023, Prof Janestic Twikirize, facilitated the discussion of the Global standards with social work faculty at the University of Juba, South Sudan, at the invitation of UNICEF, as part of their efforts to strengthen social work education in the country. The standards are expected to inform the review and revision of the social work curriculum at the University of Juba.

Engagement with the Chinese Association of Social Work Education (CASWE) included two events, represented by Prof Antoinette Lombard:

- A conference paper was video recorded on the topic, Global Standards for Social Work Education and Training: A useful benchmarking framework for

Education Commission

MSW Programme. From a South African and African experience. It was submitted to the host on 3 May 2023 in time to be translated for the conference.

- IASSW and the Chinese Association of Social Work Education (CASWE) jointly embarked on a project on Global Standards for Social Work Education and Training. I prepared a 90 minutes recorded video lecture for the implementation of the Global Standard, The characteristics of a good school of social work. I submitted it on 31 July 2023 to CASWE for translation from English to Chinese. Other standards have been recorded by other IASSW members for the CASWE project. Another Task Group member, Dr Varosh Nadesan presented a similar 90 minute video recorded lecture on the standard, Teaching social work practice in the curriculum. These recordings will be made available on the websites of IASSW and CASWE.

In the European region, The main regional activities – reflecting an ongoing roll-out of the Global Standards – have in 2023 been linked to

1. Participation in the EU financed Horizon Europe research and development project on RESPONSIVENESS TO CITI-

ZEN VOICE IN SOCIAL SERVICES, where IFSW Europe is one of several partners. The project is framed around the concept of 'responsiveness' within social services as a new way of thinking about democracy and co-creation in the context of citizen-government interaction.

2. A preparatory talk about ECO SOCIAL WORK IN PRACTICE AND IN EDUCATION – and how climate change will affect us all, especially people in vulnerable circumstances. One answer is that education focusing on Eco Social Work is needed in the universities, and for professionals as well. From an ecological point of view, you could say that eco-wisdom requires a paradigm shift in ethics / professional ethics as well as a critique of the central values as self-reliance and the individualistic approach of problems in social policy and practice.
3. A preparatory talk about THE RECRUITMENT OF SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS – and how several Europe countries experience a decrease in the number of applicants for the social work education programmes. The reason seems to be manifold, and is explained by a demographic development (declining youth cohorts and high employment in unskilled jobs), that the education programs are financially starved (the social work lecturers have poor conditions and the number of

Commissions

Education Commission

hours for students are reduced), that the social work profession's reputation is weakened (poor working conditions, poor salary, weakened power of professional action in practice), etc.

Plans for 2024

As in the previous year, our Commission's main objective for 2024 is to support the implementation of the Federation's vision and key policies for the improvement of Social Work Education globally. The Education Commission has already achieved to become a permanent and inclusive platform for practitioners and educators to work together in order to monitor, explore and intervene in discussions about the nature and development of social work education at a global level.

Therefore, the two main pillars of our work for 2024 will be:

- Continuation of the Global Standards roll-out. Our commission is committed to continue working closely with regional and national associations, as well as universities, in order to support the implementation of Global Stand-

ards and eventual update of social work curricula. We aim at ensuring the Standards are translated into key languages across all continents.

- Completion of the "Institutional Endorsement" process. This process will ensure that the Global Standards become a live and dynamic document that impacts positively on the lives of educators, students and users of services.

Furthermore, our commission will be proactive in promoting knowledge and good practice about social work education at global level. This will include the facilitation of seminars, conferences or other events in liaison with national associations and regions.

Vasilios Ioakimidis,

On behalf of the IFSW Global Education Commission.

Commissions

Ethics Commission

The Ethics Commission is responsible for the review of the Statement of Ethical Principles, that every member of IFSW is required to adhere to, in addition to their own Code of Ethics. The Statement presents the basic ethical principles of the social work profession, offers guidance and recommends action when the work presents ethical dilemmas not only for members but for individual social workers in relation to the people with whom they work, colleagues and others in the field.

[Read more about the Ethics Commission.](#)

Commissioners

Global



Jane Shears
Global Commissioner

Asia and Pacific Region



Hassan Mousavi Chelak
Regional Commissioner

Latin America and the Caribbean Region

Vacant
Regional Commissioner

Latest Publications

[Beyond the pandemic: Exploring social work ethics and values as a contribution to a new eco-social world](#)

[Pandemic ethics: A resource for social work students, educators and practitioners](#)

Africa Region



Stephano Akuzike Joseph
Regional Commissioner

Europe Region



Gabriele Stark-Angermeier
Regional Commissioner

North American Region



Kim Strom
Regional Commissioner

Commissions

Ethics Commission

Activities identified for 2023 in the 2022 report

- Reviewing applications from prospective new members to IFSW
- Research article based on global webinars
- Developing abstracts / papers for submission for conferences in 2023
- Developing Continuing Professional Development materials incorporating ethics and values
- Developing Commission workplan for 2023/4
- Developing a Terms of Reference for the Ethics Commission

Activities and Achievements

Reviewing applications from prospective new members to IFSW. At the end of 2022, applications were received from The Guinean Bissau Association of Social Workers, the National Alliance of Professional Social Workers of Kazakhstan and the National Association of Social Workers Ukraine (NASWU). All three applications were successful. Welcome to our new members from the African, Asia Pacific and European IFSW regions.

Research: The global webinars carried out in 2022 were analysed and three overarching themes were identified:

- Ethical challenges during the pandemic caused a rethinking of ethics in social work practice in relation to: a) self-care; b) digital working; c) less bureaucracy, more discretion and creativity.
- Importance of a holistic approach in relation to: a) people and planet; b) working with communities.
- Social work's contribution to social and environmental transformation in relation to: a) social workers as skilled experts in social protection and sustainable development; b) extending the concept of justice (from social to ecological).

The full article: „Social work beyond the pandemic: Exploring social work values for a new eco-social world”, was submitted for publication to the journal, International Social Work.

Transnational Social Work Project – research into evaluating the experiences of social workers who have trained in one country and practising in another (ongoing).

Attendance / papers at conferences

In Africa, the regional commissioner attended the conference with Social Workers from Botswana and South Africa focusing on the issue of ethics and how it affects the delivery of social work in the present dispensation (the digital era). The

Commissions

Ethics Commission

presentation dissected how social work ethics can still be relevant and applicable.

The IFSW Asia Pacific conference was held in November 2023 and attended by over 2000 delegates. The Global Commissioner attended on behalf of the Commission and presented a paper at a workshop session with colleagues from Japan and Hong Kong.

A preconference workshop was held at the European Social Work Research Association conference in partnership with the Social Work Ethics Research Group (SWERG). Kim Strom is also a member of SWERG.

The 2023 regional conference (IFSW Europe) took place in Prague, Czech Republic, in May 2023. The delegates meeting was held before the conference where reports were given on the work of the global ethics committee to date. The working group on research in the field of professional ethics was also a focal point, and various aspects were presented.

A paper on the workforce issues reported by social workers was presented at the European Conference for Social Work Education.

A workshop on Social Work Practitioner research was delivered at the British Association of Social Work Conference, with a focus on the ethical issues associated with the simultaneous positions of practitioner and researcher.

Co-organiser of the 3rd International Symposium on Social Work in a Complex

Society: Promoting Wellbeing Beyond Risks and a Call for Change. The symposium was joined by social workers, care professionals and researchers from European and Asian countries, offering great opportunities for knowledge exchange and networking.

Co-organiser of: Statutory mental health roles in the UK nations: negotiating human rights and ethical practice in the legal landscape.

Continuous Professional Development

A paper was also presented at the IFSW Asia Pacific Conference on the creation of a bespoke Continuing Professional Development Programme designed to support Overseas Qualified Social Workers into social work positions in the United Kingdom. This online learning package contains specific teaching and learning on ethics, values and human rights.

The African regional representative organized and attended a virtual shared learning seminar on Humanitarian Response to Disaster and Conflict: Ethical and Professional Principles for Social Workers. The event was presided over by Professor Janet Walker from Lincoln University and Support Social Work in Malawi (SSWIM), and with Symon and Shoshon Turner Sweet from Alliance for Children Everywhere. This was organized immediately after the devastating impacts of Tropical Cyclone Freddy (TCF) which affected the Southern Region of Africa and Malawi -

Commissions

Ethics Commission

one of the countries severely affected. Social workers appreciated their critical role to play in terms of ethics and general social work, as well as Psychological First Aid. The event recognised that following TCF, social workers were overwhelmed and need to develop knowledge and skills to ensure application of social work and ethics in emergency situations.

Developing Commission workplan for 2023/4

With the exception of an ongoing vacancy in the IFSW Latin America and Caribbean, the Commission has a full team.

In the African region, the process of profiling the voices of social workers reflecting on the response and the aftermath of the TCF crisis continues, and work is ongoing about how this can shape our future responses. This will also be developed into a journal article and presented at the IFSW Panama Conference in April 2024.

The work of IFSW Europe was characterised by various projects such as the issue of sustainability in social work and the fight against poverty. Once again this year, the focus was on cooperation with social workers in Ukraine and discussions have focused on displaced persons and the reconstruction of the country after the war.

IFSW Asia Pacific Commissioner is leading on survey research to explore how members are implementing the IFSW statement of ethical principles. A report will be published in 2024.

In 2024, the Commission will contribute to the IFSW Commissions' continuing professional development programme which is currently at the planning stage.

Developing a Terms of Reference for the Ethics Commission

Work has taken place on developing a Terms of Reference for the Ethics Commission in relation to membership, recruitment and retention. Further work will be undertaken in co-production with the IFSW Commissions in 2024.

Planned activities for 2024 / 2025

- Reviewing applications from prospective new members to IFSW
- Carrying out research and presenting findings
- Developing a statement on the impact of digital technologies on the education and practice of social work
- Developing abstracts for submission at and presenting at conferences in 2024
- Contributing to the IFSW Commission Continuing Professional Development programme
- Completing work on the Terms of Reference for the Ethics Commission
- Developing a workplan for 2025

Submitted by **Jane Shears**, IFSW Global Ethics Commissioner

Commissions

Indigenous Commission

The aim of the Indigenous Commission is to create a structure for utilization of the indigenous knowledge and skills in service delivery locally and globally...

[Read more about the Indigenous Commission.](#)



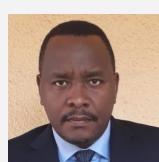
Commissioners

Global



Hilary Weaver
Global Commissioner

Africa Region



Charles Rutikanga
Regional Commissioner

Europe Region



Margaretha Uttjek
Regional Commissioner

Asia and Pacific Region



Caroline Tana-Tepania
Regional Commissioner



Linda Ford
Representative

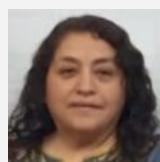


Dr Ling How Kee
Representative



Yang Jian (Yvonne)
Representative

Latin America and the Caribbean Region



Jenny Linares
Regional Commissioner

North American Region



Hazel Berg
Regional Commissioner

Commissions

Indigenous Commission

General Activities and Achievements

The Indigenous Commission has developed a schedule of meetings that take place every other month. At the beginning of 2023 we adopted a workplan for the year. The plan was drafted with input from all members of the Indigenous Commission then submitted to Rory Truell and Bernard Mayaka for their feedback prior to final approval by the commission. The annual workplan identifies tasks, timeframes, and members of the commission who will take the lead on each project. This workplan has provided a focus and structure for our work. Although we are taking on various projects throughout the year, we have adopted the theme *Integrating Indigenous Knowledge in social work practice and education* as a priority for 2023.



In 2023 the Indigenous Commission accomplished the following activities:

- Global Commissioners from the Indigenous Commission and Education Commission collaborated to develop a concept paper to guide joint work on the incorporation of Indigenous Knowledges and approaches in social work education and practice. The intention to convene a joint meeting of these commissions to develop action steps for moving this plan forward was put on hold as discussions occurred about commission structures that could have affected how we move forward. We hope to move these collaborative efforts forward in 2024.
- The Global Indigenous Commissioner provided welcoming remarks for the on-line celebration of World Social Work Day at the United Nations, Geneva.
- How Kee Ling, one of the commission representatives from the Asia Pacific region, along with the executive committee of the Malaysian Association of Social Workers (MASW), organized a webinar with the theme, *Incorporating Indigenous Knowledges and Approaches in Social Work Education and Practice*, to mark World Social Work Day. Hilary Weaver, the Global Indigenous Commissioner provided a keynote address, "If we live by our roots, we will be protected by our branches: Indigenous Knowledges and Social Work". Carole Tana-Tepania (Regional

Commissions

Indigenous Commission

Commissioner, Asia Pacific) and Miriam Scott, shared their experiences in Aotearoa New Zealand in a plenary presentation, "Raising the Indigenous voices to action in social work". This was followed by a panel of three Malaysian social workers: Dr Ling How Kee (Life member, MASW, Regional Representative, Indigenous Commission, Asia Pacific), Ms Hwa Hui-En (Manager, Policy, Advocacy and Research, Malaysian Care) and Ms Ryna Veltricia Mandau (social worker, Caring for the Future Malaysia, Papar, Sabah). The panel explored what incorporating Indigenous Knowledges and approaches means for Malaysian social work. Panelists provided case examples of incorporating Indigenous Knowledge and approaches and described issues and challenges of working with children and families from Indigenous communities. The webinar had 175 participants including 135 from various NGOs, government departments, universities, and colleges in Malaysia, and 40 from countries outside Malaysia including Philippines, Morocco, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Indonesia, Romania, Pakistan, Canada, Lebanon, and Nepal. The webinar received very positive feedback and requests for more discussion on the topics of Indigenous Knowledge in social work and working with cultural diversity.



Webinar flyer

- Three members of the Indigenous Commission, Hilary Weaver (Global Commissioner), Margaretha Karlberg Uttjek (European region), and Jenny Linares (Latin American and Caribbean region) participated in an on-line side event at the 2023 United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (April 17-28, 2023, in New York City). The presentation was offered in English and Spanish with interpretation provided by Lucia Gandolfi. The panel was recorded and is being used as an educational resource for social work students in Australia. Participation in the UNPFII was facilitated by support from our New York City colleagues affiliated with the IFSW UN commission who assisted with registration at the United Nations and publicizing and managing the technology for the side event.
- Webinar on *Advancing equitable access to health care for Indigenous Peoples -Examples from Sábmie, Latin America & Caribbean, and North America*, Wednesday April 19, 2023.

Commissions

Indigenous Commission

- The Indigenous Commission submitted a [statement highlighting the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women](#) that was published by IFSW. Informally we have heard that this has been used as a resource at the University of British Columbia in Canada.
- The Indigenous Commission submitted a [statement for World Indigenous Peoples Day](#) that was published by IFSW.
<https://www.ifsw.org/?s=world+indigenous+peoples+day+statement+2023>
- The Indigenous Commission submitted a [statement for Orange Shirt Day](#) on the impact of residential schools on Indigenous people that was published by IFSW.
- The Indigenous Commission is currently identifying meeting dates and developing a workplan for 2024.



Key Planned Activities and Events for next year

- Participate in the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to be held in New York City, April 15-26. Forum theme: Enhancing Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination while emphasizing the voices of the youth.
- Explore collaborative opportunities with the Education Commission around incorporation of Indigenous Knowledge and approaches, including ethics, in social work education
- Explore the feasibility of offering a webinar for World Social Workers Day, March 23
- Issue a statement for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's Day, May 5
- Issue a statement for World Indigenous People's Day, August 9
- Issue a statement for Orange Shirt Day, September 30
- Explore the possibility of collaborating with the UN commission on a series of on-line webinars providing content focused on Indigenous Peoples such as UNDRIP and the importance of free, prior, and informed consent

Submitted by Hilary Weaver, IFSW Global Indigenous Commissioner

Commissions

United Nations Commission

IFSW has been granted Special Consultative Status by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). In addition, IFSW is working with the World Health Organization (WHO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The commission supports IFSW representatives and IFSW members to act as facilitators and bridging the gaps between community's aspirations and UN agendas. At the same time, the knowledge of the UN's work shall flow back to the IFSW board and the IFSW members with the goal to create a partnership and realising a social change.

[Read more about the UN Commission.](#)

Latest Updates

[Freedom, Equality, And Justice For All: The Essential Role Of Social Work In Advancing Human Rights](#)

[United In Action To Rescue And Achieve The SDGs For, With And By Persons With Disabilities](#)

[IFSW UN Commission Geneva Team News 2023](#)

Read more updates [here](#).

Commissioners and Representatives

Global



Priska Fleischlin
Global Commissioner

Africa Region



Charles Mbugua
Regional Commissioner

Asia and Pacific Region



W. Kotbungkair
Regional Commissioner



Suresh Pathare
Representative



Hamed Olamaee
Regional Commissioner



Sebastian Cordoba
Representative

Commissions

United Nations Commission

LAC Region

Vacant
Regional Commissioner

Europe Region



Swetha R. Dhananka
Regional Commissioner



Brigitte Leroy
Regional Commissioner



Sibylle Mani
Representative



Tobias Roosen
Representative



Pascal Rudin
Representative



Herbert Paulischin
Regional Commissioner

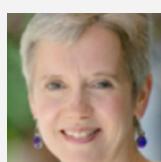


Silvia Franke
Representative

North America Region



Michael Cronin
Regional Commissioner



Robin S. Mama
Representative



Elaine Congress
Representative



Anne C. Deepak
Representative



Evelyn P. Tomaszewski
Representative



Shenae Osborn
Representative

Commissions

United Nations Commission

Activities and Achievements



First face to face meeting in Switzerland

Besides the regular work of representing Social Work and the people we work with to the UN and providing information of the UN for to the global social work community, the commission has held its first in-person meeting in Switzerland in June 2023, with financial support from the Swiss Association of Social Workers and the employers of individual team members. Besides internal workshops (even on the train!), the team also had meetings with WHO, OHCHR, and other UN representatives.

During the whole year, most of the team have shown high activity and did an excellent job, my warmest thanks! They participated in events, provided oral speeches, submitted statements on social work to the UN and statements sent by the IFSW newsletter to our colleagues. Some went to regional IFSW conferences to link with colleagues, participated in our regular virtual meetings and together, we developed our new vision for the next ten years.

In the next months, we will finalize the planning of our work for the next ten years and overwork our documentation. We con-

tinue to strengthen the ties with UN Agencies, where we utilize social work perspectives in agenda-building and co-creating campaigns on global and national levels.

'Social Work is a key profession for changing the system and leaving no one behind' we hear so often from UN representatives. We feel proud to be part of IFSW and give our best to pave the way on a global level for more recognition and involvement of local and national social work.

Africa

Charles represented IFSW during the United Nations Habitat Assembly in Nairobi and continues to follow the discussion on this topic. He went to the Regional Conference of IFSW Africa in November and agreed with the regional president and the global president of IFSW to enlarge the team by adding representatives to his team.

Asia Pacific

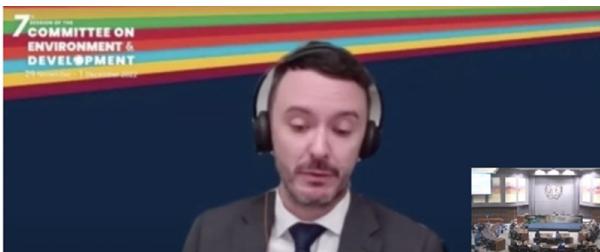
In 2023, the Asia Pacific team has continued to build on the work on the previous year and expand our influence within the UN system. The priorities for the last 12 months have been to continue the policy and advocacy work and explore new opportunities to build partnerships with regional groups. The work has included written and oral statements to the UN ESCAP Committee on Social Development, Committee on Environment and Development

Commissions

United Nations Commission

in Asia and the Pacific, Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 2023 and attending the seventy-ninth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. Representatives were also invited to take part in the UN's Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution expert working group, advocating for policies that recognise the impact on marginalised communities.

Key Planned Activities and Events



Dr Cordoba addressing the Committee on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific

The team is now planning on key upcoming events including World Social Work Day 2024, the 80th Session of ESCAP, the 2024 Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and our contributions to the High Level Political Forum and the UN's Summit of the Future. We are also looking at expand our membership and continue to foster relationships with national associations in the region.

New York

Activities and Achievements 2023

The team covers the following NGO substantive issues on a regular basis: Status

of Women, Migration, Financing for Development, Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Family, Ageing, Sustainable Development, and Mental Health. There is a team representative present at UN meetings or activities at least 3+ days per week.

IFSW submitted statements to the 2024 UN Commission on Social Development (CSocD) and the [UN Commission on the Status of Women](#) (CSW). In 2023, IFSW presented a parallel event panel for CSocD, Social Work Strategies to Support Decent Work to Overcome Inequality and Achieve the 2030 Agenda: Co-building an Eco-Social World.



IFSWs hosted a side event during in the 2023 UN High Level Political Forum (UN HLPF) on Sustainable Development

The team co-organized the 39th Annual Social Work Day at the UN-NY with approximately 300 persons followed the theme: [Creating a More Inclusive World: Overcoming Barriers to EnABLE Environments](#).

Commissions

United Nations Commission

Planned Activities and Events for 2024

- Greater involvement with the UN Financing for Development
- Attendance and participation at the 62nd session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD62)
- Participation at the 68th of the Commission on the Status of Women including organizing a parallel event
- Strengthen relationships with IFSW member organizations.

Vienna

The main focus of activities consisted in participating in VNGOC's Annual General Meeting and board election in 2023.

During the 66th Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), IFSW participated in various side events on overdose prevention, women specific and gender-sensitive interventions, mental health and substance issues, harm reduction, cannabis regulation and the role of NGOs in approaches to actively reduce stigma.

As a main activity for 2024, IFSW is planning a side event with the support of the Austrian government during the 67th Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March.

Geneva

The Geneva team was represented at the regular global refugee forum and the executive committee meeting of UNHCR.

Two new representatives are exploring the work of the UN, currently representing

IFSW to the NGO committee on Ageing and later to NGO Committee on Human Rights.

IFSW co-organized the 2023 WSWD and co-produced a contribution for the UNRISD conference in Bonn on eco-social contracts. Since 2023 IFSW is part of the UNRISD Research and Action network and attending working group meeting on rights of nature and general strategy meeting. IFSW attended the session on HR75 September Spotlight Discussion: Social Protection, Sustainable Development, and the Right to Development.

The representation of the Geneva team at the UN Human Rights Council's dedicated session on children's rights focused on the Right to Identity. This right has increasingly been mainstreamed across the year, and collaboration with agencies such as UNICEF and the Committee on the Rights of the Child has been intensified. Partnerships with other NGO's represented at the UN, including Child Rights Connect and Child Identity Protection, have also been strengthened.

Planned Activities and Events for 2024

On March, 20th the next World Social Work Day @the UN will take place as hybrid event. The Geneva team is planning to increase its activities by organizing side events during the UN Summit for the future and the Social Forum. Furthermore, the representation to ILO, WHO and OHCHR shall be advance.

Submitted by **Priska Fleischlin**, IFSW United Nations Global Commissioner

Ambassador's Message

My dear colleagues,
As we leave 2023 behind us and embark on a New Year, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the tremendous courage and dedication social workers throughout the world have shown in the face of immense global challenges. More than ever, the world needs the care, compassion and expertise that social workers provide.

The past few years have tested our resilience like never before. A devastating pandemic, economic uncertainty, inequality, mounting conflict and the intensifying climate crisis have all taken an unimaginable toll on people across the planet. Individuals, families and communities are struggling in profound ways - emotionally, financially, physically.

And yet, every day, you meet this suffering head on. In clinics, schools, shelters and out on the streets, you are there providing critical support and fighting for the change we know is possible. Your tireless work uplifts lives, rebuilds connections and reminds people they are not alone. You embody the spirit of social justice that is at the very heart of this profession.

As we move forward, there is much difficult work still to be done. But social workers have never shied away from a challenge, especially when lives hang in the balance. I ask you to draw inspiration from what unites us all - an unshakeable belief that we can build a world grounded in dignity and human rights where people can live and thrive in peace.

This year, I urge you to continue innovating bold new approaches to entrenched issues. Seek to collaborate beyond borders and backgrounds to amplify your impact. Advocate unrelentingly for policies that lift up those who need it most. Know that your knowledge and compassion have the potential to transform communities everywhere.

The magnitude of the work ahead would be daunting if not for you - the thousands of social workers around the globe binding humanity together through care and understanding. Never doubt the impact you have on the lives of so many. You give so much, now let us support each other, each member association and IFSW. Together, we will weather the storms still to come believing that a better world rests within our collective power to create.

Looking to the future, I hope you have the opportunity to attend the SWSD 2024 World Joint Conference in Panama for an opportunity to reconnect, re-energize, and renew our commitment to social justice.

In peace and solidarity,

Suzanne Dworak-Peck
IFSW Ambassador

Los Angeles, January 2024

Governance

Meet the Global Executive

Global



Joachim Mumba
President



Pascal Rudin
Ex Officio Member



Joan Davis-Whelan
Vice President



Victor Garcia-Toro
Treasurer

Africa Region



Noel Muridzo
Regional President



Oluwatoni Adeleke
Regional Vice President

Asia and Pacific Region



Machiko Ohara
Regional President



Sriganesh MV
Regional Vice President

Europe Region



Ana Radulescu
Regional President



John Brennan
Regional Vice President

Latin America and the Caribbean Region



Kenia Batista
Regional President

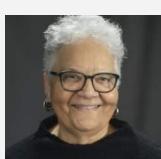


Tania Maria Ramos
Regional Vice President

North America Region



Joan Davis-Whelan
Regional President



Yvonne Chase
Regional Vice President

Read more about the strategic aims
and the regulations of IFSW:

Constitution: [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#)

By-Laws: [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#)

Meet the Secretariat Team

Rory Truell

Secretary-General



rory.truell@ifsw.org

Pascal Rudin

Acting CEO & Head of Operations



pascal.rudin@ifsw.org

Lucia Gandolfi

Administrator



lucia.gandolfi@ifsw.org

Bernard Mayaka

Administrator



bernard.mayaka@ifsw.org

Projects and Programs

The Community Social Work Centre and Social Work Hub Celebrates One Year



IFSW Europe, led by President Ana Radulescu, in collaboration with the President of the Kamenets Podilsk District Council, Mykhailo Simashkevich, hosted an event commemorating a year of joint endeavors. This partnership has been instrumental in strengthening the field of social work and social services in Ukraine, promoting resilience in the face of the challenging backdrop of war.

Furthermore, the event aimed to underscore the significance of social work and social services in Ukraine as essential in promoting the well-being and overall quality of life for people and communities during and after the war.

The presence of esteemed guests, including People's Deputy Mykola Stefanchuk, Advisor to the Prime Minister Olga Lugach, Deputy of the Regional Council Valentin

Sokolyuk, and Representative of the Khmelnytsia Regional Military Administration Catherine Burduvalis, emphasized the event's national and local significance. Their participation signified the recognition of social work's importance in addressing critical issues and shaping social policy, as well as the state's commitment to supporting the welfare of the people.

People's Deputy Mykola Stefanchuk's attendance at the event symbolized its national significance. As a respected figure in Ukrainian politics, his presence highlighted that the event was not merely a regional affair but a matter of national importance. His involvement underlined the event's relevance on the broader political landscape, emphasizing its role in addressing critical social issues. This recognition from a national leader reinforced the

Projects and Programs

The Community Social Work Centre and Social Work Hub Celebrates One Year

event's significance in shaping social policy at the national level.

It is indeed a significant development that Mr. Deputy Mykola Stefanchuk has accepted Mrs. Ana Radulescu, President of IFSW Europe, as a promotor for the development of social policy and social work at the Ukraine Parliament level. This decision reflects a proactive approach towards addressing critical social issues and shaping policies that can positively impact the well-being of the people of Ukraine. Having a dedicated promotor and supporter for the development of social policy at the parliamentary level is a promising step towards ensuring that the concerns and needs of the most vulnerable in society are effectively addressed. It also signifies a recognition of the importance of evidence-based policymaking and the inclusion of diverse perspectives in the legislative process.

Additionally, the event was honored to have Olga Lugach, Advisor to the Prime Minister, in attendance. The participation of Advisor to the Prime Minister Olga Lugach was particularly noteworthy. Her presence underscored the commitment of the government to support the welfare of the people. As an advisor to the Prime Minister, she brought with her not only a message of support but also the weight of the government's dedication to the event's objectives. The conveyed message from the

Prime Minister further solidified the government's endorsement of the event's goals, particularly in the development of social support systems.

Valentin Sokolyuk, a Deputy of the Regional Council, brought a vital local perspective to the event, demonstrating the event's connection to the grassroots level and its potential impact on the region's development. It emphasized the event's connection to grassroots-level governance and its potential impact on the region's development. His presence highlighted the importance of regional collaboration in advancing social services and welfare, bridging the gap between national policies and local implementation.

Moreover, the event benefited from the insights of Catherine Burduvalis, a Representative of the Khmelnytsia Regional Military Administration. The insights provided by Catherine Burduvalis, a Representative of the Khmelnytsia Regional Military Administration, were invaluable. Her presence shed light on the specific challenges faced by the region during times of war. It emphasized the need to consider building support systems that are adaptive and responsive to the unique circumstances of regions affected by conflict.

That is why so important that we could bring together more than 30 heads of local government in Ukraine (district councils

Projects and Programs

The Community Social Work Centre and Social Work Hub Celebrates One Year

and oblasts) and they have actively participated in events related to creating and implementing support for people. The event served as a platform for meaningful discussions, collaborations, and solutions, all of which will significantly influence the future of social services in Ukraine. It highlighted the vital role of local governments, including district councils and oblasts, in building and implementing support systems for people. These entities, being closest to the communities they serve, can tailor policies and services to address local needs effectively. Their engagement with local communities ensures that policies are inclusive and responsive to the specific challenges faced by each region.

At the event, social workers and local officials responsible for social support development were in attendance. A team representing IFSW Europe was present, including:

- Paola Pontarollo (Member of IFSW Europe Executive Committee)
- Herbert PAULISCHIN (IFSW Europe Project Coordinator for Ukraine and IFSW Europe Representative to the United Nations)

- Enric Torras (IFSW European Representative to the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights – FRA).

The international team included Mihai Mihaiescu Aniuk, key facilitator of international support, with Zsolt-Levente Rákos representing ASproAS (The Association of Social Workers in Romania) and Mariana Tintarean representing the Federation of Social NGOs in Transylvania.

In a time of war and uncertainty, the collective efforts of social work professionals, government officials, and local representatives demonstrated a commitment to building a resilient and supportive society for the people of Ukraine. This event serves as a beacon of hope and progress in the ongoing journey toward enhancing the well-being and social services available to people and communities in Ukraine.

Read more

Please visit our [Community Social Work Centre and Social Work Hub page](#) to read more about this project.

Projects and Programs

Climate Justice Program

The IFSW Climate Justice Program (CJP) is for anyone and everyone – social workers, friends, family, colleagues, companies, universities, etc. Please help us share it widely!

Aims of the CJP

Educate — ourselves and others

Advocate — for changes in policies and practices

Be the Change We Wish to See in the World — by reducing our harmful impacts that lead to climate injustices and supporting projects that create local solutions in communities most impacted by climate injustice.

[Read more on the CJP Website](#)

What is climate justice?

The climate crisis is directly connected to human activities and not merely due to normal patterns of nature. For example, people and ecosystems have endured water, land, and air contamination from industrial pollution and toxic agricultural practices, soil erosion, desertification, and species and habitat loss due to extensive deforestation, and an increase in frequency and intensity of disastrous weather patterns, such as typhoons.

IFSW Climate Justice Program



While the climate crisis impacts all of us, those who are marginalized or oppressed are experiencing it to an even greater extent, creating climate injustice for people and our planet. Much of the burden of unsustainable consumption patterns has fallen disproportionately on the most vulnerable people in the world, who typically have the smallest consumption patterns. In addition, these vulnerable people receive fewer of the benefits of the environmental resources. These collective patterns of unsustainable consumption contribute to the climate crisis, making it a global justice issue for people and the planet, this is known as climate injustice.

[**CONTRIBUTE**](#)

Projects and Programs

Global Survey of Working Conditions of Social Workers



IFSW, in collaboration with Bath Spa University, the European Social Worker Research Association Workforce Research Special Interest Group and other institutions, has been working since 2018 to cast a spotlight on the realities of the working conditions of social workers around the world.

A global survey was initiated to gather objective evidence regarding their working environment. Results suggest that social workers often endure some of the most difficult conditions compared to equivalent professions.

David N Jones, Chair of the Steering Group of this research initiative, emphasized the urgency of the situation, stating, *"Our findings confirm the persistent struggles in the profession, affecting not just the social workers but also the communities they serve. Social workers are being hampered by poor working conditions, leading to increased stress, burnout, and retention issues which ultimately impede the delivery*

of essential services to individuals and communities in need."

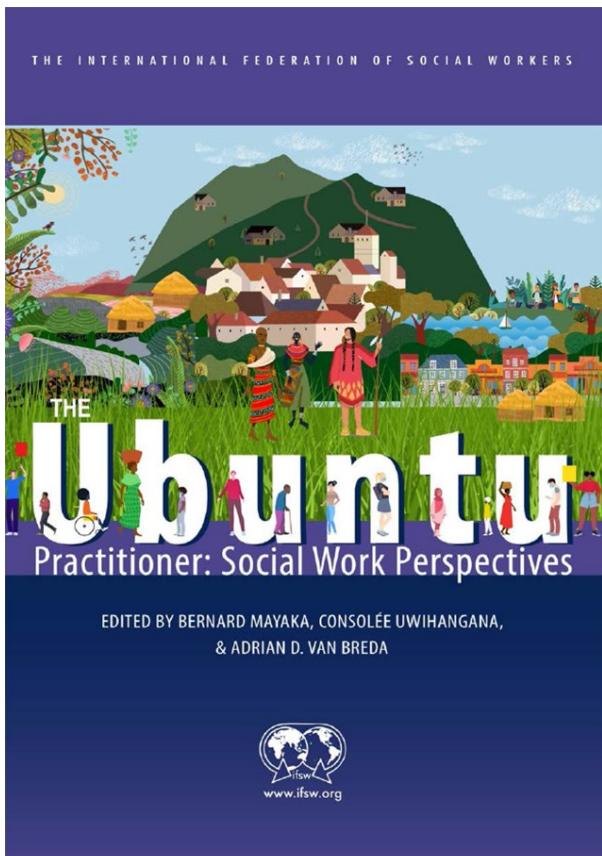
This extensive research employed a mixed-methods approach and involved the distribution of surveys via email and social media to better understand the wellbeing and working conditions of social workers.

In reaction to the global study, Pascal Rudin, IFSW acting CEO, stated, *"This research is not just an eye-opener, but it's a call to action. The difficult environments our social workers are plunged into are not just detrimental to their wellbeing but are also undermining their capacity to make transformative impacts in the societies they serve. It's paramount that legal recognition of social work, enhanced management support, and improved pay and conditions be immediately addressed."*

Read more

Learn more about the research and how to participate in the Survey [here](#).

The Ubuntu Practitioner: Social Work Perspectives



IFSW is delighted to present a new book that explores Ubuntu from a Social Work perspective. Contributions from across Africa and beyond highlight lived experiences and best practices along the profession's journey with the gift of Ubuntu.

Joachim Mumba, IFSW Global President, said: "*Possessing a copy of this book will add value not only to your being but to*

your professional life too. You can read it from the beginning till the end, or you can commence reading it from a chapter that appeals to you most. You can potentially find the exact lesson or thought you might be looking for or need in this moment in your career. If this book has found you, it was probably looking for you for a purpose."

Mayaka Bernard, one of the editors, added: "*Ubuntu advocates for creative alternatives for sustainable responses to life experiences at all times, while emphasising on care, respect, and well-being of every individual in the society as well as the environment. This book shares and presents practical examples useful in social development, social work practice, education and training to strengthen social solidarity and global connectedness".*

Download

This report is freely available as open access ebooklet.

[Download your free copy here.](#)

Publications

International Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics Volume 20, Issue 1



IFSW is pleased to present you [Volume 20, Issue 1 \(2023\)](#) of the [International Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics](#).

Pascal Rudin, who is a member of the [Journal's Policy Advisory Board](#), and who oversees the Journal's operations, said: "The authors of this issue elaborate on various ethical topics, including the ethical implications of internet searching of client information by social workers, the implications of professional pledge for professional identity, pregnancy options counseling, the promotion of trans-affirming practices, the Islamic basis of social work in the modern world and social work faculty progressivism in a conservative world."

Alongside these academic articles, Rory Truell, IFSW Secretary-General, [reports on the IFSW visit to Afghanistan](#). Pascal Rudin further commented: "His account highlights the bias created by international media when reporting on the situation

in this conflict- and poverty stricken country. The article draws our attention to the "right to sustainable development" of each and every one of the more than 80 million people living there, and how our colleagues in the Afghanistan Organisation of Social Workers support families and communities out of poverty through women's economic empowerment. IFSW advocates that the international community should support the transition of Afghanistan into a society based on respect of all people through engagement, investment and collaboration, rather than the current sanctions that drive the majority of Afghan people into increasing poverty."

IFSW thanks Stephen M. Marson and Donna DeAngelis, Editors, for making this issue a reality.

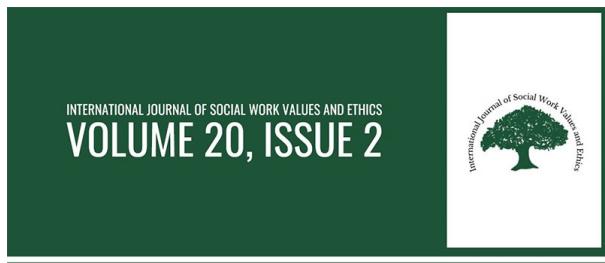
We wish you an interesting read!

Download

You may download all articles of Volume 20 (2023) for free in PDF format or read the full HTML text [here](#).

Publications

International Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics Volume 20, Issue 2



IFSW is pleased to present [Volume 20, Issue 2 \(2023\)](#) of the [International Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics](#).

Dr Pascal Rudin, IFSW Acting CEO and a member of the IJSWVE Policy board, commented, "The integration of Artificial Intelligence in social work unveils a myriad of opportunities, from enhancing service delivery to introducing innovative solutions for age-old challenges. However, it's imperative that we also remain vigilant to the ethical dilemmas and potential pitfalls AI might bring. This issue serves as a testament to our profession's commitment to navigating the AI landscape with the core values of social work in mind."

Highlighted topics in this issue include:

[Artificial Intelligence in Social Work: Emerging Ethical Issues](#) by *Frederic G. Reamer*

[Animal Ethics, Animal Welfare, and Speciesism: Considerations for Social Work](#) by *Paul J. Silberberg*

[Social Workers in the Social Housing Assistance Sector: Building the Ideal Housing Policy Principles](#) by *Ahmad Sururi*

[Social Workers, Regulation, and Social Justice: Tensions in Canadian Social Work](#) by *Ian G. Rice*

[Critical Conversations in Compensating Social Work Field Education: A Systematic Review](#) by *Katherine Drechsler, Candice C. Beasley & Melissa Indera Singh*

This comprehensive issue promises to be a valuable resource for professionals, educators, and students in the field of social work.

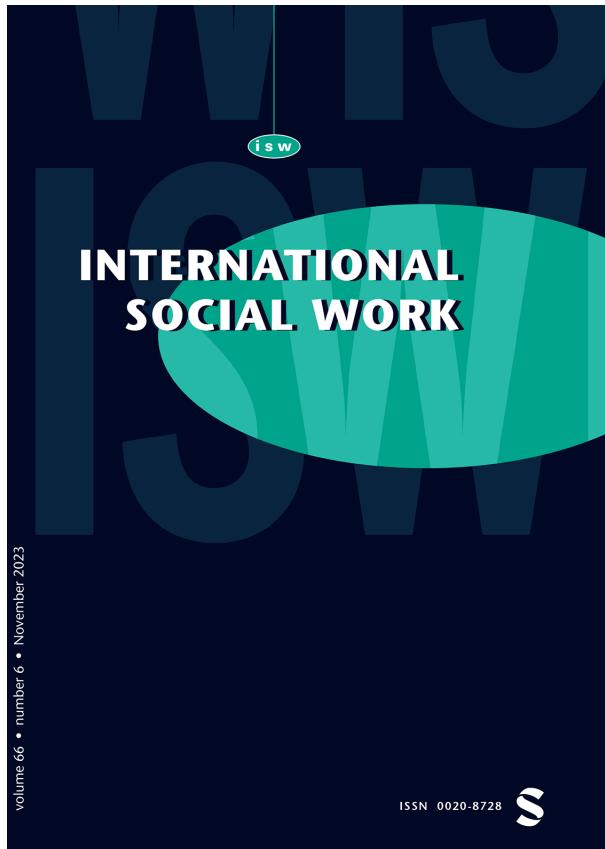
IFSW thanks **Stephen M. Marson** and **Donna DeAngelis**, Editors, for making this issue a reality.

Download

You may download all articles of Volume 20 (2023) for free in PDF format or read the full HTML text [here](#).

Publications

International Journal of Social Work



International Social Work is the official journal of the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) and the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW).

International Social Work is a scholarly refereed journal designed to extend knowledge and promote international exchange in the fields of social work, social welfare, and community development. Its major focus is on the interaction between processes of globalisation and the development of social welfare at national level,

as well as social work and community development locally. It aims at examining the meaning of international social work in practice and theory, and exploring how those concerned with social work and community development can engage with international issues. The journal also wants to encourage publication of comparative studies and cross-national research. International Social Work provides information on current international developments in education and training relevant to social work, social welfare and community development.

Additionally, we have recently introduced a **section aimed specifically at practitioners**. It is called **Voices from Practice**, and consists of short pieces of about 2000 words, highlighting practice issues, dilemmas, innovations, and shared insights that might have resonance for practitioners in all parts of the world.

Read more

You may access the Journal [here](#). Access is free to all IFSW Friends members! See p.54 on how to become an IFSW Friend.

Events

Upcoming Events

World Social Work Day



World Social Work Day takes place on **19 March 2024**. This year's theme is 'Buen Vivir: Shared Future for Transformative Change', which is rooted in the Global Agenda and emphasises the need for social workers to adopt innovative, community-led approaches that are grounded in indigenous wisdom and harmonious coexistence with nature. Please click [here](#) to read more about the background of this theme.

As we approach #WSWD2024, this theme serves as a timely reminder of the transformative role social workers play in driving positive change and fostering communities that thrive on mutual respect and sustainability.

Read more [here](#).

2024 General Meeting

The IFSW 2024 General Meeting will be held on **1 and 2 April 2024** in Panama as a hybrid event, offering both face to face and online participation.

Critical Deadlines

- Submission of Motions regarding proposed Constitutional Changes: **23 December 2023**
- Submission of Executive Nominations and Commission Appointments: **11 February 2024**
- Submission of Membership applications, proposed Policies and other Motions: **2 March 2024**

Read more [here](#).

2024 SWSD Conference

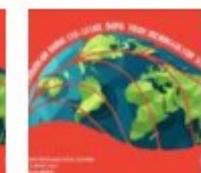
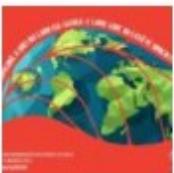
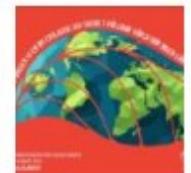
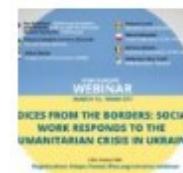
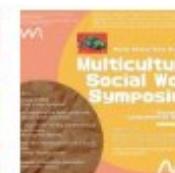
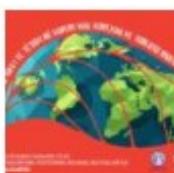
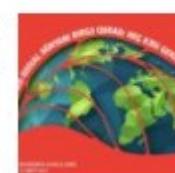
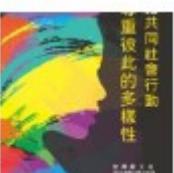
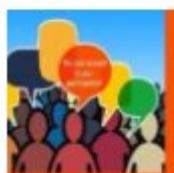
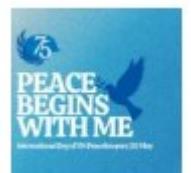


The 2024 SWSD Conference takes place from **4 to 7 April 2024** in Panama as a hybrid event, offering both face to face and online participation.

Read more on [here](#).



ITE ACTION STATEMENT



Follow us!



Thank you!

Please accept our appreciation of your continuing interest in and contribution to IFSW! Sign up to our newsletter and never miss any IFSW news!

SIGN UP

Copyright © 2023 by IFSW

