



AFRICA REGION

2022-2024 Report to the General Meeting

Country Members of the region

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 make up IFSW Africa.

Regional Executive



Noel G Muridzo
Regional President
Zimbabwe



Oluwatoni Adeleke
Regional Vice President
Nigeria

Africa representatives to IFSW Commissions

Representatives	Commission	Country
Antoinette Lombard	Education Commission	South Africa
Stephano Akuzike Joseph	Ethics Commission	Malawi
Charles Rutikanga	Indigenous Commission	Rwanda
Charles Mbugua	UN Commission	Kenya

1.REGIONAL MEETINGS

I. Regional Conference

The Nigerian Association of Social Workers hosted the 2023 International Federation of Social Workers' (IFSW) African regional conference in Lagos from 22 to 24 November 2023. Themed 'Emerging Social Problems in Africa: The Response of Social Work Practice,' the biannual 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.



Image1:cross section of participants at the Africa conference 2023, in Lagos, Nigeria

Image 2:UNICEF East and South Regional Coordinator, Chief protection officer Nigeria, IFSW Global president, Africa president and Vice president with the National presidentof the Nigerian Association of Social Workers.

2.GENERAL ACTIVITES AND ACHIVEMENTS DURING THE PERIOD IN THE REGION

I. The International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW), and the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) announced Nairobi, Kenya, for the 2026 World Conference on Social Work and Social Development. This is an important milestone for Africa.

II. Noel Murindzo will be stepping down having served in IFSW as Member at Large, Vice Regional President, Regional President and Global Vice President.

III. To strengthen the social service workforce in Uganda, the National Association of Social Workers of Uganda (NASWU) and UNICEF have been modelling the INSPIRE Global tool for child protection. This initiative reflects a significant step forward in addressing the pressing issue of violence against children in Uganda.



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



V. The Association of Social Workers in Malawi (ASWIM) partnered with Project Hope Namibia to implement the ANAPA project, aimed at professionalising social work in Malawi over 5 years. ASWIM also conducted training on sexuality education, reaching 5,000 beneficiaries in Blantyre and Lilongwe, and provided mental health and psychosocial support to 2,500 survivors of Tropical Cyclone.

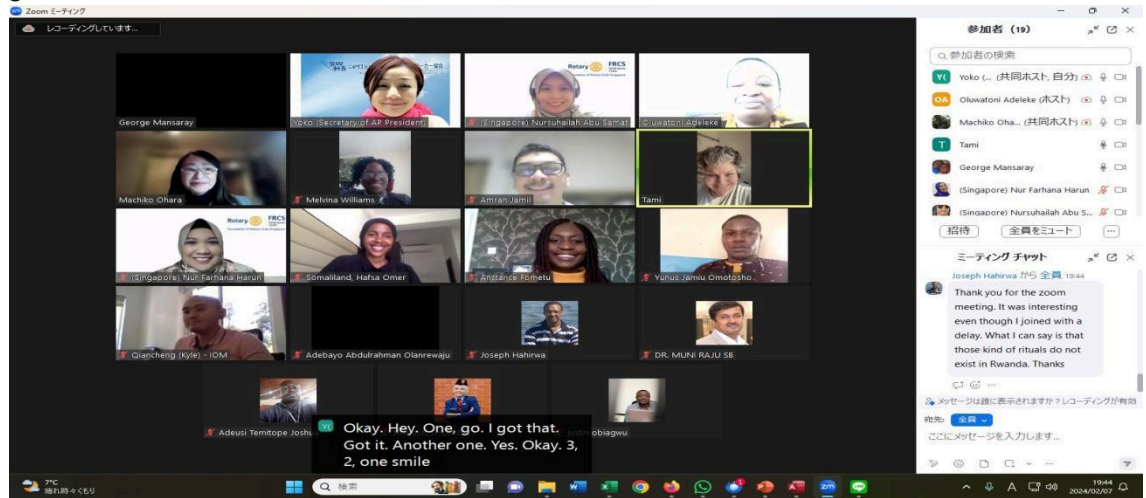
Vi. International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation:

In observance of the International Day for Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, IFSW Africa joined forces with IFSW Asia-Pacific to deliberate on the challenges faced in both regions. The theme for the year 2024, titled “Invest in FGM Survivor-Led Movements,” provided a platform for social workers from Singapore, Somali-land, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria to voice the difficulties they encounter and propose solutions. The consensus reached was that social workers should collaborate closely with stakeholders to implement various crucial actions:

- 1. Research and Evaluation:** Conduct comprehensive research to understand the scope and impact of female genital mutilation (FGM). Evaluation of existing programs is essential to identify effective strategies.
- 2. Prevention Programs:** Develop targeted prevention programs that raise awareness about the harmful effects of FGM. These programs should emphasize education, community engagement, and empowerment.
- 3. Awareness and Education:** Educate communities, families, and individuals about the physical and psychological consequences of FGM. Promote dialogue and dispel myths surrounding this practice.

4.Support for Survivors: Provide holistic support for survivors of FGM. This includes medical care,counselling, and empowerment initiatives to help them heal and thrive.

5.Advocacy for Policy Change: Social workers should advocate for policy reforms at local, national, and international levels. Legal frameworks must be strengthened to protect girls and women from FGM.



Vii.Meeting with South Africa Association Representative

On January 29th, 2024, the Vice President of the Africa region and the IFSW acting CEO,Pascal Rudin held a meeting with Antoinette,a representative of the social work association in South Africa.The meeting was aimed at reviving the Social Work Association in South Africa. They agreed that Antoinette should to organize a meeting with relevant stakeholders to tackle the issues discussed. Following this, the Vice President visited the University of Johannesburg's Social Work Department to discuss strategies for revitalizing the association. Collaboration with ASSIAN for future conferences and activities was also explored.




Image 1: Meeting of the Vice President Africa region(Oluwatoni Adeleke) with the Acting CEO of IFSW (Pascal Rudin) & a representative of Social Work Association in South Africa(Antoinette Lombard)

Image 2:A Cross section of staff of Social Work Department staff, University of Johannesburg, with the V.P Africa Region IFSW.

Viii.International Women's Day 2024






To mark International Women's Day, the Africa region hosted a webinar on March 9th, 2024, with participation from Botswana, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, and Kenya. The theme "Invest in women, accelerate progress" highlights the need for social workers to prioritize human rights, well-being, and opportunities for women, implementing programs and policies to improve education, healthcare, employment, and opportunities while challenging harmful practices and norms affecting women. Valuable cross-learning led to the decision to hold this event quarterly. Recommendations included government provision of therapy sessions for self-care for social workers to support women's well-being. Suggestions were made for governments and stakeholders to enhance gender equality and empower women through initiatives such as legislation in countries

without a bill to regulate the social work profession, training and retraining social workers, cross-learning events and policy formulation for social worker employment in ministries and agencies with key roles in disasters and crises management.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

IFSW AFRICA JOINS WOMEN ALL OVER THE WORLD TO CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

 <p>EAST AFRICAN REP. IFSW AFRICA REGION Alice Wangu Mbiyu</p> <p><i>Guest Speaker</i></p>	 <p>NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY (NASOW) Esther Nasara</p> <p><i>Guest Speaker</i></p>	 <p>IFSW AFRICA REGION VICE PRESIDENT Oluwatoni Adeleke</p> <p><i>Host</i></p>	 <p>PRESIDENT (BASW) Moitshephi Dibotshale</p> <p><i>Guest Speaker</i></p>	 <p>NATIONAL TREASURER (NASWZ) Stella Chikaka</p> <p><i>Guest Speaker</i></p>
--	--	--	--	---

THEME:
'Invest in Women'
Accelerate progress

SAT. 9TH MARCH, 2024
12:00PM - 2:00PM UTC.

ZOOM : MEETING ID: 837 8067 9878
PASSCODE: 388103

3. KEY PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT YEAR

- IFSW Africa Region placed a call for expression of interest to host the 2025 IFSW – Africa Region Hybrid Conference which will close on Friday 29 April 2024 at 23:59 CAT. Details are on the IFSW website.
- The region will join the rest of the world to commemorate the International Social Workers day.
- Sub regional meetings will be held and periodic meeting with presidents from the region continues.

Noel Muridzo and Oluwatoni Adeleke

March, 2024