

## **IFSW Ambassador's General Meeting Message 2024**

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is my distinct honor and pleasure to join in welcoming you to the 2024 International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) General Meeting in Panama. It is wonderful that we are finally able to gather together in-person after several long years apart due to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, it is equally important to warmly welcome all who will be participating virtually.

I'm sure I speak for all of us when I say just how meaningful and special this occasion is. Over the past few years, we have capably relied on technology to keep our global community connected and have been able to adapt to our new reality. Yet nothing can truly replace meeting face-to-face, exchanging ideas in the same physical space and forging bonds between one another.

Looking forward to the General Meeting 2024, I am hopeful that we will approach our efforts here with open hearts and minds as we to create future oriented policies and programs; we need our best thinking to address the urgent issues confronting the world. As a Federation, we need to remain focused on both the present and the future if we are to bring social work to the forefront in contributing to socially just strategies for a safer and more equitable world. A key to doing so will be to continue to develop, elect, and support leadership that is able to move us forward.

Beyond the formal work we will be conducting, I encourage you to take time to reconnect with colleagues and friends, meet members of Associations new to IFSW, share stories and strategies from your communities, and strengthen the ties that enable us to better promote social justice and human rights. Strong, respectful relationships are vital to the success of our work.

We have all been through an extraordinarily difficult period. Yet the passion, resilience and commitment to social work principles demonstrated by IFSW members has been a source of inspiration. This gathering is a celebration of what we have achieved even in adversity, motivated by the knowledge that better days are ahead.

In closing, I extend heartfelt thanks to all the IFSW leadership and staff and to all the Association members and staff for all you do to keep IFSW the vital Federation that it is. I wish you great wisdom in all of your deliberations. As always, I am honored to serve as your IFSW Ambassador.

In peace and solidarity,

Suzanne Dworak-Peck  
Los Angeles  
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