



2022-2024 Indigenous Commission

Report to the General Meeting

From April 2022 to present

Commission Membership

The Indigenous Commission consists of nine members: Hazel Berg (from Canada representing the North American region; term ended 2023), Pamela Begay from the United States representing the North American region; term began 2024), Carole Tana-Tepania (from Aotearoa/New Zealand lead representative for the Asia and Pacific region), How Kee Ling (from Malaysia representing the Asia and Pacific region), Linda Ford (from Australia representing the Asia and Pacific region), Yvonne/Yangjian (from China representing the Asia and Pacific region), Jenny Linares (from Peru representing the Latin American and Caribbean region), Charles Rutikanga (from Rwanda representing the African region), Margaretha Karlberg Uttjek (from Sweden representing the European region), and Hilary Weaver (Global Commissioner from the United States).

Report on General Activities and Achievements

The Indigenous Commission has developed a schedule of meetings that take place every other month. Each year we develop an annual workplan that identifies tasks, timeframes, and members of the commission who will take the lead on each project. This workplan provides a focus and structure for our work.

As Global Indigenous Commissioner, Hilary Weaver has participated in regular meetings with other Global Commissioners. This provides an opportunity to facilitate collaboration across commissions. It enables us to learn from and replicate their

models, as we see fit. We also recognize that the Indigenous Commission may develop distinct ways of operation based on our values, accountabilities, priorities, and protocols as Indigenous people, as we identify how all peoples may benefit from integration of Indigenous Knowledges, norms, practices, values, and skills in service delivery, locally and globally.

Our work during the last two years has included participating in the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues twice, participating in the People's Summit on Co-building a New Eco-Social World, issuing four statements through IFSW to commemorate key days, and exploring collaborative opportunities with other IFSW commissions. Although we have taken on various projects, we have adopted the theme *Integrating Indigenous Knowledge in social work practice and education* as a priority for 2023- 2024.

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

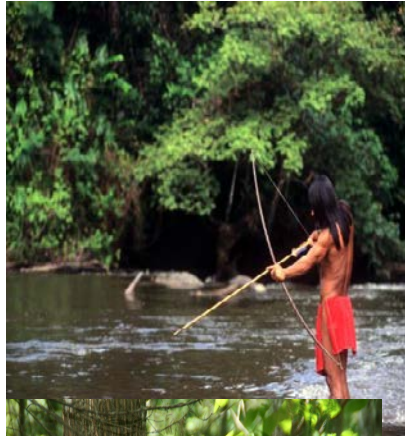
Two members of the Indigenous Commission, Hilary Weaver and Margaretha Karlberg Uttjek, delivered a presentation at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) in New York City April 25-May 6, 2022. With support from the IFSW UN Commission, they delivered an on-line presentation on May 4 entitled *Challenging government intrusion into the lives of Indigenous women: Rectifying violations of free, prior, and informed consent*. Hilary Weaver attended the final portion of the UNPFII in person. 2022 was a transitional year where the primary responsibility for planning a side event at the Forum was transferred from the IFSW UN Commission to the IFSW Indigenous Commission.

In 2023, 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



United Nations Permanent Forum
on Indigenous Issues

UNPFII (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.



*International Federation of Social
Workers Indigenous Commission*

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**Advancing equitable access to health care for
Indigenous Peoples -Examples from Sábmie,
Latin America & Caribbean, and North
America**

Wednesday April 19 1:15-2:30 PM ET

The People's Summit on Co-building a New Eco-Social World

The Indigenous Commission recorded a panel presentation, *Implementing Traditional Indigenous Knowledge in Social Work: Challenges and Possibilities* for the People's Summit on Co-building a New Eco-Social World: Leaving No One Behind. The panel consisted of commission members Margaretha Karlberg Uttjek, Carole Tana-Tepania, and Jenny Linares, with an introduction and conclusion offered by Hilary Weaver. The presentation was available in both Spanish and English thanks to translations provided by Lucía Gandolfi.

Statements

Statement for Human Rights Day 2022. <https://www.ifsw.org/indigenous-commission-human-rights-day-2022/>

Statement highlighting the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women 2023. <https://www.ifsw.org/?s=missing+and+murdered+indigenous+women> Informally we have heard that this has been used as a resource at the University of British Columbia in Canada.

Statement for World Indigenous Peoples Day 2023.

<https://www.ifsw.org/?s=world+indigenous+peoples+day+statement+2023>

Statement for Orange Shirt Day on the impact of residential schools on Indigenous people 2023. <https://www.ifsw.org/acknowledging-the-impact-of-indigenous-residential-schools-commemorating-orange-shirt-day/>

Collaborative opportunities with IFSW commissions & IFSW as a whole

In 2023 the 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 affect how we move forward. We hope to move these collaborative efforts forward in 2024.

In 2023 The Global Indigenous Commissioner provided welcoming remarks for the on-line celebration of World Social Work Day at the United Nations, Geneva.

The Indigenous Commission offered feedback to IFSW on proposed commission structures.

Incorporating Indigenous Knowledges and Approaches in Social Work Education and Practice

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*, for 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 Commissioner, Asia Pacific) and Miriama 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 Malaysian social workers who provided 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.

MALAYSIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS
PERSATUAN PEKERJA SOSIAL MALAYSIA
Malaysian Association of Social Workers | www.masw.org.my

WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY 2023: WEBINAR
INCORPORATING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE & APPROACHES
INTO SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE & EDUCATION

Respecting diversity through joint social action

21ST MARCH 2023 (TUESDAY)
9.00 AM - 1.00 PM
ZOOM

Scan to register!
Closing date:
16 March 2023

MODERATOR
Mrs. Siti Hawa Ali
Member, MASW
Chair of Education & Advocacy
Committee, REHAK
Advisor of OSCC HUSM

FORUM SPEAKERS
Dr. Ling How Kee
Member, MASW
Indigenous Commissioner,
IFSW (Asia Pacific)

Ms. Hwa Hui-En
Manager,
Policy, Advocacy and Research,
Malaysian CARE

Ms. Ryna Velltricia Madau
Social Worker
Caring For the Future Malaysia,
Papua, Sabah

Keynote Speaker
Dr. Hilary Weaver
President,
Indigenous and Tribal Social Work
Educators Association (US)
Global Indigenous Commissioner,
International Federation
of Social Workers
Board Chair, Council on Social Work
Education (US)

Plenary Speakers
Ms. Carole Tana-Tepania
Chief Executive, ME Family Services,
Mangers
Board Member, Tangata Whenua
Social Workers Association
Indigenous Commissioner, IFSW
(Asia Pacific)

Ms. Miriama Scott
Social Worker
Aotearoa New Zealand

In 2024, the Indigenous Commission has initiated planning for UNPFII 2024, has continued to explore collaborations with UN and Education Commissions, developed guidelines for our budget, and affirmed who will take leadership on each project throughout the year.

Key Planned Activities and Upcoming Events

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 Knowledges and approaches, including ethics, in social work education.

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.

Offer a webinar for Universal Children's Day highlighting Indigenous children.

As we move forward, we continue to solidify our vision and processes as a united Commission integrating the voices of Indigenous people and Indigenous Knowledge in the social work profession. The Indigenous Commission looks forward to our continued contribution in advancing Indigenous perspectives and ways of being within IFSW and throughout the regions.