

# BUEN VIVIR

*shared future for  
transformative  
change*



**2024 End of Year Report**  
The International Federation of Social Workers



## Imprint

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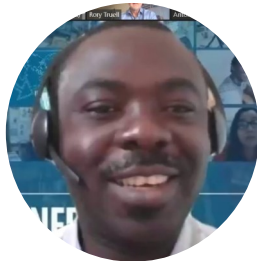
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# Contents

President and Secretary-General's Report	Español p.19	Français p.34	4
World Social Work Day			23
News From Members			25
Regions			
Africa			31
Asia and Pacific			41
Europe			44
Latin America and Caribbean	Español p.64		48
North America			79
Commissions			
Education			83
Ethics			89
Indigenous			92
United Nations			97
Meet the Global Executive			103
Meet the Secretariat Team			104
Projects and Programs			105
Publications			107
Upcoming Events			111

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

«Throughout 2024, it was inspiring to witness the positive reactions and celebrations as IFSW promoted Buen Vivir»



**Joachim Mumba**  
IFSW President



**Rory Truell**  
IFSW Secretary General

Dear IFSW members, we hope this report finds you well and that you have a successful start to 2025.

This End of Year publication contains insights into the state and activities of the social work profession through the year 2024. As you will see in the following pages, the social work profession continues to grow not only in size but also in adding new layers to its philosophical base. This global section attempts to summarize the work that has taken place in the Federation over the past year, both externally – strengthening partnerships and influence, and internally – consolidating our systems on how we work together. This is followed by a brief discussion on the outcomes of the 2024 General Meeting, the activities of the global Executive and an overview of the upcoming major events.

### **External Focus and the World Social Work Theme**

In 2024, we were particularly proud to advance the global social work theme, Buen Vivir. Rooted in the Indigenous worldviews of the Andean regions of Latin America, especially among the Quechua and Aymara peoples, Buen Vivir embodies a holistic approach to life. It emphasizes harmony with nature, community cohesion, and sustainable living. More than just a way of life, Buen Vivir serves as a political, social, and ecological framework that challenges the Western development model centered on economic growth and resource exploitation. Similarly, the 2021 theme, Ubuntu, highlighted the interconnectedness, respect, and reciprocity between people, other species, and the natural world, advocating for a balanced relationship among humans, nature, and communities.

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

These global social work themes broaden the profession's perspective, moving beyond the Western-dominated worldview. They encourage social workers and communities worldwide to reimagine what constitutes a "good life" and to align their lifestyles with principles of sustainability and equity. Each theme reflects the profession's progressive and inclusive nature, emphasizing the vital connections between social environments, the natural world, and the economy. They underscore the urgent need for a transition to an eco-social world and the integral role of social work in this transformative process.

Throughout 2024, it was inspiring to witness the positive reactions and celebrations as IFSW promoted Buen Vivir. As we look ahead, the 2025 theme, Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity for Enduring Wellbeing, builds seamlessly on the foundation of Buen Vivir. This new theme highlights the importance of fostering care and respect across generations to create resilient societies, sustain the environment, and share wisdom for a brighter future.

We are already encouraged by the enthusiasm of our UN partners, global actors, and Federation members who recognize the relevance and significance of this new theme. Through these themes, along with our collective leadership and partnerships, IFSW continues to make impactful contributions. The UN Secretary-General has acknowledged our frameworks as exam-

ples of thought leadership and best practice, earning us widespread recognition for our integration of environmental, social, cultural, and individual rights.

These achievements have been intentional and purposeful, aligning with the changes made to the Federation's constitution in 2016. This constitution reinforces our identity as an outward-looking profession, dedicated to partnerships, action, policy advocacy, and leveraging global learning and experience to make meaningful contributions to our shared world.

## **Internal Focus: New Policy and Governance Review**

Alongside our outward-looking initiatives, the Federation dedicated significant effort in 2024 to strengthening its internal systems and policies. This year, members approved a new policy designed to reinforce teamwork in the complex intersections between regions and global Commissions. The policy also redefines the governance and operations divide, enabling the Executive to serve more effectively as a strategic monitor - a crucial function in any large and multifaceted organization.

Complementing this development is the Good Governance Review, which was approved at the 2024 General Meeting in Panama. This review will evaluate the Federation's current internal policies and procedures, many of which have not been updated despite the Federation nearly doubling in size and significantly increas-

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

ing in complexity over the past 14 years. A dedicated review group, comprising Executive members and representatives from member organizations, has already begun its work. We anticipate that their findings and recommendations will be shared widely in 2025 and beyond.

For more information, please refer to the Terms of [Reference for the Commissions](#) and the Good Governance Review.

Maintaining a healthy and supportive internal environment is essential for IFSW's success. The Federation aspires to create a workspace where everyone feels safe, calm, heard, supported, enriched, and a sense of belonging within our vastly multicultural environment. This commitment is even more critical in IFSW compared to organizations with paid workforces, as we operate with the equivalent of only three full-time employees alongside hundreds of volunteers.

As noted in the 2024 General Meeting report, we have faced periods of significant internal conflict and unprecedented challenges. At times, these tensions have been so severe that some leaders felt intimidated and unable to voice their perspectives. We are pleased to report that these conflicts are now behind us, and we are confident that the new policy and governance review will help mitigate potential future challenges. These measures reflect our ongoing commitment to fostering a collaborative, inclusive, and resilient Federation.

## The Panama General Meeting

The Panama Association of Social Workers hosted IFSW's 2024 General Meeting on April 1st and 2nd. Delegates and representatives from member organizations came together to discuss and make pivotal decisions shaping the future of the Federation. A key outcome of the meeting was the formal affirmation of the People's Charter for a New Eco-Social World as a foundational reference document, guiding the Federation's ongoing development and advocacy efforts.

Additionally, the General Meeting celebrated the inclusion of two new members. The Cambodian Association of Social Workers and the Taiwan Association of Social Workers were unanimously approved and welcomed as full members of the Federation, further strengthening our global network.

## Executive Committee Updates

The meeting also marked a significant moment of transition within the Federation's leadership. Delegates voted in new Executive Committee members while expressing gratitude and bidding farewell to outgoing members. Special thanks were extended to Victor Garcia (Global Treasurer), Ana Radulescu (IFSW Europe), Sriganesh MV (Asia Pacific Vice President), Tânia Maria Ramos (LAC Vice President), and Noel Muridzo (IFSW Africa) for their dedicated service and contributions to the Federation.

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

## New Executive Committee Line-Up

The 2024 General Meeting confirmed the new composition of the IFSW Executive Committee, reflecting both continuity and fresh leadership. The newly established team is as follows:

### Global Leadership:

- Global President: Joachim Mumba (continuing term)
- Secretary-General: Rory Truell (continuing ex officio)
- Vice Global President: Kenia Batista (newly elected)
- Global Treasurer: Sriganesh MV (elected unopposed)

### Regional Leadership:

#### Africa Region:

- President: Oluwatoni Adeleke (elected)
- Vice President: Abib Ndiaye (elected following the General Meeting via post-al ballot)

#### Asia Pacific Region:

- President: Machiko Ohara (continuing term)
- Vice President: Teoh Ai Hua (elected unopposed)

#### Europe Region:

- President: Ruth Allen (elected unopposed)
- Vice President: Andreas Pedersen Kikkvik (elected)

#### Latin America and Caribbean Region:

- President: Kenia Batista (also serving as Vice Global President)

- Vice President: Gabriela Rodriguez Vázquez (elected)

### North America Region:

- President: Yvonne Chase (elected)
- Vice President: Joan Davis-Whelan (serving until term ends in June 2024, with Barb Whitenect elected to succeed from June onwards)

This diverse and dynamic leadership team reflects the Federation's commitment to strong representation and collaboration across all regions.

### Additional Discussions and Updates from the General Meeting

In addition to the Good Governance Review highlighted earlier, the General Meeting addressed challenges related to securing adequate funding to support staffing needs within the Secretariat. We anticipate providing further updates on these considerations later this year.

The General Meeting also showcased the Federation's expanding influence in global development through new and emerging partnerships with the World Health Organization, other UN agencies, and allied organizations. These collaborations underline the growing role of social work in shaping international policies and development frameworks. For further details, please refer to the Commission reports.

For more information about the General Meeting, you can access the [draft minutes](#). To view the evaluation results of the General Meeting, please [click here](#).

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

## The Executive

Throughout 2024, the Executive held quarterly meetings online and convened face-to-face sessions immediately before and after the General Meeting. For 2025, the Executive has decided to forego face-to-face meetings and reallocate the associated funds to support regional activities. Quarterly online meetings will continue as planned.

At the time of writing, the Executive is focused on several key priorities:

- Monitoring the implementation of work plans aligned with tasks agreed upon during the General Meeting.
- Rolling out the new policy on Commissions.
- Developing and advancing regional plans.
- Preparing for the 2025 Regional Conferences and the 2026 and 2028 Global Conferences.

## Conferences

The regional reports below provide details about each of the upcoming 2025 regional conferences. We anticipate that the website for the 2026 global conference will be live within the coming weeks. In the interim, you can find information about the event's dates and theme via the following link.

## Acknowledgements

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the

volunteers and staff for your dedication throughout 2024. Your contributions are invaluable. Operating within the global landscape is never straightforward, and we hope you've found it to be a rewarding experience. We also recognize that, for some, the journey wasn't always easy, particularly when it came to navigating internal challenges due to limited tools for managing difficult behaviors. To those affected, we sincerely thank you for your patience and collaboration in finding solutions.

A special acknowledgment goes to Michael Cronin, who, after three decades of selfless service, stepped down as the IFSW's primary UN representative in New York. We are deeply grateful for his unwavering commitment over the years. Alongside other Presidents and Secretary-Generals, we express our thanks to Michael. On behalf of future leaders in the profession, we are grateful for your invaluable contributions - your insights, wisdom, kindness, and ethics have profoundly shaped IFSW's successes, leaving a lasting legacy.

We also recognize the difficult and often dangerous contexts many of our member organizations and valued colleagues are working within, particularly in areas of war and conflict. Many of these situations remain largely unknown to the broader world. For example, in Ethiopia alone, 1.8 million lives have been lost in the past two years due to conflict and displacement. Ongoing wars continue to devastate regions such as the Democratic Republic of



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

Congo, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and many others. Additionally, our members work under highly dangerous conditions in areas suffering from dictatorship in Latin America and the Asia-Pacific. The tragic conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East also continue to place our colleagues in precarious situations, often fearing for the safety of their own families and futures. Your global social work family stands in solidarity with you, and we will continue to offer our support.

A huge thank you goes to the Panama Association of Social Workers for organizing the incredible 2024 World Conference and hosting our General Meeting. The leadership shown by the executive members has been exemplary—not only in their regional efforts but also in their collaborative work at the global level to implement the strategic vision outlined at the General Meeting. We also recognize the additional work you've undertaken regarding the new policy on selecting regional Commissioners. Your diligent approach in carrying out these tasks is greatly appreciated. We further thank all the global and regional commissioners for their contributions to expanding IFSW's operational reach.

What an outstanding team we have as we look ahead to 2025!

## Conclusion

2024 has been a year of tremendous growth, impact, and strategic development. We've made significant strides in influencing geopolitical systems, introduced a key new policy, and laid the groundwork for strengthening our internal governance. As you read through the following pages, you'll discover numerous achievements and ongoing initiatives at the regional and commission levels, as well as highlights from the global section. We've accomplished much, and as the African proverb wisely says, "One finger cannot lift a thing, but with all our hands, we can achieve anything."

We look forward to connecting with you at one of the upcoming 2025 events or virtually, and we send our best wishes for a prosperous 2025.

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

# «A lo largo del 2024, fue inspirador presenciar las reacciones positivas y las celebraciones del Buen Vivir»



**Joachim Mumba**  
IFSW President



**Rory Truell**  
IFSW Secretary General

Estimados miembros de la FITS: Esperamos que se encuentren muy bien y les deseamos un exitoso inicio del año 2025.

Este reporte de fin de año contiene información sobre el estado y las actividades de la profesión de Trabajo Social durante el 2024, con la inclusión de nuevas capas de sentido en su base filosófica. Esta sección global ofrece un resumen de las acciones realizadas por la Federación durante el año pasado, tanto externas (de fortalecimiento asociaciones e influencia) como internas (de consolidación de nuestras propias estructuras), así como una breve discusión sobre los resultados de la Asamblea General 2024, las actividades del Ejecutivo global y los próximos eventos importantes.

### **Enfoque hacia afuera: el tema del Trabajo Social mundial**

Estamos particularmente orgullosos de nuestro del tema del Trabajo Social mundial 2024, el Buen Vivir. Arraigado en las

cosmovisiones indígenas de las regiones andinas de América Latina, en especial entre los pueblos quechua y aymara, el Buen Vivir encarna un enfoque holístico de la vida. Enfatiza la armonía con la naturaleza, la cohesión comunitaria y la vida sostenible. Más que una simple forma de vida, el Buen Vivir sirve como un marco político, social y ecológico contrario al modelo de desarrollo occidental centrado en el crecimiento económico y la explotación de recursos. Del mismo modo, en 2021, Ubuntu destacó la interconexión, el respeto y la reciprocidad entre las personas, otras especies y el mundo natural, en favor de una relación equilibrada entre los seres humanos, la naturaleza y las comunidades.

Estos temas amplían la perspectiva de la profesión más allá de la cosmovisión occidental, alientan a los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales y a las comunidades de todo el mundo a reimaginar lo que constituiría una buena vida y alinear sus estilos de vida con los principios de soste-

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

nibilidad y equidad. Cada tema refleja la naturaleza progresista e inclusiva de la profesión, al enfatizar las conexiones vitales entre los entornos sociales, el mundo natural y la economía, y la urgente necesidad de una transición hacia un mundo eco-social y el papel integral del Trabajo Social en este proceso transformador.

A lo largo del 2024, fue inspirador presenciar las reacciones positivas y las celebraciones del Buen Vivir. De cara al futuro, el tema 2025, Fortalecer la solidaridad intergeneracional para un bienestar duradero, se basa perfectamente en los cimientos del Buen Vivir. Este nuevo tema destaca la importancia de fomentar el cuidado y el respeto entre las generaciones para crear sociedades resilientes, sostener el medio ambiente y compartir sabiduría para un futuro mejor.

Ya nos sentimos alentados por el entusiasmo de nuestros socios de las Naciones Unidas, actores globales y miembros de la Federación que reconocen la relevancia y la importancia de este nuevo tema. A través de estos temas, y de nuestro liderazgo colectivo y colaboraciones, la FITS continúa haciendo contribuciones impactantes. El secretario general de las Naciones Unidas ha reconocido nuestros marcos como ejemplos de liderazgo intelectual y mejores prácticas, lo que nos ha valido un reconocimiento generalizado por nuestra integración de los derechos ambientales, sociales, culturales e individuales.

Estos logros, en línea con los cambios realizados en la Constitución de la Federación en 2016, refuerzan nuestra identidad como una profesión con visión de futuro, de-

dicada a la colaboración, la acción, la promoción de políticas, el aprendizaje y la experiencia globales para nuestro mundo compartido.

## **Enfoque hacia adentro: nuevas políticas y revisión de la gobernanza**

Además de nuestras iniciativas de expansión, la Federación dedicó un esfuerzo significativo en 2024 a fortalecer sus sistemas y políticas internos. Los miembros aprobaron una nueva política diseñada para reforzar el trabajo en equipo en las complejas intersecciones entre regiones y comisiones globales. La política también redefine la división entre gobernanza y operaciones, permitiendo que el Ejecutivo sirva más eficazmente como supervisor estratégico, una función crucial en cualquier organización amplia y multifacética.

En línea con este desarrollo, está la revisión para la buena gobernanza, aprobada en la Asamblea General 2024, en Panamá, de las políticas y procedimientos internos actuales de la Federación, muchos de los cuales no se han actualizado, a pesar del crecimiento exponencial de la dimensión y complejidad de la Federación durante los últimos catorce años. Un grupo de revisión específico, compuesto por miembros del Ejecutivo y representantes de las organizaciones miembros, ha empezado a trabajar en esto. Anticipamos compartir sus hallazgos y recomendaciones ampliamente a partir del 2025.

Para obtener más información, pueden consultar los [Términos de Referencia para las Comisiones Globales](#) de la FITS y la Revisión para la Buena Gobernanza.

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

Mantener un entorno saludable es esencial para el éxito de la FITS. La Federación aspira a crear un espacio de trabajo donde todos/as se sientan seguros/as, tranquilos/as, escuchados/as, apoyados/as, enriquecidos/as y con un sentido de pertenencia dentro de nuestro contexto diverso y multicultural. Este compromiso es aún más crítico para la FITS que para las organizaciones con fuerza laboral remunerada, ya que operamos con el equivalente de solo tres empleados/as de tiempo completo y cientos de voluntarios/as.

Como se señala en el informe de la Asamblea General 2024, hemos enfrentado períodos de importantes conflictos internos y desafíos sin precedentes. En ocasiones, estas tensiones han sido tan graves que algunos/as líderes se sintieron intimidados/as e incapaces de expresar sus perspectivas. Nos complace informar que estos conflictos ya quedaron atrás y confiamos en que la revisión de gobernanza y nuevas políticas ayudarán a mitigar posibles desafíos futuros. Estas medidas reflejan nuestro compromiso continuo de fomentar una Federación colaborativa, inclusiva y resiliente.

## La Asamblea General de Panamá

La Asociación de Trabajadores Sociales de Panamá fue sede de la Asamblea General 2024 de la FITS los días 1 y 2 de abril. Los/as delegados/as y representantes de las organizaciones miembros se reunieron para discutir y tomar decisiones fundamentales para el futuro de la Federación.

Un resultado clave de la reunión fue la afirmación formal de la Carta de los Pueblos para un Nuevo Mundo Ecosocial como documento de referencia fundamental para los esfuerzos continuos de desarrollo y promoción de la Federación.

Además, la Asamblea General celebró la inclusión de dos nuevos miembros, la Asociación Camboyana de Trabajadores Sociales y la Asociación de Trabajadores Sociales de Taiwán, aprobados y bienvenidos unánimemente como miembros de pleno derecho de una Federación así fortalecida en sus conexiones global.

## Noticias del Comité Ejecutivo

La reunión también marcó un importante momento de transición dentro de la dirección de la Federación. Los/as delegados/as eligieron a los nuevos miembros del Comité Ejecutivo y agradecieron a los miembros salientes. Se extendió un agradecimiento especial a Víctor García (Tesorero), Ana Radulescu (FITS Europa), Sriganesh MV (Vicepresidente de Asia Pacífico), Tânia Maria Ramos (Vicepresidenta de ALC), y Muridzo Noel (FITS África) por su dedicado servicio y contribuciones a la Federación.

## Nueva composición del Comité Ejecutivo

La Asamblea General 2024 confirmó la nueva composición del Comité Ejecutivo de la FITS, que refleja continuidad y, a su vez, un nuevo liderazgo.

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

## Liderazgo global:

- Presidente global: Joachim Mumba (en continuación de su período)
- Secretario General: Rory Truell (en continuación ex officio)
- Vicepresidente Mundial: Kenia Batista (recién elegida)
- Tesorero Global: Sriganesh MV (elegido sin oposición)

## Liderazgo Regional:

### Región de África:

- Presidente: Oluwatoni Adeleke (elegida)
- Vicepresidente: Abib Ndiaye (elegido tras la Asamblea General mediante votación postal)

### Región de Asia y el Pacífico:

- Presidenta: Machiko Ohara (en continuación ex officio)
- Vicepresidente: Teoh Ai Hua (elegido sin oposición)

### Región de Europa:

- Presidenta: Ruth Allen (elegida sin oposición)
- Vicepresidente: Andreas Pedersen Kikkvik (elegido)

### Región de América Latina y el Caribe:

- Presidenta: Kenia Batista (también se desempeña como vicepresidenta global)
- Vicepresidenta: Gabriela Rodríguez Vázquez (elegida)

## Región de América del Norte:

- Presidenta: Yvonne Chase (elegida)
- Vicepresidenta: Joan Davis-Whelen (hasta el final de su mandato en junio de 2024, fecha a partir de la cual será sucedida por Barb Whitenect)

Este equipo de liderazgo diverso y dinámico refleja el compromiso de la Federación con una fuerte representación y colaboración en todas las regiones.

## Debates y noticias adicionales de la Asamblea General

Además de la Revisión para la Buena Gobernanza destacada anteriormente, la Asamblea General abordó desafíos relacionados con la obtención de financiación adecuada para satisfacer las necesidades relativas al personal de la Secretaría. Anticipamos proporcionar más novedades sobre estas consideraciones a finales de este año.

La Asamblea General también mostró la creciente influencia global de la Federación a partir de colaboraciones nuevas y emergentes con la Organización Mundial de la Salud, otras agencias de las Naciones Unidas y organizaciones aliadas, que subrayan el papel cada vez mayor del Trabajo Social en la configuración de políticas internacionales y marcos de desarrollo. Para obtener más detalles, consulte los informes de la comisión.

Para más información sobre la Asamblea General, puede acceder al [borrador del](#)

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

[acta](#). Para ver los resultados de la evaluación de la Asamblea General, haga [clic aquí](#).

## El Ejecutivo

A lo largo del 2024, el Ejecutivo celebró reuniones virtuales trimestrales online y convocó sesiones presenciales inmediatamente antes y después de la Asamblea General. Para el 2025, el Ejecutivo ha decidido renunciar a las reuniones presenciales y reasignar los fondos asociados en apoyo de las actividades regionales. Las reuniones trimestrales virtuales continuarán según lo previsto.

Al momento de redactar este informe, el Ejecutivo se centró en varias prioridades clave:

- el seguimiento de la implementación de planes de trabajo en articulación con las tareas acordadas durante la Asamblea General,
- la implementación de los nuevos Términos de Referencia para las Comisiones Globales de la FITS,
- el desarrollo y promoción de los planes regionales,
- la preparación para las conferencias regionales del 2025 y las conferencias mundiales del 2026 y 2028.

## Conferencias

Los informes regionales a continuación brindan detalles sobre cada una de las próximas conferencias regionales del 2025. Anticipamos que el sitio web de la

conferencia global del 2026 estará disponible en las próximas semanas. Mientras tanto, pueden encontrar información sobre las fechas y el tema del evento a través del siguiente enlace.

## Agradecimientos

Extendemos nuestro sincero reconocimiento a todos/as los voluntarios/as y al personal por su dedicación durante el 2024. Sus contribuciones han sido invaluable. Operar en el panorama global nunca es sencillo, esperamos que les haya resultado una experiencia gratificante. Entendemos que para algunos/as no haya sido siempre fácil, particularmente al afrontar desafíos internos causados por las herramientas limitadas para la gestión de comportamientos difíciles. A los/as afectados/as, les agradecemos sinceramente su paciencia y colaboración en la búsqueda de soluciones.

Merece un reconocimiento especial Michael Cronin, quien, después de tres décadas de servicio desinteresado, renunció como principal representante de la FITS ante la ONU en Nueva York. Estamos profundamente agradecidos/as por su compromiso inquebrantable a lo largo de los años. Junto con otros/as presidentes y secretarios/as generales, expresamos nuestro agradecimiento a Michael. En nombre de los/as futuros/as líderes de la profesión, agradecemos sus invaluable contribuciones: sus conocimientos, sabiduría, amabilidad y ética han moldeado profundamente los éxitos de la FITS y han dejado un legado duradero.

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

También reconocemos los contextos difíciles y a menudo peligrosos en los que trabajan muchas de nuestras organizaciones miembros y valiosos/as colegas, particularmente en áreas de guerra y conflicto. Muchas de estas situaciones siguen siendo en gran medida desconocidas para el mundo en general. Por ejemplo, solo en Etiopía, se han perdido 1,8 millones de vidas en los últimos dos años debido a conflictos y desplazamientos. Las guerras en curso continúan devastando regiones como la República Democrática del Congo, Burkina Faso, Camerún, la República Centroafricana, Malí, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, Sudán del Sur, Sudán y muchas otras. Además, nuestros miembros trabajan en condiciones altamente peligrosas en áreas que sufren dictaduras en América Latina, Asia y el Pacífico. Los trágicos conflictos en Ucrania y Oriente Medio también siguen colocando a nuestros colegas en situaciones precarias, con temor por la seguridad de sus propias familias y su futuro. La familia global del Trabajo Social se solidariza con ustedes y reitera nuestro apoyo.

Un enorme agradecimiento a la Asociación de Trabajadores Sociales de Panamá por organizar la increíble Conferencia Mundial 2024 y acoger nuestra Asamblea General. El liderazgo exhibido por los miembros ejecutivos ha sido ejemplar, no solo en sus esfuerzos regionales sino también en su trabajo colaborativo a nivel global para implementar la visión estratégica esbozada en la Asamblea General. También reco-

nocemos su trabajo adicional con respecto a la nueva política de selección de comisionados/as regionales. Agradecemos enormemente su enfoque diligente en la realización de estas tareas. Además, agradecemos a todos/as los/as comisionados/as globales y regionales por sus contribuciones para ampliar el alcance operativo de la FITS.

¡Qué equipo tan extraordinario tenemos de cara al 2025!

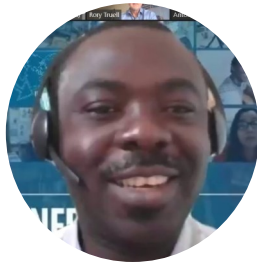
### Conclusión

2024 ha sido un año de enorme crecimiento, impacto y desarrollo estratégico. Hemos logrado avances significativos en nuestra influencia sobre los sistemas geopolíticos, hemos introducido una nueva política clave y hemos sentado las bases para fortalecer nuestra gobernanza interna. En las siguientes páginas, descubrirán numerosos logros e iniciativas en curso a nivel regional y de las comisiones, así como aspectos destacados del nivel global. Hemos logrado mucho y, como dice sabiamente el proverbio africano: "un dedo no puede levantar nada pero con todas nuestras manos podemos alcanzar lo que sea".

Esperamos encontrarnos con ustedes en uno de los próximos eventos del 2025 o virtualmente. Les enviamos nuestros mejores deseos para un próspero 2025.

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

«**Tout au long de l'année 2024, les réactions positives et les célébrations qui ont suivi la promotion du « Buen Vivir » par l'IFSW ont été encourageantes.**»



**Joachim Mumba**  
IFSW President



**Rory Truell**  
IFSW Secretary General

Chers membres de l'IFSW, nous espérons que ce rapport vous trouvera en bonne santé et que l'année 2025 commencera sous les meilleurs auspices.

Cette publication de fin d'année donne un aperçu de l'état et des activités de la profession de travailleur social jusqu'en 2024. Comme vous le découvrirez dans les pages suivantes, la profession de travailleur social n'est pas seulement en train de se développer, mais aussi d'approfondir ses fondements philosophiques. Cette section globale vise à fournir une vue d'ensemble des activités de la Fédération au cours de l'année écoulée, en se concentrant sur les efforts externes visant à renforcer les partenariats et à accroître notre influence, ainsi que sur les initiatives internes visant à améliorer nos systèmes de collaboration. Elle est suivie d'une brève discussion sur les résultats de l'assemblée générale de 2024, les acti-

vités de l'exécutif mondial et un aperçu des principaux événements à venir.

### **Priorités externes et thème du travail social mondial**

En 2024, nous avons été particulièrement fiers de faire progresser le thème mondial du travail social, le « Buen Vivir ». Enraciné dans les visions du monde indigènes des régions andines d'Amérique latine, en particulier chez les peuples quechua et aymara, le « Buen Vivir » incarne une approche holistique de la vie. Il met l'accent sur l'harmonie avec la nature, la cohésion de la communauté et le développement durable. Plus qu'un simple mode de vie, le « Buen Vivir » sert de cadre politique, social et écologique qui remet en question le modèle de développement occidental centré sur la croissance économique et l'exploitation des ressources. De même, le thème de



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

l'année 2021 « Ubuntu » souligne l'interconnexion, le respect et la réciprocité entre les hommes, les autres espèces et le monde naturel, et plaide en faveur d'une relation équilibrée entre les hommes, la nature et les communautés.

Ces thèmes globaux du travail social élargissent la perspective de la profession, au-delà de la vision d'un monde dominé par l'Occident. Ils encouragent les travailleurs sociaux et les communautés du monde entier à réimaginer ce qui constitue une « vie heureuse » et à aligner leur mode de vie sur les principes du développement durable et de l'équité. Chaque thème reflète la nature progressiste et inclusive de la profession, en soulignant les liens vitaux entre les environnements sociaux, le monde naturel et l'économie. Ils soulignent le besoin urgent d'une transition vers un monde écosocial et le rôle intégral du travail social dans ce processus de transformation.

Tout au long de l'année 2024, les réactions positives et les célébrations qui ont suivi la promotion du « Buen Vivir » par l'IFSW ont été encourageantes. Pour l'avenir, le thème de l'année 2025 « Renforcer la solidarité intergénérationnelle pour un bien-être durable » s'appuie sur les fondements du « Buen Vivir ». Ce nouveau thème souligne l'importance de favoriser l'attention et le respect entre les générations afin de créer des sociétés résilientes, de préserver l'environnement et de partager la sagesse pour assurer un avenir meilleur.

Nous sommes déjà encouragés par l'enthousiasme de nos partenaires des Nations unies, des acteurs mondiaux et des membres de la Fédération qui reconnaissent la pertinence et l'importance de ce nouveau thème. Grâce à ces thèmes, ainsi qu'à notre leadership collectif et à nos partenariats, l'IFSW continue d'apporter des contributions significatives. Le Secrétaire général des Nations unies a reconnu nos cadres comme des exemples de leadership et de meilleures pratiques, ce qui nous a valu une large reconnaissance pour notre intégration des droits environnementaux, sociaux, culturels et individuels.

Ces réalisations ont été intentionnelles et ciblées, s'alignant sur les changements apportés à la constitution de la Fédération en 2016. Cette constitution renforce notre identité en tant que profession ouverte sur l'extérieur, dédiée aux partenariats, à l'action, à la défense des politiques et à l'exploitation de l'apprentissage et de l'expérience à l'échelle mondiale afin d'apporter des contributions significatives à notre monde commun.

### **Objectifs internes : nouvelle politique et révision de la gouvernance**

Parallèlement à ses initiatives tournées vers l'extérieur, la Fédération a consacré des efforts importants en 2024 au renforcement de ses systèmes et politiques internes. Cette année, les membres ont approuvé une nouvelle politique destinée à renforcer le travail d'équipe dans les in-

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

tersections complexes entre les régions et les commissions mondiales. La politique redéfinit également la division entre la gouvernance et les opérations, ce qui permet à l'exécutif de jouer plus efficacement le rôle de contrôleur stratégique - une fonction cruciale dans toute organisation importante et à multiples facettes.

Cette évolution est complétée par l'« Examen de la bonne gouvernance » qui a été approuvé lors de l'assemblée générale de 2024 au Panama. Cet examen permettra d'évaluer les politiques et procédures internes actuelles de la Fédération, dont beaucoup n'ont pas été mises à jour alors que la taille de la Fédération a presque doublé et que sa complexité s'est considérablement accrue au cours des 14 dernières années. Un groupe de révision spécialisé, composé de membres du comité exécutif et de représentants des organisations membres, a déjà commencé ses travaux. Nous prévoyons que leurs conclusions et recommandations seront largement diffusées en 2025 et au-delà.

Pour plus d'informations, veuillez consulter le [mandat des commissions](#) et l'« Examen de la bonne gouvernance ».

Le maintien d'un environnement interne sain et favorable est essentiel au succès de l'IFSW. La Fédération aspire à créer un espace de travail où chacun se sent en sécurité, calme, écouté, soutenu, enrichi et a le sentiment d'appartenir à un environnement largement multiculturel. Cet engagement est encore plus important pour

l'IFSW que pour les organisations dotées d'une main-d'œuvre rémunérée, puisque nous fonctionnons avec l'équivalent de seulement trois employés à temps plein et des centaines de bénévoles.

Comme l'indique le rapport de l'assemblée générale de 2024, nous avons été confrontés à des périodes de conflits internes importants et à des défis sans précédent. Ces tensions ont parfois été si fortes que certains dirigeants se sont sentis intimidés et incapables d'exprimer leur point de vue. Nous sommes heureux d'annoncer que ces conflits sont désormais derrière nous et nous sommes convaincus que la nouvelle politique et l'examen de la gouvernance contribueront à atténuer les difficultés à venir. Ces mesures reflètent notre engagement permanent à favoriser une Fédération collaborative, inclusive et résiliente.

## L'assemblée générale de Panama

L'Association panaméenne des travailleurs sociaux a accueilli l'Assemblée générale 2024 de l'IFSW le 1 et 2 avril. Les délégués et les représentants des organisations membres se sont réunis pour discuter et prendre des décisions cruciales pour l'avenir de la Fédération. L'un des principaux résultats de la réunion a été l'affirmation formelle de la Charte des peuples pour un nouveau monde écosocial en tant que document de référence fondamental, guidant les efforts de développe-

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

ment et de sensibilisation de la Fédération.

En outre, l'assemblée générale a célébré l'arrivée de deux nouveaux membres. L'Association cambodgienne des travailleurs sociaux et l'Association taiwanaise des travailleurs sociaux ont été approuvées à l'unanimité et accueillies en tant que membres à part entière de la Fédération, renforçant ainsi notre réseau mondial.

## Mise à jour du comité exécutif

La réunion a également marqué un moment important de transition au sein de la direction de la Fédération. Les délégués ont élu les nouveaux membres du comité exécutif tout en exprimant leur gratitude et en faisant leurs adieux aux membres sortants. Des remerciements particuliers ont été adressés à Victor Garcia (Trésorier mondial), Ana Radulescu (IFSW Europe), Sriganesh MV (Vice-président Asie-Pacifique), Tânia Maria Ramos (Vice-président ALC), et Noel Muridzo (IFSW Afrique) pour leurs services dévoués et leurs contributions à la Fédération.

## Nouvelle composition du comité exécutif

L'Assemblée générale de 2024 a confirmé la nouvelle composition du Comité exécutif de l'IFSW, reflétant à la fois la continuité et un nouveau leadership. L'équipe nouvellement constituée est la suivante :

### Leadership mondial :

- Président mondial : Joachim Mumba (poursuite du mandat)

- Secrétaire général : Rory Truell (nommé d'office)
- Vice-président mondial : Kenia Batista (nouvellement élu)
- Trésorier mondial : Sriganesh MV (élu sans opposition)

### Leadership régional :

#### Afrique :

- Président : Oluwatoni Adeleke (élu)
- Vice-président : Abib Ndiaye (élu à la suite de l'Assemblée générale par vote par correspondance)

#### Région Asie-Pacifique :

- Président : Machiko Ohara (poursuite du mandat)
- Vice-président : Teoh Ai Hua (élu sans opposition)

#### Europe :

- Présidente : Ruth Allen (élue sans opposition)
- Vice-président : Andreas Pedersen Kikkvik (élu)

#### Amérique latine et Caraïbes :

- Présidente : Kenia Batista (également vice-présidente mondiale)
- Vice-présidente : Gabriela Rodriguez Vázquez (élue)

#### Amérique du Nord :

- Présidente : Yvonne Chase (élue)
- Vice-présidente : Joan Davis-Whelan (jusqu'à la fin de son mandat en juin 2024, Barb Whitenect étant élue pour lui succéder à partir de juin)

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

Cette équipe de direction diversifiée et dynamique reflète l'engagement de la Fédération en faveur d'une représentation et d'une collaboration solides dans toutes les régions.

## Discussions supplémentaires et mises à jour de l'assemblée générale

Outre l'examen de la bonne gouvernance évoqué plus haut, l'assemblée générale s'est penchée sur les défis liés à l'obtention d'un financement adéquat pour répondre aux besoins en personnel au sein du secrétariat. Nous prévoyons de fournir d'autres mises à jour sur ces considérations dans le courant de l'année.

L'assemblée générale a également mis en évidence l'influence croissante de la Fédération sur le développement mondial grâce à des partenariats nouveaux et émergents avec l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé, d'autres agences des Nations unies et des organisations alliées. Ces collaborations soulignent le rôle croissant du travail social dans l'élaboration des politiques internationales et des cadres de développement. Pour plus de détails, veuillez vous référer aux rapports de la Commission.

Pour plus d'informations sur l'assemblée générale, vous pouvez consulter le projet de [procès-verbal](#). Pour consulter les résultats de l'évaluation de l'Assemblée générale, veuillez [cliquer ici](#).

## L'exécutif

Tout au long de l'année 2024, l'exécutif a tenu des réunions trimestrielles en ligne et a convoqué des sessions en personne immédiatement avant et après l'Assemblée générale. Pour 2025, l'exécutif a décidé de renoncer aux réunions en face-à-face et de réaffecter les fonds associés au soutien des activités régionales. Les réunions trimestrielles en ligne se poursuivront comme prévu.

Au moment de la rédaction du présent document, l'exécutif se concentre sur plusieurs priorités essentielles :

- Contrôler la mise en œuvre des plans de travail alignés sur les tâches convenues lors de l'assemblée générale.
- Mise en œuvre de la nouvelle politique des commissions.
- Développer et faire progresser les plans régionaux.
- Préparer les conférences régionales de 2025 et les conférences mondiales de 2026 et 2028.

## Conférences

Les rapports régionaux ci-dessous fournissent des détails sur chacune des conférences régionales prévues pour 2025. Nous prévoyons que le site web de la conférence mondiale 2026 sera mis en ligne dans les semaines à venir. En attendant, vous pouvez trouver des informa-

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

tions sur les dates et le thème de l'événement en cliquant sur le lien suivant.

## Remerciements

Nous remercions chaleureusement tous les bénévoles et le personnel pour leur dévouement tout au long de l'année 2024. Vos contributions sont inestimables. Opérer sur la scène mondiale n'est jamais une tâche facile, mais nous espérons que vous avez trouvé cette expérience enrichissante. Nous reconnaissons également que, pour certains, le parcours n'a pas toujours été facile, surtout lorsqu'il s'agissait de surmonter des défis internes liés à des ressources limitées pour la gestion du personnel. Nous remercions sincèrement les personnes concernées pour leur patience et leur collaboration dans la recherche de solutions.

Un hommage particulier est rendu à Michael Cronin qui, après trois décennies de service désintéressé, a quitté son poste de représentant principal de la IFSW auprès des Nations unies à New York. Nous lui sommes profondément reconnaissants pour son engagement sans faille au fil des ans. Avec les autres présidents et secrétaires généraux, nous exprimons nos remerciements à Michael. Au nom des futurs dirigeants de la profession, nous vous remercions pour vos contributions inestimables. Vos idées, votre sagesse, votre gentillesse et votre éthique ont largement contribué au succès de l'IFSW. Vous nous avez laissé un précieux héritage que nous nous

devons maintenant de préserver pour les générations à venir.

Nous sommes également conscients des contextes difficiles et souvent dangereux dans lesquels travaillent nombre de nos organisations membres et de nos précieux collègues, en particulier dans les zones de guerre et de conflit. Beaucoup de ces situations restent largement inconnues du reste du monde. Par exemple, rien qu'en Éthiopie, 1,8 million de personnes ont perdu la vie au cours des deux dernières années en raison des conflits et des déplacements de population. Les guerres continuent de dévaster certains pays comme la République démocratique du Congo, le Burkina Faso, le Cameroun, la République centrafricaine, le Mali, le Mozambique, le Nigeria, le Sénégal, la Somalie, le Soudan du Sud, le Soudan, etc. En outre, nos membres travaillent dans des conditions extrêmement dangereuses dans des régions soumises à des dictatures en Amérique latine et dans l'Asie-Pacifique. Les conflits tragiques en Ukraine et au Moyen-Orient continuent de placer nos collègues dans des situations précaires, et beaucoup d'entre eux craignent pour la sécurité et l'avenir de leur famille. Votre famille mondiale du travail social reste unie avec vous et continuera à vous offrir son soutien.

Un grand merci à l'Association panaméenne des travailleurs sociaux pour avoir organisé l'incroyable conférence mondiale 2024 et accueilli notre assemblée générale. Les membres exécutifs ont fait preuve d'un leadership exemplaire, non seule-

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

ment dans leurs efforts régionaux, mais aussi dans leur travail de collaboration au niveau mondial pour mettre en œuvre la vision stratégique exposée lors de l'assemblée générale. Nous reconnaissons également le travail supplémentaire que vous avez entrepris concernant la nouvelle politique de sélection des commissaires régionaux. Votre diligence dans l'accomplissement de ces tâches est grandement appréciée. Nous remercions également tous les commissaires mondiaux et régionaux pour leur contribution à l'élargissement de la portée opérationnelle de l'IFSW.

Quelle équipe exceptionnelle nous avons à l'horizon 2025 !

### **Conclusion**

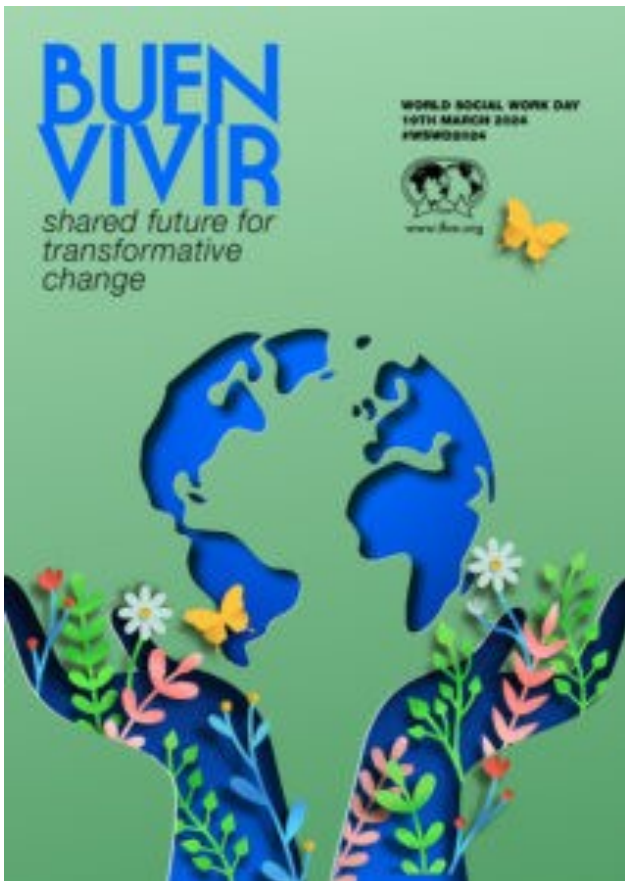
L'année 2024 a été marquée par une croissance, un impact et un développe-

ment stratégique considérables. Nous avons fait des progrès significatifs pour influencer les systèmes géopolitiques, introduit une nouvelle politique clé et jeté les bases d'un renforcement de notre gouvernance interne. En parcourant les pages suivantes, vous découvrirez de nombreux projets et initiatives que nous avons menés au niveau des régions et des commissions, ainsi que les points forts de la section mondiale. Nous avons accompli beaucoup de choses et, comme le dit judicieusement un proverbe africain, « un seul doigt ne peut rien soulever, mais de nombreuses mains peuvent tout accomplir ».

Nous nous réjouissons de vous rencontrer lors de l'un des prochains événements ou lors des réunions virtuelles prévues pour 2025, et nous vous adressons nos meilleurs vœux de prospérité pour l'année 2025.

## Events

# World Social Work Day



On 19 March 2024, social workers across the globe came together to celebrate World Social Work Day, unified under the theme, '*Buen Vivir: Shared Future for Transformative Change*'. This inspiring theme, derived from the principles of the Global Agenda, placed a spotlight on the transformative contributions of social workers in shaping innovative, community-led approaches. These approaches, deeply grounded in indigenous wisdom, advocate for harmonious coexistence with nature and the pursuit of sustainable, inclusive well-being for all.

Joachim Mumba, President of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW), captured the essence of the day, stating: "*Buen Vivir resonates deeply with the core values of social work. As we celebrated World Social Work Day, we embraced this principle and championed a future where communities and nature coexist in harmony—a future where social workers, together with local people, co-design and co-build peaceful communities critical to our shared sustainable futures.*" His words served as both an inspiration and a call for social workers to lead the way in forging equitable and enduring societal transformations.

A sincere and profound thank you goes out to all the social workers who played an indispensable role in amplifying these vital messages, transcending borders to inspire hope and catalyse transformative change within their communities. Your unwavering commitment and dedication are paving the way towards a shared future marked by justice, harmony, and sustainable growth.

## Read more

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

You may find a collage of the hashtag #WSWD2024 on the next page.

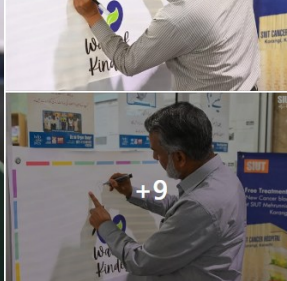


Philippine Association of Social Workers, Inc. Maguindanao-Cotabato Chapter joins the celebration of **World Social Work Day 2024** March 2, 2024 | Sitio Tinabon, Kusingon, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao

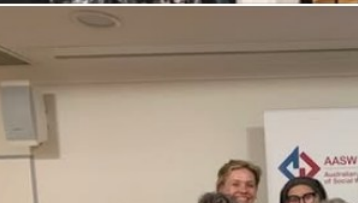
150 Seedlings | Psychosocial Activities | Community Outreach Program | Celebration Program



**World Social Work Day**



**#WSWD2024**





## Members

# News From Members

## Australia

Successful lobbying leads to payments for social work students on placement.

[Read the article](#)

## Bulgaria



The Association of Social Workers from Bulgaria is working with the Ministry of Health to create a strategy to facilitate the employment of social workers in hospitals.

[Read the article](#)

## Burundi

The National Association of Social Workers in Burundi organised a highly successful round table event.

[English](#) | [Français](#)

## Congo (DRC)



Building Bridges to Peace: Social Workers' Crucial Role in the DRC Amid Escalating Violence.

[Read the article](#)

A project aimed at supporting displaced people in Goma has successfully trained its first group of volunteers leading to a successful achievement of the the first phase.

[Read the article](#)

## Gambia

The Association of Social Workers in The Gambia Unites with Care and Prevention Foundation to Strengthen Social Services.

[English](#) | [Français](#)

## Guinea Bissau

Guinea-Bissau Hosts Successful First National Conference of Social Workers.

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## Members

# News From Members

## Indonesia/Malaysia



Indonesian and Malaysian Social Worker Associations Strengthen Ties.

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## Indonesia

Global Standards for Education in Social Work Now Available in Indonesian.

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World Social Work Day 2024 Report Released with Focus on 'Buen Vivir'.

[Read the article](#)

Over 125 Social Workers Take Professional Oath – Commitment to Quality Service.

[Read the article](#)

## Iran



Iranian National Social Worker's Day Conference: Mediation as a Pathway to Peace.

[Read the article](#)

## Japan

International seminar on social welfare in asia and the pacific rim.

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Statement: IFSW recognises the extraordinary efforts of our colleagues in Japan.

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Study Exchange Seminar Series aims to foster cross-cultural exchange.

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International seminar on social welfare in asia and the pacific rim.

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# News From Members

## Kenya

Social Work Works! The Mukuru Kaiyaba Story

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## Korea

Korean Association of Social Workers exchange with Swiss and British Associations.

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## Malawi



Malawi Social Workers Reflect on 2023 Achievements and Look Forward to 2024.

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## Malta

Maltese Association of Social Workers 30th anniversary.

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## Nordic Associations

Nordic Social Workers Urge their Governments to Demand International Law is Upheld in Gaza.

[Read the article](#)

## Palestine

Social Workers for a Free Palestine: World Social Work Day Online Event.

[Read the article](#)

The Palestinian Union of Social Workers and Psychologists Statement on the Suspension of a Social Worker who Advocated Against the Gaza Invasion.

[Read the article](#)



It was harrowing being a social worker in Gaza before, but now....

[Read the article](#)

## Members

# News From Members

## Philippines



PASWI 76th national convention paves the way for broader regional collaborations.

[Read the article](#)

## Romania

Alarming Gaps Revealed in Romania's Social Service Workforce Census.

[Read the article](#)

## Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone National Social Work Conference 2024 Concludes with a Focus on Regulation and Ethical Standards.

[Read the article](#)

## Sri Lanka

International Workshop and International Conference Held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

[Read the article](#)

## Turkey

On-site Visit Report after the Türkiye-Syria Earthquake.

[Read the article](#)

Turkish Social Workers Association Addresses Ongoing Psychosocial Challenges One Year After Earthquakes: Join Them in the Continuing Effort!.

[Read the article](#)

The Training for Social Workers to Respond to Emergencies and Long-Term Response in Turkey Was Successfully accomplished.

[Read the article](#)

## Uganda



Uganda Social Workers Reflect on 2023 Achievements and Set Goals for 2024.

[Read the article](#)

## Members

# News From Members



NASWU's Transformative Journey in Elevating the Social Work Profession: Celebrating Milestones and Charting the Future.

[Read the article](#)

## United States

Webinar on Navigating Conflict with Global Social Work Insights.

[Read the article](#)

## Ukraine



Webinar: Innovation in Social Services in Ukraine.

[Read the article](#)

Running between classrooms and bunkers, Ukraine's social work students show resilience and dedication!

[Read the article](#)



IFSW Europe implements sustainable small-scale farming initiative in the new renovated social centres in Ukraine.

[Read the article](#)

## Stay connected

IFSW is regularly posting news and updates. Visit our news section [here](#).

If you are a member and have news to share, we would be delighted to feature your updates! Please contact us at [global@ifsw.org](mailto:global@ifsw.org) to share your stories.

# 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 of 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

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**Life Friend membership**

\$600

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**Organisational Friend membership**

\$1000 for 1 year

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## Regions

# IFSW Africa



### Introductory Background

The International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) Africa Region continues to serve as a dynamic platform for collaboration, capacity building, and advocacy, representing the interests of social workers across 34 member countries. These countries, spanning diverse socio-economic and cultural landscapes, include Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Djibouti, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

The leadership of the IFSW Africa Region plays a crucial role in advancing its mission of promoting social justice, human

rights, and sustainable development across the continent. For 2024, the regional executive is headed by Oluwatoni Adeleke from Nigeria, serving as the President, with Abib Ndiaye from Senegal as Vice President. Notably, Abib Ndiaye's election marks a historic milestone as he is the first person from a Francophone country to hold the position of Vice President in IFSW Africa. This achievement highlights the growing inclusivity and representation of French-speaking countries in the leadership of the region, contributing to a more diverse and collaborative approach to social work across Africa.

In addition to its executive team, the region's representation within global IFSW commissions strengthens its influence in critical areas:

- Antoinette Lombard (South Africa) – Education Commission

## Regions

# IFSW Africa

- Charles Mbugua (Kenya) – United Nations High Commission
- Mildred (Zimbabwe) – UN Commission
- Basamba Drameh (Gambia) – UN Commission
- Stephnao Akudike Joseph (Malawi)- Ethics Commission
- Charles Rutikanga(Rwanda)- Indigenous Commission

This year, the region proudly welcomes Guinea-Bissau, reflecting the federation's growing inclusivity and commitment to engaging with all African countries in advancing social work values and practices.

Over the past year, the region has undertaken numerous initiatives aimed at fostering collaboration and enhancing professional social work practices. This includes the following;

### 1. Regional Meetings

On June 28–29, 2024, social workers from six West African countries -Benin, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Senegal, and Togo gathered at the Saint Manick Hotel in Lomé for a strategic meeting organized under the auspices of the International Federation of Social Workers in Africa (IFSW).

The meeting aimed to strengthen the institutional and organizational capacity of social worker associations in the region. Delegates collaborated to develop a strategic plan focused on enhancing professionalization and improving interventions to

better the lives of the most vulnerable populations. This initiative reflects a broader global effort by social workers to amplify their impact and create lasting positive change within their communities.

### 2. General Activities and Achievements

In 2024, the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) Africa region intensified efforts to amplify IFSW Africa's contributions to international policy discussions on human rights, social protection systems AND including at platforms like the United Nations.

Marking Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

On the 2024 International Day for Zero Tolerance to FGM, IFSW Africa collaborated with the Asia-Pacific region under the theme "Invest in FGM-Led Movements." Social workers from Singapore, Somaliland, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria convened to discuss challenges and solutions for eradicating FGM. Key actions identified included:

- Conducting research to assess FGM's impact.
- Developing prevention programs to raise awareness.
- Educating communities on FGM's consequences.
- Offering comprehensive support to survivors.



## Regions

# IFSW Africa

Advocating for robust legal frameworks to protect women and girls.

The discussions underscored the importance of stakeholder collaboration to combat FGM and foster transformative change.

### International Women's Day Celebration

On March 9, 2024, IFSW Africa hosted a webinar to celebrate International Women's Day under the theme "Invest in Women, Accelerate Progress." Participants from Botswana, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, and Kenya highlighted the need to prioritize women's rights, well-being, and opportunities through:

- Enhanced access to education, healthcare, and employment.
- Addressing harmful practices.

Key recommendations included:

- Organizing quarterly cross-learning events.
- Providing therapy sessions for social workers.
- Advocating for legislative measures to regulate the social work profession.
- Strengthening training programs and integrating social workers into disaster and crisis management initiatives.
- The event reaffirmed the importance of collective action in advancing gender equality and empowering women across the region.

### Senegal: Renewal of the National Union of Social Workers (SNTS)



The SNTS, the only union representing the voice of Senegal's Social Workers, proceeded to the renewal of its bodies on June 1, 2024 at the National School of Social Workers (ENTSS).

It was an opportunity for the outgoing Secretary General Mr. Abib NDIAYE, elected in 2016, to pass the baton to Mr. Saliou NDIAYE and his team.

At the beginning, the outgoing SG gave a brief overview of the challenges facing the profession before launching an appeal to the sacred union of social workers to face the challenges to be met and the decisions that are necessary for the future of the union.

### Senegal: Animation of the network of French-speaking women social workers

Marie Ocile MBENGUE, Vice-President in charge of international cooperation of the Senegalese Federation of Social Workers (FSTS), is leading since June 2024, a dynamic of reflection and exchange between French-speaking social workers from 14 countries has been initiated, in support of

## Regions

# IFSW Africa

the development of IFSW Africa's activities.



This initiative aims, under the supervision of the President of IFSW Africa Mrs. OLUWATONI, to give a voice to our French-speaking women colleagues on the continent on their posture as women and social workers, their difficulties and their aspirations. This dynamic will be extended to Portuguese-speaking social workers.

### **Sénégal : Celebration of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2024, October 17.**

At the invitation of the NGO ATD Fourth World, a member of the International Committee of October 17, the Senegalese Federation of Social Workers took part in the celebration of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2024, on October 17, 2024 in Dakar.

The theme of the Round Table was "I was born. I exist. Add me to the list." This topic underlines the importance of a guaranteed legal identity, which is a prerequisite for the most excluded people to be able to access their fundamental rights. Leaving no one behind starts with registering the birth of each child.

The FSTS was represented by its President Mr. Abib NDIAYE and its 1st Vice-President in charge of International

Cooperation Marie Odile MBENGUE (online).

The organizers greatly appreciated the statement issued in 2023 by IFSW on the topic. The hybrid event recorded the physical presence of more than 150 people at the Place du Souvenir Africain, Dakar, Senegal from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. and was also followed online, by participants from various backgrounds.

At the end of this event, October 17 was included among the important days to be celebrated in the calendar of FSTS and IFSW Africa.

### **DR of Congo : Social workers celebrate International Children's Rights Day at school**



Under the coordination of Mrs. Faany Mathiaba, the Association of Social Workers of Kinshasa celebrated the International Day of the Rights of the Child, 2024 Edition, at the Sermi School Complex.

The day was an opportunity to share with children and teachers the challenges of promoting children's rights and the importance of safeguarding this vulnerable group.

## Regions

# IFSW Africa

The video report is accessible via the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4QPVFYNKoRg>

### Cape Verde: A human rights pioneer promoting child protection



Ms. Lourença Lopes Moreno Tavares, an emblematic figure in the voluntary sector and founder of the NGO ACRIDES, is passionate about human rights.

His commitment to advocating for the causes of the most vulnerable and promoting children in Cape Verde has been supported by the NGO ACRIDES, through innovative initiatives that have had a significant impact on local communities, including children and families.

A graduate in Social Work from the Higher Institute of Legal and Social Sciences of Cape Verde, Lourença founded in 1998 ACRIDES – Associação Crianças Desfavorecidas, an NGO dedicated to the promotion and defense of the rights and duties of children and their families.

Her profile as a social worker has also earned her the recognition of her peers who have elected her Coordinator of the National Network for the Protection of Children against Sexual Abuse and Exploitation. To learn more about this valued,

determined woman whose commitment makes a difference on a daily basis, visit the following link: <https://lesafricaines.net/2024/11/26/au-coeur-de-lengagement-rencontre-avec-lourenca-tavares-fondatrice-de-long-acrides-au-cap-vert/>

### World Social Work Day in Burundi

On April 12, 2024, NASWA-BURUNDI, supported by UNICEF and key partners, held a roundtable event in Bujumbura to mark World Social Work Day under the theme “A Shared Future for Transformative Change.” Nearly 100 stakeholders gathered to discuss enhancing the social workforce’s capacity in child protection and community services.

Key outcomes of the event included:

- Raising awareness of the critical role of social work in Burundi.
- Formalizing a professional network for social workers.
- Developing a roadmap for professionalizing the field.

The event succeeded in rallying widespread support, showcasing the pivotal role of social workers in shaping transformative community outcomes.

These initiatives exemplify the ongoing efforts of IFSW Africa to drive impactful change across the continent and strengthen the voice of African social work on global platforms.

# Regions

## IFSW Africa

### 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence

The Ubuntu Sisterhood, a network of female social workers, commemorated the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) with a special series launched by the IFSW Africa President, Toni Adeleke. Professor Sahana Rasool, the guest speaker, highlighted key issues, including:

The role of social work services in schools in addressing student well-being and systemic challenges.

Strategies to combat gender-based violence in the workplace, emphasizing the need for safer environments.

In her opening remarks, Toni Adeleke emphasized the significance of the 16 Days of Activism as a platform for action. She called on governments, stakeholders, and social workers to unite against GBV and champion the message using the hashtag #NoExcuse.

The event reinforced the importance of collective advocacy and the vital role of social workers in driving societal change to end GBV.

### 3.Capacity-Building Programs and Conferences:

The Guinean Association of Social Workers (AGAS) hosted the first National Conference of Social Workers in Guinea-Bissau on May 23-24, 2024, at the ENA Conference Hall. The event, themed "Path,

Challenges, and Prospects," brought together 98 social workers to evaluate the state of the profession in the country. AGAS President, Mr. Ussumane Embaló, opened the conference with a speech highlighting its importance in reflecting on the profession's journey, tackling current challenges, and setting future goals to promote social justice and human rights. The conference included keynote speeches and panel discussions on topics such as the history of social work in Guinea-Bissau, the intersection of social work and human rights, and the role of social workers in the country's development.

In October 2024, the Cameroon Association of Social Workers organized a pivotal event themed "Cameroon National Association of Social Workers: At the Time of Re-Establishment." This gathering was dedicated to deliberating on the development



of a regulatory framework for the social work profession in Cameroon.

### Nigeria

The 39th Conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Nigeria Association of Social Workers (NASoW) took place from 20th to 22nd November 2024 at the Cyprian Ekwensi Centre of Arts and Cul-

## Regions

# IFSW Africa

ture, Abuja, under the theme “Partnership for Professional Social Work in Nigeria: Leveraging the Social Work Act and Development Partners for Impact.” The event was chaired by the National President of NASoW, Alhaji Moshood Mustapha, whose visionary leadership continues to drive the Association’s commitment to advancing social work practice in Nigeria. The event brought together key stakeholders, including the President of IFSW Africa Region, Oluwatoni Adeleke, government representatives, international guests, academia, and civil society. With 250 participants attending both in person and online, the conference drew representation from 22 states and the Federal Capital Territory, including government agencies, universities, the private sector, and development partners.

The hybrid event featured engaging keynote addresses and panel discussions that explored opportunities to strengthen social work practices, leverage the Social Work Act, and foster impactful partnerships. Discussions focused on enhancing collaboration among social workers, government agencies, and development partners to amplify the profession’s impact while sharing knowledge and expertise on effective interventions. Participants delved into strategies for resource mobilization and reaffirmed their commitment to core values such as social justice, empathy, and human rights. The conference also emphasized the importance of professional development and innovation to equip social workers with the skills nee-

ded to address emerging challenges effectively.

The conference outcomes reinforced NASoW’s dedication to advancing social work in Nigeria through partnerships and leveraging legislative frameworks for greater impact. It inspired participants to innovate, foster collaboration, and drive positive change in their communities, highlighting the transformative role of social workers in promoting social justice and improving the lives of individuals and communities across the nation.

### Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone Association of Social Workers Holds Landmark AGM and National Delegates Conference

The Sierra Leone Association of Social Workers (SLASW) hosted its inaugural Annual General Meeting (AGM) and National Delegates Conference on Saturday, November 22, 2024, in Freetown. This milestone event marked a significant step forward for the profession in Sierra Leone, bringing together practitioners, educators, students, and advocates to reflect on progress and shape the future of social work in the country.

The conference began with a plenary session where key stakeholders and partners deliberated on the regulation of social work in Sierra Leone and the role of data in decision-making for social work and social development. These discussions set the stage for the AGM, fostering collaboration and informed decision-making.

## Regions

# IFSW Africa

Key activities included the appointment of auditors for financial oversight, the election of Directors and officers to strengthen governance, and the discussion of resolutions proposed by members to guide SLASW's strategic direction.

The AGM also emphasized SLASW's commitment to advancing social work in Sierra Leone through professional development, advocacy, and partnerships. Members pledged to promote excellence in practice, advocate for vulnerable populations, and influence policies to improve social welfare.

SLASW encouraged members and stakeholders to stay engaged through its website and social media platforms as it continues to position social work as a transformative force in Sierra Leone.

### 4.Strategic Collaboration and Partnership

On January 29, 2024, the IFSW Africa Vice President, Oluwatoni Adeleke and acting CEO, Pascal Rudin, met with Antoinette, a representative of South Africa's Social Work Association, to discuss its revival. Antoinette agreed to convene a stakeholder meeting to address key issues. The Vice President also visited the University of Johannesburg's Social Work Department to strategize on revitalizing the association and explored potential collaboration with ASSIAN for future conferences and activities.

TASWIG and CPF Sign MoU to Strengthen Social Services in The Gambia

The Association of Social Workers in The Gambia (TASWIG) and the Care and Prevention Foundation (CPF) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance social work practices and services across the country. This strategic partnership aims to address key social challenges by combining resources, expertise, and a shared vision to support vulnerable populations, with a particular focus on mental health and community-based care.

The collaboration will provide a wide range of services, including mental health support, family welfare assistance, and community-based care. One of the key goals is to establish counselling centres in key regions of The Gambia, offering vital services such as mental health counselling, family support, and welfare assistance. These centres will play a crucial role in improving community well-being, building resilience, and fostering sustainable futures for those in need.

Through this partnership, TASWIG and CPF are committed to strengthening social work interventions and ensuring that vulnerable individuals and families have access to the support they need.

The Rwanda Association of Social Workers recently collaborated with the Zambia Association of Social Workers on a learning visit to Zambia, sponsored by UNICEF. During the visit, the participants gained valuable insights into Zambia's strategic plan and the legislative framework supporting social work. This exchange provided an opportunity to learn from Zambia's

## Regions

# IFSW Africa

experiences and strengthen the professional development of social workers in both countries.

The Social Work Association in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has partnered with a university in Europe to provide specialized training for social workers. This collaboration aims to enhance the skills and knowledge of social workers in the DRC. However, the association is still seeking additional support to further strengthen and expand the training programs, ensuring continued professional development and improved social work practice in the country.

The Social Work Association of Zimbabwe organized a series of webinars in collaboration with various universities and organizations with which they have signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs). These webinars contributed to a significant increase in the association's membership, growing from 891 to 1,400 members. This expansion reflects the success of their collaborative efforts in engaging and supporting the professional development of social workers in Zimbabwe.

### Key Activities Planned for 2025

- Webinar on social work regulation in collaboration with Commonwealth in January,2025.
- South Africa sub regional meeting in South Africa/Malawi by February,2025
- Research on Strengthening Educational Systems Through School-Based Social Work Services"
- E-Awards and recognition of outstanding social workers in Africa on social work day, March 2025.
- Pre-regional conference sensitization and mobilisation in Gambia 2025
- Capacity building series for female social workers (Ubumthu sisterhood) on GBV and other topics of interest quarterly in English and French.
- West Africa sub regional meeting in November 2025 in Senegal
- 50years Anniversary celebration of Nigeria Association of Social workers (NASoW) in October,2025.
- Regional conference in Senegal by November 25th till 30th,2025.

### Picture Gallery



Meeting with South Africa Association Representative

## Regions

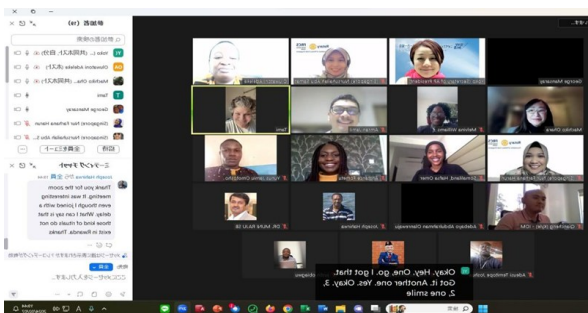
# IFSW Africa



Meeting with South Africa Representative



Social work day celebration in Burundi in collaboration with UNICEF in March ,2024.



International day for zero tolerance to female Genital Mutilation by Female Social workers in February,2024.



Cross section of participants at the first National Social work conference held in Guinea Bissau.



International Women's Day celebration by female social workers in Africa in March,2024.

Report written by:

**Oluwatoni Adeleke and Abib Ndiaye**

President IFSW Africa and Vice President IFSW Africa.

## News and Statements

The Association of Social Workers in The Gambia Unites with Care and Prevention Foundation to Strengthen Social Services

Burundi: 'We must work together to ensure that social workers receive the necessary support, training, and recognition they deserve'

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



## Regions

# IFSW Asia and Pacific



### Country Members of the Region

30 Members

### Names, countries, and positions of the Executive

- Machiko Ohara (Japan), Regional President
- Teoh Ai Hua (Malaysia), Regional Vice President
- Amran Jamil (Singapore), Honorary Secretary
- Viktor Virag (Japan), Treasurer
- Nattapat Sarobol (Thailand), Publication Team Leader

### Name, countries of the representatives in the different commissions

- Education: Mariko Kimura (Regional Commissioner)
- UN: Sebastian Cordoba (Regional Commissioner), W. Kotbungkair, Suresh Pathare, Hamed Olamaee
- Indigenous: Caroline Tana-Tepania (Regional Commissioner), Linda Ford, Ling How Kee, YangJian (Yvonne)
- Ethics: Hassan Mousavi Chelak (Regional Commissioner), Sukrita Rai and Yvonne Crichton-Hill

### New members this year

- Taiwan Association of Social Workers
- Association of Professional Social Workers of Cambodia

## Regions

# IFSW Asia and Pacific

Report on the Regional Delegates Meeting (if any)

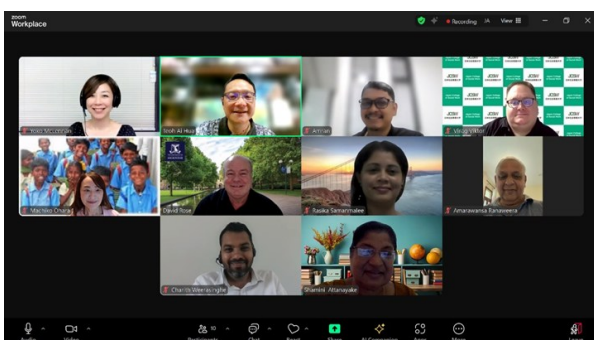
There was no Regional Meeting held in 2024. The 2024 Regional Meeting is scheduled to be held online on 17 January 2025.

### Report on the Regional Conference

The Asia Pacific Regional Conference 2025 will be held on 18-21 November 2025 at The Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) and the Taj Samudra Hotel in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The theme of the conference is "Social Work Responds to Climate Change and Other Environmental Issues". Details of the conference are available [here](#).

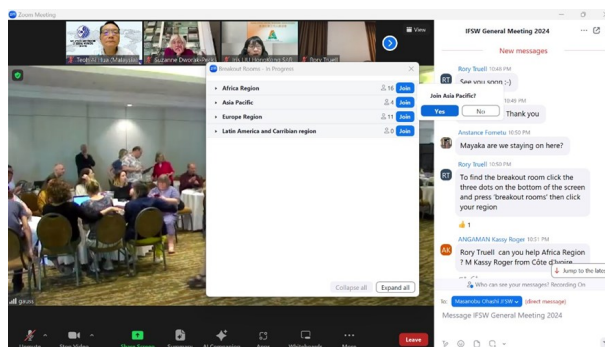
### Report on General Activities and Achievements during the period in the Region

In 2024, the Executive Committee has conducted seven online committee meetings, as well as six online meetings on the Regional Conference 2025.



Additionally, Dr. Machiko Ohara and some members of the Executive Committee also had separate introductory meetings with the Turkish Association of Social Workers (May), the Association of Professional Social Workers of Cambodia (June), the Taiwan Association of Social Workers (July), and the Korean Association of Social Workers (November).

The World Social Work Social Development Conference (SWSD2024) was held from 4 to 7 April 2024 in Panama. A number of members of the IFSW-Asia Pacific Region participated either physically or virtually, and were given the opportunity to meet during a breakout session accordingly to region.



From 18 to 23 August, Dr. Machiko Ohara, together with a team comprised of IFSW Secretary-General Dr. Rory Truell and IFSW Europe Regional President Ruth Allen visited several locations in Türkiye to observe the activities of social workers in the aftermath of the Türkiye-Syria earthquake that occurred in 2023, and assessing the state of support, achievements, and ongoing challenges.

## Regions

# IFSW Asia and Pacific

In early September, Dr. Machiko Ohara and Dr. Viktor Virag visited Sri Lanka and the Sri Lanka Association of Professional Social Workers (SLAPSW). They also participated and presented papers at the International Workshop on Social Policy and Social Work with the theme "Challenges for Social Policy and Social Work in Japanese and South Asian Contemporary Societies" organized by SLAPSW and the Association for International Social Work (AISW) on 2 and 3 September. On 4 and 5 September, both Machiko and Viktor participated and presented papers at the 3rd Intranational Conference on Social Work "Social Security in the 21st Century: Shared Partnership for Transformative Change" organized by the National Institute of Social Development (NISD), a school of social work under the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment of Sri Lanka.



On 15 November 2024, a meeting between the International Federation of Social Workers Asia Pacific Region (IFSW-AP) and the Korea Association of Social Workers (KASW) took place at the Japanese Association of Social Workers in

Health Services office in Tokyo, Japan. Representing IFSW-AP were Dr. Machiko Ohara, Dr. Viktor Virág and Dr. Mariko Kimura. The KASW delegation included Mr. Il Kyu Park; the President of KASW, Secretary-General of KASW, and Chair of the International Relations Committee of KASW.



### Key Planned Activities and Events for next year

- Regional General Meeting – 17 January 2025
- World Social Work Day 2025 (WSWD2025) – March 2025
- AP Webinar on WSWD2025 theme – March/April 2025
- Regional Social Work Conference – 18-21 Nov 2025, Sri Lanka

## News and Statements

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

## Regions

# IFSW Europe



### Country Members of the region

IFSW Europe consist of 37 active countries:

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

We continue to build links with most of the other 13 countries in our region

### Names, countries, and positions of the Executive 2024

#### IFSW LEADERSHIP

- Ana RADULESCU (Romania) – President; to 1 April 2024

- Ruth ALLEN (United Kingdom) – President from 2 April 2024 to present
- Andreas KIKVIK (Norway) – Vice President from 2 April 2024

#### Members of Executive:

- Brian Auslander (Israel) – Treasurer
- Paola Pontarollo (Italy) – until 27 October 2024
- Ruth Allen (United Kingdom) – until 1 April 2024
- Andreas Kikvik (Norway) – until 1 April 2024
- Susanne Both (Denmark) – from 27 October 2024
- Kristine Evertz (Netherlands) – from 27 October 2024
- Enric Torras (Austria) – from 27 October 2024

## Regions

# IFSW Europe

### Deputy Members

- Birthe Povlsen (Denmark) – until 27 October 2024  
Josien Hofs (Netherlands) – until 27 October 2024
- Paola Pontarollo (Italy) – from 27 October 2024
- Lucia Gomez (Spain) – from 27 October 2024

### Name, countries of the representatives in the different commissions

- Representative to European Social Platform - John Brennan (Ireland)
- Representative to CINGO / 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) – until 27 October 2024

- IFSW Global Education Commission - Nicolai PAULSEN (Denmark) – until 27 October 2024  
IFSW Global Ethic Commissions – Gabriele Stark-Angermeier (Germany)
- IFSW Global Indigenous Committee - Margareta UTTJEK (Sweden)
- (From Oct 27 2024 – call out for new Education and UN Regional Commissioners)

### Report on the Regional Delegates Meeting



IFSW Europe met in Lisbon 25-27 October. 23 Countries participated, 20 in person and two online only. One additional country participated by proxy. We were hosted by the Portuguese Association. Key highlights of the very successful meeting included:

- Electing new members of the European Executive (thanks Josien Hoffs (Netherlands), Birthe Povlsen

## Regions

# IFSW Europe

(Denmark) and Paola Ponterello (Italy) as they stepped down).

- Electing/confirming representatives to major European Institutions and to the Indigenous global commission, and opening the call for new regional commissioners for the Education and UN commission (thanking Nicolai Paulsen (education) and Herbert Paulschin (UN) for their work as they stepped down
- Holding workshops on to share information and ideas on each of the representatives' work in 2024.
- Presenting our Annual Report 2024 (attached)
- Reporting the strong position of our finances
- Engaging members through a workshop about our EU funded partnership project with six universities – the RESPONSIVE project – which is investigating how social services can become more responsive to the wishes and the feedback from/collaboration with people using services
- Consulting members on our forward strategy and priority actions for 2025-2027 (which will be uploaded to the website early in 2025 further to final member consultation and sign off).
- Adopting proposals from the 'New Social Workers Project' to develop as an ongoing network, to enable newer and younger social workers to get involved

in IFSW and to support their development and give them more voice.



- Adopting a motion to from the Irish and Spanish associations focused on the rights of migrants in EU countries in light of the recent Pact on Migration and Asylum: *The IFSW calls on the European Commission and all EU member states to promote a human rights-led, equitable and person-centred approach when implementing the Pact on Migration and Asylum. All member state asylum systems should be designed to ensure the dignity and human rights of all persons applying for asylum.*
- Accepting the proposal to develop a Project or representative role to support social work with Romani and Traveller Communities across Europe and supporting Romani and Traveller social Workers
- Considering the proposal from Hungary for further work on an EU/Europe definition of social work in light of

## Regions

# IFSW Europe

'watering down' and political control of social work functions in some countries

- Accepting the proposal for further work on a project to support recruitment, retention and workforce wellbeing for Social Workers in Europe

### Report on the Regional Conference

There was no IFSW Regional Conference in 2024. We are looking forward to our next conference in Oslo in October 2025 on eco-social themes.

### Report on General Activities and Achievements during the period in the Region

Please find the Activity and Impact report [here](#).

### Key Planned Activities and Events for next year

- Oslo conference, Norway: 6-8 October Bridging Communities, Building Sustainable Futures <https://www.ifsw.org/event/ifsw-europe-regional-conference-2025/>
- A range of regular webinars and learning activities led by our representatives including for World Social Work Day a webinar organised by our representative to the global organisation on mental health and aging, and our New Social Worker Project on the theme of

intergenerational perspectives and practices

- The development and further visibility of our 'Human Rights Network' which aims to help social workers across Europe understand the value and tools arising from Europe's Human and Social Rights Conventions System and the institutions and initiatives which uphold this across European Countries
- The start of a new EU funded project 'Cocoso' with university and non-governmental partners, developing high level expertise in rights based advocacy.
- The further development of our social media and communications strategy to reach out to more social workers and allies and make our work more visible
- Supporting more members particularly at times of stress and crisis, including support for members under oppression or facing the aftermath of natural or human disasters
- The publication of our 2025-2027 Strategy and workplan early in 2025.

## News and Statements

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

## Regions

# IFSW Latin America and Caribbean



### Members

The Latin American and Caribbean region of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) is made up of the following member countries: Mexico, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Panama, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Suriname, Barbados, Grenada, Colombia, Peru, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Argentina, Chile, Haiti, Nicaragua, whose contribution to Social Work in the region has been so important, has ceased to participate due to political, social and economic circumstances.

### Executive

- **Kenia Batista** (Panama) regional President and global Vice-President.
- **Gabriela Rodríguez Vázquez** (Mexico) - regional Vice-President.

The first hybrid [General Assembly](#) of the IFSW was held in Panama on 1-2 April 2024. Federation members expressed their deep appreciation to the outgoing members of the Executive Committee, including Victor Garcia (Puerto Rico) as treasurer and Tânia Maria Ramos (Brazil) as LAC vice-president, and confirmed the election of Gabriela Rodríguez Vázquez (Mexico) to this position and Kenia Batista (Panama) as global vice-president.

### Representatives

- For the IFSW Ethics Commission: **Sharon-Rose Gittens** (Barbados).
- For the Good Governance Review Group: **Gabriela Rodríguez Vázquez** (Mexico) and **Jorge Arturo Fonseca** (Costa Rica).



## Regions

# IFSW Latin America and Caribbean

### Regional developments

The year 2024 has presented various challenges for the region: political contexts, presidential changes, the entrenchment of economic models that continue to make populations precarious and that have marked the struggles carried out by our Social Work associations. Despite this, we are proud to present some of the main achievements of the Latin American and Caribbean region and its member countries, such as the articulation of the theme *Buen Vivir: share future for transformative change*, with deep Latin Ameri-



can and indigenous roots.

Joachim Mumba, President of IFSW: *Buen Vivir is not just a theme, but a tribute to our colleagues in the Latin American and Caribbean region. Their contribution in interpreting and supporting this principle has been invaluable. It is a testament to our shared commitment to a future that values humanity, nature and transformative change.*

### Reports from our members

Within the framework of these processes, the member countries have given life to their efforts through strategic planning

that has allowed them to win some battles in the areas of labour, collegiality, precariousness and commercialism of the profession, without neglecting to take into account the organisational strengthening and continuing education that have been key to the structures and validity of the profession of Social Work. We present below the reports from our member countries that give an account of these achievements in 2024 and the activities planned for 2025.



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## Regions

# IFSW Latin America and Caribbean

## Barbados



### Summary of 2024

The year 2024 was a period of growth and strengthening for the Barbados Association of Professional Social Workers (BAPSW). Through the capacity building pillar, 32 members benefited from programmes such as trauma certification in social work and recertification in first aid. In the area of community engagement and advocacy, more than 100 social workers participated in initiatives such as the distribution of "Good Living 2024" bracelets, a social awareness podcast and the LYRICS programme for parenting at-risk children. In addition, 12 primary school students were recognised with BAPSW 2024 Resilience Awards. The peer support pillar provided financial support to students and social workers in vulnerable situations, promoting their well-being and professional development.

### Activities planned for 2025

For 2025, BAPSW will continue its mission to strengthen social work in Barbados. In capacity building, the Trauma in Social Work course will be offered again in February. In community engagement, World Social Work Day will be celebrated with the "Good Living" conference on March 18. The resilience programme for children and the online reading "Touch" will also continue. As part of advocacy, the Shoebox Project will be implemented in November to support fisherwomen and survivors of domestic violence. Finally, in the area of peer support, the quarterly digital magazine "Upliftment" will be launched in November 2024, promoting reflection and professional development of social workers.

## Brazil

### Summary of 2024

The Federal Council of Social Service (CFESS) in Brazil has developed a broad set of actions during 2024, focused on the defence of the profession and the consolidation of social rights. The management "May our voices echo life-freedom" (2023-2026) has prioritised the autonomy of the entity, the administrative-financial strengthening and the deepening of the ethical-political debate in social work. Within this framework, the CFESS worked in three main strategic areas: the final area, focused on the orientation and nor-

## Regions

# IFSW Latin America and Caribbean

mativisation of professional work; the medium area, which guaranteed the resources for the execution of activities; and the control area, which strengthened transparency in the management of resources. Throughout the year, the CFESS promoted the fight against job insecurity and the defence of the profession's Code of Ethics, highlighting its commitment to anti-capitalist, feminist, anti-racist and social justice causes.



Among the most significant achievements of 2024, CFESS promoted spaces for debate and training, promoting professional supervision with a pedagogical approach, guaranteeing the quality of social work in Brazil. Actions on human rights and social security policies were also strengthened, consolidating the participation of CFESS in national and international organisations. In addition, initiatives in communication and transparency were carried out, with the implementation of new mechanisms for public access to management information. These strategies were developed in a context of structural challenges, marked by the socio-economic crisis and the increasing precariousness of work in the

country, which demanded rapid responses and resistance strategies from the CFESS and its support network.

### Activities planned for 2025

By 2025, CFESS will continue its mission to strengthen the profession and the defence of social rights in Brazil. Among the main actions is the holding of the 18th Brazilian Congress of Social Assistants (CBAS), which will bring together specialists from all over the country to discuss the future of social work in a context of social transformation. In addition, the third edition of the Specialisation Course in Social Service, a key initiative for the continuous training of professionals in the area, will be organised. The emphasis on ethical and professional monitoring will be maintained, with the implementation of new strategies to ensure compliance with the Code of Ethics and labour legislation. Finally, in 2025, the 100th anniversary of the profession of Social Work in Latin America will be commemorated, a milestone that will be celebrated with various academic and trade union activities, reaffirming the commitment of the CFESS to the history and future of social work in the region.

## Chile

### Summary of 2024

In 2024, the Colegio de Trabajadoras y Trabajadores Sociales de Chile A.G. focused its efforts on the preparation of the centenary of the profession, high-

## Regions

# IFSW Latin America and Caribbean

lighting the organisation of a logo and poster competition, which aimed to provide the visual identity of the event with a cash prize for the winning entry. This competition ran from July to August, with a national consultation in August to select the winner.



In addition to the competition, the Chilean Association of Social Workers developed various initiatives to strengthen the professional identity and visibility of social work in the country. During the year, meetings and dialogues were held at national level to reflect on the challenges and advances of the discipline, preparing the ground for the commemoration of the centenary in 2025. These activities not only allowed the active participation of the College's members, but also encouraged debate on the impact of social work in Chilean society, highlighting the importance of ethics, legislation and the role of social workers in contexts of crisis and social transformation.

### Activities planned for 2025

2025 will be marked by the commemoration of the centenary of Social Work in Chile.

The central activity will take place on 5 May at the former National Congress, with a ceremony organised by the Centenary Commission, the National Council and the Santiago Provincial Council. Three days of events are planned, including a national seminar and a meeting of Latin American presidents. In addition, there will be provincial meetings in various regions of the country, addressing topics such as social expertise, ethics in social work, social work law and socio-environmental issues. In March, the centenary will begin with the commemoration of World Social Work Day, and in November Social Worker's Day will be celebrated in all provinces.

## Costa Rica

### Summary of 2024

The College of Social Workers of Costa Rica (COLTRAS) has developed an intense work in 2024, consolidating its efforts in several key areas for the profession. The Research Unit has focused on strengthening the analysis of the working and socio-occupational conditions of the profession, establishing specialised commissions on issues such as gender and mental health, as well as promoting the dissemination of knowledge through a Specialised Repository on Social Work. In addition, the Continuing Education Unit (UEP) has implemented an extensive continuing education programme, offering courses and seminars on crisis intervention, mental health and expert social work, with a high participati-

## Regions

# IFSW Latin America and Caribbean

on of professionals in different regions of the country.

From the administrative point of view, COLTRAS has worked on improving its internal processes and updating its infrastructure. Improvements were made to the school's facilities, and progress was made in the management of charges and benefits for members. In addition, the institution has strengthened its relations with national and international organisations, participating in congresses and discussion forums on the profession. A key aspect has been the defence of social work work workplaces in the context of the crisis and precariousness of employment, which has led to strategic actions of political and trade union advocacy.



### Activities planned for 2025

For 2025, COLTRAS has as a priority the consolidation of research and professional training. The Research Unit will continue its work with the strengthening of the National Research Journey, focusing on the development of studies on working conditions and trends in the practice of social work. The Specialised Repository on Social Work will also be expanded and interna-

tional alliances will be strengthened. In terms of continuing education, new courses and programmes are planned, including training in socio-legal intervention and forensic social work. In addition, the construction of a perimeter wall in the college's annex building will be initiated to improve the infrastructure. At the administrative level, a budget growth of 11.83% is projected to ensure the financial sustainability of the College and to continue offering quality services to its professional members.

## Cuba

### Summary of 2024

During 2024, the Cuban Society of Social Health Workers (SOCUTRAS) carried out various activities aimed at strengthening the role of the social worker in the health field. Among the most relevant actions were the XV National Scientific Conference of Social Health Workers, held in Villa Clara in March, in the framework of the World Day of Social Work. In addition, the National Day of Social Health Work was celebrated in May, combining scientific and recreational spaces in each of the chapters. In October, scientific conferences were organised in the regional chapters, allowing for the updating of knowledge and the exchange of experiences among professionals in the field. Finally, in November, the National Methodological Meeting of Chapter Presidents was held, together with the celebration of the Day of Recogni-

## Regions

# IFSW Latin America and Caribbean

tion of the Speciality of Social Work, within the framework of Latin American Medicine.

In terms of achievements, the recognition of the social worker as an essential figure in social institutions and the health system was consolidated, reaffirming his or her intervention in the implementation of public policies. The participation of professionals in the area in the Basic Working Groups of the health units was also highlighted, strengthening their role in the planning and execution of social welfare strategies. In addition, the opening of a degree in Social Work was achieved, an important milestone for the professionalisation of the field in Cuba. Nevertheless, future challenges were identified, such as the need to improve the articulation between education, research and professional practice, in order to train specialists with a solid theoretical framework and a well-defined ethical-political approach.

### Activities planned for 2025

For 2025, SOCUTRAS will continue its commitment to strengthen the profession through various initiatives. In March, a provincial workshop on updating regulations and social policies will be held in Pinar del Río, in the framework of World Social Work Day. In May, the 1st Provincial Workshop on Social Work and the Environment will be organised in Santiago de Cuba, with the aim of integrating the ecological dimension into social intervention. One of the most important activities of the year will be the 13th National Congress of

Social Work, to be held in September in the province of Holguín, bringing together specialists from all over the country to discuss the advances and challenges of the discipline. In addition, multiple provincial scientific conferences are planned in Guantánamo and Santiago de Cuba, closing the year with the XXXV Provincial Scientific Conference on Social Work in December. In addition, the National Methodological Meeting of Chapter Presidents will continue, consolidating strategies for training and strengthening the profession.

## El Salvador



### Summary of 2024

In 2024, the Association of Social Workers of El Salvador (ATSES) achieved important advances in the consolidation and professionalisation of the profession. One of the most relevant milestones was the approval of the Master's Degree in Clinical Social Work in coordination with the University of El Salvador, a key project for the academic strengthening of the discipline. In addition, a specialised course in psychosoci-

## Regions

# IFSW Latin America and Caribbean

al care for victims of sexual abuse was held, with the participation of more than 120 attendees. Efforts were also made for the epistemological and ontological defence of Clinical Social Work, through forums and meetings with the Higher Council of Public Health and the Supreme Court of Justice, seeking formal recognition of this specialisation. On the other hand, ATSES strengthened its internal structure with the swearing in of 321 new members, monthly meetings of its boards of directors and the acquisition of technological equipment and furniture to improve its operations.

In terms of union achievements, ATSES consolidated its institutional legitimacy, achieving recognition from public and private institutions, as well as strengthening financial transparency with the hiring of an accountant and external audit. It also made progress in the digitalisation and updating of its membership files, ensuring a better safeguarding of information. A positive union atmosphere was established between the ATSES Board of Directors and the Supervisory Board, promoting more efficient management. The challenges for 2025 include starting the first cohort of the Master's in Clinical Social Work, creating a virtual library for the guild, increasing membership and continuing with the process of legitimising Clinical Social Work in the country.

### Activities planned for 2025

For 2025, ATSES has a number of key activities planned to further strengthen the

profession in El Salvador. Monthly swearing-in of new members will take place, as well as regular meetings of both the ATSES Board of Directors and the Supervisory Board. Among the most important events will be the General Assembly, where new members of the Board of Directors will be elected. In addition, a congress will be organised in the framework of the Social Work Professional's Day, consolidating the guild and promoting academic and professional exchange.

## Grenada



### Summary of 2024

In 2024, the Grenada Association of Professional Social Workers (GAPSW) undertook various initiatives to strengthen the profession and support the community. A consultation was held on the National Strategic Action Plan for Disability, promoting inclusion and the rights of persons with disabilities. In addition, meetings were held with the Ministry of Social Development, Housing and Gender Affairs to strengthen collaboration between the government and the association. On the educational front, GAPSW, in collaboration

## Regions

# IFSW Latin America and Caribbean

with Florida State University, organised a seminar in commemoration of World Social Work Day, addressing the impact of the discipline on transformative social change.

The association also played a crucial role in psychosocial support in the aftermath of natural disasters, working with the Ministry of Social Development to assist victims of Hurricane Beryl, which severely affected the country. Its members also participated in the Court of Forensic Investigation to support the family of a victim of police violence. In the area of solidarity, a ceremony was held to present funds and relief items raised through diaspora donations for social assistance programmes. GAPSW also expanded its community impact with the participation of one of its members on the board of directors of the Grand Anse Nursing Home, contributing to the welfare of the elderly.

### Activities planned for 2025

By 2025, GAPSW plans to continue its work in training and supporting social workers. Among its main projects is the development of a mentoring programme for social work students at TA Marryshow Community College, as well as a meeting with the Public Service Commission to discuss employment criteria for social workers. A field trip for students from Florida State University will also be organised, accompanied by a seminar on World Social Work Day. In addition, GAPSW seeks to

increase its membership and develop a code of ethics to guide professional practice in the country.

## Mexico



### Summary of 2024

During 2024, the National Federation of Colleges of Social Workers of Mexico (FENACOTSMEX) played a key role in promoting and strengthening the profession in the country and internationally. One of the most outstanding achievements was the participation in the General Assembly of IFSW 2024 in Panama, where Gabriela Rodríguez Vázquez was appointed Vice-President of the Latin American and Caribbean Region. The federation also organised four virtual conferences in the framework of the International Day of Social Work, addressing topics such as reading as a tool for transformation, the concept of Good Living, art in human coexistence and change management in the discipline. A virtual workshop was also held for the construction of the Mission, Vision and Values of the member colleges, which allo-



## Regions

# IFSW Latin America and Caribbean

wed the cohesion and principles of the federation to be strengthened.

In the area of union advocacy, research was initiated on the working conditions of social workers in Mexico, with the aim of providing formal support to the struggle for their rights. In addition, the federation accompanied events of great relevance, such as the LXXI National and XI International Congress of Social Work in Chihuahua, entitled "Social Work: Its intervention in the Complexity and Diversity in the Contemporary World". The 3rd National and 2nd International Congress was also held in Uruapan, Michoacán, with the participation of representatives from several Latin American countries. Finally, three new schools from Mérida, Tlaxcala and Mexico City were welcomed, consolidating the growth of the federation. FENACOTSMEX closed the year with a meeting in Guadalajara, where fundamental documents were reviewed, such as the Code of Ethics, the internal regulations and the regionalisation of the federation in harmonisation with the IFSWF.

### Activities planned for 2025

For 2025, the federation has scheduled multiple activities aimed at strengthening the profession and its recognition in Mexico and the region. In March, the International Day of Social Work will be celebrated with the theme "Strengthening intergenerational solidarity for lasting well-being", highlighting the importance of respect between generations for the construction

of sustainable societies. In August, the 4th National and 3rd International Congress of FENACOTSMEX will be held in Merida, Yucatan, followed by the Annual Assembly of the Boards of Directors of the Colleges, where the election of the new presidency of the federation will take place. During this event, for the first time, recognition will be given to the best performing college, based on its conduct and adherence to the Code of Ethics. In addition, the federation will attend the Regional Meeting of Latin America and the Caribbean in Paraguay and will continue with the effort to add more colleges until it reaches representation in all 32 states of Mexico. Progress will also be made in the presentation of the proposed Law on the Professional Practice of Social Work, with the goal of achieving its discussion in Congress and the Senate.

## Panama



### Summary of 2024

2024 was a key year for the Association of Social Workers of Panama, marked by the organisation and holding of the World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development, held from 4 to 7 April

## Regions

# IFSW Latin America and Caribbean

with the support of the International Federation of Social Work (IFSW), the International Federation of Schools of Social Work and the International Council on Social Welfare. This event represented a great logistical and organisational challenge, allowing Latin America and the Caribbean to showcase their theoretical, cultural and craft potential in a space of global relevance. At the same time, the association remained active in the defence of the professional rights of the guild, aligning its efforts with the national political context, as general elections were held in Panama in May.

In addition to the conference, the association developed various activities during the year, such as the celebration of the Panama Social Worker's Day on 6 September, in which interventions were carried out in indigenous communities, providing social support and assessments to manage resources. Another important milestone was the acquisition of a property from the State, which is in the process of being transferred to become the future headquarters of the organisation. The association also consolidated its presence at the national level, participating in meetings of professional organisations and being recognised as a convention leader by PRONTUR. The association has continued to strengthen its role as a consultative body in public policies and to support social workers in different institutional spaces.

### Activities planned for 2025

For 2025, the Association of Social Workers of Panama has as priorities the adaptation and repair of its new headquarters and the strengthening of the defence of the social and labour rights of the union. One of the main challenges will be the fight against the privatisation of pension funds, guaranteeing social security as a public right. At the academic level, a Doctorate in Social Work will be established in collaboration with the National University of Panama, in order to raise the level of professional training in the country. The association will also work on the revision and updating of its Code of Ethics and Deontology, in addition to continuing its work as a consultative body in the discussion of a possible Original Constituent for constitutional reform in Panama.

## Paraguay



### Summary of 2024

During 2024, the Association of Social Service or Social Work Professionals of Paraguay (APSSTS-PY) consolidated its role in the promotion and strengthening of the guild at national and international le-

## Regions

# IFSW Latin America and Caribbean

vel. Among its main activities, its participation in the World Assembly of the IFSWW and the World Conference in Panama in April stood out, strengthening the representation of Paraguay in global social work spaces. At the national level, the association carried out elections of authorities, both at the central level and in the branches of Ñeembucú and Concepción, ensuring the continuity of leadership in the union. Visits and accompaniment were also made to the branches, fostering links with professionals in different regions of the country.

One of the most important achievements of the year was the equalisation of the working hours of social workers in the public health sector with other health professionals, which represents a significant step forward in the struggle for better working conditions. In addition, APSSTS-PY consolidated its position with health sector institutions, strengthening its influence on public policies. In the academic sphere, postgraduate courses in health were promoted in agreement with the National University of Asunción and the National University of Pilar, as well as the presentation of proposals for specialisation in Social Work for the period 2025. The association also participated in the evaluation of the Social Work degree programme at the National University of Pilar, consolidating its role as an evaluator of professional training.

### Activities planned for 2025

For 2025, APSSTS-PY will continue with its commitment to strengthen the profession and improve the working conditions of the guild. Among the main actions, we highlight the implementation of specialisation programmes in Social Work at the National University of Pilar, promoting the professionalisation of the sector. Training for teachers and social workers will also be continued, ensuring a constant updating of intervention methodologies. In the trade union sphere, the struggle for the full recognition of the work of social workers in the areas of health and public policies will be intensified, and the representation of APSSTS-PY in international organisations will be expanded. Finally, closer ties with the country's universities will be foreseen in order to strengthen academic training and research in social work.

### Puerto Rico

#### Summary of 2024

During 2024, the Puerto Rico College of Social Work Professionals (CPTSPR) focused its efforts on protecting and strengthening the profession, addressing key regulations and defending mandatory membership before a legal process in the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico (TSPR). Despite this challenge, progress was made in the regulation and enforcement of professional practice, as well as in the promotion of knowledge through the Institute

## Regions

# IFSW Latin America and Caribbean

of Continuing Education (IEC). In the area of political advocacy, the CPTSPR participated in the 16 days of activism against gender violence, as well as in the defence of the labour rights of social workers through the support of Bill PS 893. Visibility efforts were also made with the campaign "Who protects those who protect us?"

The College strengthened its participation in national and international forums, with representation at the IFSW General Assembly and the World Conference in Panama. Various initiatives were also carried out to improve the welfare of the association, including the celebration of Social Work Day, the creation of training and continuing education spaces, and the consolidation of alliances with academic entities and non-profit organisations. In the legislative sphere, work was carried out to review and adjust the Code of Ethics to strengthen the profession's regulatory framework. Actions were also implemented to improve institutional communication and the modernisation of administrative systems, facilitating interaction with the membership.

### Activities planned for 2025

By 2025, the CPTSPR will continue its mission to strengthen the profession through recruitment and retention strategies, with regional chapters as key liaisons. It plans to review and update bylaws, adapting them to legislative and organisational changes, with the possibility of convening an extraordinary assembly to discuss resolutions. Work will also be done to de-

velop professional regulation in the face of possible threats and changes in social policies. The modernisation of the Code of Ethics, the strengthening of the services offered by the Professional Ethics Commission and the monitoring of changes in the profession through the Legislation Commission are planned. In addition, technological and structural improvements will be promoted, including upgrades to the telephony and payment systems, as well as renovations to the College's headquarters. Finally, the creation of spaces for self-care and mutual support for employees and volunteers will be promoted, along with the strengthening of strategic alliances with national and international organisations.

## Suriname



### Summary of 2024

During 2024, the Association of Social Workers of Suriname (VSWS) carried out a series of activities focused on strengthening its members and making a positive im-

## Regions

# IFSW Latin America and Caribbean

impact on the community. Trainings, workshops and conferences were held with the aim of improving the professional competencies and emotional well-being of social workers, including sessions on resilience and mental health. In addition, students and trainees were actively involved, allowing them to gain practical experience and strengthening the connection with the association. In parallel, awareness-raising sessions were developed at national level, addressing issues such as gender-based violence, bullying, social inclusion and sexual health in schools and communities.

In response to the immediate needs of the community, VSWS organised clothing fairs to provide affordable clothing to vulnerable people and collaborated in a wheelchair distribution programme for people with reduced mobility. Thanks to these initiatives, significant results were achieved, such as the participation of more than 50 professionals in training workshops, the integration of 100% of attendees in awareness-raising sessions and the inclusion of 30 students in practical training programmes. These actions reaffirmed the association's commitment to professional development and social transformation in Suriname.

### Activities planned for 2025

By 2025, VSWS will focus on increasing the active participation of its members, improving the welfare of social workers and optimising its operations. A membership support programme will be imple-

mented, providing financial incentives to increase participation in activities. In addition, a work wellness programme will be launched, with workshops and retreats focused on burnout prevention. At the organisational level, work will be done to streamline administrative processes to reduce bureaucratic barriers and improve efficiency. Collaboration with government agencies and NGOs will also be strengthened, broadening the impact of awareness-raising programmes on gender-based violence, HIV, bullying and social inclusion. Finally, a mentoring programme for young people will be developed, promoting integration and professional growth within the association.

## Uruguay

### Summary of 2024

During 2024, the Association of Social Work Professionals of Uruguay (ADASU) continued to consolidate its role as a trade union and political organisation, focusing on the defence and hierarchy of the profession. One of the main axes was the promotion and dissemination of Law No. 19.778, which regulates the professional practice of social work in Uruguay. Several advocacy actions were carried out to ensure its application, including meetings with employers and public bodies. In addition, ADASU participated in the organisation of the XIV National Congress of Social Work, ensuring that it remained a space for professional debate and reflection. At

## Regions

# IFSW Latin America and Caribbean

the international level, the association maintained links with the IFSW and other regional organisations, although it was unable to attend the World Congress due to budgetary constraints.

In terms of institutional strengthening, ADASU promoted statutory reforms, improved communication with its membership and promoted the decentralisation of the association throughout the country. It worked on the creation of the National Plenary and the consolidation of organisational spaces in each department, which allowed for greater representation of professionals from the interior of the country. Progress was also made in the elaboration of a proposal for a professional tariff, with the aim of establishing reference criteria for collective bargaining and the independent practice of social work. In addition, agreements were negotiated with various institutions, offering benefits to their members, and options for changing the association's headquarters were evaluated.

### Activities planned for 2025

For 2025, ADASU's priorities are the implementation of the National Plenary, ensuring greater decentralisation and participation in decision-making. The dissemination and application of Law No. 19.778 will continue, working on campaigns aimed at employers and strengthening the defence of the labour rights of social workers. The formal presentation of the professional tariff is also planned, which will improve hiring conditions in the sector. At

the organisational level, progress will be made in modernising the membership database and improving internal communication systems. Finally, work will be carried out on the possible acquisition or renovation of a new headquarters, ensuring adequate space for the development of trade union and professional activities.

### Regional activities planned for 2025

In terms of activities planned for 2025, a process of appointing regional representatives will be initiated in dialogue with the Secretary General and the global commissioners in charge of the Indigenous Commission and the UN Commission, in accordance with the new [Terms of Reference for the Global Commissions of the IFSW](#).

Finally, a regional face-to-face conference is planned for September in Paraguay.

**Kenia Batista**, regional President

**Gabriela Rodríguez Vázquez**, regional Vice President.

## Read more

We have received some wonderful reports from our members. Although including them in their entirety would exceed the scope of this end-of-year report, we have created a specific page on our regional website where you can find them. Please [click here](#) to read them.

# FITS América Latina y el Caribe



## Países Miembros

La región de América Latina y el Caribe de la Federación Internacional de Trabajadores/as Sociales (FITS) está conformada por los siguientes países miembros: México, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Panamá, Puerto Rico, Cuba, República Dominicana, Surinam, Barbados, Granada, Colombia, Perú, Brasil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Argentina, Chile, Haití. Nicaragua, cuya contribución al Trabajo Social de la región ha sido tan importante, ha dejado de participar debido a circunstancias políticas, sociales y económicas.

## Miembros del Comité Ejecutivo

- **Kenia Batista** (Panamá) - presidenta regional y vicepresidenta global.
- **Gabriela Rodríguez Vázquez** (México) - vicepresidenta regional.

El 1 y 2 de abril del 2024, en Panamá, se realizó la primera [Asamblea General](#) híbrida de la FITS. Los miembros de la Federación expresaron su profundo agradecimiento a los miembros salientes del Comité Ejecutivo, incluidos **Víctor García Toro** (Puerto Rico), como tesorero y **Tânia Maria Ramos** (Brasil), como vicepresidenta de ALC, y confirmaron la elección de Gabriela Rodríguez Vázquez (México) para este puesto y de Kenia Batista (Panamá) como vicepresidenta global.

# FITS América Latina y el Caribe

## Comisionados/as

- Ante la Comisión de Ética de la FITS: **Sharon-Rose Gittens** (Barbados).
- Ante el Grupo de Revisión para la Buena Gobernanza: **Gabriela Rodríguez Vázquez** (México) y **Jorge Arturo Fonseca** (Costa Rica).

## Acontecimientos regionales

El año 2024 ha presentado diversos desafíos para la región: los contextos políticos, los cambios presidenciales, los afianzamientos de modelos económicos que siguen precarizando a las poblaciones y que han marcado las luchas que llevan adelante nuestras asociaciones de Trabajo Social. A pesar de esto, nos enorgullece presentar algunos de los principales logros de la región de América Latina y el Caribe y de los países miembros que la componen, como la articulación del tema *Buen Vivir: un cambio transformador para un futuro compartido*, con profundas raíces latinoamericanas e indígenas.



Joachim Mumba, presidente de la FITS: *El Buen Vivir no es sólo un tema, sino un homenaje a nuestros colegas de la región de América Latina y el Caribe. Su contribución a la hora de interpretar y respaldar este principio ha sido invaluable. Es un testimonio de nuestro compromiso compartido con un futuro que valore a la humanidad, la naturaleza y el cambio transformador.*

## Informes de los miembros



En el marco de estos procesos, los países miembros han dado vida a sus esfuerzos a través de una planificación estratégica que les ha permitido ganar algunas batallas en ámbitos laborales, de colegiaciones, precarización y mercantilismo de la profesión, sin dejar de tomar en cuenta el fortalecimiento organizacional y la educación continua que han sido claves para las estructuras y vigencia de la profesión de Trabajo Social. Presentamos a continuación los informes de nuestros países miembros que dan cuenta de estos logros del 2024 y de las actividades programadas para el año 2025.



## Regiones

# FITS América Latina y el Caribe

## Barbados



### Resumen de 2024

El año 2024 fue un periodo de crecimiento y fortalecimiento para la Asociación de Trabajadores Sociales Profesionales de Barbados (BAPSW). A través del pilar de fortalecimiento de capacidades, 32 miembros se beneficiaron de programas como la certificación en trauma en el trabajo social y la recertificación en primeros auxilios. En el área de compromiso comunitario y defensa, más de 100 trabajadores sociales participaron en iniciativas como la distribución de pulseras con el lema "Buen Vivir 2024", un podcast de concienciación social y el programa LYRICS para la crianza de niños en riesgo. Además, 12 estudiantes de primaria fueron reconocidos con los Premios a la Resiliencia BAPSW 2024. El pilar de apoyo a colegas brindó ayuda financiera a estudiantes y trabajadores sociales en situación

vulnerable, promoviendo su bienestar y desarrollo profesional.

### Actividades previstas para 2025

Para el 2025, BAPSW continuará con su misión de fortalecer el trabajo social en Barbados. En fortalecimiento de capacidades, se ofrecerá nuevamente el curso de trauma en el trabajo social en febrero. En compromiso comunitario, se celebrará el Día Mundial del Trabajo Social con la conferencia "Buen Vivir" el 18 de marzo. También se continuará con el programa de resiliencia para niños y la lectura en línea "Touch". Como parte de la defensa de derechos, en noviembre se implementará el Proyecto Shoebox en apoyo a mujeres pescadoras y sobrevivientes de violencia doméstica. Finalmente, en el ámbito de apoyo a colegas, se lanzará la revista digital trimestral "Upliftment" en noviembre de 2024, promoviendo la reflexión y el desarrollo profesional de los trabajadores sociales.

## Brasil

### Resumen de 2024

El Consejo Federal de Servicio Social (CFESS) en Brasil ha desarrollado un amplio conjunto de acciones durante el 2024, enfocadas en la defensa de la profesión y la consolidación de los derechos sociales. La gestión "Que nuestras voces

# FITS América Latina y el Caribe

coen vida-libertad" (2023-2026) ha priorizado la autonomía de la entidad, el fortalecimiento administrativo-financiero y la profundización del debate ético-político en el trabajo social. En este marco, el CFESS trabajó en tres grandes áreas estratégicas: la finalística, centrada en la orientación y normativización del trabajo profesional; la área medio, que garantizó los recursos para la ejecución de actividades; y la de control, que fortaleció la transparencia en la gestión de los recursos. A lo largo del año, el CFESS impulsó la lucha contra la precarización laboral y la defensa del Código de Ética de la profesión, destacando su compromiso con las causas anticapitalistas, feministas, antirracistas y de justicia social.



Entre los logros más significativos de 2024, el CFESS promovió espacios de debate y formación, impulsando la fiscalización profesional con un enfoque pedagógico, garantizando la calidad del trabajo social en Brasil. También se fortalecieron las acciones de derechos humanos y políticas de seguridad social, consolidando la participación del CFESS en organismos nacionales e internacionales.

Además, se llevaron a cabo iniciativas en comunicación y transparencia, con la implementación de nuevos mecanismos para el acceso público a la información sobre la gestión. Estas estrategias se desarrollaron en un contexto de desafíos estructurales, marcados por la crisis socioeconómica y el aumento de la precarización del trabajo en el país, lo que exigió respuestas rápidas y estrategias de resistencia desde el CFESS y su red de apoyo.

## Actividades previstas para 2025

Para 2025, el CFESS continuará con su misión de fortalecer la profesión y la defensa de los derechos sociales en Brasil. Entre las principales acciones está la realización del 18° Congreso Brasileño de Asistentes Sociales (CBAS), que reunirá a especialistas de todo el país para debatir sobre el futuro del trabajo social en un contexto de transformación social. Además, se organizará la tercera edición del Curso de Especialización en Servicio Social, una iniciativa clave para la formación continua de los profesionales del área. Se mantendrá el énfasis en la fiscalización ética y profesional, con la ejecución de nuevas estrategias para asegurar el cumplimiento del Código de Ética y la legislación laboral. Finalmente, en 2025, se conmemorarán los 100 años de la profesión del Trabajo Social en América Latina, un hito que será celebrado con diversas actividades académicas y gremiales, reafirmando el compromiso del CFESS

## Regiones

# FITS América Latina y el Caribe

con la historia y el futuro del trabajo social en la región.

## Chile



### Resumen de 2024

En 2024, el Colegio de Trabajadoras y Trabajadores Sociales de Chile A.G. centró sus esfuerzos en la preparación del centenario de la profesión, destacando la organización de un concurso de logo y afiche, cuyo objetivo fue proporcionar la identidad visual del evento con un premio en efectivo para la propuesta ganadora. Este concurso se llevó a cabo entre julio y agosto, con una consulta nacional en agosto para seleccionar al ganador.

Además del concurso, el Colegio de Trabajadoras y Trabajadores Sociales de Chile desarrolló diversas iniciativas para fortalecer la identidad profesional y la visibilidad del trabajo social en el país. Durante

el año, se llevaron a cabo encuentros y diálogos a nivel nacional para reflexionar sobre los desafíos y avances de la disciplina, preparando el terreno para la conmemoración del centenario en 2025. Estas actividades no solo permitieron la participación activa de los miembros del colegio, sino que también fomentaron el debate sobre el impacto del trabajo social en la sociedad chilena, destacando la importancia de la ética, la legislación y el rol de los trabajadores sociales en contextos de crisis y transformación social.

### Actividades previstas para 2025

El 2025 estará marcado por la conmemoración del centenario del Trabajo Social en Chile. La actividad central tendrá lugar el 5 de mayo en el ex Congreso Nacional, con una ceremonia organizada por la Comisión Centenario, el Consejo Nacional y el Consejo Provincial de Santiago. Se planifican tres días de eventos, incluyendo un seminario nacional y un encuentro de presidentes latinoamericanos. Además, habrá encuentros provinciales en varias regiones del país, abordando temas como peritaje social, ética en el trabajo social, ley de trabajo social y problemáticas socioambientales. En marzo, el centenario iniciará con la conmemoración del Día Mundial del Trabajo Social, y en noviembre se celebrará el Día del Trabajador Social en todas las provincias.

# FITS América Latina y el Caribe

## Costa Rica



### Resumen de 2024

El Colegio de Trabajadores Sociales de Costa Rica (COLTRAS) ha desarrollado un intenso trabajo en 2024, consolidando sus esfuerzos en diversas áreas clave para la profesión. La Unidad de Investigación se ha enfocado en fortalecer el análisis de las condiciones laborales y socio-ocupacionales del gremio, estableciendo comisiones especializadas en temas como género y salud mental, así como promoviendo la divulgación del conocimiento mediante un Repositorio Especializado en Trabajo Social. Además, la Unidad de Educación Permanente (UEP) ha ejecutado un amplio programa de formación continua, ofreciendo cursos y seminarios sobre intervención en crisis, salud mental y trabajo social pericial, con una alta participación de profesionales en diferentes regiones del país.

Desde la gestión administrativa, COLTRAS ha trabajado en mejorar sus procesos internos y en la actualización de su infraestructura. Se implementaron mejoras en las instalaciones del colegio, y se

avanzó en la gestión de cobros y beneficios para los agremiados. Además, la institución ha fortalecido sus relaciones con organizaciones nacionales e internacionales, participando en congresos y foros de discusión sobre la profesión. Un aspecto clave ha sido la defensa de los espacios laborales del trabajo social ante el contexto de crisis y precarización del empleo, lo que ha llevado a acciones estratégicas de incidencia política y gremial.

### Actividades previstas para 2025

Para el 2025, COLTRAS tiene como prioridad la consolidación de la investigación y formación profesional. La Unidad de Investigación continuará su labor con el fortalecimiento de la Jornada Nacional de Investigación, enfocándose en el desarrollo de estudios sobre condiciones laborales y tendencias en el ejercicio del trabajo social. También se ampliará el Repositorio Especializado en Trabajo Social y se fortalecerán las alianzas internacionales. En cuanto a la educación continua, se planifican nuevos cursos y programas, incluyendo formación en intervención socio-jurídica y trabajo social forense. Además, se iniciará la construcción de una tapia perimetral en el edificio anexo del colegio para mejorar la infraestructura. A nivel administrativo, se proyecta un crecimiento presupuestario del 11.83% para garantizar la sostenibilidad financiera del colegio y seguir ofreciendo servicios de calidad a los profesionales agremiados.

# FITS América Latina y el Caribe

## Cuba

### Resumen de 2024

Durante el 2024, la Sociedad Cubana de Trabajadores Sociales de la Salud (SOCUTRAS) llevó a cabo diversas actividades orientadas a fortalecer el papel del trabajador social en el ámbito sanitario. Entre las acciones más relevantes destacan la XV Jornada Científica Nacional de Trabajadores Sociales de la Salud, celebrada en Villa Clara en marzo, en el marco del Día Mundial del Trabajo Social. Además, se realizó la celebración del Día Nacional del Trabajo Social de la Salud en mayo, combinando espacios científicos y recreativos en cada uno de los capítulos. En octubre, se organizaron jornadas científicas en los capítulos regionales, permitiendo la actualización de conocimientos y el intercambio de experiencias entre profesionales del área. Finalmente, en noviembre, se llevó a cabo la Reunión Metodológica Nacional de Presidentas de Capítulos, junto con la celebración del Día de Reconocimiento a la Especialidad de Trabajo Social, en el marco de la Medicina Latinoamericana.

En cuanto a los logros alcanzados, se consolidó el reconocimiento del trabajador social como una figura esencial en las instituciones sociales y del sistema de salud, reafirmando su intervención en la implementación de políticas públicas. También se destacó la participación de los profesionales del área en los Grupos

Básicos de Trabajo de las unidades de salud, fortaleciendo su rol en la planificación y ejecución de estrategias de bienestar social. Además, se logró la apertura de la licenciatura en Trabajo Social, un hito importante para la profesionalización del campo en Cuba. No obstante, se identificaron retos a futuro, como la necesidad de mejorar la articulación entre educación, investigación y práctica profesional, para formar especialistas con un sólido marco teórico y un enfoque ético-político bien definido.

### Actividades previstas para 2025

Para el 2025, SOCUTRAS continuará con su compromiso de fortalecer la profesión a través de diversas iniciativas. En marzo, se llevará a cabo un taller provincial sobre actualización normativa y políticas sociales en Pinar del Río, en el marco del Día Mundial del Trabajo Social. En mayo, se organizará el I Taller Provincial de Trabajo Social y Medio Ambiente en Santiago de Cuba, con el objetivo de integrar la dimensión ecológica en la intervención social. Una de las actividades más relevantes del año será el XIII Congreso Nacional de Trabajo Social, que se celebrará en septiembre en la provincia de Holguín, reuniendo a especialistas de todo el país para debatir sobre los avances y desafíos de la disciplina. Asimismo, se prevén múltiples jornadas científicas provinciales en Guantánamo y Santiago de Cuba, cerrando el año con la XXXV Jornada Científica Provincial de Trabajo Social en diciembre.

## Regiones

# FITS América Latina y el Caribe

Además, se continuará con la Reunión Metodológica Nacional de Presidentas de Capítulos, consolidando estrategias de formación y fortalecimiento gremial.

## El Salvador



### Resumen de 2024

En 2024, la Asociación de Trabajadores y Trabajadoras Sociales de El Salvador (ATSES) alcanzó importantes avances en la consolidación y profesionalización del gremio. Uno de los hitos más relevantes fue la aprobación de la Maestría en Trabajo Social Clínico en coordinación con la Universidad de El Salvador, un proyecto clave para el fortalecimiento académico de la disciplina. Además, se llevó a cabo un curso especializado en atención psicosocial a víctimas de abuso sexual, con la participación de más de 120 asistentes. También se realizaron esfuerzos para la defensa epistemológica y ontológica del Trabajo Social Clínico, mediante foros y reuniones con el Consejo Superior de Salud Pública y la Corte Suprema de Justicia, buscando el reconocimiento formal de

esta especialización. Por otro lado, ATSES fortaleció su estructura interna con la juramentación de 321 nuevos miembros, reuniones mensuales de sus juntas directivas y la adquisición de equipos tecnológicos y mobiliario para mejorar su operatividad.

En términos de logros gremiales, ATSES consolidó su legitimidad institucional, logrando el reconocimiento de instituciones públicas y privadas, así como fortaleciendo la transparencia financiera con la contratación de una contadora y auditoría externa. Además, avanzó en la digitalización y actualización de expedientes de su membresía, asegurando un mejor resguardo de la información. Se estableció una atmósfera gremial positiva entre la Junta Directiva de ATSES y la Junta Directiva de Vigilancia, promoviendo una gestión más eficiente. Dentro de los desafíos para 2025, se plantea iniciar la primera cohorte de la Maestría en Trabajo Social Clínico, crear una biblioteca virtual para el gremio, aumentar la membresía y continuar con el proceso de legitimación del Trabajo Social Clínico en el país.

### Actividades previstas para 2025

Para 2025, ATSES tiene programadas una serie de actividades clave para seguir fortaleciendo la profesión en El Salvador. Se llevarán a cabo juramentaciones mensuales de nuevos miembros, así como reuniones periódicas tanto de la Junta Directiva de ATSES como de la Junta Directiva de Vigilancia. Entre los eventos más destaca-

## Regiones

# FITS América Latina y el Caribe

dos está la realización de la Asamblea General, donde se elegirá a los nuevos miembros de la Junta Directiva. Asimismo, se organizará un congreso en el marco del Día del Profesional en Trabajo Social, consolidando el gremio y promoviendo el intercambio académico y profesional.

## Granada



### Resumen de 2024

En 2024, la Asociación de Trabajadores Sociales Profesionales de Granada (GAPSW) llevó a cabo diversas iniciativas para fortalecer la profesión y apoyar a la comunidad. Se realizó una consulta sobre el Plan Nacional de Acción Estratégica para la Discapacidad, promoviendo la inclusión y los derechos de las personas con discapacidad. Además, se mantuvieron reuniones con el Ministerio de Desarrollo Social, Vivienda y Asuntos de Género para fortalecer la colaboración entre el gobierno y la asociación. En el ámbito educativo, GAPSW, en colaboración con la Universidad Estatal de Florida, organizó un seminario en conmemoración del Día Mundial del Trabajo Social, abordando el

impacto de la disciplina en el cambio social transformador.

La asociación también jugó un papel crucial en el apoyo psicosocial tras los desastres naturales, colaborando con el Ministerio de Desarrollo Social para asistir a las víctimas del huracán Beryl, que afectó gravemente el país. Asimismo, sus miembros participaron en la Corte de Investigación Forense para brindar apoyo a la familia de una víctima de violencia policial. En el ámbito de la solidaridad, se llevó a cabo una ceremonia de entrega de fondos y artículos de ayuda recaudados a través de donaciones de la diáspora, destinados a programas de asistencia social. GAPSW también expandió su impacto comunitario con la participación de uno de sus miembros en la junta directiva del Hogar de Ancianos de Grand Anse, contribuyendo al bienestar de los adultos mayores.

### Actividades previstas para 2025

Para el 2025, GAPSW planea continuar su trabajo en la formación y apoyo a los trabajadores sociales. Entre sus principales proyectos está el desarrollo de un programa de mentoría para estudiantes de trabajo social en el Colegio Comunitario TA Marryshow, así como una reunión con la Comisión del Servicio Público para discutir los criterios de empleo de trabajadores sociales. También se organizará un viaje de campo para estudiantes de la Universidad Estatal de Florida, acompañado de un seminario en el Día Mundial del Trabajo

## Regiones

# FITS América Latina y el Caribe

Social. Además, GAPSW busca aumentar su membresía y desarrollar un código de ética que guíe la práctica profesional en el país.

## México



### Resumen de 2024

Durante el 2024, la Federación Nacional de Colegios de Trabajadores Sociales de México (FENACOTSMEX) desempeñó un papel clave en la promoción y fortalecimiento de la profesión en el país y a nivel internacional. Uno de los logros más destacados fue la participación en la Asamblea General de la FITS 2024 en Panamá, donde la Mtra. Gabriela Rodríguez Vázquez fue nombrada Vicepresidenta de la Región de América Latina y el Caribe. Asimismo, la federación organizó cuatro conferencias virtuales en el marco del Día Internacional del Trabajo Social, abordando temas como la lectura como herramienta de transformación, el concepto del Buen Vivir, el arte en la convivencia humana y el manejo del cambio en la disciplina. También se llevó a cabo un taller virtual para la construcción de la Misión, Visión y

Valores de los colegios miembros, lo que permitió fortalecer la cohesión y los principios de la federación.

En el ámbito de la defensa gremial, se inició una investigación sobre las condiciones laborales de los trabajadores sociales en México, con el objetivo de proporcionar un sustento formal a la lucha por sus derechos. Además, la federación acompañó eventos de gran relevancia, como el LXXI Congreso Nacional y XI Internacional de Trabajo Social en Chihuahua, titulado "El Trabajo Social: Su intervención en la Complejidad y Diversidad en el Mundo Contemporáneo". También se llevó a cabo el 3er Congreso Nacional y 2do Internacional en Uruapan, Michoacán, con participación de representantes de varios países de América Latina. Finalmente, se dio la bienvenida a tres nuevos colegios de Mérida, Tlaxcala y Ciudad de México, consolidando el crecimiento de la federación. La FENACOTSMEX cerró el año con una reunión en Guadalajara, donde se revisaron documentos fundamentales, como el Código de Ética, el reglamento interno y la regionalización de la federación en armonización con la FITS.

### Actividades previstas para 2025

Para 2025, la federación tiene programadas múltiples actividades que buscan fortalecer la profesión y su reconocimiento en México y la región. En marzo, se celebrará el Día Internacional del Trabajo Social con el tema "Fortalecer la solidaridad intergeneracional para un bienestar duradero", destacando la importancia del respeto



# FITS América Latina y el Caribe

entre generaciones para la construcción de sociedades sostenibles. En agosto, se llevará a cabo en Mérida, Yucatán, el 4to Congreso Nacional y 3er Internacional de la FENACOTSMEX, seguido por la Asamblea Anual de los Consejos Directivos de los Colegios, donde se realizará la elección de la nueva presidencia de la federación. Durante este evento, se otorgará por primera vez un reconocimiento al colegio con mejor desempeño, en función de su conducta y apego al Código de Ética. Además, la federación asistirá a la Reunión Regional de América Latina y el Caribe en Paraguay y continuará con el esfuerzo de sumar más colegios hasta alcanzar representación en los 32 estados de México. También se avanzará en la presentación de la propuesta de Ley del Ejercicio Profesional del Trabajo Social, con la meta de lograr su discusión en el Congreso y el Senad.

## Panamá



### Resumen de 2024

El 2024 fue un año clave para la Asociación de Trabajadores Sociales de Panamá, marcado por la organización y realización

de la Conferencia Mundial de Trabajo Social, Educación y Desarrollo Social, llevada a cabo del 4 al 7 de abril con el respaldo de la Federación Internacional de Trabajo Social (FITS), la Internacional de Escuelas de Trabajo Social y el Consejo Internacional de Bienestar Social. Este evento representó un gran reto logístico y organizativo, permitiendo que Latinoamérica y el Caribe mostraran su potencial teórico, cultural y artesanal en un espacio de relevancia mundial. Paralelamente, la asociación se mantuvo activa en la defensa de los derechos profesionales del gremio, alineando sus esfuerzos con el contexto político nacional, ya que en mayo se llevaron a cabo las elecciones generales en Panamá.

Además de la conferencia, la asociación desarrolló diversas actividades durante el año, como la celebración del Día del Trabajador Social de Panamá el 6 de septiembre, en la cual se realizaron intervenciones en comunidades indígenas, brindando apoyo social y evaluaciones para gestionar recursos. Otro hito importante fue la adquisición de un bien inmueble por parte del Estado, que está en proceso de traspaso para ser la futura sede de la organización. También se consolidó la presencia del gremio en el ámbito nacional, participando en juntas de organizaciones profesionales y siendo reconocidos como líderes de convenciones por PRONTUR. La asociación ha seguido fortaleciendo su papel como ente consultivo

## Regiones

# FITS América Latina y el Caribe

en políticas públicas y apoyando a los trabajadores sociales en distintos espacios institucionales.

### Actividades previstas para 2025

Para 2025, la Asociación de Trabajadores Sociales de Panamá tiene como prioridades la adecuación y reparación de su nueva sede y el fortalecimiento de la defensa de los derechos sociales y laborales del gremio. Uno de los principales retos será la lucha contra la privatización de los fondos de pensiones, garantizando la seguridad social como un derecho público. A nivel académico, se busca establecer un Doctorado en Trabajo Social en colaboración con la Universidad Nacional de Panamá, con el fin de elevar la formación profesional en el país. La asociación también trabajará en la revisión y actualización de su Código de Ética y Deontológico, además de continuar su labor como ente consultivo en la discusión de una posible Constituyente Originaria para la reforma constitucional en Panamá.

## Paraguay

### Resumen de 2024

Durante el 2024, la Asociación de Profesionales de Servicio Social o Trabajo Social del Paraguay (APSSTS-PY) consolidó su rol en la promoción y fortalecimiento del gremio a nivel nacional e internacional. Entre sus principales actividades, se

destacó su participación en la Asamblea Mundial de la FITS y la Conferencia Mundial en Panamá en abril, fortaleciendo la representación del Paraguay en los espacios globales de trabajo social. A nivel nacional, la asociación llevó a cabo elecciones de autoridades, tanto a nivel central como en las filiales de Ñeembucú y Concepción, asegurando la continuidad del liderazgo en el gremio. También se realizaron visitas y acompañamientos a las filiales, fomentando el vínculo con los profesionales en diferentes regiones del país.



Uno de los logros más importantes del año fue la equiparación de la carga horaria de los trabajadores sociales del sector de la salud pública con otros profesionales del área sanitaria, lo que representa un avance significativo en la lucha por mejores condiciones laborales. Además, la APSSTS-PY consolidó su posicionamiento ante instituciones del sector salud, reforzando su incidencia en políticas públicas. En el ámbito académico, se promovieron cursos de posgrado en salud en convenio con la Universidad Nacional de Asunción y la Universidad Nacional de Pilar, así como la presentación de propu-

# FITS América Latina y el Caribe

estas de especialización en Trabajo Social para el período 2025. Asimismo, la asociación participó en la evaluación de la carrera de Trabajo Social en la Universidad Nacional de Pilar, consolidando su papel como ente evaluador en la formación profesional.

### Actividades previstas para 2025

Para el 2025, la APSSTS-PY continuará con su compromiso de fortalecer la profesión y mejorar las condiciones laborales del gremio. Entre las principales acciones, se destaca la implementación de los programas de especialización en Trabajo Social en la Universidad Nacional de Pilar, impulsando la profesionalización del sector. También se dará continuidad a las capacitaciones dirigidas a docentes y trabajadores sociales, asegurando una actualización constante en las metodologías de intervención. En el ámbito gremial, se intensificará la lucha por el reconocimiento pleno de la labor del trabajador social en los espacios de salud y políticas públicas, y se buscará ampliar la representación de la APSSTS-PY en organismos internacionales. Finalmente, se prevé un mayor acercamiento con las universidades del país para fortalecer la formación académica y la investigación en trabajo social.

## Puerto Rico

### Resumen de 2024

Durante el 2024, el Colegio de Profesionales de Trabajo Social de Puerto Rico (CPTSPR) centró sus esfuerzos en la protección y fortalecimiento de la profesión, abordando regulaciones clave y defendiendo la colegiación obligatoria ante un proceso legal en el Tribunal Supremo de Puerto Rico (TSPR). A pesar de este desafío, se avanzó en la regulación y cumplimiento del ejercicio profesional, así como en la promoción del conocimiento a través del Instituto de Educación Continua (IEC). En el ámbito de incidencia política, el CPTSPR participó en la campaña de 16 días de activismo contra la violencia de género, así como en la defensa de los derechos laborales de los trabajadores sociales mediante el respaldo del Proyecto de Ley PS 893. También se realizaron esfuerzos de visibilización con la campaña "¿Quién protege a los que nos protegen?", destacando el impacto del trabajo social en la sociedad.

El colegio reforzó su participación en foros nacionales e internacionales, con representación en la Asamblea General de la FITS y la Conferencia Mundial en Panamá. Asimismo, se realizaron diversas iniciativas para la mejora del bienestar gremial, incluyendo la celebración del Día del Trabajo Social, la creación de espacios

## Regiones

# FITS América Latina y el Caribe

de formación y educación continua y la consolidación de alianzas con entidades académicas y organizaciones sin fines de lucro. En el ámbito legislativo, se trabajó en la revisión y ajuste del Código de Ética para fortalecer el marco normativo de la profesión. También se implementaron acciones para la mejora de la comunicación institucional y la modernización de los sistemas administrativos, facilitando la interacción con la membresía.

### Actividades previstas para 2025

Para el 2025, el CPTSPR continuará con su misión de fortalecer la profesión mediante estrategias de reclutamiento y retención de matrícula, con los capítulos regionales como enlaces clave. Se prevé la revisión y actualización de reglamentos, adaptándolos a los cambios legislativos y organizativos, con la posibilidad de convocar una asamblea extraordinaria para discutir resoluciones. También se trabajará en la defensa de la regulación profesional ante posibles amenazas y cambios en las políticas sociales. Se proyecta la modernización del Código de Ética, el fortalecimiento de los servicios ofrecidos por la Comisión de Ética Profesional y la vigilancia de cambios en la profesión a través de la Comisión de Legislación. Además, se impulsarán mejoras tecnológicas y estructurales, incluyendo actualizaciones en los sistemas de telefonía y pagos, así como renovaciones en la sede del colegio. Finalmente, se promoverá la creación de espacios de autocuidado y apoyo mutuo

para empleados y voluntarios, junto con el fortalecimiento de alianzas estratégicas con organizaciones nacionales e internacionales.

## Surinam



### Resumen de 2024

Durante el 2024, la Asociación de Trabajadores Sociales de Surinam (VSW) llevó a cabo una serie de actividades enfocadas en el fortalecimiento de sus miembros y el impacto positivo en la comunidad. Se realizaron capacitaciones, talleres y conferencias con el objetivo de mejorar las competencias profesionales y el bienestar emocional de los trabajadores sociales, incluyendo sesiones sobre resiliencia y salud mental. Además, se involucró activamente a estudiantes y trabajadores en formación, permitiéndoles adquirir experiencia práctica y fortaleciendo la conexión con la asociación. Paralelamente, se

## Regiones

# FITS América Latina y el Caribe

desarrollaron sesiones de concienciación a nivel nacional, abordando temas como violencia de género, acoso escolar, inclusión social y salud sexual en escuelas y comunidades.

En respuesta a las necesidades inmediatas de la comunidad, VSWS organizó ferias de ropa para ofrecer prendas asequibles a personas en situación de vulnerabilidad y colaboró en un programa de distribución de sillas de ruedas para personas con movilidad reducida. Gracias a estas iniciativas, se lograron resultados significativos, como la participación de más de 50 profesionales en talleres de capacitación, la integración del 100% de los asistentes en sesiones de concienciación y la inclusión de 30 estudiantes en programas de formación práctica. Estas acciones reafirmaron el compromiso de la asociación con el desarrollo profesional y la transformación social en Surinam.

### Actividades previstas para 2025

Para el 2025, VSWS se enfocará en incrementar la participación activa de sus miembros, mejorar el bienestar de los trabajadores sociales y optimizar sus operaciones. Se implementará un programa de apoyo a la membresía, brindando incentivos financieros para aumentar la participación en actividades. Además, se lanzará un programa de bienestar laboral, con talleres y retiros enfocados en la prevención del agotamiento profesional. A nivel organizativo, se trabajará en la simplificación de procesos administrativos para reducir barreras burocráticas y mejorar la eficien-

cia. También se fortalecerá la colaboración con agencias gubernamentales y ONG, ampliando el impacto de los programas de concienciación sobre violencia de género, VIH, acoso escolar e inclusión social. Finalmente, se desarrollará un programa de mentoría para jóvenes, promoviendo la integración y el crecimiento profesional dentro de la asociación.

## Uruguay

### Resumen de 2024

Durante el 2024, la Asociación de Profesionales de Trabajo Social del Uruguay (ADASU) continuó consolidando su rol como organización gremial y política, enfocándose en la defensa y jerarquización de la profesión. Uno de los ejes principales fue la promoción y difusión de la Ley N° 19.778, que regula el ejercicio profesional del trabajo social en Uruguay. Se realizaron diversas acciones de incidencia para garantizar su aplicación, incluyendo reuniones con empleadores y organismos públicos. Además, ADASU participó en la organización del XIV Congreso Nacional de Trabajo Social, asegurando que se mantuviera como un espacio de debate y reflexión profesional. A nivel internacional, la asociación mantuvo vínculos con la FITS y otras organizaciones regionales, aunque no pudo asistir al Congreso Mundial debido a limitaciones presupuestarias.

En cuanto al fortalecimiento institucional, ADASU impulsó reformas estatutarias, mejoró la comunicación con su memb-

# FITS América Latina y el Caribe

resía y promovió la descentralización de la asociación en todo el país. Se trabajó en la creación del Plenario Nacional y la consolidación de espacios organizativos en cada departamento, lo que permitió una mayor representación de los profesionales del interior del país. También se avanzó en la elaboración de una propuesta de arancel profesional, con el objetivo de establecer criterios de referencia para la negociación colectiva y el ejercicio independiente del trabajo social. Además, se gestionaron convenios con diversas instituciones, ofreciendo beneficios a sus afiliados, y se evaluaron opciones para el cambio de sede de la asociación.

### Actividades previstas para 2025

Para el 2025, ADASU tiene como prioridades la implementación del Plenario Nacional, asegurando una mayor descentralización y participación en la toma de decisiones. Se continuará con la difusión y aplicación de la Ley N° 19.778, trabajando en campañas dirigidas a empleadores y fortaleciendo la defensa de los derechos laborales de los trabajadores sociales. Asimismo, se prevé la presentación formal del arancel profesional, lo que permitirá mejorar las condiciones de contratación en el sector. A nivel organizativo, se avanzará en la modernización de la base de datos de afiliados y en la mejora de los sistemas de comunicación interna. Finalmente, se trabajará en la posible adquisición o reforma de una nueva sede, asegurando un espacio adecuado para el

desarrollo de las actividades gremiales y profesionales.

### Actividades regionales programadas para el 2025

En cuanto a las actividades programadas para el 2025, se dará inicio a un proceso de nombramiento de representantes regionales, en diálogo con el secretario general y las comisionadas globales a cargo de la Comisión Indígena y de la Comisión de Naciones Unidas, de acuerdo a los nuevos [Términos de Referencia para las Comisiones Globales](#) de la FITS.

Por último, se planea la celebración de una conferencia regional presencial, a celebrarse en Paraguay durante el mes de septiembre.

**Kenia Batista**, presidenta regional

**Gabriela Rodríguez Vázquez**, vicepresidenta regional.

### Para leer más

Hemos recibido maravillosos informes de nuestros miembros. Si bien incluirlos en su totalidad excedería el alcance de este informe de fin de año, hemos creado una página dedicada en nuestro sitio web regional donde puedes encontrarlos. Haz [clic aquí](#) para leerlos.

## Regions

# IFSW North America



### Canada

This past year 2024 saw the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW) proudly launch their new Code of Ethics resource, integrating values, guiding principles and guidelines into one document for ease of use and application. The changes announced today represent the first major overhaul to this guiding document for Canadian social workers in over 20 years.

“Canadian society has changed significantly over the last two decades, with massive upheaval in the last few years alone — this Code of Ethics equips social workers across the country to grapple with this changing reality.”

Consisting of seven values, the Code was developed through the lens of the Truth and Reconciliation principles, with a new value highlighting the profession’s commitment to uphold the rights of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Peoples and by acknowledging Indigenous world views in their practice with Indigenous people.

[Value 1: Respecting the Dignity and Worth of All People / Valeur 1: Respecter la dignité et la valeur de toutes les personnes.](#)

[Value 2: Promoting Social Justice / Valeur 2: Promouvoir la justice sociale.](#)

[Value 3: Pursuing Truth and Reconciliation / Valeur 3: Établir la vérité et la réconciliation.](#)

[Value 4: Valuing Human Relationships / Valeur 4: Valoriser les relations humaines.](#)

## Regions

# IFSW North America

Value 5: Preserving Integrity in Professional Practice / Valeur 5: Préserver l'intégrité dans la pratique professionnelle.

Value 6: Maintaining Privacy and Confidentiality / Valeur 6: Préserver la vie privée et la confidentialité.

Value 7: Providing Competent Professional Services / Valeur 7: Fournir des services professionnels compétents.

To promote and educate Canadian members on the new Code of Ethics, in conjunction with its seven values seven separate webinars were held each month in 2024 in both official languages.

CASW held Parliament Hill Day in the Countries Capital, Ottawa, to celebration National Social Work Month and the launch of the 2024 Code of Ethics, Values and Guidelines Principles hosted by Senator Wanda Thomas Bernard & Senator Hartling. A large number of Social Workers, Senator, and Members of Parliament were present to hear the briefs done by Social Work Educators and the Regulatory body CCSWR.

CASW has undertaken to address Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging (EDIB) in all aspects of the organization through revision and review of its' governance model; all policies and procedures and organizational structure.



L-R, CASW President Barb Whitenect, Minister Petitpas-Taylor (Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Official Languages), past CASW President Joan Davis-Whelan and CASW Vice-President Rasheal Charles

Black Excellence in Social Work: A Heritage to Celebrate; a Future to Build – Joint webinar that celebrated Black Excellence by honour remarkable Black elders in social work was held as part of EDIB work.

Respectively reported

Barb Whitenect, MSW

President CASW, Vice President NA IFSW  
11/24/2024



## Regions

# IFSW North America



## United States

This past year was a busy one for the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). While preparing for policy changes on a national level that occur with every presidential election, the following were NASW's program priorities:

- Strengthen NASW's standing as the preeminent resource for social workers
- Maximize awareness of the value of social work.
- Leverage the NASW enterprise for maximum social and racial justice impact.
- Elevate the quality of social work. Champion efforts to support the social work profession.
- Strengthen organizational infrastructure.
- Solidify financial viability.

NASW's accomplishments included:

- Updating the Practice Standards for School Social Workers. This was the first update since 2012 and the educational landscape has significantly changed in over a decade.
- Produced new podcasts: EAP Landscape (#119), Career Pivots for Therapists (#118), and Why Social Workers Make Great Leaders (#117). Social Work Talks podcasts surpassed
- 1.5 million total downloads in August.
- NASW Press published the second edition of Self-Care in Social Work and Social Work Career Guidebook: How to Land Your Ideal Job and Build a Legacy.
- The NASW Office of Ethics and Professional Review published a new Ethics 8 Tipsheet, "8 Ethical Considerations

## Regions

# IFSW North America

when Using Social Media Marketing.” This tip sheet provides ethical considerations for social workers who use social media as a marketing tool.

- Live-streamed, summarized, and promoted NASW’s participation in a series of high- engagement Democratic National Committee educational policy events.
- In June 2024, NASW’s Legal Defense Fund (LDF) hosted a webinar on documentation and client records, led by Frances Shopik. The webinar discussed best practices, legal considerations, and strategies to enhance the quality and security of documentation and client records.
- Between June and September 2024, the Legal Defense Fund joined nine

amicus briefs. Topics included transgender rights, eliminating life sentences without parole for juveniles, LGBTQIA+ parental rights, and a ban on conversion therapy.

Respectively reported

Yvonne Elder Chase, PhD, MSW, LCSW  
President NASW, President, IFSW, NA

## 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.

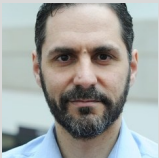
[Read more about the Education Commission.](#)

## Global Standards for Social Work Education

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

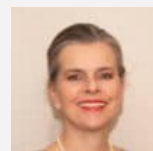
## Commissioners

### Global



**Vasilios Ioakimidis**  
Global Commissioner

### Africa Region



**Antoinette Lombard**  
Regional Commissioner

### Asia and Pacific Region



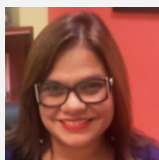
**Mariko Kimura**  
Regional Commissioner

### Europe Region



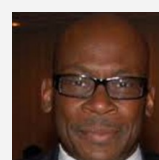
**Nicolai Paulsen**  
Regional Commissioner

### Latin America and the Caribbean Region



**Marinilda Rivera Díaz**  
Regional Commissioner

### North American Region



**Gary Bailey**  
Regional Commissioner

## Commissions

# Education Commission

### Members

- Global: Vasilios Ioakimidis
- Africa: Antoinette Lombard (until April 2024, now vacant)
- Asia-Pacific: Mariko Kimura
- Europe: Nicolai Paulsen (vacant)
- Latin America and the Caribbean: Marinilda Rivera Díaz
- North America: Gary Bailey

### Report on General Activities and Achievements during the period of reference

The Global Education Commission of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) has been actively involved in numerous transformative initiatives over the past year, addressing key challenges and opportunities in social work education and practice. This report highlights significant activities and public interventions from late 2023 to 2024, demonstrating the Commission's commitment to advancing social work education globally.

This period was also marked by significant transition, as the majority of Commission members concluded their tenure. This coincided with the implementation of a new policy governing the Commissions, which introduced a more structured and extended process for appointing new Commissioners. The policy aimed to ensure greater transparency, inclusivity, and alignment with the Federation's strategic goals. However, the changes also necessitated

careful management of the transition to maintain continuity in the Commission's work and ensure the successful handover of responsibilities to the incoming members.

### Global Standards Rollout and Curriculum Alignment

The Commission continued its efforts to implement the Global Standards for Social Work Education and Training. A key highlight was the collaboration with UNICEF in December 2023 to reform the social work curriculum at the University of Juba in South Sudan. This initiative aimed to align educational frameworks with global human rights standards, addressing the specific needs of social workers in conflict-affected regions. The workshop facilitated critical discussions on curriculum gaps and strategies for sustainable reform, reinforcing the co-responsibility of educators and practitioners. In addition, the commission provides consultative support to HAN University in the Netherlands towards a new programme on International Social Work

### Eco-Social Work and Climate Justice

In late 2023, the Social Work Summer Camp in Turkey brought together professionals from Greece, Turkey, and the UK to address the escalating climate crisis. This collaborative initiative, hosted by the Turkish Association of Social Workers and sup-

# Education Commission

ported by the University of West Attica, led to the formulation of the Aegean Declaration on Climate Justice. This document called for integrating environmental justice into social work education and practice, emphasising the disproportionate impact of climate change on vulnerable populations. The Declaration continues to inspire global efforts to incorporate eco-social work principles into educational curricula.

On the broad theme of Eco Social Work and Climate Justice, our commission works with universities in the Netherlands, Germany, Greece and Ireland towards developing a Summer School in the Summer of 2025. The summer school will bring together BA and MA social work students and academics aiming at sharing ideas and strategies for strengthening the Eco-Social Work approach within curricula.

### **Social Work and Political Conflict**

The Commission contributed significantly to understanding the interplay between social work and political conflict. Through participation in an intensive seminar in Belfast, Ireland, (November, 2023) themes were explored from International Perspectives on Social Work and Political Conflict. The event focused on the role of social workers in addressing victimisation and fostering community resilience in conflict zones such as Northern Ireland, Cyprus, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. By linking academic research with field practices,

this seminar underscored the critical role of social workers in peacebuilding.

The third seminar in the series was held on 23–24 May 2024, in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, hosted by the University of Sarajevo, Faculty of Political Sciences, Department of Social Work. This event provided an in-depth examination of post-conflict recovery challenges in Bosnia, drawing approximately 100 participants, including students, professionals, NGO activists, and virtual attendees from Ukraine. The discussions focused on the aftermath of the Bosnian War, addressing issues such as ethnic divisions, mental health, missing persons, and the impact of sexual violence. Keynote presentations highlighted the transformative role of education in post-conflict societies, social work's critical contributions during the war, and peacebuilding strategies involving youth and civil society.

Among the presentations, Professor Sead Turalo examined the fragmented education system in Bosnia, emphasising the need for policies that foster social cohesion and critical thinking. Insights from Mirsada Poturkovi reflected on the Centre for Social Work's wartime efforts, including crisis interventions for vulnerable populations. Anna Lodeserto explored peacebuilding approaches, highlighting youth work as a tool for reconciliation. Other presentations tackled the challenges surrounding missing persons, the psychosocial impact of war on survivors, and

## Commissions

# Education Commission

the transformative role of civil society in post-conflict recovery.

The seminar concluded with comparative perspectives from Northern Ireland and Cyprus, examining the intersection of social work and political conflict. The Northern Ireland session reviewed the profession's historical and contemporary responses to conflict, while the Cyprus session explored the role of social work in fostering understanding and resolving divisions between Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities. These sessions underscored the global relevance of social work in addressing political conflict and encouraged ongoing collaboration among participants to further develop strategies for education, peacebuilding, and social integration.



### Social Work Education in Brazil

In October 2024, the Global Education Commissioner, Vasilios Ioakimidis, was invited to the Federal University of Espírito Santo in Brazil as part of the state-sponsored CAPES fellowship programme.

This visit coincided with the 50th anniversary of the university's social work programme, an important milestone for the academic and professional community.

During the visit, the Commissioner engaged in research planning and delivered a series of lectures focusing on social work and the global political challenges facing social work and social policy. The event also provided an opportunity to strengthen international academic collaborations and engage with colleagues and professionals from Brazil and beyond.



### National Conference in Greece: Social Work in Times of Uncertainty

On 22–23 November 2024, the University of West Attica and the Greek Association of Social Workers co-hosted a groundbreaking national conference titled "Social Work in Times of Transition: Critical Reflections and New Horizons". Held at the Ancient Olive Grove Conference Centre in Athens, this event attracted over 1,000 social workers, becoming one of the largest gatherings of its kind in the region. The

## Commissions

# Education Commission

conference addressed pressing issues, including:

- The impact of climate change and migration on communities.
- Reforms in child protection and mental health systems.
- Emerging social phenomena, such as domestic violence and youth aggression.



The discussions bridged frontline social work experiences with research insights, fostering critical reflection on the profession's role in addressing global and local challenges. Internationally renowned speakers included Ruth Allen, IFSW Europe President, and Vasilios Ioakimidis, Global Education Commissioner. Their contributions highlighted the importance of integrating education, practice, and policy to advance social work.

### Human Rights Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

A new CPD initiative titled "Connecting Social Work Practitioners with UN Human Rights Mechanisms and OHCHR" was launched in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). This online course, scheduled between April and May 2024, aimed to equip social workers with tools to engage effectively with UN human rights frameworks. Key features included:

This CPD initiative underscored the Commission's commitment to empowering social workers globally with knowledge and skills to advocate for human rights and social justice.

### Addressing Recruitment and Retention Challenges in Social Work Education

The Commission continued to focus on declining enrolments in social work educa-

# Education Commission

tion across Europe, exacerbated by underfunding, poor working conditions, and negative professional perceptions. Discussions held during the Greek national conference and regional meetings identified strategies to address these challenges, including:

Enhancing the financial and institutional support for social work programmes.

Promoting the value and impact of the profession to attract a new generation of social workers.

### **Key Planned Activities and Events for Next Year**

The upcoming year will focus on ensuring a seamless transition to the newly implemented policy governing the structure and recruitment of regional commissioners. The aim is to strengthen the Commission's capacity to respond to global challenges in social work education and practice.

To bridge the gap between research, education, and practice, the Commission plans to develop dynamic and relevant fora that foster collaboration among academics, practitioners, and students. These platforms will aim to address pressing issues in social work while providing opportuni-

ties to share innovative approaches and best practices aligned with the Global Standards for Social Work Education and Training. Special attention will be given to building 'learned communities' around these themes, promoting deeper engagement with critical areas such as decolonisation, eco-social work, and human rights.

Lastly, the Commission will explore the feasibility of establishing a more structured framework for delivering education tailored to practitioners. This initiative seeks to enhance professional competencies through targeted programmes, such as Continuous Professional Development (CPD) courses, and to create a global repository of educational resources. These efforts aim to ensure that practitioners are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the complex realities of modern social work.



## 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.](#)

## Latest Publications

[New article explores the Path to an Eco-Social World after the pandemic](#)

[Beyond the pandemic: Exploring social work ethics and values as a contribution to a new eco-social world](#)

## Commissioners

### Global



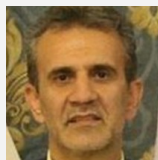
**Jane Shears**  
Global Commissioner

### Africa Region



**Stephano Akuzike Joseph**  
Regional Commissioner

### Asia and Pacific Region



**Hassan Mousavi Chelak**  
Regional Commissioner

### Europe Region



**Gabriele Stark-Angermeier**  
Regional Commissioner

### Latin America and the Caribbean Region



**Sharon Rose Gittens**  
Regional Commissioner

### North American Region



**Kim Strom**  
Regional Commissioner

## Commissions

# Ethics Commission

**The planned activities from the previous report were:**

- 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
- Reviewing the Terms of Reference for the Ethics Commission

### **Report of Activity against Workplan.**

Reviewing applications and codes of ethics from prospective new members to join IFSW.

The delegates at the general meeting in March 2024 voted to welcome the Association of Social Workers in Taiwan as a new member of IFSW from the Asia Pacific region.

### **Research:**

The article : Social work beyond the pandemic: Exploring social work values for a new eco-social world, was published in the journal, International Social Work, Volume 67, Issue 4: [Link](#)

A grant was made available by the IFSW Executive to the Ethics Commission to carry out an International research project on the Ethical issues of Artificial Intelligence in social work practice and education. A group of researchers, academics and practitioners are working together on a mixed methods study September 2024 – March 2025. A literature review has been completed with the empirical phase taking place in January 2025. The report of this research will be used to inform the review of the Statement of Ethical Principles, Statement of use of Digital Technology and Social Media.

An article has been written and submitted for the journal Ethics and Social Welfare 'Slow Ethics in an Age of Fast Technology', collaboratively written by members of the Social Work Ethics Research Group following the preconference workshop (as below).

### **Attendance / papers at conferences.**

A paper was presented at a Social Work Research conference in March 2024 focusing on the ethical consideration associated with the care and treatment of people who do not have capacity to make their own decisions.

A report of the work of the Ethics Commission was presented to the Global Delegates Meeting at the end of March 2024.

Members of the Ethics Commission attended the IFSW Global Conference in April 2024.

## Commissions

# Ethics Commission

A preconference workshop was held at the European Social Work Research Association conference in April 2024 in partnership with the Social Work Ethics Research Group (SWERG). Kim Strom is also a member of SWERG. The focus was on exploring international perspectives on slow ethics in the age of fast digital technology across different cultural and practice contexts.

The 4th International Symposium, organised between IFSW and the Social Practitioner Research Network on Navigating Digital Lives in Social Work, was held in November 2024. The symposium was joined by social workers, care professionals and researchers from European and Asia Pacific IFSW regions, offering great opportunities for knowledge exchange and networking.

A workshop session was held at the IFSW Europe delegates meeting in November 2024 on Ethics in social work. The discussion focused on individual social workers facing ethical dilemmas including moral distress, fitness to practice allegations and the social work roles and tasks associated with working with migrants. Collectively, the workshop felt there is scope to revisit the IFSW Statement of Ethics Principles in the post pandemic social work landscape.

### **Continuous Professional Development.**

Led by the IFSW UN Commission and in partnership with the UN Commission for Human Rights, the IFSW Global Commis-

oners contributed to delivering a CPD programme in March and April 2024. Participants attended from across the IFSW regions.

### **Developing Commission workplan for 2025/6**

The Ethics Commission now has a regional representative across all IFSW regions. Commission meetings have been arranged throughout 2025. Each regional representative will scope the key ethical priorities and issues as they emerge in their regions.

Progress will be made towards adopting the key components of the Structure of Commissions paper, voted for by IFSW members in September 2024. A Terms of Reference for the Ethics Commission will support this work.

An initial consultation across members will inform the work on reviewing the Statement of Ethical principles, alongside research activity.

A joint Commission Statement will be produced on the impact of digital technologies on the education and practice of social work.

The profile of the Commission will continue to be raised through publications and conference presentations across the global social work community.

Prepared 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.](#)



## Latest Statements

[IFSW statement on the 2024 International Human Rights Day by Hillary Weaver](#)

[Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women: Where are we in addressing this global epidemic?](#)

## Commissioners

### Global



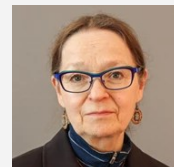
**Hilary Weaver**  
Global Commissioner

### Africa Region



**Charles Rutikanga**  
Regional Commissioner

### Europe Region

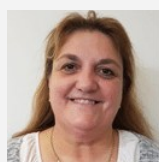


**Margaretha Uttjek**  
Regional Commissioner

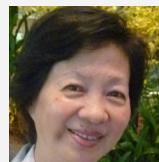
### Asia and Pacific Region



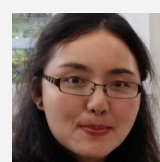
**Caroline Tana-Tepania**  
Regional Commissioner



**Linda Ford**  
Representative

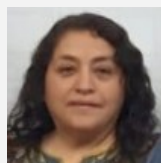


**Dr Ling How Kee**  
Representative



**Yang Jian (Yvonne)**  
Representative

### Latin America and the Caribbean Region



**Jenny Linares**  
Regional Commissioner

### North American Region



**Pamela L. Begay**  
Regional Commissioner

## Commissions

# Indigenous Commission

### Commission Membership

The Indigenous Commission consists of nine members: Pamela L. Begay (from the United States representing the North American region), 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 has included participating in the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, issuing three statements through IFSW to commemorate key days, and exploring collaborative opportunities with other IFSW commissions.

### United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues



Jenny Linares, Margaretha Karlberg Uttjek, María Panjoj Salvador, Hilary Weaver, Pamela L. Begay & Ausirys Alviz, United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

## Commissions

# Indigenous Commission



Celebratory dinner with members of the UN and Indigenous Commissions following the panel presentation at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Four members of the Indigenous Commission, Pamela L. Begay, Jenny Linares, Margaretha Karlberg Uttjek, and Hilary Weaver traveled to New York City to participate in the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII). The panel also included María Panjoj Salvador, an Indigenous social worker employed at a school in Guatemala. Interpretation from Spanish to English was provided by Ausirys Alviz, a doctoral student from Monmouth University. The theme for the 2024 forum was Enhancing Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination while emphasizing the voices of the youth. 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 the panel. The panel was titled "The strength and promise of Indigenous youth: Leading the charge for self-determination and Indigenous continuity". Members of the Indigenous Commission, UN Commission, and guests from Latin America gathered for a celebratory

dinner after the panel. Travel to participate in the 23rd annual UNPFII was made possible by support from IFSW. See flier for the event below.

*Members of the IFSW Indigenous Commission will describe how Indigenous youth in Sábmie, North America, and Latin America are asserting our right to self-determination. For example, Sámi youth are organized in NGOs and are advocating*

*The Strength & Promise of Indigenous Youth:*

*Leading the Charge for Self-Determination & Indigenous Continuity*



**Join the Indigenous Commission  
of the International Federation of Social Workers**

*April 23, 2024*

*1:15-2:45pm*

*Salvation Army International Center*

*221 East 52<sup>nd</sup> St., New York City, NY*

*for our common future, including passing on culture and language, and fighting against climate change to save Mother Earth and have clean water. Examples of Indigenous youth voices from the US calling for self-determination will be shared including early poetry by children taken to residential schools, stories written by youth about resilience in the face of adversity, and youth leadership of move-*

## Commissions

# Indigenous Commission

*ments such as NoDAPL, fighting against pipelines in defense of clean water.*

### Statements

The Indigenous Commission issued three statements in 2024. The purpose of these statements is to raise awareness about significant issues of concern to Indigenous Peoples, particularly highlighting their importance for social workers around the world. These statements raise visibility and serve as educational resources.

[Statement for World Indigenous Peoples Day \(August 9\).](#)

[Statement for Orange Shirt Day on the impact of residential schools on Indigenous people \(September 30\).](#)

[Statement for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women \(November 25\).](#)

### Collaborative opportunities with IFSW commissions & IFSW as a whole

Global Commissioner, Hilary Weaver, submitted a written report and offered a verbal report of the Indigenous Commission's activities from 2022 through March 2024 at the General Meeting in Panama in April. The General Meeting also offered opportunities to meet with other Global Commissioners in person (in addition to quarterly on-line meetings) and for members of the Indigenous Commission to meet in person with members of the Education Commission to plan how to move forward with our

collaborative effort to explore how Indigenous Knowledges are incorporated in social work education and practice.

Members of the Indigenous Commission participated in a series of on-line webinars, Connecting Social Work Practitioners with UN Human Rights Mechanisms and the OHCHR, developed by the UN Commission in collaboration with the UN Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights. In planning for our participation, members of the Indigenous Commission were able to make connections with key Indigenous staff from OHCHR and learn about other UN mechanisms that our commission may want to participate in in the future, beyond our ongoing participation in UNPFII. On May 15th, Margaretha Karlberg Uttjek and Hilary Weaver participated in the closing webinar in this series, delivering the presentation, Understanding the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP): It's implications and implementation.

The Global Commissioner meets regularly with the Secretary General to share updates and participate in consultations. Additionally, throughout the year, she participated in reviewing and offering feedback on various iterations of the draft document outlining commission structures and the regional commissioner appointment process. In 2024, a new commissioner from the North American region joined the Indigenous Commission, having been appointed in alignment with the collaborative process described in the draft document.

## Commissions

# Indigenous Commission

Global Indigenous Commissioner Hilary Weaver participated in an on-line side event at the United Nations High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development hosted by the IFSW UN Commission team in North America titled 'Social Workers as Partners in Advancing Sustainable, Innovative, and Community Engaged Solutions through Co-Building an Eco-Social World'. To watch the recording of the event, click [here](#).

Members of the Indigenous Commission are consulting with leadership from the European region as they plan for their 2025 conference. The theme for the conference includes Indigenous Peoples' perspectives and there will be a post-conference extension to Sábmie (Indigenous territories.)

Indigenous Commissioner for the European Region, Margaretha Karlberg Uttjek, participated in the European Delegates' Meeting in Lisbon in October. She updated participants about the work of the Indigenous Commission and has made herself available to answer future questions.

On behalf of the Indigenous Commission, Global Commissioner Hilary Weaver delivered a video message for International Human Rights Day (December 10th). The message emphasized social work as a human rights profession that need not be bound by a limited, individualistic, legalistic interpretation of human rights. Rather, human rights are embedded within relationships and must be embraced as a collective responsibility that extends to the wellbeing of our non-human kin.

### Key Planned Activities and Upcoming Events

The Indigenous Commission is currently working on our workplan for 2025. We anticipate continuing to participate in the UNPFII and possibly other UN mechanisms. We plan to continue to issue statements, drawing social workers' attention to important issues for Indigenous Peoples. We will continue collaborations with other IFSW commissions, including moving forward with our plans to collaborate with the Education Commission to explore how Indigenous Knowledges are incorporated in social work education and practice.

The Indigenous Commission is exploring the possibility of participating in three international conferences in 2025. In addition to the IFSW European Regional conference in October, we have been invited to participate in an Indigenous social work conference in Peru (dates to be determined) and are exploring the possibility of participating in the International Indigenous Voices in Social Work conference to be held in Calgary Canada in August.

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.



## 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

[UN Report Highlights Social Work's Role in Advancing Buen Vivir and Eco-Social Justice for a Sustainable Future](#)

["The Pact is an important step forward to reinvigorate action and commitments": IFSW's advocacy at the UN's Summit of the Future](#)

[Read more updates here.](#)

## Commissioners and Representatives

### Global

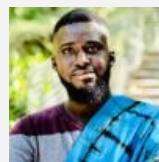


**Priska Fleischlin**  
Global Commissioner

### Africa Region



**Charles Mbugua**  
Regional Commissioner

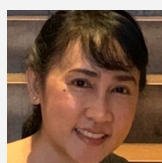


**Basamba Drammeh**  
Regional Commissioner



**Mildred T. Mushun**  
Representative

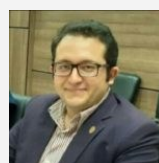
### Asia and Pacific Region



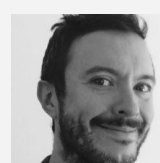
**W. Kotbungkair**  
Regional Commissioner



**Suresh Pathare**  
Representative



**Hamed Olamaee**  
Regional Commissioner



**Sebastian Cordoba**  
Representative

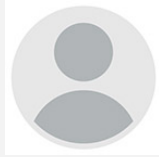
## Commissions

# United Nations Commission

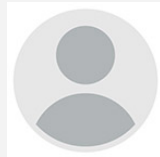
### Asia and Pacific Region (cont.)



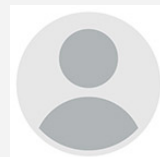
**Massoud Ayoubi**  
Regional Commissioner



**Young Joon Hong**  
Regional Commissioner



**Talaat Hamoud**  
Representative



**Alexi Perez**  
Regional Commissioner

### LAC Region

### Europe Region



**Swetha R. Dhananka**  
Regional Commissioner



**Brigitte Leroy**  
Regional Commissioner



**Sibylle Mani**  
Representative



**Tobias Roosen**  
Representative



**Pascal Rudin**  
Representative



**Herbert Paulischin**  
Regional Commissioner

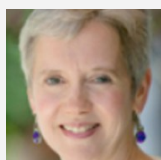


**Silvia Franke**  
Representative

### North America Region



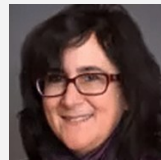
**Michael Cronin**  
Regional Commissioner



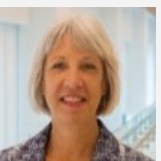
**Robin S. Mama**  
Representative



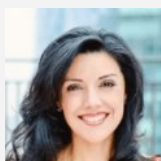
**Elaine Congress**  
Representative



**Anne C. Deepak**  
Representative



**Evelyn P. Tomaszewski**  
Representative



**Shena Osborn**  
Representative

## Commissions

# United Nations Commission

### Report on General Activities and Achievements during the period in the Region



Our team has been active in advocating for IFSW with UN agencies in all regions. The almost 20 representatives co-organized events at the UN and virtually. The high level of engagement has resulted in good visibility for social workers and strengthened partnerships with UN agencies, particularly the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNRISD. They see social workers as a key profession in achieving the vision of a global transformation towards a peaceful, sustainable, and just world. Before moving on to working with these UN agencies, here is the report of the Regional Representatives:

#### Africa

The African team could be expanded by two more representatives to a total of three. The African Region has provided IFSW with an example of how to open the call for the expansion of the team. In collaboration with Secretary-General Rory Truell, Regional Commissioner Charles Mbugua and Global Commissioner Priska

Fleischlin, African President Oluwatoni Adeleke led the process from sending out the call for applications, conducting the interviews and participating in the decision-making. On behalf of IFSW UN, I would like to thank all the IFSWs involved in this success. May you all have a good start as a team.

#### Asia Pacific

Throughout 2024, the IFSW UN Asia Pacific team has worked to build and expand the efforts from previous years with a focus on greater regional and global work. For past 12 months we have continued the policy and advocacy work through ESCAP and other key events. The work has included attending and providing written statements to 80th session of the Commission in 2024, the UN ESCAP Committee on Social Development and Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 2024. Representatives also helped coordinate and took part in the World Social Work Day regional event 2024 with the Thailand Association and the Thailand Ministry of Social Development and Human Security.

The team has also worked on global projects, including the preparatory work for the Summit of the Future and Pact for the Future. We worked with members from other regional teams of the IFSW UN Commission and provided numerous written and oral statements, and attended the UN general assembly in September 2024.

Representatives have also taken part of in the UN's Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution expert working group, advo-

## Commissions

# United Nations Commission

cating for policies that recognise the impact on marginalised communities.



Key Planned Activities and Events for next year:

The team is now planning on key upcoming events including World Social Work Day 2025, the 81th Session of ESCAP, the 2024 Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and our contributions to the High Level Political Form 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 and will finalise the new members by the end of 2024.

### Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)

In a regional election process, Alexi Perez has been nominated as Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean to the UN Office in Santiago de Chile. As this position has been vacant for several years, the IFSW UN Commission is delighted and thanks Alexi and the LAC for contributing and enriching our team. The Regional Commissioner has begun her work by analysing the opportunities

and plans to develop a presence at the UN Office in Santiago de Chile.

In December 2024, the IFSW LAC informed the UN Commission that the region had ended its collaboration with the current Regional Commissioner, aiming to rebuild the team in 2025.

### New York

The team in New York has been active in the area of their priorities; submitted a [statement](#) for the Commission on Social Development and a [statement](#) for the Commission on the Status of Women. Several side events have been organised, including for the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, all with an eco-social focus. One side event is, in particular, worth highlighting: during the 23rd session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the team co-organized a side event with the members of the IFSW Commission on Indigenous Issues, who attended in person in New York after a year-long investment. In September, the team (together with Sebastian Cordoba from the AP region) participated in the Summit of the Future at UN Headquarters in New York.

After more than 30 years, Michael Cronin has decided to step down from his role as Regional Commissioner at the end of 2024. The IFSW UN Commission sincerely thanks him for his enormous contribution to making the IFSW UN Commission a professional voice of social workers at the UN.

## Commissions

# United Nations Commission

Key Planned Activities and Events for next year:

For next year, the New York team aims to submit statements and develop side events for the same event as this year (see above). There will also be a World Social Work Day at the UN at the New York UN Headquarters in late March or early April.

### Europe

In the UN Headquarters Geneva several interesting events have been organized. Geneva celebrated its annual [World Social Work Day at the UN](#) with IASSW and UNRISD on the global WSWD theme 'buen vivir'. The representatives contributed to various events and discussions in the area of Refugees (UNHCR) and Children's Rights. A highlight has been the collaboration with WHO, which approached IFSW for contributing to a [documentation on Community Work](#) as a key element in people's health. The team and Rory Truell have invited the global social workers to share their wisdom in virtual focal discussions and presented recommendations (see page 7) for working with the community's knowledge and resources. Through this partnership, the IFSW UN Commission has also generated its first income. The earned money will be used to pay for next events at the UN, which have become increasingly expensive.

Another highlight was the first online course organized by IFSW Global Commis-

sioners with OHCHR; 4 sessions of 1.5 hours each aimed at connecting social workers with the Human Rights Mechanism and OHCHR. The recordings are available on YouTube. This course has allowed IFSW to raise the visibility of social work in 153 countries. The OHCHR representatives want to change the narrative at the UN and see our profession as a link from global, national and community levels, they want to learn and influence the narrative at the UN with a more social work perspective on the one hand, and there is a motivation to share their knowledge and tools with IFSW and its members. It was agreed that more courses will follow.

The Geneva team has to say goodbye to Brigitte Leroy who has resigned from her role.

In Vienna, the team has successfully established an event for the first time in the past years. Both team members, Herbert Paulschin and Silvia Franke have resigned by the end of the year.

Key Planned Activities and Events for next year:

In the next year, the Geneva team plans the next World Social Work Day event (online) on ['Caring Societies for All. Advancing Social Rights for People with disability'](#). Date: March 19th, please visit the website of UNRISD for registration.

## Commissions

# United Nations Commission

### IFSW UN Commission global key activities



The next online Course for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for Professional Social Workers is planned to start after the WSWD at the UN (late March 2025) on the topic of 'Care and Support Systems', again in collaboration with OHCHR, hopefully including ILO and WHO. Watch out for news and register for the

[IFSW newsletter](#), more details will be announced by February 2025.

Internally, we will go through a phase of renaming our commission, due to the UN regulation which forbids the usage of 'UN' in the title of an accredited NGO/CSO. Furthermore, with the abovementioned team changes, the Commission will also invest in team building and capacity building, so that the whole team represents a global view of social work (and not a national nor regional view), and uses the existing documents that the IFSW General Meeting agreed.

At the United Nations Headquarters and offices, global events will take place in 2025 and the IFSW UN Commission is trying to engage and raise awareness in the global governmental bodies about social workers' unique and valuable insights and contributions to a local, national and global change.

This report shall end with thanks to the IFSW Secretary General, the IFSW Secretariat, and the global board of IFSW for supporting us in our work. A warm thanks goes to the whole IFSW UN Commission, a group of highly skilled Social Workers who volunteer. Thank you for the respectful and professional collaboration in the year 2024.

For the report,

Priska Fleischlin

The IFSW UN Global Commissioner

# Governance

## Meet the Global Executive

### Global



**Joachim Mumba**  
President



**Kenia Batista**  
Vice President



**Sriganesh MV**  
Treasurer



**Rory Truell**  
Ex Officio Member

### Africa Region



**Oluwatoni Adeleke**  
Regional President



**Abib Ndiaye**  
Regional Vice President

### Asia and Pacific Region

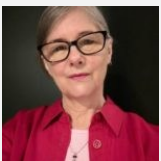


**Machiko Ohara**  
Regional President



**Teoh Ai Hua**  
Regional Vice President

### Europe Region



**Ruth Allen**  
Regional President

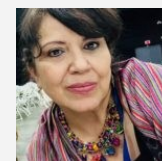


**Andreas Pedersen Kikvik**  
Regional Vice President

### Latin America and the Caribbean Region

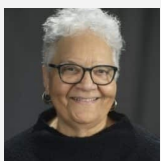


**Kenia Batista**  
Regional President



**Gabriela Rodríguez Vázquez**  
Regional Vice President

### North America Region



**Yvonne Chase**  
Regional President



**Barb Whitenect**  
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](mailto:rory.truell@ifsw.org)

**Pascal Rudin**

Head of Operations



[pascal.rudin@ifsw.org](mailto:pascal.rudin@ifsw.org)

**Lucia Gandolfi**

Administrator



[lucia.gandolfi@ifsw.org](mailto:lucia.gandolfi@ifsw.org)

**Bernard Mayaka**

Administrator



[bernard.mayaka@ifsw.org](mailto:bernard.mayaka@ifsw.org)



## 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



A three-year global comparison of the working conditions of social workers, just published in *The British Journal of Social Work*, finds that 'social workers across the world are exposed to chronically difficult working conditions', in comparison to almost all other human service and similar professions.

This is the latest output from the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) partnership with Buckinghamshire New University and Ulster University to research global working conditions of social workers.

The research found that 'social workers support some of the most vulnerable people who are often living in some of the most difficult conditions. However, little research outside of the UK, parts of Europe and North America has looked at working conditions and well-being in the social work profession.'

The survey found that 'social workers' wellbeing was relatively poor across the

world, although the seriousness of poor well-being and poor working conditions varies globally.' Working conditions were reported to be worse than up to 75 per cent of those in comparable professions; social workers around the world have some of the worst working conditions and personal wellbeing of any similar profession.

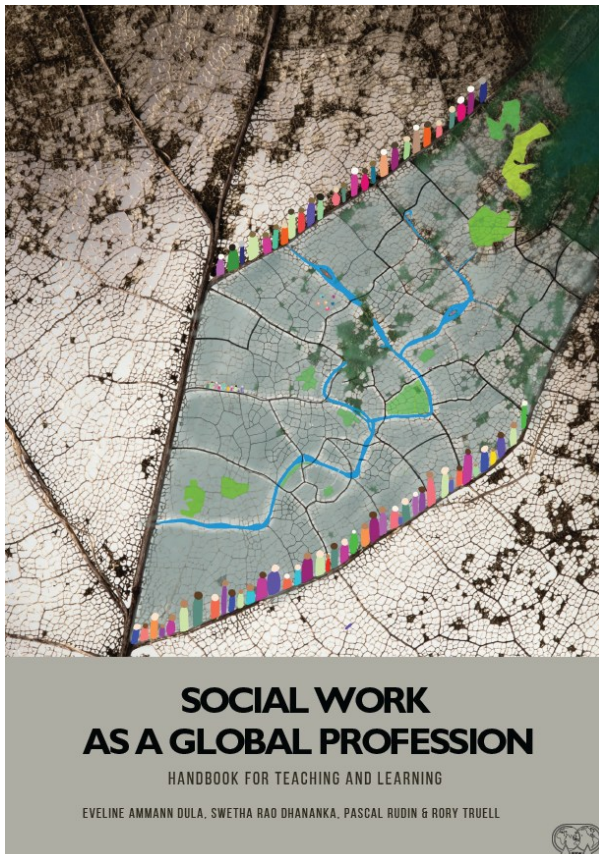
In particular, the demands/workload experienced at work, the amount of autonomy social workers have at work, the understanding of their own role within the organisation, and how change is communicated, all significantly worsened across the period, with respondents' psychological well-being getting poorer. However, the support received from management at work, as well as relationships with colleagues and peers, all significantly improved', according to survey respondents.

## Read more

Learn more about the research and how to participate in the Survey [here](#).

## Publications

# Social Work as a Global Profession: Handbook for Teaching and Learning



IFSW is delighted to present a new book on social work as a global profession. This handbook, made possible through the generous support of the Alumni Association of Bern University of Applied Sciences (BFH), originated from the collaboration in the 'Social Work in an International Context' module within BFH's Bachelor of So-

cial Work programme. It is designed to support the development of lessons on social work in an international context and can be used as a complete course or as individual teaching units.

Focusing on social work as a global profession, the handbook addresses a gap often found in university programmes. It is freely accessible to students, practitioners, and educators. While we hope that all social work programmes will eventually include international social work as a core course, this handbook serves as a valuable supplement to current curricula.

Rory Truell & Pascal Rudin IFSW  
Eveline Ammann Dula BFH  
Swetha Rao Dhananka HES-SO  
Edited by Nigel Hall

## Download

This book is freely available as open access PDF.

[Download your free copy here.](#)

## Publications

# International Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics Volume 20, Issue 1



IFSW is delighted to announce a new era for the International Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics with the appointment of Robert McKinney as the new editor. This change comes with the publication of Volume 22 Issue 1, succeeding Stephen M. Marson's illustrious 24-year tenure. Marson's leadership has been instrumental in promoting ethical discourse and academic excellence within the social work profession, a legacy that McKinney is set to continue.

Pascal Rudin, who is a member of the journal's policy board, commented: *"Stephen Marson's tenure has been marked by an unwavering commitment to fostering a forum for critical dialogue, ethical reflection, and scholarly excellence within the field of social work. Steve, your contributions have not only enriched the journal but have also played a pivotal role in advancing the profession's commitment*

*to ethical and values-based practice globally. On a personal note and on behalf of the entire IFSW, I extend our deepest gratitude for your hard work, guidance, and the positive impact you have made. Your efforts have significantly contributed to enhancing discourse within the field and have left an indelible mark on the profession".*

The latest issue of the journal delves into critical themes that resonate within our social work community.

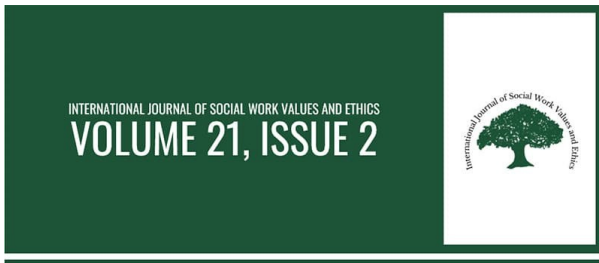
As the journal transitions under McKinney's leadership, it remains committed to fostering scholarly discourse and ethical exploration, building on the robust foundation laid by Marson.

## Download

You may download all articles of Volume 21 (2024) 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 delighted to announce the publication of [Volume 21, Number 2](#) of the *International Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics*. This issue continues the journal's tradition of advancing critical dialogue on social work values and ethics through diverse and insightful contributions.

### Featured Articles

[Private Equity Investment and Social Work: Ethical Issues](#)

[Trustworthiness versus Trust: An Important Distinction with Significant Ethical Implications for Social Work](#)

[Anti-Racist Values in Portuguese Baccalaureate Social Work Education: A Content Analysis Study](#)

[Involuntary Hospitalisation: Does Social Work Education Prepare for Competency? A Systematic Review](#)

[Ethical Considerations in Civil Commitments for Substance Use Disorders](#)

### Forum: Freudian Theory in Clinical Social Work

A thought-provoking debate, "[Is it Unethical to Employ Freudian Theory in Clinical Social Work?](#)", by Stephen M. Marson and Paul Dovyak, invites readers to reconsider the relevance and ethical implications of Freud's contributions in contemporary practice.

### Publisher's Note

Pascal Rudin, who is a member of the Journal's Policy Advisory Board, and who oversees the Journal's operations, commented: "*This edition continues our commitment to fostering meaningful conversations in the field of social work ethics. The contributions reflect the complexity and diversity of ethical challenges we face in a rapidly evolving world. We thank the authors, editors, and reviewers for their dedication to this journal as a global resource.*"

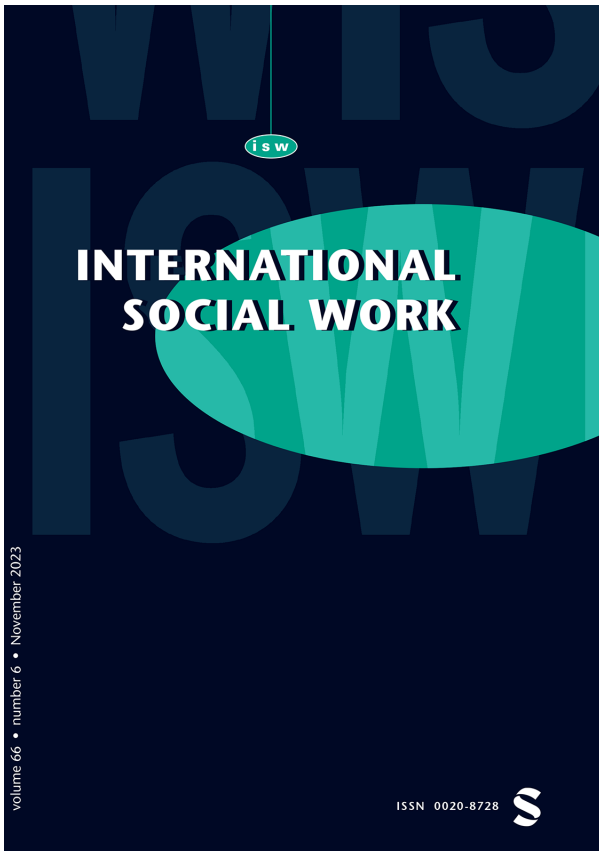
We wish all readers an engaging and thought-provoking experience with this latest issue. You may find the full issue (open access) [here](#).

## 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.

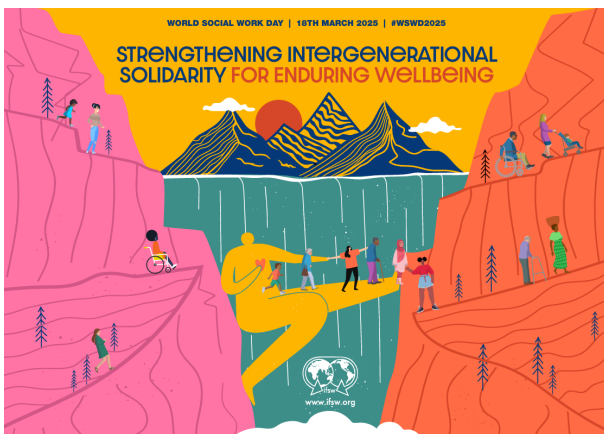
## Read more

You may access the Journal [here](#). Access is free to all IFSW Friends members! See p.31 on how to become an IFSW Friend.

## Events

# Upcoming Events

### World Social Work Day



World Social Work Day takes place on **18 March 2025**. World Social Work Day takes place on 18 March 2025. This year's theme is 'Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity for Enduring Wellbeing', which emphasises the importance of caring and respecting across generations to build strong societies, sustain the environment, and share wisdom for a better future. Read more [here](#).

### Regional Conferences

#### Africa

The International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) Africa Region proudly announces that the 2025 Bi-Annual Social Work Conference will be hosted in the dynamic and culturally rich city of Dakar, Senegal!

Save the Dates! November Wednesday 26th -November Sunday 30th, 2025.

### Asia-Pacific



Date: November 18–21, 2025

Venue: The Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Theme: Social Work Responds to Climate Change and Other Environmental Issues.

Download the [flyer](#).

### Europe



Theme: Bridging Communities: Building Sustainable Futures

Welcome to the European Social Work Conference 2025 in Oslo, Norway!  
Save the dates: October 6th-8th 2025.

<https://ifsw2025.no/>





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## 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

