



Concept Note: Vision of the IFSW Global Education Commission Towards 2028

Introduction

As the IFSW approaches the centenary of the 1928 Paris Conference, the Global Education Commission envisions a transformative agenda to strengthen social work education worldwide. Our goal is to enhance professional education, support lifelong learning, and develop global knowledge infrastructures that advance research-informed practice. This vision is grounded in three key pillars: (1) Monitoring and strengthening global standards for social work education, (2) Expanding post-qualifying (PQ) education and structured CPD opportunities, and (3) Establishing a global research and scholarship centre to enhance practice-based knowledge.

Pillar 1: Monitoring and Strengthening Global Standards for Social Work Education

The IFSW Global Education Commission will actively monitor the implementation of global standards for social work education and maintain this as a living document that evolves with the needs of the profession. The Commission will:

- Provide ongoing documentation, updates, and amplification of global standards, ensuring their relevance and responsiveness to social work education challenges.
- Support universities, education providers, and professional bodies in implementing and improving social work education frameworks in alignment with global standards.
- Facilitate knowledge-sharing platforms and guidance to help institutions navigate accreditation processes and curriculum development.
- Advocate for inclusive and contextually relevant social work education policies at national and international levels.

Pillar 2: Expanding PQ Education and CPD Opportunities

Building on successful CPD pilot initiatives, the Commission will establish structured, thematically diverse, and credit-bearing post-qualifying (PQ) education programmes for social workers. These efforts will:

- Offer structured PQ programmes that range from CPD workshops to formal higher education qualifications, ensuring accessibility and alignment with global policies.
- Develop thematic PQ pathways that respond to evolving social work challenges, such as digitalisation, climate justice, and decolonisation.
- Strengthen partnerships with universities and professional bodies to integrate flexible, accredited learning options into social workers' career progression.
- Ensure that PQ education is globally accessible, affordable, and responsive to diverse regional needs.

Pillar 3: Establishing a Global Research and Scholarship Centre



To expand global knowledge and scholarship, the Commission will create a structure (centre) dedicated to advancing research-informed social work practice. This initiative will:

- Develop structured research projects that generate evidence to inform social work education and practice.
- Build funding-seeking capabilities to secure grants and resources for global research and pedagogical innovation.
- Support regional entities in attracting research funding and pedagogical investment to strengthen local education and training infrastructures.
- Foster collaborations between academic institutions, practitioners, and policymakers to ensure research translates into impactful, real-world applications.

The centenary of the Paris Conference provides an opportunity to reaffirm and strengthen social work education globally. Through these three strategic pillars, the IFSW Global Education Commission will shape the future of social work education by ensuring strong standards, expanding lifelong learning opportunities, and embedding research-informed practice at the heart of the profession. This vision will guide the Commission's work towards 2028 and beyond, ensuring social work education remains robust, responsive, and globally connected.