



## **Call for applications: Africa representative to the Education Commission**

The International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) Africa invites applications for the position of Regional Representative to the Education Commission.

### **1. Role Overview**

The Regional Commissioner for the IFSW Education Commission provides leadership in advancing social work education and training within their region and globally. They collaborate with the Global Commissioner, IFSW Secretariat, regional stakeholders and members to ensure alignment with IFSW's global strategy.

Regional Commissioners fulfil their roles as volunteers, they do not receive payment.

#### **1.1 Key Responsibilities**

- Contribute towards implementing the Commissions' Vision towards 2028.
- Represent the Education Commission in regional activities and advocate for high-quality social work education.
- Collaborate with universities, policymakers, and social work associations.
- Support policy and programme development aligned with IFSW education standards.
- Provide annual reports, monitor regional education initiatives, and escalate key issues.
- Promote capacity-building, faculty development, and knowledge exchange.

#### **1.2 Appointment and Term**

- Must be affiliated with an IFSW member organisation in good standing i.e not owing dues
- Should have experience in social work education or academic leadership.
- Applicants should have Social Work experience in public policy implementation, especially in areas under the purview of the commission.
- Appointed for four years, renewable upon performance review.
- Selection by the Global Commissioner, Regional President, and IFSW Secretariat member.

#### **1.3 Accountability and Commitment**

- Reports to the Global Commissioner and contributes to biennial work plans.
- Expected to attend at least three virtual meetings per year.
- Must uphold IFSW's ethical principles, social justice, and education excellence.
- Works in consultation with the regional president, Vice-president and members.

### **2. How to Apply**

Interested individuals should email their Expressions of Interest to the email



[africa@ifsw.org](mailto:africa@ifsw.org) on or before 22nd September, 2025. The Selection Committee comprises the Global Commissioner, Regional President, Vice President and Secretary-General. Applications should be copied to the ifsw secretariat for their information at [global@ifsw.org](mailto:global@ifsw.org)

The Selection Committee will identify the eligible applicants based on the new [Terms of Reference for the Global Commissions](#), as well as the applicant's unique skills and fit within the global commission team. The selection of applicants will be made by consensus of the committee or referred to the IFSW Executive for final selection.

The final step involves the Africa region member presidents voting on the application or applications approved by the Selection Committee.

The application should include:

1. A brief statement outlining your interest in the role and your relevant experience.
2. A letter of endorsement from your national social work association (applications without this letter will not be considered).
3. Applicants curriculum vitae

We look forward to your application!  
IFSW Africa.



## *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.