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IFSW Special General Meeting 2026 Briefing

Dear members,

As we approach the 2026 Special General Meeting, and further to our previous communication, we would like to share key information to support a well prepared, respectful and smoothly run meeting. This meeting addresses a sensitive and important matter for our federation. **We therefore count on everyone's professionalism, collegiality and adherence to our shared social work values and ethics.**

Date and Venue

18 February 2026, 13h00 to 17h00 UTC, online. You may check here how this translates into your local time:

<https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/timezone/utc>.

Registration and Statements

Registration

Members who have not yet registered are kindly asked to do so as soon as possible via the official form: <https://forms.office.com/e/3XQyY5LEu7>

Oral statements

Members wishing to reserve a 5-minute time slot for an oral contribution are asked to complete: <https://forms.office.com/e/3bcDaerd8h>

Written statements

Written statements should be sent as soon as possible to lucia.gandolfi@ifsw.org so that members have adequate time to review them before the meeting.

All written statements received will be published on the Special General Meeting page under "Written and Oral Statements": <https://www.ifsw.org/special-general-meeting-2026/>

Participation on Zoom

The Zoom link will be shared in the coming days with all registered participants, including Main Representatives, Delegates and Observers. As this is a private meeting dealing with a sensitive topic, the link will not be shared publicly.

Participants are strongly encouraged to join the meeting from a laptop or desktop computer rather than a smartphone, as the Zoom experience is significantly better on a larger screen. This is particularly important for Main Representatives, who will be speaking and voting.

When joining Zoom, please use:

Name (Country)

Example: **Aminaa (Mongolia)**

Cameras should be on when speaking.

Only Main Representatives of members in good standing will be given the floor. Delegates and Observers are expected to speak through their main representative.

Interpretation

Interpretation will be available in English and Spanish. Participants can select their preferred language channel once they have joined Zoom.

Conduct and Confidentiality

IFSW is determined to uphold its social work values and ethics, especially when the stakes are high. All procedures strictly follow the IFSW Constitution and By-Laws.

We therefore ask all Main Representatives speaking on behalf of their organisations to observe the following:

- No recording
- No pictures
- No sharing on social media or other channels
- Respectful language and tone
- Recognition that this is an internal meeting on a sensitive matter

Your cooperation helps ensure a safe and constructive space for dialogue.

Time Management and Speaking Rules

Strict time management will be applied to ensure fairness. **Only Main Representatives of members in good standing will be given the floor.** In addition, the Chair may give the floor to members of the Executive, the Interim Secretary-General, the Parliamentarian and the Global Commissioners in line with their roles in the federation.

Initiators of the motions

- Up to 30 minutes total
- 15 minutes initial statement
- 15 minutes guaranteed later in the discussion

Member organisation concerned

- Up to 30 minutes total
- 15 minutes initial statement
- 15 minutes guaranteed later in the discussion

All other member organisations

- Up to 5 minutes total
- 3 minutes for the statement
- 2 minutes guaranteed later in the discussion

These are guaranteed times. If time allows, the Chair may allocate additional speaking opportunities to both those who have already spoken and those who have not yet taken the floor.

Microphones will be closed after the allocated time. A dedicated timekeeper and a visible countdown will support speakers.

Speaker lineup

The lineup of speakers is as follows:

1. IFSW President (Chair)
2. IFSW Interim Secretary General
3. IFSW Parliamentarian
4. Initiators of the motion
5. Member organisation that is the subject of the concerns
6. All other members, in the order in which requests for a time slot were received

This order helps ensure a structured and fair flow of the discussion, with priority given to those holding formal roles in the meeting and those directly concerned by the motions. A list of member organisations that have applied for a time slot, including their order, will be shared at the beginning of the meeting.

Voting

Main Representatives casting the votes on behalf of their organisation are **strongly encouraged to join the meeting from a laptop or desktop computer** rather than a smartphone, as the Zoom experience is significantly better on a larger screen.

Only Main Representatives of members in good standing will be entitled to vote.

All eligible Main Representatives will receive login credentials and guidance for the voting platform in the coming days.

Each motion will be voted on as: Yes, No, Abstain

Abstentions do not count as votes. They reduce the number of votes considered in the final calculation.

At the beginning of the meeting, the following will be announced:

- Total number of members in good standing
- Number of Main Representatives in good standing present
- Quorum and total votes

Each motion requires 75% Yes votes among votes cast to pass.

Example

If 68 members in good standing vote and all cast Yes or No, 51 Yes votes are needed.

If 8 abstain, only 60 votes count, and 45 Yes votes are needed.

Definitions of good standing, censure, suspension and expulsion are provided in the meeting documentation, see also attached.

Voting rounds

There will be two voting rounds:

- The motion in round one is: "That the Member Organisation be **expelled** from IFSW."
- The motion in round two is: "That the Member Organisation be **suspended** from IFSW."

Round two will only take place if the motion in round one is not carried. If neither motion is carried, the **status quo** remains in place. The member organisation concerned remains a full member of IFSW, and the censure already in place continues.

Thank you for your careful preparation and your commitment to a fair, respectful and principled process. Your constructive engagement strengthens our global federation and the values we collectively uphold.