

2025 Impact Report

The International Federation of Social Workers



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

«Throughout this year, social workers across every region have demonstrated remarkable dedication, resilience and creativity»



Joachim Mumba
IFSW President



Pascal Rudin
IFSW Interim Secretary General

The year 2025 has been one of consolidation, renewal and global engagement for the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW). Across all regions, the Federation continued to strengthen professional solidarity, promote human rights and social justice, and expand its influence within global policy spaces.

This report highlights key developments across governance, membership, international partnerships, global advocacy and regional collaboration. Together, these activities demonstrate the continuing commitment of the global social work community to address the complex social challenges of our time while building stronger foundations for the future of the profession.

Leadership and Secretariat

Executive

Throughout 2025, the IFSW Executive continued to play a central role in guiding the strategic direction and governance of the Federation. During the year, the Executive convened five online meetings, bringing together regional leadership from across the world to deliberate on key organisational, policy and strategic matters. These meetings provided an important platform for collective decision making, enabling the Executive to address emerging issues, support regional developments and strengthen coordination across the Federation's global structures.

We extend our deepest thanks to the members of the IFSW Executive. Their leadership, guidance and continuous en-

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gement are central to advancing the mission and strategic direction of the Federation. Through their collaborative work across regions and time zones, the Executive ensures that the voices and perspectives of social workers from around the world are reflected in the Federation's priorities and actions.

The ability to work effectively across languages during these meetings was made possible thanks to the invaluable support of Lucia Gandolfi, whose interpretation and coordination greatly facilitated inclusive and productive discussions among Executive members from different linguistic backgrounds.

Appointment of Interim Secretary General

In June 2025, in light of the extended leave of the Secretary-General Dr Rory Truell, and following a recruitment process, the IFSW Executive announced the appointment of Dr Pascal Rudin as Interim Secretary-General of the Federation. Pascal brings extensive academic, organisational and policy experience to the role, including expertise in governance, international collaboration and social policy analysis. His appointment reflects the Federation's commitment to ensuring continuity and strengthening the Secretariat's capacity to support the global membership during a period of organisational development and strategic growth.

During this period, the Secretariat prioritised strengthening internal coordination, improving governance processes and expanding engagement with global partners. Particular attention was given to enhancing transparency, organisational effectiveness and member engagement, while supporting the Federation's growing presence in global policy dialogues. These efforts contribute to reinforcing the operational infrastructure required to support IFSW's expanding international activities.

Commissions

A further priority during the year has been strengthening the work of the Federation's commissions. They play an important role in advancing key areas of the profession's global agenda. During 2025, significant progress was made in fully establishing and consolidating the work of all commissions. By reinforcing these structures, IFSW has further strengthened its capacity to contribute expertise to global debates, support professional standards and ensure that diverse perspectives from across the world are reflected in the Federation's work.

We extend a special thank you to Mayaka Bernard for coordinating the work across the commissions, and to the members of the Federation's commissions. The work of these commissions provides invaluable expertise and leadership in advancing key areas of the Federation's global agenda. Their efforts contribute significantly to

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strengthening professional standards, policy engagement and international collaboration.

Good Governance Review

In 2025, the Good Governance Review continued as a key initiative to strengthen the institutional foundations of IFSW, following a motion adopted at the General Meeting in Panama in April 2024. A working group representing all global regions and leadership roles was established and began its work in late 2024, focusing on priority areas including complaints management, financial governance and human resource policies. During 2025, the group met regularly and completed three important governance documents: a Complaints Management Policy, an Employee Conduct and Accountability Policy, and an updated Financial Policy, all of which were subsequently approved by the Executive.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the members of the Good Governance Review working group whose dedication has been central to this process. We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of Abib Ndiaye, Mariana Josephat Makuu, Teoh Ai Hua, Roy Luntayao, Ruth Allen, Birthe Povlsen, Gabriela Rodríguez Vázquez, Jorge Arturo Sáenz Fonseca, Yvonne M. Chase and Barb Whitenect. Their collective work has strengthened transparency, accountability and governance within IFSW as the Federation continues preparing for the next General Meeting in Nairobi in June 2026.

Membership

Strengthening Membership Engagement and Renewal

Throughout 2025, IFSW placed renewed emphasis on strengthening relationships with its member organisations and reinforcing global solidarity within the Federation. Particular attention was given to re-engaging long-standing members that have been less active, through dialogue, regional engagement and renewed opportunities for collaboration.



Joachim Mumba visiting the Korea Association of Social Workers

At the same time, IFSW continued to encourage and support new professional organisations seeking to join the Federation. By supporting emerging associations and efforts to build unified national representation, the Federation aims to strengthen the global voice of social work and expand an inclusive and vibrant international community.

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Progress Towards a Unified Social Work Voice in South Africa



Significant progress was made in 2025 towards establishing a unified **professional body** for social workers in South Africa. In September, Oluwatoni Adeleke, IFSW Africa Regional President, and Pascal travelled to Bloemfontein to support discussions on forming a unified association that can strengthen professional representation and create a cohesive voice for social workers nationally.

The inaugural event took place on 21 November with Oluwatoni present. This initiative reflects broader efforts to strengthen professional solidarity and inclusive governance, and we look forward to welcoming the South African Social Workers Association (SASWA) as a full member of IFSW.

Networking and Outreach

Participation and Wellbeing: A Call for Inclusive Governance

IFSW President Joachim Mumba participated in a **global panel** examining the relationship between participation, wellbeing and artificial intelligence within social welfare systems. The discussion brought to-

gether international experts and policy-makers to explore how emerging technologies are reshaping service delivery, governance and community engagement in social policy.



During this gathering, IFSW joined the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) and the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) in issuing a joint call for inclusive governance within social welfare systems. The statement emphasised the importance of meaningful participation by communities, service users and frontline professionals in shaping policies that affect their lives. The joint initiative reflects growing recognition that sustainable social development requires participatory governance structures that empower citizens and strengthen democratic institutions.

Crossing Borders: Students Unite in Arnhem

Pascal joined the international **student gathering** in Arnhem, Netherlands, which brought together emerging social work leaders from across the world to discuss global challenges facing the profession.

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The event provided a platform for students to exchange perspectives on issues such as migration, climate change, social inequality and community empowerment.



Through collaborative workshops and discussions, participants explored innovative approaches to social change and emphasised the importance of international solidarity among the next generation of social workers. The gathering reinforced IFSW's commitment to supporting youth leadership and fostering cross border collaboration among future practitioners.

Eurasia Forum: Strengthening Collective Leadership



At the Eurasia Forum in Korea, Joachim emphasised the importance of collective leadership in addressing complex global challenges. The forum brought together practitioners, policymakers and scholars from across the region to explore innova-

tive responses to social issues affecting communities throughout Eurasia.

President Mumba thanked Antonina Dashkina, outgoing Eurasia Forum President for her leadership, and welcomed the incoming President Kim Sug-Pyo.

Social Work and Global Health Partnerships

IFSW played an active role in promoting social work's contribution to [global health](#) initiatives, particularly within vaccination programmes aimed at strengthening community resilience. The Federation emphasised that successful vaccination campaigns require strong community engagement and trust building, areas in which social workers play a critical role.

By collaborating with global health partners, IFSW continues to highlight the importance of integrating social perspectives into public health strategies. This partnership demonstrates how social work can contribute to improving health outcomes by addressing social determinants of health and strengthening community participation.

Historic Collaboration at the Second World Summit for Social Development

The Doha Summit marked an important moment of collaboration among global social welfare organisations. New partnerships were formed to strengthen advocacy

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efforts and promote integrated approaches to social development. Pascal represented IFSW and coordinated the Federation's participation at this important gathering. The [historic partnership](#) included IASSW, ICSW, IFSW, as well as the International Consortium for Social Development (ICSD). These collaborations reflect the growing recognition that addressing complex global challenges requires coordinated action across sectors and disciplines.



During the summit, IFSW hosted a [panel discussion](#) exploring the role of social workers in advancing inclusive social development. The discussion highlighted the need for stronger collaboration between governments, civil society and professional organisations. Participants emphasised that social workers play a crucial role in translating global commitments into concrete action at the community level.

Global Agenda and Conferences

Shaping the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development

During 2025, the theme for [World Social Work Day 2026](#) was developed through the Global Agenda Tripartite Task Force, bringing together IASSW, ICSW and IFSW. Representing IFSW in this process were Rose Henderson and Pascal, who worked alongside partners to shape a theme that reflects the profession's response to the growing divisions and challenges facing societies worldwide. The chosen theme, "Co-Building Hope and Harmony: A Harambee Call to Unite a Divided Society", draws inspiration from the African philosophy of Harambee, meaning "pulling together" in a spirit of collective responsibility and shared action. At a time marked by conflict, inequality, displacement and ecological crises, the theme calls on social workers, communities and institutions around the world to strengthen solidarity, rebuild trust and co-create inclusive societies grounded in justice, dignity and participation.

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to Abye Tasse, Chair of the Global Agenda Tripartite Task Force, whose leadership and vision were instrumental in guiding this collaborative process. Our sincere thanks also go to Rose Henderson for her thoughtful contributions and dedication in representing IFSW within the task force and helping to shape a theme that resonates strongly with the val-

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ues and aspirations of the global social work community.

Preparations for the 2026 World Conference in Nairobi



Significant progress was also made during 2025 in preparing for the Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development to be [held in Nairobi](#), Kenya in June 2026. Organised in collaboration with regional and international partners, the conference will bring together social workers, educators, researchers and policymakers from across the world to exchange knowledge, strengthen partnerships and advance the global social work agenda.

Preparations throughout the year focused on establishing the conference infrastructure, opening the call for abstracts and registration, and strengthening collaboration with the Local Organising Committee and conference partners.

Preparing for the Social Work Centenary

The year 2025 was also an important opportunity to highlight the strong collabora-

tion between the global social work partners and to continue preparations for the profession's centenary. A major milestone in this regard was the announcement that the global social work community will [gather in Paris](#), France, for the 2028 Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development, hosted by UNAFORIS. The conference will mark one hundred years of the social work profession and celebrate its global contribution to advancing social justice, human rights and sustainable development.

The event will also reaffirm the long-standing collaboration between IASSW, ICSW and IFSW. Together, the partners will use the centenary gathering to reflect on the profession's history and to explore how social work can contribute to shaping more inclusive, just and sustainable societies in the century ahead.

Regional Conferences

IFSW Latin America and the Caribbean Conference, Pilar



Both Joachim and Pascal travelled to Pilar, Paraguay, to attend the regional delegates [meeting and conference](#). The gathering

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brought together social workers from across Latin America and the Caribbean to strengthen intergenerational solidarity and professional collaboration. Participants explored innovative approaches to addressing social inequalities and strengthening community resilience across the region.

The conference highlighted the importance of integrating traditional knowledge with contemporary professional practices. Discussions emphasised the role of social workers in promoting social justice, environmental sustainability and inclusive development throughout the region.

IFSW Europe Conference, Oslo



Joachim and Pascal also travelled to the European [conference in Oslo](#), which focused on the theme “Together for People and Planet”, highlighting the intersection between social justice and environmental sustainability. Participants discussed the growing importance of ecological perspectives within social work practice.

The conference encouraged participants to consider how social workers can contrib-

ute to addressing climate change and environmental degradation while supporting vulnerable communities. The discussions reinforced the importance of integrating environmental justice into social work education, research and practice.

Africa Regional Conference, Dakar

The [Africa regional conference](#) held in Dakar, Senegal, marked a significant milestone for the region’s social work community. Joachim represented IFSW Global at this important gathering. While both Kenia Batista, Global Vice President, and Pascal were on the guest list, they unfortunately were prevented from participation due to visa and travel restrictions. Delegates adopted strong commitments to strengthen professional collaboration, advance social justice and promote community centred development initiatives across the continent.



Oluwatoni Adeleke, IFSW Africa President

The conference also highlighted the important role of social workers in addressing pressing challenges such as poverty, mi-

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gration, youth unemployment and climate vulnerability. Participants emphasised the need for stronger policy engagement and regional cooperation to address these interconnected issues.

Asia Pacific Regional Conference, Colombo



The Asia Pacific Social Work [Conference held in Colombo](#), Sri Lanka, brought together practitioners, academics and policymakers to discuss the future of social work in a rapidly changing region. The conference provided a forum for sharing innovative practices and strengthening regional networks.

Discussions focused on issues including disaster response, community resilience, digital transformation and inclusive development. The event highlighted the diversity of social work practice across the Asia Pacific region while reinforcing shared commitments to human rights, social justice and sustainable development.

North America Regional Conference, Online

In November 2025, the IFSW North America Region hosted an online conference on “Exploring Collective Crisis among Immigrant and Displaced Communities in Canada, the United States, and Beyond” and invited Pascal to address the participants. The event was a collaborative initiative of our members in Canada and the United States, bringing together practitioners and scholars to discuss the challenges faced by refugees, asylum seekers and immigrant communities and the role of social work in addressing these issues.

The conference explored policy frameworks, healing centred practice approaches and innovative strategies to support displaced populations.

Acknowledgements and Appreciation

The work and achievements of IFSW are made possible through the commitment, dedication and generosity of many colleagues who contribute their time and expertise to the Federation. On behalf of the global membership, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to all those who have supported the work of IFSW throughout the year.

We thank David Jones for his professional and dedicated service as IFSW Elections Officer, ensuring fair and transparent elec-

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toral processes, and Nicolai Paulsen for his valuable guidance as Parliamentarian, supporting sound governance in line with the Constitution and By-Laws.

We would also like to acknowledge Martha Rothblum for her creative and inspiring work in designing the World Social Work Day poster.

Finally, we extend our heartfelt thanks to the many other volunteers, colleagues and partners who contribute to the Federation's work in countless ways. Whether through participation in working groups, regional initiatives, conferences or advocacy efforts, their dedication reflects the spirit of solidarity that lies at the heart of the global social work movement.

Conclusion

IFSW stands at an important moment in its history. The challenges facing societies across the globe are profound and complex, yet they also present opportunities for social workers to play an increasingly vital role in shaping more inclusive and sustainable futures.

Throughout this year, social workers across every region have demonstrated remarkable dedication, resilience and creativity. Whether working within communities, influencing national policies or contributing to global discussions on social development, social workers continue to

embody the values of solidarity, compassion and social justice.

The achievements outlined in this report are the result of the collective efforts of our member organisations, regional leaders, partners and colleagues across the world. Their commitment and expertise are the foundation upon which the Federation continues to grow.

Looking ahead to 2026, the upcoming General Meeting and World Conference in Nairobi will provide an important opportunity to reflect on our progress and shape the next chapter of our shared journey. These gatherings will bring together social workers from across the world to strengthen our collective vision for the future of the profession.

Together, we remain committed to advancing human rights, social justice and sustainable development through the transformative power of social work. As the Federation prepares for the General Meeting and World Conference in Nairobi in 2026, we look forward to continuing this collective journey with our members and partners across the world.

Joachim Mumba
President

Pascal Rudin
Interim Secretary-General

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

«A lo largo de este año, los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales de todas las regiones han demostrado una dedicación, resiliencia y creatividad extraordinarias »



Joachim Mumba
Presidente de la FITS



Pascal Rudin
Secretario General Interino
de la FITS

El 2025 ha sido un año de consolidación, renovación y compromiso global para la Federación Internacional de Trabajadores/as Sociales (FITS). En todas las regiones, la Federación continuó fortaleciendo la solidaridad profesional, promoviendo los derechos humanos y la justicia social, y ampliando su influencia en los ámbitos políticos mundiales.

Este informe destaca los avances clave en materia de gobernanza, membresía, alianzas internacionales, promoción global y colaboración regional. En conjunto, estas actividades demuestran el compromiso constante de la comunidad global de trabajo social para abordar los complejos desafíos sociales de nuestro tiempo, al tiempo que se construyen bases más sólidas para el futuro de la profesión.

Liderazgo y Secretaría

Comité Ejecutivo

A lo largo de 2025, el Comité Ejecutivo de la FITS continuó desempeñando un papel fundamental en la definición de la estrategia y la gobernanza de la Federación. Durante ese año, el Comité Ejecutivo organizó cinco reuniones virtuales en las que participaron líderes regionales de todo el mundo para debatir políticas y aspectos organizacionales y estratégicos. Estas reuniones proporcionaron una plataforma importante para la toma de decisiones colectiva, lo que permitió al Comité Ejecutivo abordar los problemas emergentes, apoyar el desarrollo regional y fortalecer la coordinación entre las estructuras globales de la Federación.

Expresamos nuestro más sincero agradecimiento a los miembros del Comité Ejecutivo de la FITS. Su liderazgo y compromiso constante son fundamentales para el avance de la misión y la dirección estra-

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técnica de la Federación. Gracias a su trabajo colaborativo en las distintas regiones y zonas horarias, el Comité Ejecutivo garantiza que las voces y perspectivas de los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales de todo el mundo se vean reflejadas en las prioridades y acciones de la Federación.

La capacidad de trabajar eficazmente en diferentes idiomas durante estas reuniones fue posible gracias al apoyo fundamental de Lucía Gandolfi, cuya labor de interpretación y coordinación propició debates inclusivos y productivos entre los miembros del Comité Ejecutivo, con sus diversos orígenes lingüísticos.

Nombramiento del Secretario General Interino

En junio de 2025, ante la prolongada licencia del Secretario General, el doctor Rory Truell, y tras un proceso de selección, el Comité Ejecutivo de la FITS anunció el nombramiento del doctor Pascal Rudin como Secretario General Interino de la Federación. Pascal aporta al cargo una amplia experiencia académica, organizacional y en materia de políticas, gobernanza, colaboración internacional y análisis de políticas sociales. Su nombramiento refleja el compromiso de la Federación con la continuidad y el fortalecimiento de la capacidad de la Secretaría para apoyar a sus miembros durante un período de desarrollo organizativo y crecimiento estratégico a nivel global.

Durante este período, la Secretaría dio prioridad al fortalecimiento de la coordinación interna, la mejora de los procesos de gobernanza y la ampliación de la colaboración con socios globales. Se prestó especial atención al fortalecimiento de la transparencia, la eficacia organizacional y la participación de los miembros, al tiempo que se respaldó la creciente presencia de la Federación en los diálogos sobre políticas globales. Estos esfuerzos contribuyen a reforzar la infraestructura operativa necesaria para apoyar la expansión de las actividades internacionales de la FITS.

Comisiones

Otra prioridad durante el año ha sido fortalecer el trabajo de las comisiones de la Federación. Estas desempeñan un papel fundamental en el avance de áreas clave de la agenda global de la profesión. Durante el 2025, se lograron avances significativos en la consolidación del trabajo de todas las comisiones. Al reforzar estas estructuras, la FITS ha fortalecido aún más su capacidad para aportar su experiencia en los debates globales, respaldar los estándares profesionales y garantizar que las diversas perspectivas de todo el mundo se reflejen en el trabajo de la Federación.

Extendemos un agradecimiento especial a Mayaka Bernard, por haber coordinado el trabajo entre las comisiones, y a sus miembros. La labor de estas comisiones aporta una valiosa experiencia y liderazgo en áreas clave de la agenda global de la

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Federación. Sus esfuerzos contribuyen significativamente a fortalecer los estándares profesionales, la participación en la formulación de políticas y la colaboración internacional.

Revisión para la Buena Gobernanza

En 2025, la Revisión para la Buena Gobernanza avanzó como una iniciativa clave para fortalecer los fundamentos institucionales de la FITS, tras una moción adoptada en la Asamblea General celebrada en abril de 2024 en Panamá. Se estableció un grupo de trabajo, con representantes de todas las regiones globales y sus líderes, que comenzó su labor a finales de 2024, con foco en áreas prioritarias como la gestión de quejas, la gobernanza financiera y las políticas de recursos humanos. Durante el 2025, el grupo se reunió periódicamente y elaboró tres importantes documentos de gobernanza -una Política de Gestión de Quejas, una Política de Conducta y Responsabilidad de los/as Empleados/as y una Política Financiera actualizada-, todos los cuales fueron posteriormente aprobados por el Comité Ejecutivo.

Expresamos nuestro sincero agradecimiento a los miembros del grupo de trabajo de la Revisión para la Buena Gobernanza, cuya dedicación ha sido fundamental para este proceso. Agradecemos las contribuciones de Abib Ndiaye, Mariana Josephat Makuu, Teoh Ai Hua, Roy Luntayao, Ruth Allen, Birthe Povlsen, Gabriela Rodríguez Vázquez, Jorge Arturo Sáenz Fonseca,

Yvonne M. Chase y Barb Whitenect. Su trabajo conjunto ha fortalecido la transparencia, la rendición de cuentas y la gobernanza dentro de la FITS, a medida que la Federación avanza hacia la próxima Asamblea General que se celebrará en Nairobi en junio de 2026.

Miembros

Fortalecimiento de la participación y renovación de los miembros

A lo largo del 2025, la FITS hizo especial hincapié en fortalecer las relaciones con sus organizaciones miembro y reforzar la solidaridad global dentro de la Federación. Mediante el diálogo, la colaboración regional y nuevas oportunidades de cooperación, se prestó especial atención a la reactivación de los miembros de larga trayectoria que habían disminuido su participación.

Al mismo tiempo, la FITS continuó alentando y apoyando a las nuevas organizaciones profesionales que buscaban unirse a la Federación. Al respaldar las asociaciones emergentes y los esfuerzos por construir una representación nacional unificada, la Federación busca fortalecer la voz global del trabajo social y expandir una comunidad internacional inclusiva y dinámica.

Avances hacia una voz unificada del trabajo social en Sudáfrica

En 2025 se lograron avances significativos hacia el establecimiento de una [asociación profesional unificada](#) para los trabaja-

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dores y trabajadoras sociales en Sudáfrica. En septiembre, Pascal y Oluwatoni Adeleke, presidenta regional de la FITS-África, viajaron a Bloemfontein para apoyar las conversaciones sobre la formación de una asociación unificada que pudiera fortalecer la representación profesional y crear una voz cohesionada para los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales a nivel nacional.



El evento inaugural tuvo lugar el 21 de noviembre con la presencia de Oluwatoni. Esta iniciativa reflejó un esfuerzo más amplio por fortalecer la solidaridad profesional y la gobernanza inclusiva, y esperamos dar la bienvenida a la Asociación Sudafricana como miembro de pleno derecho de la FITS.

Creación de redes

Participación y bienestar: un llamado a la gobernanza inclusiva

El presidente de la FITS, Joachim Mumba, participó en un [panel global](#). Se examinó la relación entre participación, bienestar e inteligencia artificial en los sistemas de bienestar social. El debate reunió a personas con responsabilidad política y a expertos y expertas de todo el mundo para anali-

zar cómo las tecnologías emergentes están transformando la prestación de servicios, la gobernanza y la participación comunitaria en las políticas sociales.



Durante este encuentro, la FITS se unió a la Asociación Internacional de Escuelas de Trabajo Social (AIETS) y al Consejo Internacional de Bienestar Social (CIBS) para lanzar un llamamiento conjunto en favor de una gobernanza inclusiva en los sistemas de bienestar social. La declaración enfatizó la importancia de la participación de las comunidades, las personas que utilizan los servicios y profesionales de primera línea en la formulación de políticas. Esta iniciativa conjunta refleja el creciente reconocimiento de que el desarrollo social sostenible requiere estructuras de gobernanza participativas que empoderen a la ciudadanía y fortalezcan las instituciones democráticas.

A través de las fronteras: encuentro de estudiantes en Arnhem

Pascal se sumó al [encuentro internacional de estudiantes](#) en Arnhem, Países Bajos, donde se reunieron líderes emergentes del trabajo social de todo el mundo para deba-

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tir los desafíos globales que enfrenta la profesión. El evento brindó una plataforma para que el estudiantado intercambiara perspectivas sobre temas como la migración, el cambio climático, la desigualdad social y el empoderamiento comunitario.

Se exploraron enfoques innovadores para el cambio social a partir de talleres y debates colaborativos y se destacó la importan-



cia de la solidaridad internacional para la próxima generación de profesionales del trabajo social. El encuentro reforzó el compromiso de la FITS de apoyar el liderazgo juvenil y fomentar la colaboración internacional entre los futuros profesionales.

Foro de Eurasia: fortalecimiento del liderazgo colectivo



En el Foro de Eurasia celebrado en Corea, Joachim destacó la importancia del liderazgo colectivo para abordar los complejos

desafíos globales. El foro reunió a profesionales, personas con responsabilidad política, académicos y académicas de toda la región para explorar respuestas innovadoras a los problemas sociales que afectan a las comunidades de Eurasia. El presidente Mumba agradeció a Antonina Dashkina -presidenta saliente del Foro de Eurasia- por su liderazgo y dio la bienvenida al presidente entrante, Kim Sug-Pyo.

Trabajo social y alianzas para la salud global

La FITS desempeñó un papel activo en la promoción de la contribución del trabajo social a las iniciativas de [salud global](#), en particular dentro de los programas de vacunación destinados a fortalecer la resiliencia comunitaria. La Federación hizo hincapié en que las campañas de vacunación exitosas requieren una sólida participación comunitaria y la generación de confianza, áreas en las que los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales desempeñan un papel fundamental.

Mediante la colaboración con socios globales en el ámbito de la salud, la FITS sigue destacando la importancia de integrar las perspectivas sociales en las estrategias de salud pública. Esta alianza demuestra cómo el trabajo social puede contribuir a mejorar los resultados sanitarios a partir del abordaje de los determinantes sociales de la salud y la participación comunitaria.

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Colaboración histórica en la Cumbre de Doha



La Cumbre de Doha marcó un momento importante de colaboración entre organizaciones mundiales de bienestar social. Se formaron nuevas alianzas para fortalecer los esfuerzos de promoción y fomentar enfoques integrados para el desarrollo social. Pascal representó a la FITS y coordinó la participación de la Federación en este importante encuentro. Esta **asociación histórica** incluyó a la AIETS, el CIBS, la FITS y el Consorcio Internacional para el Desarrollo Social (CIDS). Estas colaboraciones reflejan el creciente reconocimiento de que abordar los complejos desafíos globales requiere una acción coordinada entre sectores y disciplinas.

Durante la cumbre, FITS organizó una **mesa redonda**. Se exploró el papel de los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales en el fomento del desarrollo social inclusivo. El debate puso de relieve la necesidad de una mayor colaboración entre gobiernos, sociedad civil y organizaciones profesiona-

les. Se destacó el papel crucial que desempeñan los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales en la traducción de los compromisos globales en acciones concretas a nivel comunitario.

Agenda Global y conferencias

Dar forma a la Agenda Global para el Trabajo Social y el Desarrollo Social

Durante 2025, se desarrolló el tema para el **Día Mundial del Trabajo Social** 2026 a través de un grupo de trabajo tripartito para la Agenda Global que reunió a la AIETS, el CIBS y la FITS. En representación de la FITS durante este proceso participaron Rose Henderson y Pascal, quienes trabajaron junto con nuestros socios para dar forma a un tema que reflejara la respuesta de la profesión ante las crecientes divisiones y desafíos que enfrentan las sociedades en todo el mundo. El tema elegido: *Construir esperanza y armonía: un clamor harambee para unir a una sociedad dividida*. Esta iniciativa se inspira en la filosofía africana *harambee*, que significa “trabajar en conjunto” en un espíritu de responsabilidad colectiva y acción compartida. En un momento marcado por el conflicto, la desigualdad, el desplazamiento y las crisis ecológicas, el tema hace un llamado a los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales, las comunidades y las instituciones de todo el mundo para el fortalecimiento, la solidaridad, la reconstrucción de la confianza y la creación conjunta de sociedades inclusivas basadas en la justicia, la dignidad y la participación.

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Nos gustaría expresar nuestro más profundo agradecimiento a **Abye Tasse**, presidente del grupo de trabajo tripartito para la Agenda Global, cuyo liderazgo y visión fueron fundamentales para guiar este proceso de colaboración. Nuestro sincero agradecimiento también a **Rose Henderson** por sus valiosas contribuciones y su dedicación al representar a la FITS dentro del grupo de trabajo y por ayudar a dar forma a un tema que resuena fuertemente con los valores y las aspiraciones de la comunidad global del trabajo social.

Preparativos para la Conferencia Mundial de 2026 en Nairobi

También se lograron avances significativos durante el 2025 en la preparación de la Conferencia Mundial Conjunta sobre Trabajo Social, Educación y Desarrollo Social que se celebrará próximamente en **Nairobi**, Kenia, en junio de 2026. Organizada en colaboración con socios regionales e internacionales, la conferencia reunirá a profesionales del trabajo social, educadores, educadoras, investigadores, investigadoras y personas con responsabilidades políticas de todo el mundo para intercambiar conocimientos, fortalecer alianzas e impulsar la Agenda Global del Trabajo Social.

Los preparativos a lo largo del año se centraron en establecer la infraestructura de la conferencia, abrir la convocatoria para la presentación de resúmenes e inscripciones, y fortalecer la colaboración con el

Comité Organizador Local y los socios de la conferencia.



Preparativos para el centenario del trabajo social

El año 2025 también fue una oportunidad importante para destacar la sólida colaboración entre los socios globales del trabajo social y para continuar los preparativos para el centenario de la profesión. Un hito importante en este sentido fue el anuncio de que la comunidad mundial del trabajo social se **reunirá en París**, Francia, para la Conferencia Mundial Conjunta de Trabajo Social, Educación y Desarrollo Social de 2028, organizada por UNAFORIS. La conferencia conmemorará los cien años de la profesión del trabajo social y celebrará su contribución global al avance de la justicia social, los derechos humanos y el desarrollo sostenible.

El evento también reafirmará la larga colaboración entre la AIETS, el CIBS y la FITS. Juntos, los socios aprovecharán la celebración del centenario para reflexionar sobre la historia de la profesión y explorar cómo el trabajo social puede contribuir a la construcción de sociedades más inclusivas, justas y sostenibles en el siglo venidero.

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Conferencias regionales

Conferencia regional de América Latina y el Caribe en Pilar



Tanto Joachim como Pascal viajaron a Pilar, Paraguay, para asistir a la [reunión de delegados y delegadas regionales y a la conferencia de América Latina y el Caribe](#). El encuentro reunió a trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales de toda América Latina y el Caribe para fortalecer la solidaridad intergeneracional y la colaboración profesional. Se exploraron enfoques innovadores para abordar las desigualdades sociales y fortalecer la resiliencia comunitaria en toda la región.

La conferencia puso de relieve la importancia de integrar el conocimiento tradicional con las prácticas profesionales contemporáneas. Los debates destacaron el papel de los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales en la promoción de la justicia social, la sostenibilidad ambiental y el desarrollo inclusivo en toda la región.

Conferencia regional de Europa en Oslo

Joaquim y Pascal también viajaron a la [conferencia regional de Europa en Oslo](#). El evento se centró en el tema “Unión por las personas y el planeta”, que destaca la intersección entre la justicia social y la sostenibilidad ambiental. Se debatió sobre la

creciente importancia de las perspectivas ecológicas en la práctica del trabajo social.



La conferencia animó a sus participantes a reflexionar sobre cómo los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales pueden contribuir a abordar el cambio climático y la degradación ambiental, al tiempo que apoyan a las comunidades vulnerables. Los debates reforzaron la importancia de integrar la justicia ambiental en la formación, la investigación y la práctica del trabajo social.

Conferencia regional de África en Dakar

La [conferencia regional de África](#) celebrada en Dakar, Senegal, marcó un hito importante para la comunidad de trabajo social de la región. Joachim representó a la FITS Global en este importante encuentro. Si bien Kenia Batista -vicepresidenta global- y Pascal figuraban en la lista de invitados, lamentablemente no pudieron participar debido a restricciones de visado y viaje. Los delegados y delegadas adoptaron firmes compromisos para fortalecer la colaboración profesional, promover la justicia social e impulsar iniciativas de desarrollo centradas en la comunidad en todo el continente.

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La conferencia también destacó el importante papel de los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales en el abordaje de desafíos apremiantes como la pobreza, la migración, el desempleo juvenil y la vulnerabilidad climática. Se enfatizó la necesidad de una mayor participación política y cooperación regional para abordar estos problemas interconectados.

Conferencia regional de Asia-Pacífico en Colombo



La [conferencia regional de Asia-Pacífico celebrada en Colombo](#), Sri Lanka, reunió a profesionales, académicos y responsables políticos para debatir sobre el futuro del trabajo social en una región en rápida transformación. La conferencia sirvió como foro para compartir prácticas innovadoras y fortalecer las redes regionales.

Los debates se centraron en temas como la respuesta ante desastres, la resiliencia comunitaria, la transformación digital y el desarrollo inclusivo. El evento puso de relieve la diversidad de la práctica del trabajo social en la región de Asia-Pacífico, al tiempo que reforzó el compromiso compartido con los derechos humanos, la justicia social y el desarrollo sostenible.

Conferencia regional de Norteamérica celebrada en línea

En noviembre de 2025, la región norteamericana de la FITS organizó una conferencia en línea sobre la crisis colectiva entre las comunidades inmigrantes y desplazadas en Canadá, Estados Unidos y otros países, en la que Pascal fue invitado como disertante. El evento fue una iniciativa conjunta de nuestros miembros en Canadá y Estados Unidos, que reunió a profesionales, académicos y académicas para debatir los retos a los que se enfrentan las personas refugiadas, quienes solicitan asilo y las comunidades inmigrantes, así como el papel del trabajo social ante este escenario.

La conferencia analizó marcos normativos, enfoques prácticos centrados en la sanación y estrategias innovadoras para apoyar a las poblaciones desplazadas.

Reconocimientos y agradecimiento

El trabajo y los logros de la FITS son posibles gracias al compromiso, la dedicación y la generosidad de muchos y muchas colegas que aportan su tiempo y experiencia a la Federación. En nombre de todos los miembros a nivel mundial, queremos expresar nuestro sincero agradecimiento a quienes han apoyado la labor de la FITS durante todo el año.

Agradecemos a David Jones su servicio profesional y dedicado como responsable electoral de la FITS, que garantizó procesos electorales justos y transparentes, y a Nicolai Paulsen, por su valiosa orientación

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como parlamentario, que contribuyó a una buena gobernanza en consonancia con nuestra Constitución y Estatutos.

También nos gustaría agradecer a Martha Rothblum por su trabajo creativo e inspirador en el diseño del cartel del Día Mundial del Trabajo Social.

Finalmente, extendemos nuestro más sincero agradecimiento a los numerosos voluntarios y voluntarias, colegas y socios que contribuyen al trabajo de la Federación de innumerables maneras. Ya sea mediante su participación en grupos de trabajo, iniciativas regionales, conferencias o actividades de promoción, su dedicación refleja el espíritu de solidaridad que caracteriza al movimiento mundial del trabajo social.

Conclusión

La FITS se encuentra en un momento crucial de su historia. Los desafíos que enfrentan las sociedades de todo el mundo son profundos y complejos, pero también ofrecen oportunidades para que los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales desempeñen un papel cada vez más vital en la construcción de futuros más inclusivos y sostenibles.

A lo largo de este año, los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales de todas las regiones han demostrado una dedicación, resiliencia y creatividad extraordinarias. Ya sea en su trabajo con las comunidades, en materia de políticas nacionales o en los debates mundiales sobre desarrollo so-

cial, los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales siguen encarnando los valores de solidaridad, compasión y justicia social.

Los logros descritos en este informe son el resultado del esfuerzo colectivo de nuestras organizaciones miembro, líderes regionales, socios y colegas de todo el mundo. Su compromiso y experiencia constituyen la base sobre la que la Federación continúa creciendo.

De cara al 2026, la próxima Asamblea General y Conferencia Mundial en Nairobi brindarán una importante oportunidad para reflexionar sobre nuestros avances y definir el siguiente capítulo de nuestro camino compartido. Estos encuentros congregarán a trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales de todo el mundo para fortalecer nuestra visión colectiva del futuro de la profesión.

Mantenemos nuestro compromiso de promover los derechos humanos, la justicia social y el desarrollo sostenible a través del poder transformador del trabajo social. Mientras la Federación se prepara para la Asamblea General y la Conferencia Mundial que se celebrarán en Nairobi en 2026, esperamos continuar este camino colectivo con nuestros miembros y socios en todo el mundo.

Joachim Mumba
Presidente

Pascal Rudin
Secretario General Interino

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« Tout au long de cette année, les travailleurs-euse-s soci-aux-ales de toutes les régions ont fait preuve d'un dévouement, d'une résilience et d'une créativité remarquables. »



Joachim Mumba
Président de la FITS



Pascal Rudin
Secrétaire général par intérim
de la FITS

L'année 2025 a été marquée par la consolidation, le renouveau et l'engagement mondial pour la Fédération internationale des travailleurs-euse-s soci-aux-ales (FITS). Dans toutes les régions, la Fédération a continué à renforcer la solidarité professionnelle, à promouvoir les droits de l'homme et la justice sociale, et à étendre son influence au sein des instances politiques mondiales.

Le présent rapport met en lumière les principales réalisations en matière de gouvernance, d'adhésion, de partenariats internationaux, de plaidoyer mondial et de collaboration régionale. Ensemble, ces activités témoignent de l'engagement continu de la communauté mondiale du travail social à relever les défis soci-aux complexes de notre époque tout en jetant des bases plus solides pour l'avenir de la profession.

Direction et secrétariat

Comité exécutif

Tout au long de l'année 2025, le Comité exécutif de la FITS a continué à jouer un rôle central dans l'orientation stratégique et la gouvernance de la Fédération. Au cours de l'année, le Comité exécutif a organisé cinq réunions en ligne, réunissant les dirigeant-e-s région-aux-ales du monde entier afin de délibérer sur des questions organisationnelles, politiques et stratégiques essentielles. Ces réunions ont constitué une plate-forme importante pour la prise de décision collective, permettant au Comité exécutif de traiter les questions émergentes, de soutenir les développements régionaux et de renforcer la coordination entre les structures mondiales de la Fédération.

Nous adressons nos remerciements les plus sincères aux membres du Comité

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exécutif de la FITS. Leur leadership, leurs conseils et leur engagement constant sont essentiels à la promotion de la mission et de l'orientation stratégique de la Fédération. Grâce à leur travail collaboratif entre les régions et les fuseaux horaires, le Comité exécutif veille à ce que les voix et les points de vue des travailleur·euse·s sociaux·ales du monde entier se reflètent dans les priorités et les actions de la Fédération.

La capacité à travailler efficacement dans différentes langues lors de ces réunions a été rendue possible grâce au soutien inestimable de Lucia Gandolfi, dont l'interprétation et la coordination ont grandement facilité des discussions inclusives et productives entre les membres de la direction issu·e·s de divers horizons linguistiques.

Nomination d'un secrétaire général par intérim

En juin 2025, compte tenu du congé prolongé du secrétaire général, le Dr Rory Truell, et à l'issue d'un processus de recrutement, le Comité exécutif de la FITS a annoncé la nomination du Dr Pascal Rudin au poste de secrétaire général par intérim de la Fédération. Pascal apporte à cette fonction une vaste expérience dans les domaines universitaire, organisationnel et politique, notamment une expertise en matière de gouvernance, de collaboration internationale et d'analyse des politiques

sociales. Sa nomination reflète l'engagement de la Fédération à assurer la continuité et à renforcer la capacité du Secrétariat à soutenir l'ensemble des membres à l'échelle mondiale, dans un contexte de développement organisationnel et de croissance stratégique.

Au cours de cette période, le Secrétariat a donné la priorité au renforcement de la coordination interne, à l'amélioration des processus de gouvernance et à l'intensification de la collaboration avec les partenaires mondiaux. Une attention particulière a été accordée à l'amélioration de la transparence, de l'efficacité organisationnelle et de l'engagement des membres, tout en soutenant la présence croissante de la Fédération dans les dialogues politiques mondiaux. Ces efforts contribuent à renforcer l'infrastructure opérationnelle nécessaire pour soutenir les activités internationales en pleine expansion de la FITS.

Commissions

Une autre priorité au cours de l'année a été le renforcement des travaux des commissions de la Fédération. Celles-ci jouent un rôle important dans la promotion des domaines clés de l'agenda mondial de la profession. En 2025, des progrès significatifs ont été réalisés pour mettre pleinement en place et consolider les travaux de toutes les commissions. En renforçant ces struc-

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tures, la FITS a encore accru sa capacité à apporter son expertise aux débats mondiaux, à soutenir les normes professionnelles et à veiller à ce que les diverses perspectives du monde entier se reflètent dans les travaux de la Fédération.

Nous adressons des remerciements particuliers à Mayaka Bernard pour avoir coordonné le travail entre les commissions, ainsi qu'aux membres des commissions de la Fédération. Le travail de ces commissions apporte une expertise et un leadership inestimables pour faire avancer les domaines clés de l'agenda mondial de la Fédération. Leurs efforts contribuent de manière significative au renforcement des normes professionnelles, à l'engagement politique et à la collaboration internationale.

Révision de la bonne gouvernance

En 2025, la révision de la bonne gouvernance s'est poursuivie en tant qu'initiative clé visant à renforcer les fondements institutionnels de la FITS, conformément à une motion adoptée lors de l'Assemblée générale qui s'est tenue au Panama en avril 2024. Un groupe de travail représentant toutes les régions du monde et les différents niveaux de direction a été mis en place et a commencé ses travaux fin 2024, en se concentrant sur des domaines prioritaires tels que la gestion des plaintes, la gouvernance financière et les politiques en matière de ressources humaines. Au cours

de l'année 2025, le groupe s'est réuni régulièrement et a finalisé trois documents importants relatifs à la gouvernance : une politique de gestion des plaintes, une politique de conduite et de responsabilité des employé-e-s, ainsi qu'une politique financière mise à jour, qui ont tous été approuvés par la suite par le Comité exécutif.

Nous adressons nos sincères remerciements aux membres du groupe de travail sur la révision de la bonne gouvernance, dont le dévouement a été essentiel à ce processus. Nous saluons avec gratitude les contributions d'Abib Ndiaye, de Mariana Josephat Makuu, de Teoh Ai Hua, de Roy Luntayao, de Ruth Allen, de Birthe Povlsen, de Gabriela Rodríguez Vázquez, de Jorge Arturo Sáenz Fonseca, d'Yvonne M. Chase et de Barb Whitenect. Leur travail collectif a renforcé la transparence, la responsabilité et la gouvernance au sein de la FITS, alors que la Fédération poursuit ses préparatifs en vue de la prochaine Assemblée générale qui se tiendra à Nairobi en juin 2026.

Adhésion

Renforcer l'engagement et le renouvellement des membres

Tout au long de l'année 2025, la FITS a mis un accent renouvelé sur le renforcement des relations avec ses organisations membres et sur la consolidation de la solidarité mondiale au sein de la Fédération. Une at-

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tion particulière a été accordée à la réactivation des membres de longue date qui s'étaient montrés moins actifs, par le biais du dialogue, d'un engagement régional et de nouvelles opportunités de collaboration.

Parallèlement, la FITS a continué d'encourager et de soutenir les nouvelles organisations professionnelles souhaitant rejoindre la Fédération. En soutenant les associations émergentes et les efforts visant à établir une représentation nationale unifiée, la Fédération vise à renforcer la voix mondiale du travail social et à développer une communauté internationale inclusive et dynamique.

Progrès vers une voix unifiée du secteur du travail social en Afrique du Sud



Des progrès significatifs ont été réalisés en 2025 en vue de la création d'un **organisme professionnel** unifié pour les travailleur·euse·s soci·aux·ales en Afrique du Sud. En septembre, Oluwatoni Adeleke, présidente de la région Afrique de la FITS, et Pascal se sont rendus à Bloemfontein afin d'apporter leur soutien aux discussions visant à former une association uni-

fiée capable de renforcer la représentation professionnelle et de donner une voix cohérente aux travailleur·euse·s soci·aux·ales à l'échelle nationale.

La cérémonie d'inauguration s'est déroulée le 21 novembre en présence d'Oluwatoni. Cette initiative s'inscrit dans le cadre d'efforts plus larges visant à renforcer la solidarité professionnelle et une gouvernance inclusive, et nous nous réjouissons d'accueillir l'Association sud-africaine des travailleur·euse·s soci·aux·ales (SASWA) en tant que membre à part entière de la FITS.

Réseautage et sensibilisation

Participation et bien-être : un appel en faveur d'une gouvernance inclusive



Joachim Mumba, président de la FITS, a participé à une **table ronde internationale** consacrée à l'examen des liens entre la participation, le bien-être et l'intelligence artificielle au sein des systèmes de protection sociale. Cette discussion a réuni des expert·es internation·aux·ales et des décideur·euse·s politiques afin d'étudier com-

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ment les technologies émergentes redéfinissent la prestation de services, la gouvernance et l'engagement communautaire dans le domaine de la politique sociale.

À l'occasion de cette réunion, la FITS a rejoint l'Association internationale des écoles de travail social (IASSW) et le Conseil international de l'action sociale (ICSW) pour lancer un appel commun en faveur d'une gouvernance inclusive au sein des systèmes de protection sociale. Cette déclaration soulignait l'importance d'une participation effective des communautés, des usager·ères des services et des professionnel·les de terrain à l'élaboration des politiques qui ont une incidence sur leur vie. Cette initiative commune témoigne de la prise de conscience croissante selon laquelle un développement social durable nécessite des structures de gouvernance participatives qui autonomisent les citoyen·ne·s et renforcent les institutions démocratiques.

Au-delà des frontières : les étudiant·e·s se rassemblent à Arnhem

Pascal a participé au [rassemblement international d'étudiant·e·s](#) à Arnhem, aux Pays-Bas, qui a réuni de futur·e·s responsable·s du secteur du travail social venu·e·s du monde entier afin de débattre des défis mondiaux auxquels la profession est confrontée. Cet événement a offert aux étudiant·e·s une plate-forme pour échanger leurs points de vue sur des questions

telles que la migration, le changement climatique, les inégalités sociales et l'autonomisation des communautés.



Au cours d'ateliers collaboratifs et de discussions, les participant·es ont exploré des approches innovantes en matière de changement social et ont souligné l'importance de la solidarité internationale parmi la prochaine génération de travailleur·euse·s soci·aux·ales. Cette rencontre a réaffirmé l'engagement de la FITS à soutenir le leadership des jeunes et à favoriser la collaboration transfrontalière entre les futur·e·s professionnel·le·s.

Forum Eurasia : renforcer le leadership collectif



Lors du Forum Eurasia en Corée, Joachim a souligné l'importance d'un leadership collectif pour relever les défis mondiaux complexes. Ce forum a réuni des professionnel·le·s, des décideur·euse·s poli-

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tiques et des chercheur-euse-s de toute la région afin d'étudier des réponses innovantes aux problèmes soci-aux touchant les communautés à travers l'Eurasie. Le président Mumba a remercié Antonina Dashkina, présidente sortante du Forum Eurasia, pour son leadership, et a souhaité la bienvenue au nouveau président, Kim Sug-Pyo.

Partenariats entre le travail social et la santé mondiale

La FITS a joué un rôle actif dans la promotion de la contribution du travail social aux initiatives de [santé mondiale](#), en particulier dans le cadre des programmes de vaccination visant à renforcer la résilience des communautés. La Fédération a souligné que la réussite des campagnes de vaccination passe par un engagement communautaire fort et l'instauration d'un climat de confiance, domaines dans lesquels les travailleur-euse-s soci-aux-aes jouent un rôle essentiel.

En collaborant avec des partenaires de la santé mondiale, la FITS continue de souligner l'importance d'intégrer les perspectives sociales dans les stratégies de santé publique. Ce partenariat démontre comment le travail social peut contribuer à améliorer les résultats en matière de santé en s'attaquant aux déterminants soci-aux de la santé et en renforçant la participation communautaire.

Une collaboration historique lors du sommet de Doha



Le Sommet de Doha a marqué une étape importante dans la collaboration entre les organisations mondiales de protection sociale. De nouveaux partenariats ont été noués afin de renforcer les actions de plaidoyer et de promouvoir des approches intégrées du développement social. Pascal a représenté la FITS et a coordonné la participation de la Fédération à cette importante réunion. Ce [partenariat historique](#) a réuni l'IASSW, l'ICSW, la FITS, ainsi que le Consortium international pour le développement social (ICSD). Ces collaborations témoignent de la prise de conscience croissante selon laquelle la résolution des défis mondiaux complexes nécessite une action coordonnée entre les secteurs et les disciplines.

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Au cours du sommet, la FITS a organisé une [table ronde](#) consacrée au rôle des travailleur·euse·s soci·aux·ales dans la promotion d'un développement social inclusif. La discussion a mis en évidence la nécessité d'une collaboration plus étroite entre les gouvernements, la société civile et les organisations professionnelles. Les participant·e·s ont souligné que les travailleur·euse·s soci·aux·ales jouent un rôle crucial pour traduire les engagements mondiaux en actions concrètes au niveau local.

Agenda mondial et conférences

Définir l'agenda mondial du travail social et du développement social

Au cours de l'année 2025, le thème de la [Journée mondiale du travail social](#) 2026 a été élaboré par le groupe de travail tripartite sur l'agenda mondial, qui réunit l'IASSW, l'ICSW et la FITS. Rose Henderson et Pascal ont représenté la FITS dans ce processus et ont collaboré avec les partenaires pour définir un thème reflétant la réponse de la profession face aux divisions croissantes et aux défis auxquels sont confrontées les sociétés à travers le monde. Le thème retenu, « *Construire ensemble l'espoir et l'harmonie : un appel à l'Harambee pour unir une société divisée* », s'inspire de la philosophie africaine de l'Harambee, qui signifie « unir ses forces » dans un esprit de responsabilité collective et d'action commune. À une époque marquée par les conflits, les inégalités, les dé-

placements de population et les crises écologiques, ce thème invite les travailleur·euse·s soci·aux·ales, les communautés et les institutions du monde entier à renforcer la solidarité, à rétablir la confiance et à co-construire des sociétés inclusives fondées sur la justice, la dignité et la participation.

Nous tenons à exprimer notre profonde gratitude à **Abye Tasse**, présidente du groupe de travail tripartite sur l'Agenda mondial, dont le leadership et la vision ont joué un rôle déterminant dans l'orientation de ce processus collaboratif. Nous adressons également nos sincères remerciements à **Rose Henderson** pour ses contributions réfléchies et son dévouement, qui lui ont permis de représenter la FITS au sein du groupe de travail et de contribuer à définir un thème en parfaite adéquation avec les valeurs et les aspirations de la communauté mondiale du travail social.

Préparatifs de la Conférence mondiale de 2026 à Nairobi



Des progrès significatifs ont également été réalisés en 2025 dans le cadre de la préparation de la Conférence mondiale conjointe sur le travail social, l'éducation et le développement social, qui [se tiendra à](#)

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

Nairobi, au Kenya, en juin 2026. Organisée en collaboration avec des partenaires régionaux et internationaux, cette conférence réunira des travailleurs sociaux, des éducateurs, des chercheurs et des décideurs du monde entier afin d'échanger des connaissances, de renforcer les partenariats et de faire avancer l'agenda mondial en matière de travail social.

Tout au long de l'année, les préparatifs ont porté sur la mise en place de l'infrastructure de la conférence, le lancement de l'appel à communications et des inscriptions, ainsi que le renforcement de la collaboration avec le comité d'organisation local et les partenaires de la conférence.

Préparation du centenaire du travail social



L'année 2025 a également été l'occasion de mettre en avant la solide collaboration entre les partenaires mondiaux du travail social et de poursuivre les préparatifs en vue du centenaire de la profession. Une étape majeure à cet égard a été l'annonce de la tenue, **à Paris**, (France), de la Conférence mondiale conjointe sur le travail social, l'éducation et le développement social de 2028, organisée par l'UNAFORIS. Cette conférence marquera le centenaire de la profession de travailleur social et célébrera sa contribution mondiale à la promotion de la justice sociale, des droits de

l'homme et du développement durable. Cet événement sera également l'occasion de réaffirmer la collaboration de longue date entre l'IASSW, l'ICSW et la FITS. Ensemble, ces partenaires profiteront de ce rassemblement centenaire pour revenir sur l'histoire de la profession et examiner la manière dont le travail social peut contribuer à façonner des sociétés plus inclusives, plus justes et plus durables au cours du siècle à venir.

Conférences régionales

Conférence de la FITS Amérique latine et Caraïbes, Pilar



Joachim et Pascal se sont tous deux rendus à Pilar, au Paraguay, pour assister à la **réunion et à la conférence** des délégués régionaux. Ce rassemblement a réuni des travailleurs sociaux de toute l'Amérique latine et des Caraïbes dans le but de renforcer la solidarité intergénérationnelle et la collaboration professionnelle. Les participants ont examiné des approches innovantes pour lutter contre les inégalités sociales et renforcer la résilience des communautés dans toute la région.

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

La conférence a mis en évidence l'importance d'intégrer les savoirs traditionnels aux pratiques professionnelles contemporaines. Les discussions ont souligné le rôle des travailleur·euse·s soci·aux·ales dans la promotion de la justice sociale, de la durabilité environnementale et du développement inclusif dans toute la région.

Conférence de la FITS Europe, Oslo



Joachim et Pascal se sont également rendus à la [conférence européenne d'Oslo](#), qui avait pour thème « Ensemble pour les populations et la planète » et mettait en avant les liens entre justice sociale et durabilité environnementale. Les participant·e·s ont débattu de l'importance croissante des perspectives écologiques dans la pratique du travail social.

La conférence a encouragé les participant·e·s à réfléchir à la manière dont les travailleur·euse·s soci·aux·ales peuvent contribuer à lutter contre le changement climatique et la dégradation de l'environnement tout en soutenant les communautés vulnérables. Les discussions ont réaffirmé l'importance d'intégrer la justice environnementale dans la formation, la recherche et la pratique du travail social.

Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique, Dakar



La [conférence régionale africaine](#) qui s'est tenue à Dakar, au Sénégal, a marqué une étape importante pour la communauté des travailleur·euse·s soci·aux·ales de la région. Joachim a représenté FITS Global lors de ce rassemblement majeur. Bien que Kenia Batista, vice-présidente mondiale, et Pascal figuraient tous deux sur la liste des invités, ils n'ont malheureusement pas pu y participer en raison de restrictions en matière de visas et de déplacements. Les délégué·e·s ont pris des engagements fermes visant à renforcer la collaboration professionnelle, à faire progresser la justice sociale et à promouvoir des initiatives de développement centrées sur la communauté à travers tout le continent.

La conférence a également mis en évidence le rôle important des travailleur·euse·s soci·aux·ales dans la lutte contre des défis urgents tels que la pauvreté, les migrations, le chômage des jeunes et la vulnérabilité face au changement climatique. Les participant·e·s ont souligné la nécessité d'un engagement politique accru et d'une coopération régionale renforcée pour faire face à ces enjeux interdépendants.

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

Conférence régionale Asie-Pacifique, Colombo



La Conférence sur le travail social en Asie-Pacifique, [qui s'est tenue à Colombo](#), au Sri Lanka, a réuni des praticien-ne-s, des universitaire-e-s et des décideur-euse-s politiques afin de débattre de l'avenir du travail social dans une région en pleine mutation. Cette conférence a offert un espace de partage des pratiques innovantes et de renforcement des réseaux régionaux. Les discussions ont porté sur des thèmes tels que la gestion des catastrophes, la résilience communautaire, la transformation numérique et le développement inclusif. L'événement a mis en lumière la diversité des pratiques du travail social dans la région Asie-Pacifique, tout en réaffirmant les engagements communs en faveur des droits de l'homme, de la justice sociale et du développement durable.

Conférence régionale d'Amérique du Nord, en ligne

En novembre 2025, la région Amérique du Nord de la FITS a organisé une conférence en ligne intitulée « Explorer les crises collectives au sein des communautés d'immigrant-e-s et de personnes déplacées au Canada, aux États-Unis et au-delà » et a invité Pascal à s'adresser aux partici-

pant-e-s. Cet événement était une initiative collaborative de nos membres au Canada et aux États-Unis, réunissant des praticien-ne-s et des chercheur-euse-s afin de discuter des défis auxquels sont confrontés les réfugié-e-s, les demandeur-euse-s d'asile et les communautés immigrées, ainsi que du rôle du travail social dans la résolution de ces problèmes.

La conférence a examiné les cadres politiques, les approches pratiques axées sur la guérison et les stratégies innovantes visant à soutenir les populations déplacées.

Remerciements et reconnaissance

Le travail et les réalisations de la FITS sont rendus possibles grâce à l'engagement, au dévouement et à la générosité de nombreux collègues qui mettent leur temps et leur expertise au service de la Fédération. Au nom de l'ensemble des membres à travers le monde, nous tenons à exprimer notre sincère gratitude à tous ceux qui ont soutenu le travail de la FITS tout au long de l'année.

Nous remercions David Jones pour son service professionnel et dévoué en tant que responsable des élections de la FITS, garantissant des processus électoraux équitables et transparents, ainsi que Nicolai Paulsen pour ses précieux conseils en tant que parlementaire, soutenant une gouvernance saine conforme à la Constitution et aux statuts.

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

Nous tenons également à saluer Martha Rothblum pour son travail créatif et inspirant dans la conception de l'affiche de la Journée mondiale du travail social.

Enfin, nous adressons nos sincères remerciements aux nombreux-es autres bénévoles, collègues et partenaires qui contribuent au travail de la Fédération de multiples façons. Que ce soit par leur participation à des groupes de travail, à des initiatives régionales, à des conférences ou à des actions de plaidoyer, leur dévouement reflète l'esprit de solidarité qui est au cœur du mouvement mondial du travail social.

Conclusion

La FITS se trouve à un tournant décisif de son histoire. Les défis auxquels sont confrontées les sociétés à travers le monde sont profonds et complexes, mais ils offrent également aux travailleur·euse·s soci·aux·ales l'occasion de jouer un rôle de plus en plus essentiel dans la construction d'un avenir plus inclusif et durable.

Tout au long de cette année, les travailleur·euse·s soci·aux·ales de toutes les régions ont fait preuve d'un dévouement, d'une résilience et d'une créativité remarquables. Qu'ils travaillent au sein des communautés, qu'ils influencent les politiques nationales ou qu'ils contribuent aux débats mondiaux sur le développement social, les travailleur·euse·s soci·aux·ales continuent d'incarner les valeurs de soli-

darité, de compassion et de justice sociale.

Les réalisations présentées dans ce rapport sont le fruit des efforts collectifs de nos organisations membres, de nos dirigeant·e·s région·aux·ales, de nos partenaires et de nos collègues à travers le monde. Leur engagement et leur expertise constituent le fondement sur lequel la Fédération continue de se développer.

À l'horizon 2026, la prochaine Assemblée générale et la Conférence mondiale à Nairobi offriront une occasion importante de réfléchir à nos progrès et de tracer le prochain chapitre de notre parcours commun. Ces rassemblements réuniront des travailleur·euse·s soci·aux·ales du monde entier afin de renforcer notre vision collective de l'avenir de la profession.

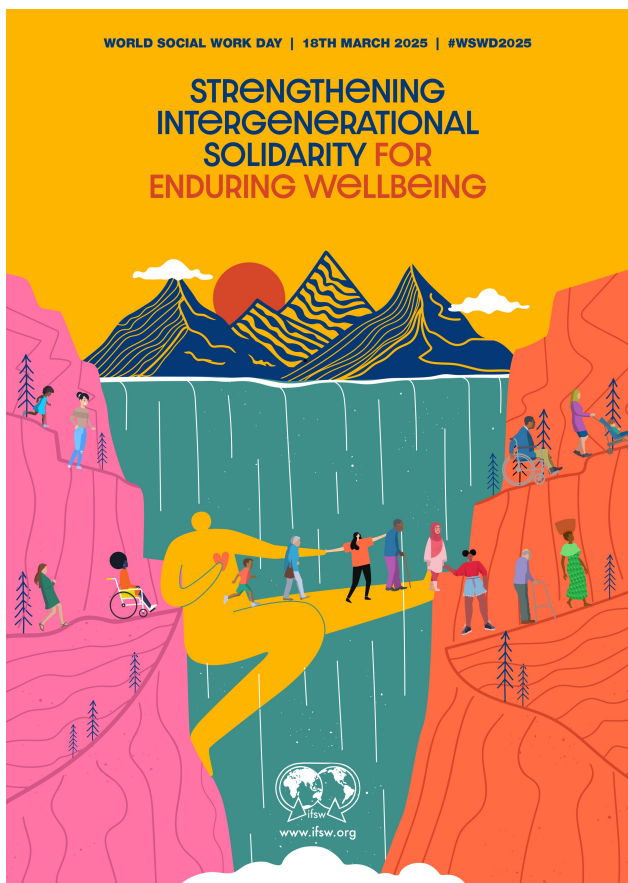
Ensemble, nous restons déterminé·e·s à faire progresser les droits de l'homme, la justice sociale et le développement durable grâce au pouvoir transformateur du travail social. Alors que la Fédération se prépare pour l'Assemblée générale et la Conférence mondiale qui se tiendront à Nairobi en 2026, nous nous réjouissons de poursuivre ce cheminement collectif avec nos membres et nos partenaires à travers le monde.

Joachim Mumba
Président

Pascal Rudin
Secrétaire général par intérim

Events

World Social Work Day



World Social Work Day took place on 18 March 2025. This year's theme was '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.

Joachim Mumba, IFSW President, stated: *"This theme highlights the critical role of intergenerational care, respect, and collaboration in creating resilient communities and sustainable environments. It underscores the social work profession's dedi-*

cation to building connections that value the wisdom of our elders while empowering younger generations to tackle today's challenges and envision a better future. Together, we can build a world where compassion and solidarity lay the groundwork for lasting well-being for everyone. As an African proverb says, 'If you light a lamp for someone, it will also brighten your own path'. Our collective efforts to uplift one another ultimately illuminate the way forward for all."

Intergenerational solidarity also speaks to the economic and environmental challenges we face, as each generation needs to act in relationship with the environments in which we live so that future generations can inherit healthy and sustainable economic and ecological environments. The theme recognises the importance of the transfer of knowledge across the generations and the value in acknowledging our elders and ancestors.

Read more

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

[Read the report here.](#)

You may find a collage of the hashtag #WSWD2025 on the next page.



World Social Work Day 2025

STRENGTHENING INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY FOR ENDURING WELLBEING

THE 16th NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND THE 8th ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Monday 24 March 2025
09:00 - 12:40 AM (GMT+7)

Opening Remarks
H.E. Mvumbi Mpa-mbe
Minister of Social Development and Human Security

Special Remarks
Ms. Mahalia Fobang-Stony
Secretary General, International Association of Social Workers

Welcome Remarks
Prof. Masha Othara
President of the International Association of Schools of Social Work

Prof. Antoinette Lombard
President of the International Association of Social Workers

Dr. Sergei Zelenov
President of the International Council on Social Work

Meeting ID: 929 6994 7942
Passcode: 123456



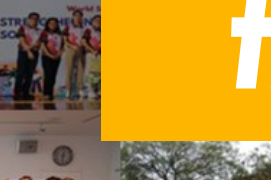
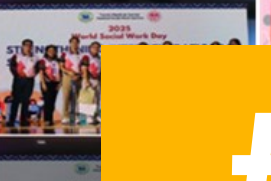
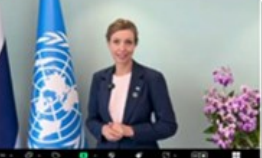
World Social Work Day 2025

Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity for Enduring Wellbeing

THE 16th NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND THE 8th ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Monday 24 March 2025
09:00 - 12:40 AM (GMT+7)

Meeting ID: 929 6994 7942
Passcode: 123456



#WSWD2024

World Social Work Day Uganda Conference - 2025

Theme: 'Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity for Enduring Wellbeing'

9 Main Conference:
Makerere University - Main Hall

TRABAJO SOCIAL

abds

Marina im Rahmen des World

Members

News From Members

Afghanistan

Our members in Afghanistan and Iran have established a collaboration program aiming to support reunification of Separated.

[Read the article](#)

Argentina



The Professional Association of Social Work in Argentina marked its 30th anniversary with a commemorative event held in Tierra del Fuego.

[Read the article \(Spanish\)](#)

Austria

The Austrian Professional Association of Social Work has officially launched the Qualification Framework for Social Work in Austria.

[Read the article](#)

Canada

The Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW) has released its 2025 Annual Report.

[Read the article](#)

Congo (DRC)



IFSW called for support to assist our colleagues and communities in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

[Read the article](#)

Gambia

The Association of Social Workers in The Gambia signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at strengthening collaborative social services across the country.

[Read the article](#)

India

The National Association of Professional Social Workers in India published a Newsletter Focusing on Family Wellbeing

[Read the article](#)

The Indian Society of Professional Social Work hosted its National Conference in Bengaluru under the theme “Digital India and Sustainable Social Work Practice”.

[Read the article](#)

Members

News From Members

Japan



To celebrate World Social Work Day, the Japanese Federation of Social Workers held a special event.

[Read the article](#)

Malawi

IFSW Africa Region has announced Malawi as the host country for the 2027 IFSW Africa Regional Conference.

[Read the article](#)

Mozambique

The African Association of Social Workers Mozambique held its second national conference.

[Read the article](#)

IFSW is delighted to welcome Mozambique as its newest member, represented

by the African Association of Social Workers Mozambique.

[Read the article](#)

Nepal

The Social Workers' Association of Nepal has issued a statement to the international community regarding the recent two-day protest organised by young people.

[Read the article](#)

Philippines



The Philippine Association of Social Workers has mobilised its members to provide psychosocial and community support earthquake victims.

[Read the article](#)

PASWI International Conference and National Convention Celebrate Intergenerational Solidarity and Family Wellbeing.

[Read the article](#)

Members

News From Members

Sri Lanka



The Asia-Pacific Social Work Conference 2025, hosted in Sri Lanka, successfully concluded with the participation of social workers, academics, and professionals from across the region and beyond.

[Read the article](#)

Taiwan

The Taiwan Association of Social Workers held their National Conference and visited members of the indigenous Atayal tribe.

[Read the article](#)

Thailand



The Department of Social Development and Welfare, Ministry of Social Develop-

ment and Human Security of Thailand, successfully hosted a landmark event on 24 March 2025 to commemorate World Social Work Day 2025.

[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 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

SIGN UP NOW



Life Friend membership

\$600

SIGN UP NOW



Organisational Friend membership

\$1000 for 1 year

SIGN UP NOW

Regions

IFSW Africa



Introductory Background

The International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) Africa Region continues to serve as a vibrant and influential platform for collaboration, capacity strengthening, and advocacy, representing the interests of social workers across 35 member countries. These countries each with unique socio-economic and cultural contexts include: Angola, Benin Republic, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Djibouti, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The leadership of the IFSW Africa Region continues to guide the federation's mission of promoting social justice, human rights, and sustainable development. In 2025, the regional executive is led by Oluwatoni Adeleke (Nigeria) as President and Abib Ndiaye (Senegal) as Vice President. Their leadership reflects a commitment to strengthening professional social work practice and advancing regional solidarity. In addition to the executive, Africa's strong representation across global IFSW commissions reinforces the region's influence in shaping international social work standards and priorities. These include:

- Antoinette Lombard (South Africa) – Education Commission
- Charles Mbugua (Kenya) – United Nations High Commission

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IFSW Africa

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

This year, the region is also pleased to welcome Mozambique into its membership further expanding the federation’s inclusivity and reinforcing its commitment to engaging all African nations in advancing social work values, standards, and practice.

Over the past year, the region has implemented a range of initiatives designed to strengthen collaboration, build professional capacity, and improve social work responses to emerging challenges. These efforts reflect IFSW Africa’s ongoing dedication to elevating the voice of social workers, enhancing protection systems, and contributing meaningfully to development and social transformation across the continent.

Regional Meetings

On 28 November 2025, social work leaders from nine West African countries namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Nigeria, Senegal, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, and Togo convened at Le Fenny Hotel, Dakar, for

a strategic sub-regional meeting organised under the auspices of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) Africa Region.



The gathering formed a crucial part of the wider engagements of the IFSW Africa Conference hosted in Dakar, providing a dedicated space for national association presidents to collectively examine common challenges, share experiences, and agree on strategic directions to strengthen the social work profession across West Africa.

Participants identified professionalisation of social work as one of the most urgent concerns across all nine countries. In many contexts, the absence of enabling legislation means social work is not fully recognised or regulated, leaving practitioners without a clear professional identity, adequate job structures, or defined practice standards. Delegates agreed that countries without social work legislation must intensify efforts to pass the necessa-

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ry laws, and that IFSW Africa will provide technical support to facilitate advocacy and policy engagement.

Another critical challenge raised was the shortage of qualified PhD-level social work lecturers in universities across the sub-region. Due to this gap, many institutions employ non-social workers to teach core social work courses. Delegates emphasised that this undermines the academic integrity of the profession and impacts the quality of training provided to future social workers. The meeting therefore resolved that PhD fellowships and scholarship opportunities must be intentionally expanded for African social workers, to build academic leadership and strengthen indigenous knowledge production.

Participants also raised concerns about the limited support received from national governments. In several countries, social work activities remain largely funded or supported by UNICEF and other development partners, while government engagement, resourcing, and recognition remain minimal. Delegates stressed the need for stronger state partnership and long-term investment in social services.

The meeting concluded with a joint commitment from the ten national presidents to work collaboratively with IFSW Africa to advance legislative reforms, promote academic development, and strengthen organisational capacity. Their inputs were formally integrated into the broader outco-

me document of the 2025 IFSW Africa Region Conference, ensuring unified regional priorities ahead of the 2026 IFSW Global Conference.



Participants later had the opportunity to meet with the Global President, Joachim Mumba, the Africa Electoral Officer, Anstance Fometu, and the IFSW Administrator, Mayaka Bernard. During this engagement, they shared valuable insights about IFSW's governance, global mandate, and ongoing initiatives aimed at strengthening social work practice across regions.

Webinar on social work regulation in collaboration with Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work(COSW)

The IFSW Africa Region, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work (COSW), hosted a webinar on 20 March 2025 to discuss progress, challenges, and regional strategies for advancing the professionalisation and regulation of social work across Africa. The virtual session, held from 11:30 to 13:00 UTC,

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convened social work leaders, practitioners, and representatives from national associations.

Key presentations on recognition and regulation of the profession were delivered by Joachim Mumba (IFSW & Zambia) and Mashood Mustafa (Nigeria). They highlighted ongoing advocacy efforts, national developments, and policy gaps that continue to hinder the establishment of effective regulatory systems.



Regulating social work in Africa

Webinar – Thursday 20th March 2025 – 11.30 – 13.00 (UTC)
Progress in achieving recognition of social work in Africa
Joachim Mumba (IFSW & Zambia) Mashood Mustafa (Nigeria)
Updates from countries
Oluwatoni Adeleke (IFSW) Sylvia Daisy Romanus (COSW) David N Jones (COSW)
Webinar Zoom Link [HERE](#)

During the discussions, it was agreed that the continent would benefit from a uniform template or framework to guide countries in developing legislation, regulation, and professionalisation processes. This template is expected to promote consistency, strengthen national advocacy, and support countries at different stages of regulatory development.

Participants also observed that several African countries currently have social work legislation in place but lack functional regulatory councils, limiting implementation, professional accountability, and enforcement of standards. South Africa was highlighted as a positive example, being

one of the few countries with both established legislation and an operational professional council, demonstrating the impact of a complete regulatory structure on quality service delivery and professional identity.

Country updates were also shared by Oluwatoni Adeleke (IFSW), Sylvia Daisy Romanus (COSW), and David N. Jones (COSW), providing insights into national experiences, achievements, and ongoing challenges. The session reinforced the need for stronger regional Networking.

Vice President Abib Ndiaye's Advocacy Mission to the Gambia



As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen social work practice and promote legislative recognition across Africa, the IFSW Africa Region Vice President, Abib Ndiaye, undertook a strategic advocacy visit to The Gambia.

During the mission, Mr. Ndiaye paid a high-level courtesy visit to the Vice President of The Gambia, His Excellency Muhammed B. S. Jallow, where he highlighted the ur-

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gent need for stronger government support for social workers in the country. Discussions centred on the importance of advancing the long-awaited social work legislation, improving the working conditions of social workers, and enhancing the visibility of the profession within national development priorities.

Mr. Ndiaye also used the opportunity to inform the Vice President about the IFSW Africa Conference scheduled to take place in Dakar, encouraging the active participation of Gambian delegates given the geographical proximity and the relevance of the conference theme to the region.

In furtherance of the mission, the Vice President accompanied by the leadership of the National Association of Social Workers in The Gambia led by Basamba Drammeh visited the National Human Rights Commission, where discussions focused on strengthening collaboration in protecting vulnerable populations and promoting human rights-based social work interventions.

The delegation also held an interactive engagement session with social work students at the University of The Gambia, encouraging them to take leadership roles in the future of the profession and reassuring them of IFSW Africa's commitment to supporting young and emerging social workers across the continent.



This advocacy mission forms part of IFSW Africa Region's broader commitment to supporting member countries in advancing professionalisation, enhancing capacity development, and fostering stronger government partnerships for the social service workforce.

Social Work Conference held by the Association of Social Workers in Mozambique



The Second National Conference of Social Workers, organised by the African Association of Social Workers Mozambique (AASMO), was held on 3–4 July 2025 at the Montebello Indy Maputo Congress Hotel. Supported by UNICEF and MTGAS, the conference brought together social workers, academics, students, government

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officials, and international partners to review the progress and challenges of the social work profession in Mozambique.

Held under the theme “Strengthening the Profession, Building the Future: Promoting Social Work Training and Intervention,” the conference built on AASMO’s inaugural 2018 meeting and featured speakers from Mozambique and abroad (Ghana, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, and Portugal). Virtual contributions from international associations provided comparative insights on governance, membership systems, and professional regulation.

A recurring concern raised by Mozambican institutions was the absence of a harmonised national curriculum for social work training. Stakeholders agreed that the variation in course content across universities undermines professional standardization. Government ministries present at the meeting also affirmed the urgency of legislating the profession and establishing a regulatory council.

UNICEF provided critical data showing a social worker-to-population ratio of 1:75,000, far below regional standards of 1:5,000–10,000, contributing to weak community-based services. UNICEF reiterated its commitment to supporting workforce strengthening, clarifying professional roles, and advocating increased government investment.

Key presentations included:

- IFSW Africa President Oluwatoni Adeleke, emphasized mentorship, generational collaboration, and deliberate capacity-building for a sustainable social service workforce. She highlighted ways Mozambique can engage more actively with IFSW programs and global platforms.
- Eric Hugh Salmon (Global Social Service Workforce Alliance), who spoke on the benefits of global networking and advocacy.
- Conrad Barberton, who outlined strategies for developing strong investment cases to Ministries of Finance and Planning.



Additional opportunities noted for Mozambique include strengthening member commitment, expanding Lusophone representation within IFSW, building strategic government partnerships, and leveraging UNICEF’s continued technical support. The country also benefits from strong political goodwill, given that the Minister of

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Labour and Social Welfare is a trained social worker and AASMO member.

In conclusion, the 2025 AASMO Conference marked a major step forward for social work in Mozambique, reinforcing collaboration between government, academia, development partners, and the international social work community. Continued engagement with IFSW Africa, UNICEF, and national stakeholders will be vital for building a resilient and professionalized social service workforce capable of addressing the country's social development challenges.

50 years Anniversary celebration of Nigeria Association of Social workers (NASoW) in October 2025



The Nigeria Association of Social Workers (NASoW) marked its 50th Anniversary (Golden Jubilee) alongside its 40th Annual National Conference and Annual General Meeting in Osogbo, Osun State. The milestone brought together social work professionals, academics, students, government

officials, civil society organisations, and international delegates to reflect on five decades of professional social work practice in Nigeria.

The conference, held under the theme “Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity for Enduring Wellbeing,” provided a platform for examining Nigeria’s socio-economic realities and the evolving role of social workers in promoting wellbeing, social protection, peacebuilding, and community resilience. The theme underscored the importance of bridging generational gaps within the profession and fostering mentorship, collaboration, and continuity.

Over five days, the event featured keynote presentations, academic paper sessions, thematic panel discussions, exhibitions, and a commemorative gala. Participants assessed the progress made in institutionalising social work in Nigeria, highlighted persistent challenges such as the absence of a regulatory council, limited funding, and inadequate inclusion of social workers in policy spaces, and renewed calls for stronger legislation and professional recognition.

Notable contributions came from national and state government actors, including the Osun State leadership, who reaffirmed support for strengthening social work in governance and community development. Delegates emphasised the need for continued capacity building, age-inclusive soci-

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al policies, improved humanitarian response frameworks, and stronger partnerships across sectors.

The Golden Jubilee celebration served as both a reflection on NASoW's historical journey and a renewed commitment to advancing the profession. It concluded with the AGM, where members reaffirmed their dedication to upholding ethical standards, expanding professional visibility, and strengthening social work's contribution to national development and the wellbeing of vulnerable populations.



Inaugural Launch of the Social Workers Association, South Africa (SASWA)

The inaugural launch of the Social Workers Association in South Africa (SASWA) was held on 20 November 2025, marking a historic milestone in rebuilding a unified national body for social workers in the country. Originally established in 2007 but rendered inactive due to longstanding fragmentation, the association has now been successfully reconstituted through the leadership of Professor Antoinette Lombard, supported by IFSW Africa.



The University of Pretoria provided strong institutional backing, with the Dean of Humanities, Professor Kevin Thomas, reaffirming the university's commitment to advancing social work education and professional development. A Steering Committee, active since June 2024, coordinated the reconstitution process and formally handed over to the newly elected executive team during the launch.

More than 1,000 verified social workers participated in the online elections held from 7–17 November 2025, with over 100 others attending the launch virtually. The elected five-member executive reflects diverse regions and combines young leaders with veteran practitioners, collectively committed to inclusive and transparent governance over their one-year term.

As President of IFSW Africa, I addressed participants on the strategic value of affiliating with IFSW, including regional collaboration, global advocacy opportunities, and strengthened professional networks. Members expressed strong interest in joining IFSW, signalling a renewed spirit of unity and professional engagement.

Regions

IFSW Africa

The successful launch of SASWA establishes a solid foundation for the revitalisation of the social work profession in South Africa. It positions the association to play a stronger role in national policy influence, professional cohesion, and contributions to community well-being across the country.

Awards and recognition of outstanding social workers in Africa on social work day, November 2025



The Vice President of the National Association of Social Workers, Gambia, is being given an award by the UNICEF West Africa Region focal person, Esther Ruitz.

As part of the 2025 IFSW Africa Regional Conference held in Dakar, Senegal, the

International Federation of Social Workers Africa Region presented the IFSW Africa Awards of Excellence to outstanding practitioners across the continent. The awards were created to honour exceptional social workers whose dedication, leadership, and impact embody the highest standards of the profession.

Ahead of the event, all member countries were invited to nominate one outstanding female and one outstanding male social worker who demonstrated exemplary service, ethical practice, innovation, and a significant contribution to advancing social justice, community wellbeing, and professional development within their national contexts. During the ceremony, IFSW Africa formally recognised the following awardees from across the region:

S/N, NAME, SEX, COUNTRY

- 1 Kikunni Kangela, M, DRC
- 1 Isaac Kweku Agyen , M, Ghana
- 2 Clara Sowah, F, Ghana
- 3 Augustina Onyinye Ugbana, F, Gambia
- 4 Alh. Mashood B. Mustapha, M, Nigeria
- 5 Josphat Kigai Kiarie , M, Kenya
- 6 Amelie Diatta, F, Senegal
- 7 Stephano Akuzike Joseph, M, Malawi
- 8 Margret Tendai Mwale, F, Malawi
- 9 Sunmola Lasisi Oriowo, M , Nigeria
- 10 Sr. Assumpta Edith Nwulu, F, Nigeria
- 11 Pierre Celestin Bimenyimana, M, Rwanda

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IFSW Africa

- 12 Ms.Chantal Ingabire, F, Rwanda
- 13 Marie Odile Mbengue, F, Senegal
- 14 Ndéye Coumba Diabakhaté, F, Senegal
- 15 Michael Mitchell Conteh, M, Sierra Leone
- 16 Mariama Alice Kamara, F, Sierra Leone
- 17 Joachim Mumba, M, Zambia
- 18 Elsie Whacha, F, Zimbabwe



Award presented to an outstanding social worker in Senegal while the Vice president, Abib Ndiaye reads her biography

These honourees represent the diverse strength of the profession across Africa. Their work spans fields such as child and family welfare, humanitarian response, mental health, community development, anti-trafficking interventions, gender justice, policy advocacy, and peacebuilding. By recognising their achievements, IFSW Africa reinforces its commitment to elevating standards of practice, promoting inter-

generational mentorship, and strengthening solidarity across the region. The Awards of Excellence not only celebrate individual accomplishments but also inspire younger practitioners and highlight the essential role of social workers in addressing complex social issues across Africa.

IFSW Africa Regional Conference 2025



Dignitaries at the IFSW Africa region conference - From left is Pedro from UNFPA, Mr. Jacques Boyer from UNICEF, Joachim Mumba, IFSW Global president, the representative of the hon minister for health, Oluwatoni Adeleke, IFSW Africa president, Abib Ndiaye, IFSW Africa Vice president and mr. Saliou Dagne, the Chairman Organising committee for the conference

The 2025 IFSW Africa Regional Conference was held from 26–30 November 2025 at ENDSS, Dakar, Senegal, marking the first time the Regional Conference was hosted in a Francophone African country. The event brought together over 200 participants from across Africa and partner countries including Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

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IFSW Africa

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The conference was officially opened by the representative of the Minister of Health and Social Action, with additional addresses delivered by the IFSW Global President, Joachim Mumba, the IFSW Africa President, Oluwatoni Adeleke, the IFSW Africa Vice President and FTSS President, Abib Ndiaye, and representatives from UNICEF and other development partners.

Held under the theme “Social Work Facing the Challenges of Social Cohesion and Sustainable Development in Africa: Current Trends and Perspectives,” the conference provided a platform for social workers, policymakers, academics, development partners, and students to examine emerging social issues and strengthen professional collaboration.



Participants engaged extensively in discussions on:

- Social work in conflict prevention, resolution, and peacebuilding
- Women, Peace, and Security, and addressing all forms of GBV
- Emergency response and humanitarian action
- Child protection in crisis contexts
- Migration, displacement, and reintegration
- Climate change, resilience, and environmental justice
- Strengthening the social service workforce across Africa

The conference adopted a set of commitments to guide the region’s agenda for 2026 and preparation for the Global Conference in Kenya. Key commitments include:

- Workforce Development: Expansion of case management training, establishment of supervision frameworks, creation of PhD scholarships, and entrepreneurship

Regions

IFSW Africa

neurship fellowships for social workers.

- **Research & Knowledge Strengthening:** Enhanced cross-country collaborations, data systems, costing models, and knowledge exchange.
- **Professionalisation:** A renewed call for legislative recognition of social work in all African countries and harmonised standards of education and practice.
- **Leadership and Advocacy:** Promotion of stronger representation of social workers in governance and public decision-making spaces.
- **Safety & Well-Being:** Prioritisation of occupational safety, mental health, and protective mechanisms for social workers.
- **Innovation:** Adoption of technology-driven and community-based approaches, with a special focus on preventing technology-facilitated violence.
- **Youth Engagement:** Stronger commitment to listening to adolescents and involving them in decision-making.
- **Equity in Access:** A notable resolution that social work students should not pay to attend social work conferences, ensuring inclusive participation.

UNICEF, represented by Mr. Jacques Boyer, and other development partners reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the social service workforce and ad-

vancing child and family protection systems across Africa.

The global president, UNICEF representative and the representative of the Hon Minister for Health having a discussion at the conference



The conference:

- Strengthened inter-country collaboration
- Provided a unified African position ahead of the 2026 Global Conference
- Reaffirmed the central role of social work in advancing peace, human rights, and sustainable development
- Set a strong strategic direction for the region through a comprehensive outcome communiqué
- The IFSW Africa Region extends gratitude to the Government of Senegal, FTSS Senegal, UNICEF, UNFPA, and all participating associations for their contributions to a highly successful and historic conference.

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IFSW Africa

Ubuntu Sisterhood: 16 Days of Activism



During the 16 Days of Activism segment at the IFSW Africa Conference, the “Ubuntu Sisterhood” initiative was officially launched. The movement, rooted in the African philosophy of interconnectedness and mutual care, aims to strengthen solidarity among female social workers across the continent. The launch emphasised the need for women in the profession to support one another, amplify their collective voice, and advance gender-responsive social work practice. Female social workers were encouraged to join the movement as a platform for mentorship, peer support, advocacy, and collaborative action against all forms of violence and discrimination affecting women and girls. The Ubuntu Sisterhood is expected to serve as a unifying network that promotes empowerment, leadership development, and cross-country collaboration among women within the IFSW Africa community.

Key Activities Planned for 2026

Strategic partnership meeting with partners and working donors in Africa Region

- East Africa sub regional meeting in Kenya by June,2026
- Research on Strengthening Educational Systems Through School-Based Social Work Services"
- Capacity building series for female social workers (Ubuuntu sisterhood) on GBV and other topics of interest quarterly in English and French.
- Mobilize members to attend the Global Social work conference in Kenya by June 2026.
- Constitute a planning committee for the 2027 confernce in Malawi.
- Grant Support for National Associations for professionalisation and Humanitarian response.

Report written by:

Oluwatoni Adeleke and Abib Ndiaye

President IFSW Africa and Vice President IFSW Africa

News and Statements

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 Lead

Name, countries of the representatives in the different commissions

Regional representatives of the Education Commission Team

Leader – Mariko Kimura (Japan)

Team Members – Chathu Gurusinghe (Sri Lanka), Ghandi Doss (India), Haenim Lee (South Korea), Rosauro Luntayao (Philippines)

Regional representatives of the Ethics Commission

Co-ordinating Regional Representative: Hassan Mousavi Chelak (Iran)

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Regional Representatives: Sukrita Rai (Nepal), Yvonne Crichton-Hill (Aotearoa New Zealand)

Regional representatives of the United Nations Commission

Team Leader – Sebastian Cordoba (Australia)

Team Members – Hamed Olamaee (Iran), Massoud Ayoubi (Afghanistan), Suresh Pathare (India), Talaat Hamoud (Yemen), Young Joon Hong (South Korea), Wilaiporn (Kae) Kotbungkair (Thailand)

Regional representatives of the Indigenous Commission

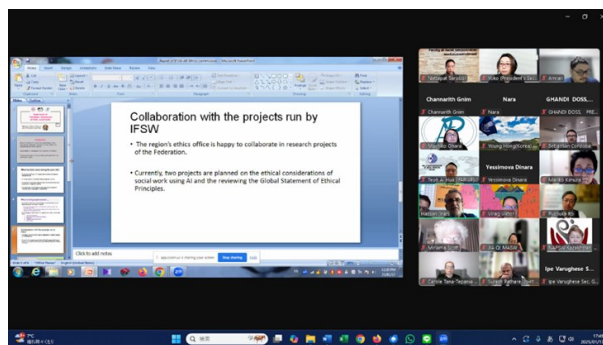
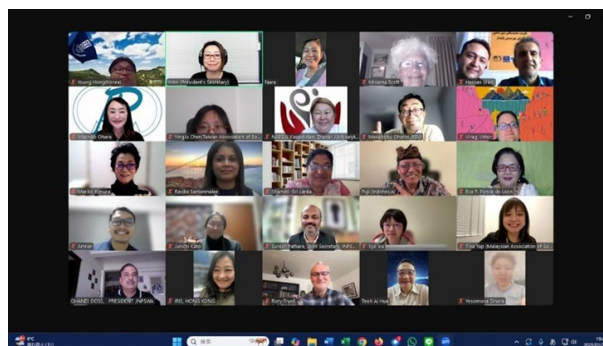
Main Representative: Carole Tana-Tepania (Aotearoa New Zealand)

Representatives: Ling How Kee (Malaysia), Yangjian (Yvonne) (China), Linda Ford (Australia)

Report on the Regional Delegates Meeting

Two Regional Meetings were held in 2025. The 2024 Regional Meeting was held online on 17 January 2025, while the 2025 Regional Meeting was held on 19 November in Colombo, Sri Lanka, during the 28th Asia Pacific Social Work Conference.

The 2024 Regional Meeting was attended by approximately 44 representatives from 18 country member associations, including the Education Commissioner, Ethics Commissioner, Indigenous Commissioner, and UN Regional Commissioner. IFSW Global President Joachim Mumba and Secretary General Dr Rory Truell also joined the meeting.



The 2025 General Meeting was attended by approximately 17 representatives from 12 country member associations, including the Education Commissioner, Ethics Commissioner, and the UN Regional Commissioner, who contributed via a video presentation. The Global President, Joachim Mumba, and Treasurer,

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IFSW Asia and Pacific

M. V. Sriganesh, also participated in the meeting.



South Korea will host the 2027 Regional Conference, with New Zealand designated for 2029.



Report on the Regional Conference

The 28th Asia Pacific Social Work Conference with the theme “Social Work Responses to Climate Change and Other Environmental Issues” was held from 18 to 21 November 2025 at The Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) and the Taj Samudra Hotel in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The Inaugural Opening Ceremony was officiated by the Hon. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Dr. Harini Amarasuriya. Approximately 250 participants attended the conference which was co-organized by IFSW-AP, Asia Pacific Association for Social Work Education (APASWE), Sri Lankan Association of Professional Social Workers and National Institute of Social Development. At the closing ceremony, it was announced that



The IFSW-AP Pre-Conference Workshop was held on 17 November at the Taj Samudra Hotel, one day prior to the Regional Conference. The workshop brought together approximately 40 participants and featured four distinguished panel speakers: Prof. Manohar Pawar (Australia), Mr. Amarawansa Ranaweera (Sri Lanka), Mr. Jason Lee Cheng-Hsin (Taiwan), and Ms. Pen Sophanara (Cambodia).

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IFSW Asia and Pacific



During the Regional Conference, the Education Commission also successfully organized the International Comparative Symposium: The Development of Standards for Social Work Education and Training in Asia Pacific Countries.



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

Executive Committee Meetings

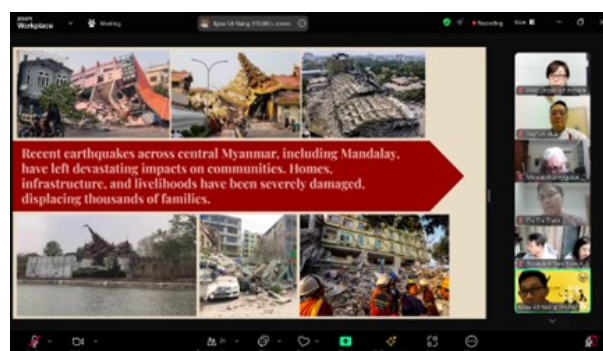
In 2025, the Executive Committee conducted five online committee meetings, as well as nine online meetings on the Regional Conference 2025 and three online

meetings on the Pre-Conference Workshop.



Meetings on Support for Myanmar (April, May and June)

On 28 March, a powerful magnitude 7.7 earthquake struck Myanmar. Although Myanmar is not a member of IFSW, several members of the regional have reached out to IFAP to discuss ways to support the disaster response work there. IFAP initiated an online meeting and invited several members from the region and social workers from Myanmar to brief on the aftermath of the earthquake. Subsequent two online meetings were held to discuss measures that the region could take in supporting social workers in Myanmar.

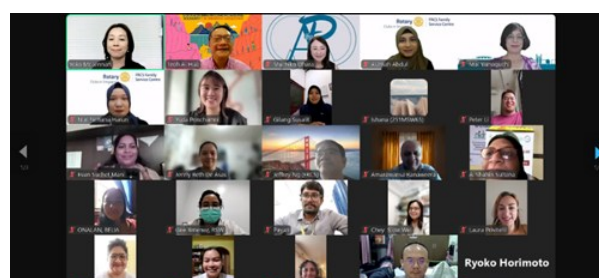


Regions

IFSW Asia and Pacific

IFAP Webinar on 20 September 2025

In the face of shifting demographic patterns and the growing need for intergenerational connections, IFSW-Asia Pacific organized a webinar with the theme ‘Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity for Enduring Well-Being,’ aligned with the theme of World Social Work Day 2025. The webinar gave specific attention to intergenerational caregiving for children and elderly people, as well as strategies to strengthen intergenerational bonds. Approximately 100 people participated in the webinar.



IFSW-AP
WEBINAR 2025
Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity for Enduring Well-being

Date & Time: September 20 (Sat), 2025 4:00-6:00 AM (UTC)
Event Platform: Online (Zoom)
Admission: Free of charge
Closing Date: September 17 (Wed), 2025
To register: Scan the QR code or visit <https://forms.gle/Nh1FUMk6C9zbnkzy6>

SPEAKERS

Japan
Mai Yamaguchi
Professor, Japan Lutheran College

Thailand
Yada Ponchamni
Project Manager, Mutual Ground

Singapore
Asimah Beevi Abdul & Nur Farhana Harun
Assistant Senior Social Workers
Foundation of Rotary Clubs Singapore
Family Service Centre

Intergenerational caregiving for elderly people
Intergenerational caregiving for children and the strengthening of familial bonds
Intergenerational exchanges in community development

Key Planned Activities and Events for next year

World Social Work Day 2026 (WSWD2026) – March 2026

Preparatory Meetings on the 29th Asia Pacific Social Work Conference 2027, to be held in Seoul, South Korea

IFAP participation at the Joint World Social Work Conference 2026 in Nairobi, Kenya

News and Statements

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

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IFSW Europe



Our members 2025

Armenia, Austria (younion, OBDS), Azerbaijan, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania (ASproAS, CNASR), Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, United Kingdom

Welcome to IFSW Europe's highlights from 2025

Please find here a short report of our activities and successes in 2025. Thanks to all our members and allies. Without the time and financial support of our 30 member associations we could not work for pan-European learning, solidarity and profes-

sional development for social work and social workers.

Thanks particularly to our Representatives in European institutions and global commissions, to the New Social Workers Network, to project leads and contributors, and to participants in our many activities.

Our priorities throughout the year have been to:

- Increase the value of IFSW Europe membership to associations.
- Build our influence and shape the profession across the region.
- Act as a supportive learning community, helping associations and social workers be resilient and thrive in good times and tough.

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IFSW Europe

Our community of and for social workers cannot be taken for granted - particularly in this time of rising nationalistic regional and global politics and governments pulling back from internationalism. The importance of IFSW Europe standing up for international solidarity and common purpose in the social work profession and in our wider societies feels particularly vital and motivates us for the coming year.

Member to member communication is essential for our community to develop. In 2026 we will provide better ways for members to network with each other and communicate with the IFSW Europe Secretariat. We need social work in Europe to be a movement for social change and a growing profession at international level - and shared communication and networking is key.

Paid membership of IFSW Europe is strong at 30 associations from 28 countries out of a possible 50. In 2026 we will reach out and bring more members into our community.



Delegates Meeting attendees – Oslo, October 2025

IFSW Europe is a legal body in its own right. We gain funding from regional membership fees, regional conferences, and non-membership sources. We are also a full and proud part of IFSW Global, adhering to global ethics, governance and aims. We meet once a year (in person and hybrid online) for our members' Delegates' Meeting where we make major decisions and set the budget.

In 2025 we reported that we had reached our European membership income target, benefitted from income as partners in a large scale EU funded research project (Responsive) and were delighted to have secured a grant from IFSW Global to take forward our 18 month project on inclusivity, accessibility and developing better support for all members – *Strengthening Social Work in Europe Through IFSW*.

Throughout 2025 we worked closely with IFSW Global. The Europe President and Vice President were active in the Global Executive, and along with our member from Denmark, Birthe Povlsen, we worked to progress the IFSW Global 'Good Governance' review. This is delivering on Europe's motion at the 2024 General Meeting in Panama where Europe called for improved transparency and clearer processes in IFSW Global operations. This has been welcomed and embraced by the IFSW Global President, Secretariat and colleagues from all regions. A full report

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IFSW Europe

will come to the General Meeting in Nairobi.

A highlight of 2025 was the hugely successful and inspiring European conferences in Oslo and Alta, Norway, summarised below. You can also read a [full write up here](#) and summarised below. Since then, we have started work with the Hellenic Association to shape the 2027 European conference when we will be in Athens, Greece!

With best wishes for 2026 from the IFSW Europe Executive!

IFSW Europe Executive January – Oct 2025



At our Executive meeting in Oslo, March 2025

Left to right: Front row: Kristine Evertz, Netherlands; Enric Torras, Austria; Ruth Allen (President), UK and France; Andreas Kikvik (Vice President), Norway. Back row and screen: Brian Auslander, Honorary Treasurer, Israel; Paola Ponterello (Deputy member), Italy; Lucia Gonzalez (Deputy member), Spain; Jill Childs, Honorary Secretary) UK; Susanne Both, Denmark.

Changes in the Executive following the Delegates Meeting in Oct 2025

- Kristine Evertz stood down as full committee member for personal reasons in December 2025 and continues as a Deputy Executive
- Nikos Zervas (Greece) was elected as first Deputy in October and has now stepped into the full Executive member role vacated by Kristine.
- Enric Torras (full Committee Member) and Brian Auslander (Honorary Treasurer) were re-elected to their roles at the Delegates Meeting.
- Paola Ponterello was re-elected as second Deputy Executive
- Lucia Gonzalez stood down from the committee: thank you Lucia!
- Nikos Zervas joined the Executive Committee in October as one of the key organisers of our 2027 Regional conference in Athens.

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IFSW Europe



Nikos Zervas (left) and Olga Verikaki from the Hellenic Association on their journey home from announcing the 2027 conference in Greece at the Oslo 2025 conference.

Social Work Representation in European and Global Institutions 2025

IFSW Europe supports individual representatives to work within international organisations to bring the voice of social work and IFSW into the heart of European decision making. Representation has developed further this year thanks to the following colleagues who give their time freely and graciously. Their reports were shared with member associations at the Delegates Meeting in Oslo.

The Representatives - including now the Regional Commissioners in the global commissions, and the New Social Workers and the Human Rights Networks - meet

online four times a year to share progress and expertise in effective representation. Thanks to John Brennan (past European Vice-President – Ireland) Chair the meetings.

- Fundamental Rights Agency fra.europa.eu/en – Enric Torras, Austria
- Social Platform www.socialplatform.org/ – John Brennan, Ireland (joined in October by Irem Cosanu Yalazan, Türkiye)
- European Anti-Poverty Network <https://www.eapn.eu/> – Birthe Povlsen, Denmark
- Conference of International NGOs, Council of Europe www.coe.int/en/web/ingo – Ruth Allen
- Support team: Theresa Hoffman, Germany
- Eurochild eurochild.org/ – Anna Deneher, Ireland
- Romani and Traveller rights committee of Council of Europe (ADI-ROM) www.coe.int/en/web/roma-and-travellers – Alison Hulmes (in process)

Europe Representatives in Global IFSW Commissions

IFSW Europe has been working with the Global Commissioners and the IFSW Global Secretariat to implement the new

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IFSW Europe

Commissions policy. This has included ensuring the regional commissioners and support teams are linked it with regional as well as global networking opportunities including the quarterly representatives meeting. At the end of 2025, representatives are:

UN (Geneva office www.ungeneva.org/en/about/who-we-are) Regional Commission Team

- IFSW Europe Main Representative in UN Geneva and Afghanistan women specialism - Sybille Mani, Switzerland
- Co-Regional Commission Representative and Geneva Committee on Ageing (and related) - Gerry Nosowska, UK
- Co-Regional Commission Representative and WHO in UM - Akudo Amadiogwu, UK
- World Social Work Day – Swetha Rao Dhananka, Switzerland
- UN Human Rights Office – Annalisa Baruffi, Switzerland, now UK

Education Regional Commissioner – Marcin Boryczko, Poland

Ethics Regional Commissioner – Gabriele Stark-Angermeier, Germany

Support team: Graca Andre Queiros, Portugal

Indigenous Regional Commissioner – Margaretha Uttjek, Sweden

If you want to contact any of the representatives or regional commissioners, please email europa@ifsw.org.

Speaking Out and Strengthening Social Work Across Europe

IFSW Europe’s representation in key institutions and organisations is particularly crucial in this period of turmoil and backsliding on human rights, inclusion and democracy ethos with the rise of authoritarianism, right-wing populism and military aggression in Europe and beyond.

Despite its many flaws and failures, the rules-based order in Europe of the last 70 years has provided a context for peace between nations in our region. It has given a collective European direction with regard to civil society, social rights and shaped the context for human rights and social justice social work.

The rules-based purpose and powers of the Council of Europe – through its European Court of Human Rights and its convention system applicable to 46 countries in Europe - has held states to account through consensus, peer pressure and diplomacy. The European Union has promoted social rights, freedoms, prosperity and inclusion not least through the adoption of the 2021 European Pillar of Social Rights in which IFSW was directly involved. The UN

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IFSW Europe

has also been active and crucial in supporting Europe's social, economic and environmental development.

The war on Ukraine, other acts of aggression by Russia and the rise of far right, populist and authoritarian politics and governments in Europe (and globally) are challenging and undermining this political framework and, therefore, the values, ethics and progressive legal frameworks that have shaped our profession for decades.

This pushback affects the contexts and politics within which social workers practice - as frontline defenders of rights for (often) the most marginalised people, and as promoters of inclusive, tolerant communities. Social workers stand up for the rights of all in the face of aggression against people in migration, ethnic minorities and LGBTQi communities with the rise of right wing, populist and nationalistic politics.

In the last year, a small number of associations in Europe have even faced direct or indirect threats of blacklisting or other political interference.

IFSW Europe is reaching out, supporting and connecting members in such situations and exploring how we can collectively provide useful help for the long term for members in duress, coordinated through our Strengthening Social Work Across Europe through IFSW project.

This project, supported by funding from IFSW global, is for all members, not just those in particular difficulty. Our project aims to develop IFSW Europe's value, responsiveness and consistency in supporting members in diverse ways, as a professional community with common purpose.

There is a swell of activism across the region in social work and amongst our allies. IFSW Europe has a crucial role in this through bringing social workers together. Through our representatives in our regional institutions and through our funded projects we are at many key decision-making and lobbying tables, working with partners to protect rights and social justice at macro levels as well as in the field, in social work with citizens every day. This is crucial work which we will continue into the coming year.

We will continue to promote our profession's role in protecting and extending human rights and democracy. Thanks to the many of you bringing our values to life.

World Social Work Day – March 2025

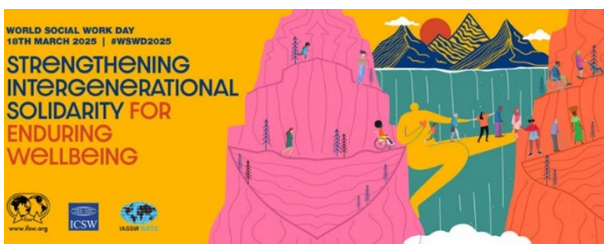
The IFSW theme for World Social Work Day 2025, Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity for Enduring Wellbeing.

Members from across Europe sent reports and pictures of WSWD activities – confer-

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IFSW Europe

ences, social work awards, some of which were included in the quarterly briefing. In 2026 we are calling for more members to share their WSWD activities.



WSWD Webinar

IFSW Europe organised a webinar for WSWD on 18th March co-organised by the IFSW E New Social Workers group and representatives for social work and ageing. It explored bridges between the generations considering:

- Why an intergenerational perspective in social work is so important now
- How social workers can support each other across the generations
- Examples of intergenerational social work practice in Europe.
- How we celebrate the transformational power of intergenerational approaches

Thanks to Gerry Nosowska, Naro Ohanesian, Jo Fox, Alison Clyde, (Generations Working Together) Regina Vieira (Polytechnic Institute of Castelo Branco) and Judith Sixsmith, Dundee University for organising and contributing to this event.

During 2026, IFSW Europe will continue to promote intergenerational solidarity through the work of the New Social Workers Network and supporting a new IFSW position statement on social work and ageing.

Delegates Meeting – Oslo, Norway. October 3 – 5 2025

Sixty-two people attended the Delegates Meeting (DM) in Oslo in person - representing twenty-one European countries, plus observers and guests, including IFSW global President Joachim Mumba and Interest Secretary General Pascal Rudin. We were also joined by colleagues online.

Delegates in person: Azerbaijan, Austria, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Israel, Malta, Netherlands, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkiye, United Kingdom

Online: Portugal

Apologies: France, Czechia

A report about the DM is available on the IFSW website here <https://www.ifsw.org/ifsw-europe-delegates-meeting-3-5-october-2025-oslo-norway/> Full members also have access to all the supporting papers.

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IFSW Europe

In the meeting we adopted our budget and our work plan for 2026 which will help us move towards our strategic aims for the next two years and this summarised below:

- Build stronger member associations:
- Influence European and national social work policies
- Promote social work practices and our identity
- Support social workers working conditions: This is in development for a future project
- Advocate for European social work within global bodies/organisations:
- Lobby and Campaign:
- Secure our finances and continued growth
- Deliver our regional conference – We accepted the proposal of Greece to host the next conference in 2027.
- Plan for the future and support new and all generations of social workers –
- Improve internal and external communications.

Motion from Ireland and Spain passed at the Delegates Meeting

In Oslo Delegates Meeting, Ireland and Spain brought a motion in support of Pal-

estinians' rights in Gaza, the West Bank and in Israel, decrying the war on Gaza and huge loss of life of civilians, and other attacks on Palestinians. The full motion can be read in the Delegates Meeting report.

The Motion also called for a Special General Meeting to be called to consider the suspension or expulsion of the Israeli Union of Social Workers (IUSW) from IFSW. This is on the grounds that the IUSW has not upheld IFSW's ethical principles in not calling for social workers to be exempt from military combat in Gaza and not denouncing the military action on Gaza.

Following the passing of the Motion in Oslo, IFSW Europe has advocated for this Special General Meeting within the IFSW Global Executive. This was agreed and will be held online on 18th February 2026.

Projects and Networks 2025

The Responsive Research Project

Throughout 2025, IFSW was an active partner to developing and delivering the multi-country, three-year EU Horizon Responsive Project. This was the first time the EU funding bodies commissioned a project from the Democracy strand and it signals potential for an innovative engagement between social work and the EU on the democratic rights of citizens using and affected by social services. You can read more on

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the dedicated website here responsive-europe.eu/

While it is EU funded, the learning and innovation examples from the project are widely relevant and cover universal challenges and opportunities for social workers. The Responsive project aims to enhance the responsiveness of Europe's social services to input and feedback from diverse citizens and to promote social services as a field for promotion of democracy and agency for citizens rather than as a place only of 'receiving' help and care.

IFSW Europe's specific roles - in addition to providing ongoing perspectives from a social work practice and policy perspective - included:

- Creating and disseminating an international survey of social workers' and managers views about Responsiveness in many European languages which gained over 750 responses and substantially improved the project's insights into what supports and hinders responsiveness, democracy and citizen participation in social services.
- Leading on coordination and promotion of well attended webinars concerning all stages of the research and other dissemination activities

- Working on the production of a handbook of inspiring responsiveness innovations
- Supporting a range of dissemination activities

The project website is available here <http://responsive-europe.eu>

The New Social Workers Network (NSW)

This is increasingly well established, and through their outreach to the memberships, more NSWs across Europe are getting involved. Each member association has been asked to nominate at least one new social worker to be an active part of the network and through this, engagement is growing.

- 13 countries represented in the NSW Network in 2025
- Presented to over 1000 people in person and online
- Agreed Network status, governance and enhanced funding for 2026 with Europe members
- Launched call out aiming for NSW representation from every European member within 2026.

Recognising the importance of supporting new generation social workers, the Delegates approve an enhanced budget for the NSWs of €8000 for 2026 for more engage-

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ment, representative and impact activities and in presence in IFSW activities.

Social workers in war, conflict zones and disasters

Throughout this year, the war in Ukraine has continued to rage and the risk of wider military conflict in Europe has felt closer than for decades. We finished and reported on our IFSW member funded projects in Ukraine <https://socialwork-ukraine.eu> and we will continue to learn a huge amount from those innovations and the ongoing work they have catalysed in Ukraine.

Social workers continue to work with other forms of disasters such as the ongoing work to support victims of the 2023 earthquakes in south westers Türkiye and the role of social workers in prevention and response to wildfires in Spain.

The importance of social workers and other professionals having skills in responding to disasters and conflict – in the emergency phases and in the aftermath - is having increasing focus in the European Union at policy level as well as in national policies.

It is in our workplan that we will work in 2026 on supporting more learning and sharing of knowledge in this field along with partners and allies.

Eco-social work

Building on the success of our four year ‘eco-wisdom’ project and the outstanding conference in Oslo in October, we have continued our work to develop eco-social work practices in 2025, creating a new steering group and starting work on developing learning and practice resources to promote the mainstreaming of eco-social approaches across all fields of social work .

This will include social work in the field of environmental and climate disasters and their consequences (such as mass migration). But it is also about embedding eco-social approaches into everyday practice, recognising that environmental destruction, pollution and climate change are relevant to the holistic mission of social work everywhere. We have commenced working with academic colleagues and collaborators to take next steps.

Human Rights

With the IFSW Global Commission on Human Rights still under review. IFSW Europe established a Human Rights Network in 2024. The Network is currently on a pause and will be brought back in a new form later in 2026.

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Improving Communications with and between members

In 2025, we started a regular newsletter for members, distributed through emails and provided in non-confidential form) on the IFSW website. We received feedback on the need for better communications from a member survey and from an exercise at the Delegates Meeting. In 2026 we will implement a much more effective platform to reach our members and prospective member, and to enable members to communicate with each other.

Our Regional Conference – Oslo and Alta, Norway, October 2025



From 6 to 8 October 2025, over 600 social workers, educators, and researchers from across Europe and far beyond gathered in Oslo, the capital of Norway, for the IFSW Europe Regional Conference - Bridging Communities: Building Sustainable Futures. A full write up is available here. <https://www.ifsw.org/together-for-people-and-planet-ifsw-europe-2025-conferences-inspire-collective-action/>

The conference focused on eco-social themes, building on the project that IFSW Europe has led since 2021, and in alignment with IFSW Global's ongoing commitment to the global eco-social charter and collaboration with international bodies such as the UN and WHO.

The conference was an incredible gathering of social workers (the largest ever in Norway!) activists, academics, commentators, authors, politicians and artists of different disciplines, centred on themes of Green Social Work, Climate and Environmental Change, the UN's Sustainability Goals, and Indigenous Perspectives. Over three days, through talks, cultural moments, political engagement, workshops, field visits and creative side events, we explored the deep interconnections between people, society, nature and our profession.

From discussions on eco-social democracy and de-colonising social work, to reflec-

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tions on climate adaptation, disaster response, education and the future of work for a sustainable future, the sessions reaffirmed that the profession is and must be at the heart of the global transformation challenges we all face - working for social justice, the wellbeing of people and nature, and hopeful futures for all.

Around 70 people also attended the two day 'post-conference' focused on and led by social workers, activists and academics from the Indigenous Sami community in Alta, Sápmi in the far north of Norway.



The Northern Lights, Alta, Norway, IFSW Europe Regional Conference

We heard about the history of social work in Sapmi, about the activism for Sami rights and how social workers have been part of this, and about the environmental challenges for Sami communities across the whole of northern Scandinavia.

We were also joined for an inspiring talk by global Indigenous Commissioner for IFSW, Hilary Weaver.



Hilary Weaver, IFSW Global Indigenous Commissioner and view of the coast in Alta

This moving, illuminating event deepened our knowledge and appreciation of the challenges for indigenous people in Europe and beyond. It also brought home the vital value of indigenous knowledge, wisdom and traditional ways from which all can learn, and the key role of social workers in supporting and advocating for indigenous rights.

Together, these events created a powerful space for reflection, learning, and solidarity, highlighting how social work is central to building a sustainable, caring, and inclusive future for all at national and international levels.

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Both conferences were organized by Fellesorganisasjonen (FO), the Norwegian Union of Social Educators and Social Workers, with the particular leadership of IFSW Europe Vice President and senior policy officer in FO, Andreas Kikvik.

National member conferences 2025



Left: SHUDER President Irem Cosanu Yalazan address the Congress. Right: President Irem (right) joins colleagues celebrating 60 years since graduation

Congratulations to all members organising national conferences for WSWD and marking other significant moments. President Ruth Allen provided video messages or live contributions online from IFSW Europe for events in Malta, Latvia, Norway, Portugal and Türkiye. Here are two example reports from Türkiye and Czechia.

The Turkey Social Services Congress, Ankara

The national Association of Social Workers (SHUDER) organized the 9th Social Services Congress with the theme of "Social Services in the Spiral of Hope, Shame and Despair" on November 15-16, 2025, in Ankara and provided a full write up which is available here on the [IFSW website](#).

Profiling the Czechia 100th Anniversary Conference, Prague

President Ruth Allen spoke in person at the Czech Association of Social Workers celebration of 100 years of social work, in December 2026. At a time of new political and professional challenges including the diversity of social work bodies in the country, the conference explored learning from the 100-year history of social work in Czechia under liberal and repressive regimes; the challenges of improving working conditions and unifying advocacy for social workers across the country. The value of international cooperation and shared learning through IFSW was also discussed.

News and Statements

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

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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.

Regional Delegates meeting and Conference

The Region gathered in the vibrant city of Pilar, Paraguay, for an unforgettable week of solidarity, dialogue, and vision. The 2025 Regional Delegates Meeting (16–17 September) and the International Congress of Social Work (18–20 September) drew together social work leaders, academics, students, and community organisations from across the region and beyond.

Under the powerful theme “Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity for Enduring

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Wellbeing,” the meetings became a living reflection of the region’s collective strength and its deep-rooted commitment to advancing social justice, equality, and human dignity.

Building a Unified Regional Voice

The Regional Delegates Meeting was marked by remarkable energy and collaboration. Delegates from across Latin America and the Caribbean shared reports highlighting the richness of their experiences, from community resilience initiatives to advocacy for social protection and environmental justice. These exchanges not only showcased the diversity of regional practices but also inspired shared learning and strengthened the bonds of solidarity among member organisations.



Presentations at the Delegates meeting

Kenia Batista expressed her optimism:

“This meeting was a living testimony of what it means to stand together in solidarity. The strength of our region lies in our unity, our shared values, and our unwavering

commitment to advancing the dignity and wellbeing of all people.”

Her words echoed the spirit of intergenerational solidarity which has become a unifying call for the profession worldwide. Through dialogue and collaboration, delegates reaffirmed their resolve to speak with one powerful voice in shaping inclusive social policies and strengthening professional standards across the region.

A Congress that Inspired Action



Joachim Mumba, Kenia Batista, Gabriela Rodríguez Vázquez, and Pascal Rudin

Following the Delegates Meeting, the International Congress of Social Work, held alongside the National Congress of Social Work and the National Congress of Social Work Students, became a vibrant space of reflection, connection, and celebration.

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Hundreds of participants filled the halls of Pilar with ideas, energy, and hope, united by a shared belief that social work has the capacity to transform societies through compassion, courage, and collective action.

Discussions explored how social workers are uniquely positioned to bridge generations, foster resilience, and promote enduring wellbeing. Themes such as climate justice, migration, poverty reduction, digital inclusion, and social cohesion featured prominently, reminding all participants of the urgency to act and the potential of joint learning across borders.

Gabriela Rodríguez Vázquez, IFSW LAC Vice-President, reflected:

“These days in Pilar showed us the richness of our diversity and the depth of our shared commitment. The conversations among professionals, students, and communities reaffirmed that social work is both a science and an act of care, a profession that transforms lives and societies.”

The congress also became a space to honour the next generation of social workers. The engagement of students, particularly through the National Congress of Social Work Students, demonstrated the region’s investment in leadership development and in ensuring that the values of solidarity and justice continue to thrive in the years ahead.

A Celebration of Commitment and Hope



Panel at the regional conference

The week in Pilar was more than a series of gatherings, it was a celebration of human connection and collective purpose. Hosted with excellence by Gladys Mancuello and her dedicated team, and supported by the outstanding interpretation of Lucía Gandolfi, the events reflected the LAC region’s vibrant spirit of hospitality, creativity, and inclusion.

As the sun set over the riverside city, participants departed with renewed motivation to continue their work, returning to their countries inspired to strengthen intergenerational ties, advocate for social justice, and lead with compassion.

The 2025 LAC events in Pilar will long be remembered as a milestone in the region’s ongoing journey to co-build a future of enduring wellbeing, shared humanity, and hope for generations to come.

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News from our members

Argentina: FAAPSS raises its voice for mental health and labour rights

- Name of the President: Natalia Lucila Castro
- Number of members: 25.000

The Argentine Federation of Professional Associations of Social Work (FAAPSS), under the leadership of **Natalia Lucila Castro**, has maintained a firm stance in defence of professional competencies throughout 2025. In a context shaped by the review of public health policies, the federation has denounced labour precarisation and advocated for the unrestricted enforcement of the National Mental Health Law, positioning social work as a key actor in favour of social justice.

Through its official channels, FAAPSS has mobilised its regional delegations to strengthen professional identity in the face of economic challenges. This work aligns with the IFSW's global commitment to resisting models that create precarious situations for the people. The Federation continues to consolidate its internal structure and its capacity to influence the Argentine public agenda.

Reference link: [facebook.com/FAAPSS](https://www.facebook.com/FAAPSS)

Barbados: BAPSW celebrates its First National Congress and reaffirms its commitment to youth

- Name of the President: Ms Gittens
- Number of members: 140

2025 has been a year of historic milestones for the Barbados Association of Professional Social Workers (BAPSW), under the presidency of **Ms Gittens**. The most significant event was the celebration of its first national Social Work conference, held at the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre to mark World Social Work Day, under the theme *Buen Vivir*. In that context, President Gittens called for action to address the social problems affecting the country's youth, stressing that the response requires not only social workers but a broader coalition that includes health professionals, counsellors, communities, and churches.

In the area of professional development, BAPSW launched its training program in Trauma in Social Work and the LYRICS community program, aimed at parents of at-risk youth to prevent deviant behaviour from primary school onwards. The association also maintained its renowned **Resilience Awards** initiative, recognising primary school students who passed the secondary school exam despite facing vulnerabilities such as poverty, illness, lack of

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technological resources and domestic violence.

BAPSW continues to consolidate its three strategic pillars —Education, Community Engagement and Support for Colleagues— as an organisational framework to defend professional dignity and the wellbeing of Barbados' most vulnerable communities.

Reference link: facebook.com/Barbados-Association-of-Professional-Social-Workers

Brazil: CFESS celebrates its centenary with a focus on Ethics and the Anti-Racist Struggle

- Name of the President: Kelly Rodrigues Melatti
- Number of members: 194.000

The Federal Council of Social Service (CFESS) of Brazil, represented by **Kelly Melatti**, has had a historic 2025, marked by the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the profession in Latin America. They have intensified their campaign against institutional racism and in defence of social security as an inalienable human right. This effort reaffirms the CFESS's commitment to a professional ethic that not only addresses crises but also seeks structural transformations.

As a regional leader in technical and ethical production, CFESS has spearheaded discussions on the impact of digitalisation on professional practice, ensuring that

technology does not compromise the quality of service to vulnerable communities. Its social media presence over the past year has been fundamental in raising the profile of Brazilian social workers' struggles at the global level.

Reference link: cfess.org.br

Chile: towards the centenary and the defence of socio-environmental rights

- Name of the President: Mariela Teresa Muñoz Galaz
- Number of members: 741

In 2025, the School of Social Workers of Chile, led by **Mariela Teresa Muñoz Galaz**, endeavoured to consolidate its Social Work Law in anticipation of its national centenary. With a strong presence in the debate on the housing crisis and socio-environmental rights, the School has demonstrated that the profession is key to addressing the inequalities exacerbated by the current economic model.

Throughout the year, provincial meetings have been organised to foster reflection on the role of social expertise and ethics in contexts of social transformation. These activities have strengthened the cohesion of the profession, allowing the voice of Chilean social workers to resonate in the National Congress and in local decision-making spaces.

Reference link: trabajadores-sociales.cl

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Mexico: FENACOTSMEX consolidates its national and international presence in a historic year

- Name of the President: Gabriela Rodríguez Vázquez
 - Number of social workers registered: 31 Associations and 100 professionals
- The National Federation of Colleges of Social Work in Mexico (FENACOTSMEX), under the leadership of **Gabriela Rodríguez Vázquez** —who also serves as IFSW-LAC Vice President —, starred in 2025 a year of organisational expansion, legislative influence and international projection without precedent.

On an organisational level, the federation expanded its membership from 18 to 23 affiliated colleges since its establishment in 2021, incorporating new states such as Oaxaca and Tlaxcala. During the first assembly of the year, the College of Social Workers of Mexico formalised its membership, strengthening the organisation's national representation. In August, during the 4th National and 3rd International Congress, held in Mérida, Yucatán, elections were held, and Ms Angélica Rivera Ortega, from the state of Jalisco, was elected President for the 2026–2027 term. At the same event, the Professional Merit Award was established, with the first recipient being Ms. Martha Leticia Cabello Garza, an award that the federation will grant annually.

The Mérida congress addressed in depth the themes of intergenerational solidarity, migration, and human rights, and included relevant international presentations, among them that of Kenia Batista Arauz, Vice President of the IFSW, who presented strategies for strategic planning and social management as tools for the collective strengthening of the profession. The results of a survey on working conditions were also presented, revealing persistent problems of wage insecurity and professional stress, with a high proportion of female heads of household among the respondents.

In the legislative arena, FENACOTSMEX actively participated in the Colloquium on Reconfiguration of the Legal Framework for Social Work in Mexico, promoting a National Law on Professional Practice. In September, the federation worked alongside RENIESTS, AMIETS, and ACANITS on the Agenda for Strengthening Social Work within the IMSS (Mexican Social Security Institute), securing a commitment to establish an inter-institutional working group to review salary scales and sign a collaboration agreement that will enhance the profession's standing within the health sector.

On the international stage, Ms Rodríguez Vázquez represented Mexico at the IFSW Regional Meeting in Pilar, Paraguay, under the motto *Strengthening intergenerational solidarity for enduring wellbeing*, and

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throughout the year maintained active coordination with Social Work associations in Latin America.

Reference link: facebook.com/FENACOTSMEX

For more info, please [click here](#)

PARAGUAY: A Milestone of Regional Unity and Intergenerational Solidarity in Pilar

- Name of the President: Gladys Mancuello
- Number of members: 470

In September 2025, the city of Pilar became the epicenter of global Social Work by hosting the **1st International Congress and 8th National Congress of Social Work**, under the theme *Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity for Enduring Wellbeing*. This historic event marked the first time that IFSW global leaders, Global President **Joachim Mumba** and Secretary General **Pascal Rudin**, visited Paraguay to connect directly with the professional and academic bases of the region.

The congress, organized by the Paraguayan Association of Social Work Professionals (APSSTS-PY), transcended national borders to become a space for convergence of the entire Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region. During the event, it was emphasized that intergenerational solidarity is not just a theoretical concept, but a po-

litical strategy to protect social security systems and transfer the critical knowledge of the profession's founders to new generations of social workers who face contemporary challenges such as artificial intelligence and the climate crisis.

The Paraguayan Association of Social Work in Paraguay (APSSTS-PY) used this international platform to issue a strong statement against precarious working conditions and professional encroachment, stating that Social Work in Paraguay must be practised by qualified professionals, rejecting the use of technical positions as political spoils. The presence of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) in Pilar reaffirmed that the fight for professional dignity in Paraguay has the support of an unwavering global network.

Key Impact: Consolidation of the "Pilar Declaration", which links professional ethics with community resistance and social justice in the Southern Cone.

Read the news item here: ifsw.org/latin-america-and-caribbean-region-unites-in-pilar-paraguay

Puerto Rico: CPTSPR at the Forefront of Wage Justice and Regulation

- Name of the President: Krystal L. Pérez Martínez
- Number of members: 7058

The College of Social Work Professionals

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of Puerto Rico (CPTSPR), under the presidency of Krystal L. Pérez Martínez, has maintained a media and legislative claim throughout 2025 to fair wages and improved working conditions in both the public and private sectors. It has been vocal in the face of threats of professional deregulation, defending the importance of professional association membership to guarantee quality services for the Puerto Rican population.

In addition to its advocacy work, the College has made progress in modernising its Code of Ethics and strengthening its regional chapters. These actions ensure that the profession in Puerto Rico has a solid and up-to-date regulatory framework to face the challenges of a society undergoing profound social and economic crises.

Reference link: cptspr.org

Suriname: VSWS action for youth and the rights of people with disabilities

The Vereniging van Sociaal Werkers in Suriname (VSWS) developed an intense agenda of social intervention and public advocacy throughout 2025. In April, the association mobilised an interdisciplinary team—comprised of professionals from the educational, medical, legal, and NGO sectors—to respond to an urgent appeal from the Coronie district, where young

people face serious problems with suicide, sexually transmitted infections, and substance abuse. The VSWS declared its intention to continue this initiative and urged other organisations to join, reaffirming that only through collective action is it possible to build a more resilient future for Surinamese youth.

In August, the organisation held a panel discussion under the theme *Limited Life*, in which various experts addressed the discrimination and exclusion of people with disabilities in Suriname, noting that a strong social taboo persists, leading many families to hide these children and deprive them of contact with the outside world. The panel emphasised the urgent need to review public policies on this matter.

The VSWS continues to position itself as a benchmark in the defence of the rights of the most vulnerable populations, articulating its work from a community, interdisciplinary and political-advocacy perspective.

Reference link: facebook.com/VSWSuriname

Kenia Batista, regional President

Gabriela Rodríguez Vázquez, regional Vice President

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.

Reunión de delegados regionales y conferencia

La región se reunió en la bella ciudad de Pilar, Paraguay, para una semana memorable de solidaridad, diálogo y visión de futuro. El encuentro de delegados y delegadas de la región (16-17 de septiembre) y el Congreso Internacional de Trabajo Social (18-20 de septiembre de 2025) congregaron a líderes, eruditos, eruditas estu-

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diantes y organizaciones comunitarias del Trabajo Social dentro y fuera de la región.

Bajo el poderoso lema “Fortalecer la solidaridad intergeneracional para un bienestar duradero”, estos espacios se convirtieron en un vivo reflejo de la fuerza colectiva de la región y de su profundo compromiso con el avance de la justicia social, la igualdad y la dignidad humana.

Construir una voz regional unificada



Presentaciones en el encuentro de delegados y delegadas

El encuentro de delegados y delegadas de la región se caracterizó por un dinamismo y una colaboración extraordinarios. Delegados y delegadas de toda América Latina y el Caribe compartieron informes que destacaron la riqueza de sus experiencias, desde las iniciativas de resiliencia comunitaria hasta la defensa de la protección social y la justicia ambiental. Estos intercambios no solo pusieron de manifiesto la diversidad de las prácticas regionales, si-

no que también inspiraron el aprendizaje compartido y fortalecieron los lazos de solidaridad entre las organizaciones miembros.



Joachim Mumba, Kenia Batista, Gabriela Rodríguez Vázquez, and Pascal Rudin

Kenia Batista, presidenta regional y vicepresidenta mundial de la FITS, expresó su optimismo:

“ Este encuentro fue un testimonio vivo de lo que significa estar unidos en solidaridad. La fuerza de nuestra región reside en nuestra unidad, nuestros valores compartidos y nuestro firme compromiso de promover la dignidad y el bienestar de todas las personas.”

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Sus palabras reflejaron el espíritu de solidaridad intergeneracional, convertido en un llamado unificador para la profesión a nivel mundial. Mediante el diálogo y la colaboración, los delegados y delegadas reafirmaron su compromiso de alzar su voz al unísono para impulsar políticas sociales inclusivas y fortalecer los estándares profesionales en toda la región.

Un congreso que inspiró a la acción



Panel en la Conferencia Regional

Tras el encuentro de delegados y delegadas de la región, el Congreso Internacional de Trabajo Social, celebrado conjuntamente con el Congreso Nacional de Trabajo Social y el Congreso Nacional de Estudiantes de Trabajo Social, se convirtió en un vibrante espacio de reflexión, conexión y celebración. Cientos de participantes llenaron las salas de Pilar con ideas, energía y esperanza, unidos por la convicción de que el Trabajo Social tiene la

capacidad de transformar las sociedades mediante la compasión, la valentía y la acción colectiva.

Los debates exploraron el papel clave de los trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales en la construcción de puentes entre las generaciones para la promoción de la resiliencia y de un bienestar duradero. Temas como la justicia climática, la migración, la reducción de la pobreza, la inclusión digital y la cohesión social ocuparon un lugar destacado, y dejaron en claro la necesidad de acciones concretas y el potencial del aprendizaje conjunto a través de las fronteras.

Gabriela Rodríguez Vázquez, vicepresidenta de FITS-ALC, reflexionó:

“Estos días en Pilar nos han mostrado la riqueza de nuestra diversidad y la profundidad de nuestro compromiso compartido. Las conversaciones entre profesionales, estudiantes y comunidades reafirmaron que el Trabajo Social es tanto una ciencia como un acto de cuidado, una profesión que transforma vidas y sociedades.”

El congreso también se convirtió en un espacio para homenajear a la próxima generación de trabajadores y trabajadoras sociales. La participación de los y las estudiantes, en particular a través del Congreso Nacional de Estudiantes de Trabajo

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Social, demostró el compromiso de la región con el desarrollo del liderazgo y con garantizar que los valores de solidaridad y justicia sigan prosperando en los años venideros.

Una celebración del compromiso y la esperanza

Este espacio de encuentro en Pilar fue una verdadera celebración de la conexión humana y del propósito colectivo. Organizados con excelencia por Gladys Mancuello y su dedicado equipo, y con el apoyo de la extraordinaria interpretación de Lucía Gandolfi, estos eventos reflejaron el vibrante espíritu de hospitalidad, creatividad e inclusión de la región de América Latina y el Caribe.

Mientras el sol se ponía sobre la ciudad ribereña, las personas participantes partieron con renovada motivación para continuar su trabajo, y así regresaron a sus países inspirados e inspiradas para fortalecer los lazos intergeneracionales, abogar por la justicia social y liderar con compasión.

Los eventos de la conferencia de América Latina y el Caribe (LAC) de 2025 en Pilar serán recordados por mucho tiempo como un hito en el camino continuo de la región para construir un futuro de bienestar

duradero, humanidad compartida y esperanza para las generaciones venideras.

Noticias de nuestros miembros

Argentina: FAAPSS alza la voz por la Salud Mental y los Derechos Laborales

La Federación Argentina de Asociaciones Profesionales de Servicio Social (FAAPSS), bajo el liderazgo de la Lic. Paola Quiroga, ha mantenido una postura firme en la defensa de las incumbencias profesionales durante el 2025. En un contexto marcado por la revisión de políticas de salud pública, la federación ha denunciado la precarización laboral y ha abogado por el cumplimiento irrestricto de la Ley Nacional de Salud Mental, posicionando al Trabajo Social como un actor crítico para la justicia social en el país.

A través de sus canales oficiales, FAAPSS ha movilizado a sus delegaciones regionales para fortalecer la identidad profesional frente a los desafíos económicos. Esta labor se alinea con el compromiso global de la FITS de resistir modelos que precarizan a las poblaciones. La federación continúa consolidando su estructura interna y su capacidad de incidencia en la agenda pública argentina.

Enlace de referencia: [facebook.com/FAAPSS](https://www.facebook.com/FAAPSS)

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Barbados: BAPSW celebra su Primer Congreso Nacional y reafirma su compromiso con la juventud

- Nombre de la Presidenta: Sra. Gittens
- Número de miembros: 140

El año 2025 ha sido un año de hitos históricos para la Asociación de Trabajadores Sociales Profesionales de Barbados (BAPSW), bajo la presidencia de la Sra. Gittens. El evento más significativo fue la celebración de su primera conferencia nacional de Trabajo Social, realizada en el Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre para conmemorar el Día Mundial del Trabajo Social, bajo el tema Buen Vivir. En ese contexto, la Presidenta Gittens hizo un llamado a la acción para abordar los problemas sociales que afectan a la juventud del país, subrayando que la respuesta requiere no solo a los trabajadores sociales, sino también una coalición más amplia que incluya a profesionales de la salud, orientadores, comunidades e iglesias.

En el ámbito del desarrollo profesional, BAPSW lanzó su programa de formación en Trauma en el Trabajo Social y el programa comunitario LYRICS, dirigido a padres de jóvenes en situación de riesgo, con el objetivo de prevenir conductas desviadas desde la educación primaria. La asociación también mantuvo su reconocida iniciativa de los Premios de Resiliencia, que reconoce a estudiantes de primaria que

aprobaron el examen de acceso a la educación secundaria a pesar de enfrentar vulnerabilidades como la pobreza, enfermedades, falta de recursos tecnológicos y violencia doméstica.

BAPSW continúa consolidando sus tres pilares estratégicos —Educación, Participación Comunitaria y Apoyo a los Colegas— como un marco organizativo para defender la dignidad profesional y el bienestar de las comunidades más vulnerables de Barbados.

Enlace de referencia: facebook.com/Barbados-Association-of-Professional-Social-Workers

Brasil: CFESS celebra el Centenario con un enfoque en la Ética y la Lucha Antirracista

El Consejo Federal de Serviço Social (CFESS) de Brasil, representado por Kelly Melatti, ha tenido un 2025 histórico marcado por la conmemoración de los 100 años de la profesión en América Latina. La organización ha intensificado sus campañas contra el racismo institucional y en defensa de la seguridad social como un derecho humano inalienable. Este esfuerzo reafirma el compromiso del CFESS con una ética profesional que no solo atiende la crisis, sino que busca transformaciones estructurales.

FITS América Latina y el Caribe

Como referente regional en producción técnica y ética, el CFESS ha liderado debates sobre el impacto de la digitalización en el ejercicio profesional, asegurando que la tecnología no comprometa la calidad del servicio a las comunidades vulnerables. Su actividad en redes sociales durante el último año ha sido fundamental para visibilizar las luchas de los trabajadores sociales brasileños en el escenario global.

Enlace de referencia: cfess.org.br

Chile: Hacia el Centenario y la defensa de los Derechos Socioambientales

El Colegio de Trabajadoras y Trabajadores Sociales de Chile, liderado por Violeta Flores Flores, ha dedicado el 2025 a la consolidación de su Ley de Trabajo Social y a la preparación de los hitos del centenario nacional. Con una fuerte presencia en el debate sobre la crisis habitacional y los derechos socioambientales, el Colegio ha demostrado que la profesión es clave para abordar las desigualdades profundizadas por el modelo económico actual.

Durante el año, se han organizado encuentros provinciales que fomentan la reflexión sobre el rol del peritaje social y la ética en contextos de transformación social. Estas actividades han fortalecido la cohesión del gremio, permitiendo que la voz de los trabajadores sociales chilenos

resuene en el Congreso Nacional y en los espacios de toma de decisiones locales.

Enlace de referencia: trabajadores-sociales.cl

México: FENACOTSMEX fortalece la representación nacional y legislativa

La Federación Nacional de Colegios de Trabajo Social en México (FENACOTSMEX), con el liderazgo de la Mtra. Gabriela Rodríguez Vázquez (quien también se desempeña como Vicepresidenta Regional de la FITS ALC), ha tenido un año de expansión sin precedentes. El foco principal ha sido la promoción de la Ley de Ejercicio Profesional del Trabajo Social ante el Congreso y el Senado, buscando un reconocimiento formal que dignifique la labor en todos los estados de la República.

Durante el 2025, la federación organizó congresos internacionales que abordaron la complejidad de la intervención social en el mundo contemporáneo. Con la incorporación de nuevos colegios, FENACOTSMEX se consolida como una fuerza unificada que defiende los derechos laborales y promueve la excelencia ética basada en los principios del "Buen Vivir".

Enlace de referencia: facebook.com/FENACOTSMEX

Para más información, haga [clic aquí](#)

FITS América Latina y el Caribe

PARAGUAY: Un Hito de Unidad Regional y Solidaridad Intergeneracional en Pilar

Liderazgo: Lic. Gladys Mancuello Mendoza (Presidenta, APSSTS-PY)

En septiembre de 2025, la ciudad de Pilar se convirtió en el epicentro del Trabajo Social global al albergar el I Congreso Internacional y VIII Congreso Nacional de Trabajo Social, bajo el lema "Fortaleciendo la Solidaridad Intergeneracional para un Bienestar Duradero". Este evento histórico marcó la primera vez que la dirigencia máxima de la FITS, encabezada por el Presidente Global Joachim Mumba y el Secretario General Pascal Rudin, visitó el interior de Paraguay para conectar directamente con las bases profesionales y académicas de la región.

El congreso, organizado por la Asociación de Profesionales de Servicio Social del Paraguay (APSSTS-PY), trascendió las fronteras nacionales para convertirse en un espacio de convergencia para toda la región de América Latina y el Caribe (ALC). Durante las jornadas, se enfatizó que la solidaridad intergeneracional no es solo un concepto teórico, sino una estrategia política para proteger los sistemas de seguridad social y transferir el conocimiento crítico de los fundadores de la profesión a las nuevas generaciones de trabajadores sociales que enfrentan desafíos contemporáneos como la inteligencia artificial y la

crisis climática.

La APSSTS-PY aprovechó esta plataforma internacional para emitir un contundente posicionamiento contra la precarización y el intrusismo profesional. Se denunció ante las autoridades presentes que el Trabajo Social en Paraguay debe ser ejercido por profesionales cualificados, rechazando el uso de cargos técnicos como botines políticos. La presencia de la FITS Global en Pilar reafirmó que la lucha por la dignidad profesional en Paraguay cuenta con el respaldo de una red mundial inquebrantable.

Verificación oficial: ifsw.org/latin-america-and-caribbean-region-unites-in-pilar-paraguay

Puerto Rico: El CPTSPR en la vanguardia de la Justicia Salarial y la Regulación

El Colegio de Profesionales del Trabajo Social de Puerto Rico (CPTSPR), bajo la presidencia de Nélide Rosario Rivera, ha mantenido una ofensiva mediática y legislativa durante el 2025 para exigir justicia salarial y mejores condiciones de empleo en el sector público y privado. La organización ha sido vocal ante las amenazas de desregulación profesional, defendiendo la importancia de la colegiación para garantizar servicios de calidad a la población puertorriqueña.

FITS América Latina y el Caribe

Además de su labor reivindicativa, el Colegio ha avanzado en la modernización de su Código de Ética y en el fortalecimiento de sus capítulos regionales. Estas acciones aseguran que la profesión en Puerto Rico cuenta con un marco normativo sólido y actualizado para enfrentar los desafíos de una sociedad que atraviesa profundas crisis sociales y económicas.

Enlace de referencia: cptspr.org

Surinam: VSWS actúa en favor de la juventud y de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad

La Vereniging van Sociaal Werkers in Suriname (VSWS) desarrolló una intensa agenda de intervención social y de incidencia pública a lo largo de 2025. En abril, la asociación movilizó un equipo interdisciplinario —compuesto por profesionales de los sectores educativo, médico, jurídico y de ONG— para responder a un llamado urgente del distrito de Coronie, donde los jóvenes enfrentan graves problemas de suicidio, infecciones de transmisión sexual y abuso de sustancias. La VSWS declaró su intención de continuar esta iniciativa e instó a otras organizaciones a sumarse,

reafirmando que solo mediante la acción colectiva es posible construir un futuro más resiliente para la juventud surinamesa.

En agosto, la organización llevó a cabo un panel de discusión bajo el tema Vida Limitada, en el que diversos expertos abordaron la discriminación y exclusión de las personas con discapacidad en Surinam, señalando que persiste un fuerte tabú social que lleva a muchas familias a ocultar a estos niños y privarlos del contacto con el mundo exterior. El panel destacó la urgente necesidad de revisar las políticas públicas en esta materia.

La VSWS continúa posicionándose como un referente en la defensa de los derechos de las poblaciones más vulnerables, articulando su labor desde una perspectiva comunitaria, interdisciplinaria y de incidencia política.

Reference link: facebook.com/VSWSuriname

Kenia Batista, Presidenta regional

Gabriela Rodríguez Vázquez, Vicepresidenta regional

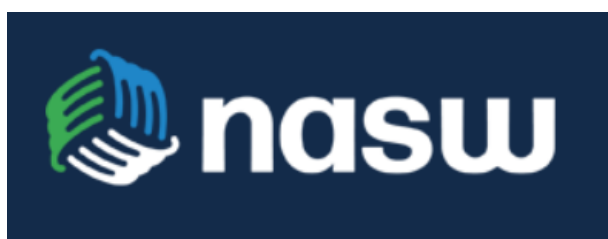
Regions

IFSW North America

IFSW North American Region Conference

EXPLORING COLLECTIVE CRISIS AMONG IMMIGRANT AND DISPLACED COMMUNITIES IN CANADA, THE UNITED STATES, AND BEYOND

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2025
12:00PM-4:15PM EASTERN | 3 FREE CEUS



United States

Significant progress was made toward NASW's program priorities:

Strengthen NASW's standing as the preeminent resource for social workers

Technology modernization National onboarding portals for new members

- Ticketing automation to streamline service.
- Migration of 80% of chapter websites into a unified national platform.

NASW's National Conference, in Chicago in June, drew over 2,000 participants, with the majority in-person

Establishment of New Board Committees / Taskforces A Taskforce on Artificial Intelligence

- A Board Committee on Military & Veterans
- A Board Committee on Disabilities

Practice Standards

- Practice Standards for Suicide Prevention will be out for public comment in January 2026, and will be finalized by June 2026.

Regions

IFSW North America

Leverage NASW for Maximum Justice Impact

Federal Advocacy

Advanced the Improving Access to Mental Health Act with 6,000 member contacts to Congress.

Licensure Compact

- Thirty states have now passed legislation adopting the Social Work Licensure Compact, representing one of the most transformative workforce victories in NASW's history.

Continue to Elevate Global Issues

- Together with CASW, NASW's International Committee planned and conducted an international seminar for the North American IFSW Region on from Canada and the United States discussed challenges and solutions to improve immigrants' social, economic, and political status. Registration for the live event was capped at 1,000 participants. Still, another 3,000 were able to view the entire seminar following the live presentations.
- NASW and CASW were involved in the call for individuals to serve on the New York / IFSW United Nations team. An incredible number of interested individuals answered the call.

NASW's Top Articles for 2025

- A Second Trump Term: Coping Strategies for Social Workers
- Threats to Medicaid and Medicare: Potential Impacts on Vulnerable and Marginalized Populations
- Telehealth Waivers Update
- NASW Responds to Trump Administration Executive Orders
- NASW Board Statement on Payment for Placement in Social Work
- NASW Launches Task Force to Develop National Stand of Care for Suicide for Social Workers
- Travel Social Work Expected to Grow
- Attention Clinical Social Workers Who Are Practitioners: Updated Information Regarding Telehealth Flexibilities
- NASW seeks Actions to Reduce Barriers to Entering the Profession
- Delayed Payments from Tricare Impacting Clinical Social Workers

Respected submitted,

Yvonne Elder Chase, PhD, MSW, LCSW
President NASW, President, IFSW / North American Region

Regions

IFSW North America



Canada

2025 was a very busy year for the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW).

National Policy Impacts

- Government funding achieved to establish National Advisory Committee {NAC} project. “Social Work: Building Practice Resilience and Knowledge - Preventing and Addressing Radicalization and Violent Extremism. Two-year project to develop an action plan.
- Policy statements developed to position Social Work within the newly elected Liberal Government.
- Establishment of joint project with Social Work regulators (CCSWR) and Social Work Educator (CASWE) organization on development of Clinical Best practices.
- Launched CASW Election Hub to provide Social Workers with resources to engage governments through advocacy tools; election platforms and guidance

on election process all with the idea of driving engagement practices.

- Achieved Student loan forgiveness with the Government of Canada, to enhance recruitment of Social Workers in rural/remote and hard to serve communities in Canada.
- National rollout of CASWs “Creating a National Vision and Building Capacity for the Role of Social Work in Primary Care”. Bilingual e-learning modules outlining function and role of Social Work within multi-disciplinary teams.

Advancing the Profession of Social Work

- Launched a revised National CASW Code of Ethics, after two years of extensive consultation and engagement.
- Held eight National webinars to introduce 8 values and principles linked to new Code of Ethics. Webinars in place to assist provincial jurisdiction for revision of Codes of Ethics for National alignment.
- Establishment of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging (EDIB) committee to revise CASW’s governance and operational structures to ensure modernization and better alignment of revised Strategic Plan of CASW.

Regions

IFSW North America



- Held successful National Social Work month 2025 enjoying the theme, “Social Work is Everywhere”. The campaign showcased 18 Social Worker from various disciplines, engaged Parliamentarians’ and reached over 140,000 people online.

To wrap up the year the North American region jointly sponsored an online conference, “Exploring Collective Crisis among Immigrant and Displaced Communities in Canada, United States and Beyond.”

A productive 2025 with a clear advancement of the profession of Social work and looking forward to a celebrating 2026 with

the one-hundred-year celebration of the CASW.

Respectively submitted,

Barb Whitenect, MSW, RSW
Vice President NA Region IFSW

News and Statements

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

Commissions

Education Commission

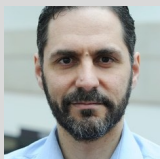
The aim of the Education Commission is to create a structure for the transfer of knowledge between social work education and practice where both are informed and learning from one another. The Commission supports social work programmes and educators who experience pressures to make “concessions” on the quality of education to be able to meet the professions international standards. [Read more](#).

Global Standards for Social Work Education

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

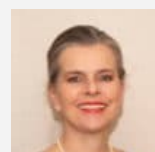
Commissioners

Global



Vasilios Ioakimidis
Global Commissioner

Africa Region



Antoinette Lombard
Regional Commissioner

Asia and Pacific Region



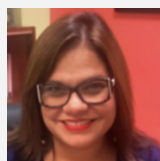
Mariko Kimura
Regional Commissioner

Europe Region



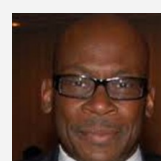
Nicolai Paulsen
Regional Commissioner

Latin America and the Caribbean Region



Marinilda Rivera Díaz
Regional Commissioner

North American Region



Gary Bailey
Regional Commissioner

Commissions

Education Commission

Strengthening the Commission: Selection and Appointments

A central priority for the Global Education Commission in 2025 was the selection and appointment of regional commissioners, following the renewal cycle initiated in late 2024. As part of this process, the Commission developed the strategy document “Vision Towards 2028,” outlining priorities for strengthening social work education ahead of the IFSW/IASSW centenary.

Throughout the year, the Commission collaborated closely with regional presidents to coordinate interviews, develop shortlists and establish transparent appointment procedures. We are pleased to report that:

- Professor Mariko Kimura has been appointed as Commissioner for Asia Pacific.
- Dr. Marcin Boryczko has been appointed as Commissioner for Europe.

Interview processes in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) have been completed, and final confirmation is pending. Appointments in Africa and North America are still outstanding.

Once the LAC representative is appointed, the Commission will be formally quorate and fully resourced to advance its strategic mission from early 2026.

International Social Work Learning Lab (ISWLL), 23–27 June 2025 – Arnhem, Netherlands

From 23 to 27 June 2025, our Commission supported the International Social Work Learning Lab (ISWLL), an inspiring gathering of social work students and faculty from Germany, Greece and the Netherlands. Hosted by HAN University of Applied Sciences in Arnhem, the Learning Lab created a vibrant setting for dialogue, experimentation and shared learning. The initiative was jointly organised by the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW), HAN University, the University of West Attica and Hochschule Koblenz, with key contributions from Noortje Thuis, Vasilios Ioakimidis, Mayaka Bernard, Antoinette Lombard, Pascal Rudin and Günter Friesenhahn.



Across five intensive days, the ISWLL blended academic lectures, thematic workshops, field visits and cultural ex-

Commissions

Education Commission

change with more creative forms of reflection and expression. The programme centred on eco-social work and climate justice, inviting participants to explore the profession's role in addressing escalating global challenges such as environmental degradation, forced migration and deepening inequalities. A strong theme running through the week was the recognition that social work cannot adopt a position of neutrality in the face of injustice; instead, it must draw on its ethical foundations and activist traditions to advocate for meaningful structural change.



Sessions engaged with grassroots organising, indigenous and decolonial knowledge, and participatory, bottom-up approaches to climate justice. Creative workshops offered space for students to process their learning through performance and collaborative expression. The week concluded with a reflective and celebratory closing event, highlighting the emergence of new networks, shared insights and commitments to continue working together across national and institutional boundaries.

Letters of Support and Advocacy

In line with IFSW's values and the Commission's responsibility to uphold rights-based social work education, two public letters were issued in 2025:

Support for Students and Staff in the United States

The Commission issued a statement affirming the rights of students and educators to engage in peaceful protest and political expression, free from intimidation or institutional repercussions. This letter emphasised the global profession's commitment to academic freedom and civic engagement.

Support for Professor Michael Lavalette

The Commission issued a letter supporting Professor Michael Lavalette following police questioning relating to his pro-peace, pro-Palestine activities. The statement underscored the vital role of dissent, critical inquiry and political advocacy in social work's ethical tradition.

Commissions

Education Commission

International Comparative Symposium on Social Work Education Standards (Asia Pacific Region)

In November 2025, the Global Education Commission—represented through the leadership and coordination of Mariko Kimura—played an active role in the International Comparative Symposium on the Development of Standards for Social Work Education and Training in Asia Pacific Countries. The event, hosted by the Japan College of Social Work (JCSW) in partnership with IFSW Asia Pacific and APASWE, brought together representatives from Aotearoa/New Zealand, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Taiwan.



Throughout the symposium, participants explored the diverse ways social work education is being shaped and strengthened across the region. Discussions highlighted how cultural heritage, historical trajectories and local social conditions influence

curriculum design, pedagogical approaches and professional training. Key themes included the alignment of national systems with the Global Standards for Social Work Education and Training, the centrality of indigenous knowledge and culturally grounded practice, variations in accreditation systems and regulatory environments, and the shared priorities emerging in the lead-up to the 2028 centenary.



The symposium showcased the strong leadership, energy and collaborative spirit within the Asia Pacific region. It also reaffirmed the Global Education Commission's commitment—guided in this context by Mariko Kimura—to supporting educational development that is both regionally grounded and aligned with global professional standards.

Education Commission

Appendix: 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.

Commissions

Education Commission

- 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.
- 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.

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.

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.

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. [Read more.](#)

Resources

[Global Social Work Statement of Ethical Principles](#)

National Codes of Ethics of our member organisations can be found on the bottom of [this page](#).

Commissioners

Global



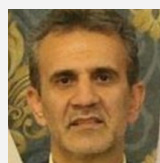
Jane Shears
Global Commissioner

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 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. The Commission also scrutinises the Code of Ethics of new applicants to IFSW as well as promoting ethical practice across the global social work community.

The Commission has had a stable membership throughout 2025.

The planned activities for 2025 for the Commission were to apply the Terms of Reference for the Commissions to the work of the Ethics Commission with regular workplan meetings with the secretariat as well as global Commissioner meetings; literature review on research related to the ethical use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in social work and continuing to raise the work and profile of the commission through conference presentations across the global social work community.

The Commission supports the Terms of Reference and is encouraged by the deve-

loping governance framework for IFSW across the organisation.

The North American Commissioner attended the European Social Work Research Conference and together with the Social Work Ethics Research Group, facilitated a pre-conference workshop.

The Asia Pacific ethics commission representative attended the Asia Pacific conference in November 2025 and presented regional research in the implications of AI in social work practice. The Global Commissioner attended the IFSW Europe delegates meeting by invitation of the regional president, Dr Ruth Allen.

The Commission supported a social work internship with the focus of reviewing literature related to the subject of the potential digitalisation of social work. The juxtaposition between the relational person-centred criteria in the IFSW Statement of Ethics Principles with the post humanist principles emphasis on relational accountability across individual, organisational, community and wider social systems. This work will be included in the forthcoming Position Paper by the Commission on AI, ethics and social work in 2026.

The Commission continues to review the Codes of Ethics of potential new members of IFSW.

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 Commis-](#)



Latest Statements

[Commemorating the 20th anniversary of the IFSW policy statement on Indigenous Peoples & Human Rights](#)

[International Day of Older Persons 2025 – Older Persons Driving Local and Global Action](#)

Commissioners

Global



Hilary Weaver
Global Commissioner

Africa Region



Charles Rutikanga
Regional Commissioner

Europe Region

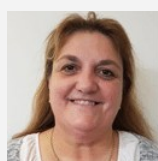


Margaretha Uttjek
Regional Commissioner

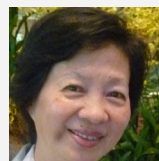
Asia and Pacific Region



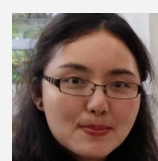
Caroline Tana-Tepania
Regional Commissioner



Linda Ford
Representative

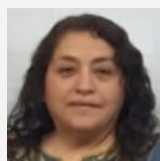


Dr Ling How Kee
Representative



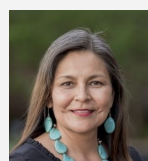
Yang Jian (Yvonne)
Representative

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 five members: Pamela L. Begay (from the United States representing the North American region), Carole Tana-Tepania (from Aotearoa/New Zealand representing the Asia and Pacific 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). The position of regional representative from Latin America and the Caribbean was vacant in 2025.

Report on general activities and achievements

The Indigenous Commission has developed a schedule of meetings that occur 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. Likewise, other

commissions adopt or adapt our practices, as they see fit, and seek out collaborative opportunities. 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. The Global Commissioner has also participated in regular meetings with the Secretary General and interim Secretary General of IFSW throughout the year to ensure that the work of the Indigenous Commission is in alignment with IFSW goals and strategies and to apprise IFSW leadership of developments and opportunities identified by members of the Indigenous Commission.

The Global Indigenous Commissioner has been involved in significant collaborative work with other Global Commissioners as well as IFSW staff to operationalize and implement the terms of reference that were passed by the IFSW Executive at the beginning of the year. These efforts are resulting in implementation of a more robust and collective model of work. The Indigenous Commission developed a Concept Note describing the focus of the Commission and a role description for regional representatives. The regional representative role description was integrated into a vacancy announcement to fill the Latin

Commissions

Indigenous Commission

American and Caribbean (LAC) representative slot on our commission and the call for applications was open in August. The Indigenous Commission, along with other IFSW Commissions is currently involved in collaborating with leadership in the LAC region to implement the appointment process. Interviews for a new LAC representative are scheduled and we hope to begin 2026 with this position filled.

Highlights for the Indigenous Commission during 2025 include participating in the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, participating in conferences in Canada and Norway, issuing four statements through IFSW to commemorate key days, and exploring collaborative opportunities with other IFSW commissions.

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and international conferences

The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) took place in New York City from April 21 to May 2 with the theme *Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples within United Nations Member States and the United Nations system, including identifying good practices and addressing challenges*. The Global Commissioner attended sessions for the first four days (self-funded) and met with the Executive Director of the Indi-

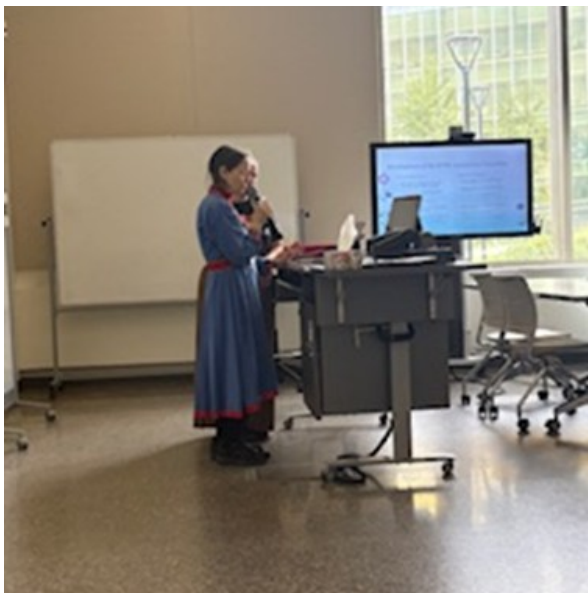
genous organization Cultural Survival to explore possible collaborative opportunities. While another commission member had also hoped to attend the UNPFII, external funding fell through at the last minute. The increasing costs associated with participating in the UNPFII and the lack of a budget led to this being the first year since the inception of the commission that we have not offered a side event during the Forum.



Pamela L. Begay, Margaretha Karlberg Uttjek, Hilary Weaver, & Carole Tana-Tepania at the IIVSW conference

Commissions

Indigenous Commission



Margaretha Karlberg Uttjek

The International Indigenous Voices in Social Work (IIVSW) conference was held in Calgary, Alberta, Canada August 12-15 and the Indigenous Commission offered a 90-minute workshop on the 14th. Four of the five members of the Indigenous Commission (Pamela L. Begay, North American Regional Representative, Carole Tana-Tepania, Asia Pacific Regional Representative, Margaretha Karlberg Uttjek, European Regional Representative, and Hilary Weaver, Global Commissioner) attended the conference and participated in the workshop although the fifth member of the Commission was unable to secure funding to attend. The IIVSW conference draws Indigenous social workers from around the world as well as some non-Indigenous allies committed to Indigenous issues. The

Indigenous Commission saw this conference as an ideal opportunity to highlight the work of IFSW and to gather information from conference participants to inform the work of the Commission. Workshop participants were very interested in establishing communication channels with the Commission. Participants noted the importance of the Commission advocating for changes in colonial systems and how Indigenous leadership can help redefine paradigms and shape the future of social work.

The Indigenous Commission also contributed to the IFSW European Regional conference held in Oslo Norway October 6-8. Margaretha Karlberg Uttjek, the European Regional Representative, participated in the Delegates Assembly that occurred prior to the regional conference. Her presence in the Delegates Assembly allowed her to meet and participate in discussions with other regional delegates, providing an opportunity to share information about the Indigenous Commission and receive feedback from delegates about our work.

The theme of the European Regional conference was Bridging Communities: Building Sustainable Futures with one of the conference subthemes being Indigenous Wisdom and Environmental Stewardship. The Indigenous Commission's European

Commissions

Indigenous Commission

Regional Representative and Global Commissioner worked with leadership of the European region to secure two prominent keynote speakers. Miriama Scott, an esteemed Māori social work leader delivered a keynote address on the first day of the conference entitled, Sustainability is Custodianship: It is not a Responsibility; it is an obligation. On the closing day of the conference, Michael Yellow Bird a prominent Native American scholar and member of the Mandan Hidatsa Arikara Nation delivered the keynote address, The Power of Ceremony: Indigenous Contemplative Practices, Neurodecolonization, and the Medicine Wheel. Additionally, the Indigenous Commission offered a workshop in which Miriama Scott offered reflections on the circumstances that led to establishing the Indigenous Commission, Margaretha Karlberg Uttjek described the work of the IFSW Indigenous Committee that was a predecessor to the Commission, Hilary Weaver described the Commission's current work, and Michael Yellow Bird offered reflections on how participation of Indigenous social workers has evolved in national and international social work organizations. The presentations concluded with Roy-Arne Varsi from the Norwegian Sámi Association Sámi Sosialbargiid Searvi sharing his perspectives on their work with Sámi communities and visions of collaborative future work. A robust discussion with the audience followed the presentations.



Presenters at the Indigenous Commission session at the IFSW European Regional conference: Miriama Scott, Hilary Weaver, Margaretha Karlberg Uttjek, Roy-Arne Varsi, and Michael Yellow Bird.

The IFSW European Regional conference was followed by a two-day post-conference extension in Alta Norway. The theme of the post-conference was Indigenous Social Work in the North and was attended by commission members Margaretha Karlberg Uttjek and Hilary Weaver. The opening keynote address, Reclaiming our Voices- Indigenous Resilience, was offered by Hilary Weaver on October 9.

Statements

The Indigenous Commission developed four statements that were published by IFSW during 2025. These statements call attention to important issues within Indigenous communities around the world. They serve an educational purpose and are a “call to action” to mobilize social workers

Commissions

Indigenous Commission

to address critical issues. Beyond raising awareness and calling for action, these statements provide social workers with resources and tools to use in their work, indicating how they can continue to expand their knowledge on these topics.



The Indigenous Commission issued a statement to recognize International Water Day, March 22. The statement describes the significance of water for Indigenous Peoples and for all of us in our shared world. The statement goes on to describe some of the responsibilities that Indigenous Peoples carry for water, actions that social workers have taken, and our shared path forward. The statement can be found [here](#).



Each year the Indigenous Commission offers a statement in honour of World Indigenous Peoples Day, August 9. The 2025 statement drew on the theme, Indigenous

Peoples' right to self-determination: A pathway for food security and sovereignty. The statement describes how Indigenous Peoples have historically sustained themselves through deep, reciprocal relationships with their lands and traditional foods, calling on social workers to stand with Indigenous Peoples for food sovereignty, upholding their inherent right to self-determination, and recognizing the profound connection between traditional foods, culture, health, and wellbeing. The statement can be accessed [here](#).

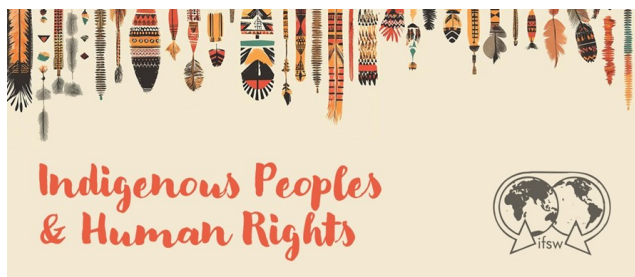
The Indigenous Commission issued a statement to celebrate the International Day of Older Persons, October 1. The statement describes the significant roles that Elders play in their communities



around the world, highlighting opportunities for social workers to enhance the wellbeing of Elders, draw on their strengths, and act in support of Elders' rights, wellbeing, aspirations, inclusion, and transmission of Indigenous Knowledges. The statement can be accessed [here](#).

Commissions

Indigenous Commission



On the global observance of Human Rights Day, December 10th, the Indigenous Commission issued a statement commemorating the 20th anniversary of the IFSW policy statement on Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights, noting that IFSW passed this policy articulating how upholding the rights of Indigenous Peoples was firmly grounded within the social work profession's value system years before the United Nations finalized and passed the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in September 2007. The commemorative statement describes the process of developing the IFSW policy, an overview of its contents, and the significance of this policy. The original policy can be accessed at <https://www.ifsw.org/indigenous-peoples/>. The commemorative statement can be accessed [here](#).

Opportunities for collaboration

The Indigenous Commission remains committed to collaborating with other IFSW Commissions on areas of shared interest. As a follow up to conversations with mem-

bers of the IFSW Education Commission in 2024, the Indigenous Commission developed a proposal for a pilot survey to begin to identify how social work education programs integrate Indigenous Knowledges in their curricula. While both Commissions remain interested in this collaborative venture, limited capacity has slowed our ability to move forward with this initiative.

The Indigenous Commission continued its collaborations with the IFSW UN Commission in 2025, particularly around exploring the feasibility of in-person participation of Indigenous Commission members at the UNPFII in New York City. While only the Global Commissioner was able to attend the Forum in 2025, during her time there she met with members of the IFSW UN team based in the New York area about ways to strengthen participation in the future. Following the recent appointment of a new North American Regional Commissioner for the UN Commission, the Global Indigenous Commissioner reached out and the two held a productive in-person meeting on strengthening our collaborative work, including regular meetings to facilitate participation of Indigenous Commission members in UN events.

As a recognition of the longstanding commitment of members of the North American based branch of the IFSW UN Com-

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Indigenous Commission

mission to the wellbeing of Indigenous Peoples, even prior to development of the Indigenous Commission, we issued a statement commemorating the 20th anniversary of the IFSW policy statement on Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights. This organizational policy was drafted and moved forward by members of the UN Commission based in the New York City area and is described in the previous section.

Key planned activities and events for next year

The Indigenous Commission is currently developing our workplan for 2026. We anticipate continuing to explore opportunities to participate in the UNPFII and possibly other UN mechanisms but recognize these may be constrained by financial considerations. 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.

We are exploring opportunities for offering sessions at international conferences but recognize that being a small commission we face limitations of our capacity as well as financial constraints. We are guided by the feedback we received from Indigenous social workers at our workshop at the International Indigenous Voices in Social Work conference and will continue to seek ways to strengthen communication channels with Indigenous social workers around the world as well as transform our profession. As IFSW partners with other global social work organizations, the Indigenous Commission looks forward to opportunities to actively contribute to discussions that refine our key documents on the Global Definition of Social Work, the Global Standards for Social Work Education and Training, and the Global Social Work Statement of Ethical Principles.

Submitted by Hilary N. Weaver, Global Commissioner

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.](#)

Latest Updates

[Historic Collaboration at the UN Second World Summit for Social Development in Doha](#)

[UN Report Affirms Social Work’s Central Role in Building Trust and Human Dignity](#)

[Read more updates here.](#)

Commissioners and Representatives

Global

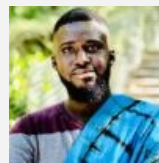


Priska Fleischlin
Global Commissioner

Africa Region



Charles Mbugua
Regional Commissioner

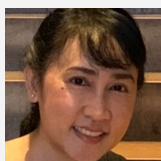


Basamba Drammeh
Regional Commissioner



Mildred T. Mushun
Representative

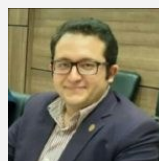
Asia and Pacific Region



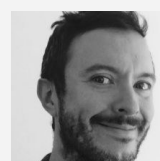
W. Kotbungkair
Regional Commissioner



Suresh Pathare
Representative



Hamed Olamaee
Regional Commissioner



Sebastian Cordoba
Representative

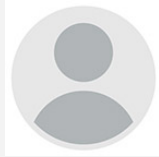
Commissions

United Nations Commission

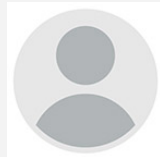
Asia and Pacific Region (cont.)



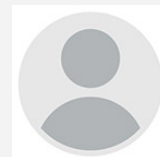
Massoud Ayoubi
Regional Commissioner



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

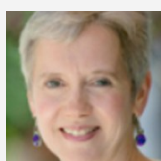


Silvia Franke
Representative

North America Region



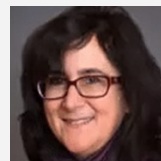
Michael Cronin
Regional Commissioner



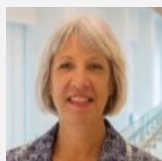
Robin S. Mama
Representative



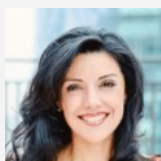
Elaine Congress
Representative



Anne C. Deepak
Representative



Evelyn P. Tomaszewski
Representative



Shenae Osborn
Representative

Commissions

United Nations Commission

The year 2025 was a successful year for representing the IFSW at the UN, with an increasing interest from UN agencies in social work associations at national and global levels being recognised. Of particular note is the intensified collaboration with OHCHR, who approached the IFSW for two consultations (on poverty and people with disabilities) and the UN Commission has also submitted widely consulted feedback on their questionnaires. Furthermore, the second Continued Professional Development (CPD) course, co-organised with OHCHR and featuring speakers from IFSW, WHO and ILO, has set an example of collaboration and co-learning. This high level of interest has motivated the team to draft a policy paper on the 'care economy/ care and support systems', which will be

presented at the IFSW General Meeting in 2026.

To represent the IFSW at the [Second World Summit on Social Development in Doha](#) was a milestone for the IFSW UN Commission.

At the same time, the UN Commission underwent changes as the teams underwent a re-appointment process based on the 'terms of reference' adopted by the IFSW in 2024. We now proudly have representatives from 16 different nations. The project to re-name the Commission couldn't be finished, but will be a core theme for 2026.

Africa

The Regional Commissioners are Charles Mbugua (Kenya), Dr Mildred T. Mushun (Zimbabwe) and Basamba Drammeh (Gambia).

The collaboration between the IFSW representation and UN-Habitat has remained cordial and visible over the past year. The theme of 'A Sustainable Urban Future' aimed to raise awareness and develop activities around creating inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities.

This thematic focus aligns well with social work concerns regarding children, the poor, the elderly and vulnerable populations living in cities.

The 13th World Urban Forum, whose theme is 'Urban Future: Working to Make Cities Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and



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Sustainable', will be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 17 to 22 May 2026. The team is planning to hold their first in-person meeting during the global conference in Nairobi in June 2026. As UN Agencies, like the 'UN Women' are moving their headquarters to Nairobi, this team will become more important, the team is preparing for it.

Asia Pacific

The IFSW Asia Pacific United Nations Commission represents social work at the UN's regional headquarters, ESCAP. In 2025, three new members joined, expanding the team to six representatives. Current members are Sebastian Cordoba (Australia), Wilaiporn (Kae) Kotbungkair (Thailand), Hamed Olamaee (Iran), Young Joon Hong (South Korea), Massoud Ayoubi (Afghanistan), and Talaat Hamoud (Yemen).

The Commission participated in the ESCAP 81st Session and the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development. It contributed to the Third Ministerial Conference on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics in Asia and the Pacific. Engagement included the UN High-Level Political Forum and the Summit of the Future (General Assembly 79).

The team also supported preparations for the Second World Summit for Social Development. Participation in several OHCHR

human rights consultations strengthened the social work perspective at the UN.

In 2025, the Commission co-hosted a World Social Work Day panel with UNICEF. Collaborations continued with the UN Major Group for NGOs and the Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism.

For 2026, the team plans to be present at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and continue working on ongoing campaigns with NGO partners and new regional collaborations.

Geneva - Europe

In 2025, the team underwent a re-election process based on the 'Terms of Reference', a document endorsed by the IFSW in 2024. By the end of 2025, the team had no Regional Commissioner, but the following representatives: Swetha R. Dhananka (Regional Commissioner until September 2025, Switzerland), Sibylle Mani (Switzerland), Akudo Amadiogwu (UK and Nigeria), Geraldine Nosowska (UK) and Annalisa Baruffi (Italy and the UK). They are all focused on Geneva. There is currently no representative of IFSW to the UN in Vienna.

The Geneva team co-organised the [second online course \(4x1.5h\) with OHCHR](#), featuring speeches from ILO, WHO, IFSW re-

Commissions

United Nations Commission

representatives and Barth University. 1,300 subscribers learned about the ILO's newly endorsed document on the 'care economy' and OHCHR's interpretation of 'care and support systems'. This event, which was linked to World Social Work Day has been Co-organised with UNRISD and was a successful online event. Later in the year, submission on the topic of Ageing have been provided.

Latin America

By the end of 2025, the representation to the UN Office in Santiago de Chile is vacant.

North America

The team had a re-election process, by end of the year, the contained: Evelyn P. Tomaszewski, United States, Regional Commissioner, Elaine Congress, United States, Special Representative, Anne Deepak, United States, Representative, Siu Ming Kwok, Canada, Representative, Sue-Ann MacDonald, Canada, Representative, Trish Saleeby, United States, Representative, Andre Stevenson, United States, Special Representative, Madison Chalmers, United States, MSW intern, Monmouth University and Maria T. Talloni-Perlett, United States, MSW Intern, Fordham University.

Join the International Federation of Social Workers for a Side -Event during the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

Social Workers as partners in advancing evidence-driven, sustainable, inclusive, and community engaged solutions to address the social, health, economic, and ecological drivers to advancing sustainable development.

 The impact of policy and regulation on care providers, and the quality of adhering to professional standards and working to address health inequities in border cities
KRITI VASHISHT
Assistant Professor, University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley, School of Social Work

 Embedding Safeguarding and Social Protection into Community-Based Care Systems: Building Safer, Inclusive Spaces for Well-being and Work
SONA ARAKELYAN
World Health Organization, Consultant for the Prevention and Response to Sexual Misconduct (Amnong)

 Opportunities to recenter social issues on development agendas and the importance of care systems and social policies for new eco-social contracts.
KATJA HUJO
Head, Bonn Office, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

JULY 21, 2025 9:30A – 11:00 A EST (3:30 – 5:00 CET)

Contact: Evelyn P. Tomaszewski, MSW
IFSW Representative to the UN (NA)
GMU Social Work, etomasze@gmu.edu

 HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Every year, the team attends several events and submitted interventions:

- 63rd Session of the Commission for Social Development. Global Solidarity for Justice: Social Work's Path to Inclusion and Sustainability: Side- event and Statement submitted.
- 60th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Social Work Perspective on Advancing Gender Equality and Empowering Women: Side- event and Statement submitted.
- UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development: (partner UNRISD): Side -Event

Commissions

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- [World Social Work Day at the UN](#): Looking back to move forward: Celebrating Social Work at the United Nations.
- Submitted an intervention to the 2025 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and High-Level Segment of ECOSOC, and the UN High-Level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases and the Promotion of Mental Health
- Represented IFSW at 4 programmed events during the ECOSOC Partnership Forum

Building visibility of IFSW and NGO collaborations:

Active membership (and leadership roles) in substantive issues in New York based (CONGO) NGO Committees: Indigenous, Migration, Status on Women, Human Rights, Financing for Development.

Key Planned Activities and Events for next year

Participate in 2026 ECOSOC Partnership Forum; submit request to provide statement, participate and organize side-events on the Commission on Social Development meeting, the Commission on the Status of Women, the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development Follow-Up. For

the Indigenous Forum, build collaboration with Global Commissioner Indigenous Committee for side-event. Furthermore, UN High Level Meeting on Aging: participate and the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, UN General Assembly, are planned to attend and provide interventions.

With those events and with regular meetings, the onboarding and building capacity of the team is key, besides expanding the NGO networks.

Over the next year, the entire IFSW UN Commission will continue to strengthen its collaboration with the UN and IFSW members. In the coming years, we aim to create more consultation opportunities for IFSW members, so that the experiences gained at local and national levels can be brought to the attention of global bodies.

After having had a little budget for the years 2024 and 2025,

This report shall end with thanks to the whole IFSW UN Commission for its contribution, the passion to be a voice for Social Workers. A warm thanks to the IFSW Secretary General and his interim SG, the IFSW Secretariat, and the global board of IFSW for supporting us in our work.

Priska Fleischlin
IFSW UN Commissioner

Ambassador's Message

To all the social workers in the world who are trying to meet the moment in a beset and beleaguered world:

You chose a profession that asks you to stand in that challenging space between how the world is and should be. That place has never been an easy place to be and seems to be getting bigger. Right now, our position may seem impossible—too much pain, too much hunger, too much war, too much hopelessness and yet...

Here is what you need to know: What you do—the listening, the advocating, the connecting, all of the small acts of dignity you restore—all of these travel outward in ways you may never see. The child you helped find safety, the elder you made sure wasn't alone and lonely, the family you helped stay together, the system you pushed to be more responsive or the new system you helped create, all of this matters because all of it works to build a better world. Much of what we do together is an audacious act of faith and hope born from our professional education and values and ignited by our belief that the world can mend and people can thrive.

Social work has never been easy work. Every generation of social workers has faced seemingly insurmountable challenges: poverty, injustice, indifference, systems that resist change. Yet the profession endures because people like you keep showing up. You keep believing that every

person has inherent worth and dignity. You keep insisting that change is possible. You are tenacious and the truth of it is that maybe it is the only way you can truly be happy in the world—trying to make it better.

Some days, all you can do is witness someone's pain and let them know they're not invisible. That matters. Some days, you're holding systems accountable. That matters too. Some days, you're exhausted and that might be a day to rest and renew. Some days you may wonder if any of it matters...

It does.

The world needs your expertise, your heart, and your fierce commitment to justice. But it also needs you to take care of yourself, to find your community, to remember why you started this work.

Keep going. The profession—and the people you serve—need you and are fortunate to have you.



Suzanne Dworak-Peck,
Los Angeles, November 2025

Governance

Meet the Global Executive

Global



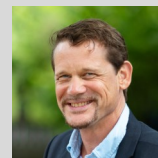
Joachim Mumba
President



Kenia Batista
Vice President

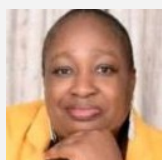


Sriganesh MV
Treasurer



Pascal Rudin
Ex Officio Member

Africa Region



Oluwatoni Adeleke
Regional President



Abib Ndiaye
Regional Vice President

Asia and Pacific Region

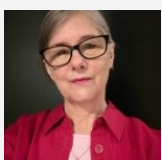


Machiko Ohara
Regional President

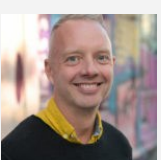


Teoh Ai Hua
Regional Vice President

Europe Region



Ruth Allen
Regional President

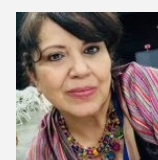


Andreas Pedersen Kikvik
Regional Vice President

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](#)

Operations

Meet the Secretariat Team

Rory Truell

Secretary-General



rory.truell@ifsw.org

Pascal Rudin

Interim Secretary-General



pascal.rudin@ifsw.org

Lucia Gandolfi

Administrator



lucia.gandolfi@ifsw.org

Bernard Mayaka

Administrator



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

Climate Justice Program



Fiona Robertson and Nigel Hall at the IFSW office in Switzerland

The IFSW Archives team—Fiona Robertson, the official Archivist, assisted by Nigel Hall—is pleased to announce that the work on the IFSW archives project has been finalised. The project spanned more than ten years and has preserved and documented the historical content.

IFSW Secretary-General Rory Truell commented, “*Great care was taken in finding and preserving treasured original founding documents of IFSW and the records revealing the early aims, objectives and principles of the movement for international social work*”.

The Archives demonstrate the tremendous interest in social work from the first Conference held in Paris in July 1928, which brought together over 5000 delegates, from 42 countries to the current day and upcoming centennial.

Many of the archival documents record fascinating information on social workers

working to address global issues relating to the depression of the early 1930s, equality for women, and the problems of homelessness and widespread poverty.

Fiona and Nigel would like to acknowledge the inspiration of former IFSW President Gary Bailey in promoting the idea of the Archives and Rene Schegg for all his support in helping sort through the Archives. Some records have been digitalised and can be accessed here. IFSW members are also welcome to visit the archives in Switzerland

Fiona Robertson said, “Preserving the past and current records of IFSW is an honouring of the social work profession and our institutional identity. The task of preservation of our history is also about our human rights and human dignity as a profession. Our history cannot be given away, nor can it be taken away but we need to ensure it is kept for the next generations of social workers”.

Read more

Access the news item [here](#).

Access the digitalised archives [here](#).

Projects and Programs

Global Survey of Working Conditions of Social Workers



A recent global study reveals a troubling decline in the working conditions and well-being of social workers over the past three years. Conducted across various regions, the research shows significant drops in job satisfaction, autonomy, role clarity, and psychological well-being. These findings highlight the growing pressures on social workers, which not only affect their effectiveness but also impact the communities they serve.

One key finding is the strong link between role clarity and well-being. Social workers perform better when they clearly understand their responsibilities without conflicting expectations. Peer support also helps reduce stress. Despite these positive factors, the study ranks social work conditions among the poorest compared to other professions.

The findings provide valuable evidence for advocating urgent policy and practice changes. By drawing attention to the worsening conditions and their effect on ser-

vice delivery, social work associations can strengthen discussions with governments and employers. This data also supports lobbying for better funding and resources to address high workloads and insufficient organisational support. Additionally, these insights can guide country-specific research and interventions tailored to local challenges.

The research team plans a follow-up study in the autumn to track longer-term trends and expand cultural and geographic perspectives. Partnering with the European Social Work Research Association's Workforce Research Special Interest Group (WRSIG) will enhance this phase by integrating ethical considerations. These efforts aim to develop strategies to improve the lives of social workers and ensure their vital role in society is better supported.

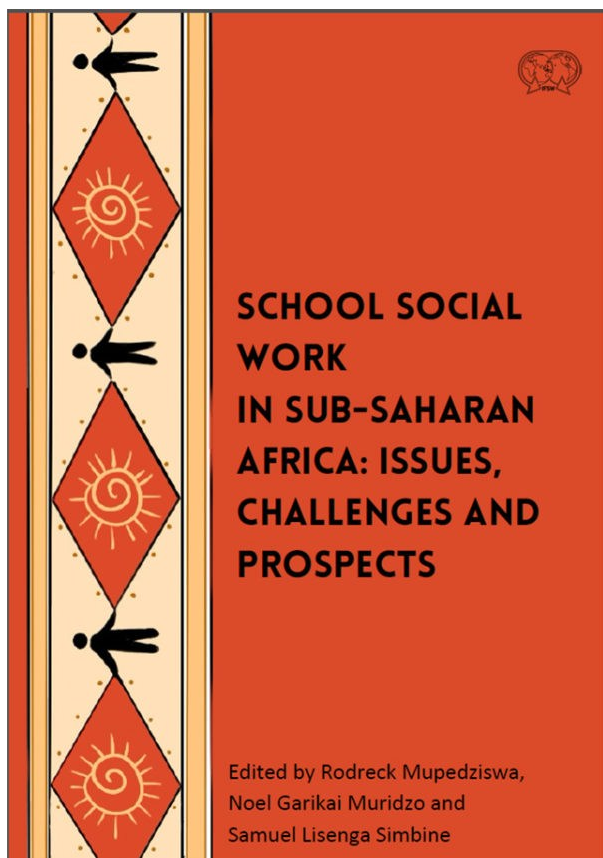
Read more

Download the article [here](#).

Find previous news items about this research project [here](#).

Publications

School Social Work in Sub-Saharan Africa: Issues, Challenges & Prospects



School Social Work in Sub-Saharan Africa: Issues, Challenges & Prospects brings together compelling arguments and evidence demonstrating why the well-being of children must be a top priority for African societies. Drawing on both global child-rights conventions and traditional African philosophies like Ubuntu, the editors and contributors highlight the many challenges young people encounter today—including violence, bullying, teenage

pregnancies, drug and alcohol abuse, and HIV/AIDS. These hardships are intensified by modernization, urbanization, and widespread corruption, all of which undermine communal values that once protected the most vulnerable. Against this backdrop, the book makes a powerful case for embedding social work services within every school, asserting that professional intervention can mitigate many of these threats and nurture healthier, safer learning environments.

Equally important, the publication calls for stronger partnerships among governments, policy makers, educators, and social work practitioners. Its chapters underscore that children deserve evidence-based interventions, robust legal frameworks, and well-resourced social services.

Edited by Rodreck Mupedziswa, Noel Garikai Muridzo and Samuel Lisenga Simbine

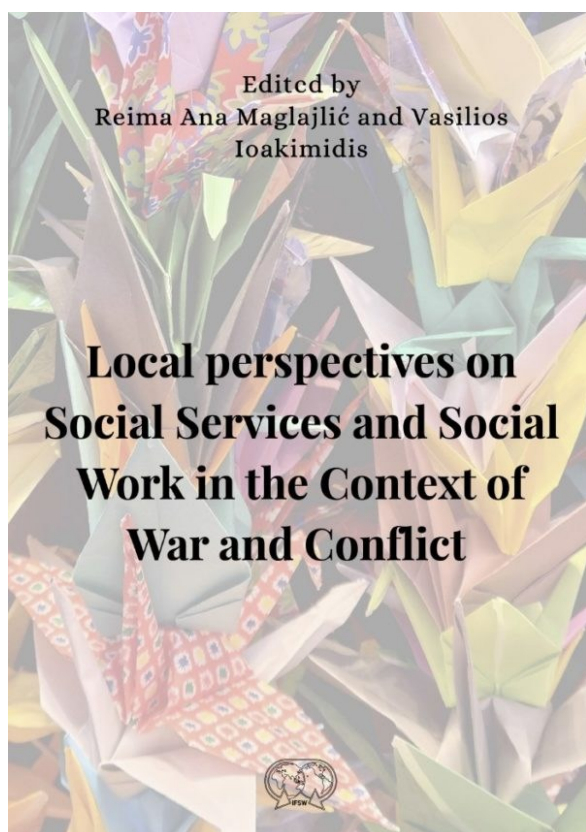
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Publications

Local Perspectives on Social Services and Social Work in the Context of War and Conflict



This book is a powerful reminder that the story of war and political conflict is not only one of destruction and loss, but also of courage, solidarity, and the relentless pursuit of justice. It highlights the lived realities of people and communities who have endured unthinkable violence, forced displacement, and the erosion of livelihoods and rights, yet whose spirit remains unbroken. It also celebrates the role of social workers who stand amidst these challenges, refusing to remain silent and working

tirelessly to build conditions for peace and dignity.

As noted in the Foreword by IFSW President Joachim Mumba and Interim Secretary-General Pascal Rudin: *“This book tells of social workers who stand amidst these harsh realities, refusing to remain silent, refusing to accept violence and oppression as inevitable and working tirelessly to build conditions in which peace and dignity can take root.”*

This volume is the result of a long-standing collaboration between social work practitioners and academics with direct experience of war and conflict. Emerging from the International Network on Social Work and Political Conflict (INSWPC), the thirteen chapters include practitioner reflections, the voices of young refugees, expert interviews, historical and contemporary analyses, and participatory research from across eleven countries.

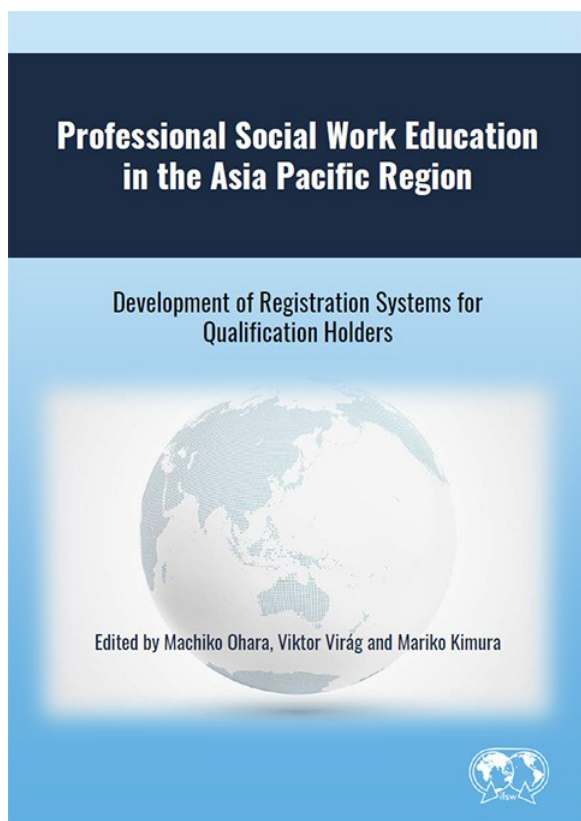
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Publications

Professional Social Work Education in the Asia Pacific Region



This publication documents the findings of a major international research initiative and provides one of the most comprehensive overviews to date of education systems, qualification pathways, and registration practices across the Asia Pacific region.

The Asia Pacific is one of the most diverse regions in the world. It brings together countries with a wide range of cultural, political, social, and educational traditions. This diversity creates both opportunities

and challenges for the development of strong, coherent social work systems. The new publication responds to these complexities by offering an evidence based foundation that will support governments, universities, professional associations, and practitioners in strengthening social work education and accreditation. It also provides a valuable resource for the wider IFSW network, since the findings speak directly to global conversations about standards, ethics, and the shaping of future professional frameworks.

The book covers fourteen country and territory studies and highlights how education, practice, and professional regulation are evolving across the region. It aims to support international cooperation, enhance professional recognition, and contribute to the development of robust and culturally grounded systems of qualification and registration.

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This book is freely available as open access PDF.

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Publications

International Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics Volume 22, Issue 1



The [International Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics](#) has released its first issue this year (Volume 22, Issue 1), offering critical insights into some of the most pressing ethical questions facing the profession today. With a continued focus on artificial intelligence (AI), the issue features editorials and articles that challenge practitioners to thoughtfully integrate new technologies while remaining grounded in social work's core values.

The issue includes editorials by Robert McKinney and Barbara Hiltz that advocate for ethical engagement with AI rather than avoidance, arguing that social workers have a responsibility to help shape technological change rather than react to it. The journal also features important contributions on ethical dilemmas in gender-affirming care, professional conduct beyond working hours, and the limitations of moral frameworks currently guiding practice.

Dr Pascal Rudin, IFSW Interim Secretary-General, who reviewed the book 'Rights of Nature in Europe' for this issue, commented: *"At a time when our profession is undergoing rapid transformation, this issue of the journal reminds us that ethical discernment is not a static endeavour. From the promise and pitfalls of AI to evolving debates on professional responsibility, we are called not only to adapt, but to lead. These reflections strengthen our collective resolve to uphold human dignity in all its complexity."*

This edition also marks the first issue published under the leadership of Robert McKinney as the journal's new editor. IFSW extends warm thanks and congratulations to Robert for guiding this important publication into its next chapter.

Download

You may download all articles of Volume 22 (2025) Issue 1 for free in PDF format or read the full HTML text [here](#).

Publications

International Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics Volume 22, Issue 2



The International Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics has released its latest issue, [Volume 22, Issue 2](#), continuing its role as a vital global forum for critical reflection on ethics, values, and professional responsibility in social work

This issue engages directly with some of the most contested and urgent ethical questions facing the profession today. In his editorial, *Antisemitism, Anti-Palestinianism, & the Diversity Die*, Editor in Chief Robert McKinney reflects on the profession's ethical foundations and calls for courageous, values-based dialogue that resists all forms of discrimination while holding space for complexity, plurality, and discomfort.

Featured articles examine the ethical dimensions of disability justice, racial bias in professional licensing examinations, gender affirming medical care, and the lived experience of Jewish identity within progressive social work spaces. Together, these contributions invite practitioners, educators, and scholars to critically inter-

rogate how ethics are enacted in practice, institutions, and movements for social justice.

Reflecting on the issue, Dr Pascal Rudin, IFSW Interim Secretary General, noted: *“This edition powerfully demonstrates that ethics in social work cannot be reduced to abstract principles. It demands engagement with lived realities, contested histories and uncomfortable questions. By fostering rigorous and respectful debate, the journal strengthens our collective capacity to act with integrity, humility and courage in deeply polarised times.”*

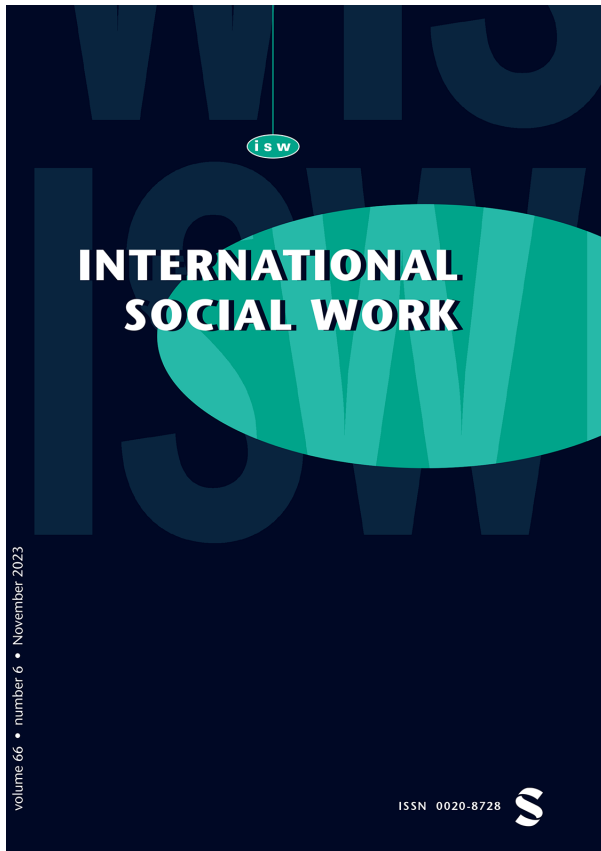
Published by IFSW and freely accessible worldwide, the [International Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics](#) remains a cornerstone for advancing ethical scholarship and dialogue across regions and traditions. Readers are encouraged to explore the full issue and engage with the conversations it opens.

Download

You may download all articles of Volume 22 (2025) Issue 2 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 globali-

sation 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.40 on how to become an IFSW Friend.

Events

Upcoming Events

SWSD 2026 Nairobi



The International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW), and the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) are delighted to invite you to the [2026 Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development](#) (SWSD 2026), to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from **26 to 29 June 2026**.

The conference is themed “*Harambee for Sustainable Shared Futures*”, drawing on the powerful East African philosophy of collective action and mutual support.

General Meeting 2026



The IFSW 2026 General Meeting (GM) will be held as a hybrid gathering on **23 and 24 June 2026** in Nairobi, Kenya. Details will be

[published on this page](#) as documents become available.

The General Meeting is the supreme governing body of the Federation and during these two days, member organisations will discuss and approve the policies of the Federation, elect the Executive Committee, and if required approve amendments or additions to the Constitution.

The IFSW Secretariat hopes that all member organisations will actively participate in this General Meeting, either in person or through online participation. More information about registering to participate and how the voting platform will work will be published closer to the event.

SWSD 2028 Paris



The global social work community will convene in Paris, France, for the 2028 Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development (SWSD 2028). This landmark event, hosted by UN-AFORIS (the National Union of Actors in Training and Research in Social Intervention), will mark the centenary of the social work profession, celebrating one hundred years of advancing social justice, human rights, and sustainable development.

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