

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...

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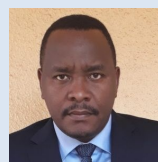
Commissioners

Global



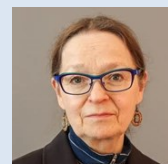
Hilary Weaver
Global Commissioner

Africa Region



Charles Rutikanga
Regional Commissioner

Europe Region

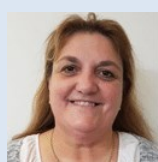


Margaretha Uttjek
Regional Commissioner

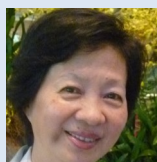
Asia and Pacific Region



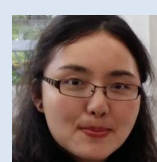
Caroline Tana-Tepania
Regional Commissioner



Linda Ford
Representative

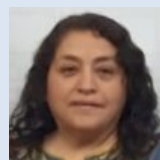


Dr Ling How Kee
Representative



Yang Jian (Yvonne)
Representative

Latin America and the Caribbean Region



Jenny Linares
Regional Commissioner

North American Region



Hazel Berg
Regional Commissioner

Commissions

Indigenous Commission

The Indigenous Commission was formally launched by IFSW in 2021 after years of advocacy from Indigenous social workers seeking space and voice at a global level within our profession. Appointments to the Indigenous Commission were completed in June. Membership consists of nine members: Hazel Berg (from Canada representing the North American region), How Kee Ling (from Malaysia representing the Asia/Pacific region), Linda Ford (from Australia representing the Asia/Pacific region), Jenny Linares (from Peru representing the South American/Caribbean region), Charles Rutikanga (from Rwanda representing the Africa region), Carole Tana-Tepania (from Aotearoa/New Zealand lead representative for the Asia/Pacific region), Margaretha Uttjek (from Sweden representing the European region), Yvonne/Yangjian (from China representing the Asia/Pacific region), and Hilary Weaver (Global Commissioner).

The first meeting of the Indigenous Commission was held via Skype on August 20, 2021. In addition to members of the Indigenous Commission the meeting was attended by IFSW Secretary General Rory

Truell and Bernard Mayaka of the IFSW Secretariate. They each wished the Commission well in its work. Commissioners took time for introductions and getting to know each other. Establishing these relationships is an important foundation for working effectively as a group.

As a follow up to a discussion from the first meeting, a survey was developed and circulated to identify priorities from each region. Survey results were discussed at the October meeting and Commissioners continue to identify our priorities and how we will work together across regions.

As Global Indigenous Commissioner, Hilary Weaver has participated in quarterly meetings with other Global Commissioners. This provides an opportunity to facilitate collaboration across commissions. It also enables us to learn from and replicate their models, as we see fit. We also recognize that the Indigenous Commission may develop distinct ways of operation based on our values, accountabilities, priorities, and protocols as Indigenous people.

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Identifying our processes as well as priorities for work is central to our start as a Commission. We are guided by the proverb:



Indeed, this is our time of learning to paddle together.

As we begin our work as a Commission, we have been approached by organizers of regional IFSW conferences to share our voices. Since we as a Commission have just begun our work as a unified entity, Regional Commissioners have provided Indigenous perspectives at conferences. For example, representatives were invited

to speak at the 26th Asia Pacific Regional Conference on November 13th. Carole Tana-Tepania, How Kee Ling, and Linda Ford participated in a keynote panel on the Indigenous Commission and Social Development Goals. Their presentation emphasised the importance of the inclusion of Indigenous participation, knowledge, and practices to create solutions. We look forward to our continued contribution in advancing Indigenous voices and ways of being within IFSW and throughout the regions.

As we look forward to the next year, we will continue to solidify our vision and processes as a united Commission integrating the voices of Indigenous people in the social work profession. We will identify our priorities for work and will take action accordingly. We anticipate collaborating with other Commissions and taking part in events such as the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the North American regional IFSW conference, and the People's Summit on Co-building a New Eco-Social World: Leaving No One Behind.

Hilary N. Weaver, Global Commissioner