



PROFILE AND CURRICULUM VITAE OF NOMINEE

This profile and Curriculum Vitae is an IFSW Bylaws requirement and informs voting members of your experience and abilities for the position. It also provides valuable information for the IFSW office. By completing and signing it you are agreeing to be a nominee for this position. Please ensure that the completed form is no longer than five (5) pages using a Times New Roman 12 font and with margins no smaller than 0.75 cm on each side.

IFSW Position to which you seek nomination: IFSW Africa Region Vice-President

Candidate's Name and Country : Msekiwa Makwanya - Zimbabwe

Social Work and Other Educational Qualifications (include institution and date)

City University, London - February 2007:- MA Communities, Organisations and Social Change
University of Zimbabwe - June 2000:- BSc Psychology Honours Degree
University of Zimbabwe- December 1997:- Diploma in Social Work
Birkbeck College, University of London - December 2008:- Diploma in Change Management
Greater London Post Qualifying Consortium - Oct 2004:- Social Work Post Qualification Award (1)

Professional Affiliations

- National Association of Social Workers Zimbabwe
- Registered with Social Work England - Reg. No: SW 29558
- Registered with the Council of Social Workers Zimbabwe- Reg. No. 0300

Professional Leadership Experience over the past decade

- President: National Association of Social Workers of Zimbabwe – April 2026
- Senior Social Worker – London Borough of Havering October 2025 – April 2026
- Advanced Social Work Practitioner – London Borough of Lambeth (Oct 2022 – September 2025)
- Deputy Team Leader – Zimbabwe (Dec 2020 – Nov 2021) - Drafted National Alternative Care Policy Framework
- Case Management System Technical Advisor – UNICEF Zimbabwe (July 2015 – May 2016)

National Association and Leadership Experience over the past decade

Post October 2023 NASW Elections and Leadership Transition Task Force Committee Member –Pursuant to the Extra ordinary General Meeting of 13th January 2024 which made the resolution for the National Executive Committee to constitute an ad hoc committee referred to as a Task Force inquire into the Post October 2023 NASW Elections and make the necessary recommendations to ensure that lessons are learnt and promote good corporate governance in NASW as a professional association I was appointed by the President Gift Saladi NASWZ-led Executive to be part of the Task Force. I led the drafting and production of the report and making of recommendations in a timely manner (in time for NASW's AGM in April 2024).

Community/Volunteer and Leadership Experience over the past decade

Archdiocese of Harare Safeguarding Commission Member – Zimbabwe

Dec 2020 – to Current

- Led design, rollout, and oversight of safeguarding systems across diocesan institutions working with children and vulnerable adults.
- Strengthened safeguarding governance, reporting mechanisms, and survivor-centred response protocols.
- Provided mentoring, and supervision to safeguarding focal persons.

Are you aware of the description, role and responsibilities attached to the position you wish to have within the IFSW Executive?

✓ **YES:**

NO:

If the answer is YES, please respond to the following questions:

a) What are the three most important responsibilities towards IFSW:

- i Attending IFSW Executive Committee and General Meetings to represent the region and contributing to the achievement of the IFSW Global Action Plan goals.
- ii Supporting the Regional President in developing regional structures and operations that are consistent with the IFSW Constitution and By-Laws.
- iii Undertaking specific tasks for the global operations of IFSW and assisting the Executive Committee members in understanding and fulfilling their responsibilities in line with governance principles. In the event of the President's absence, being responsible for presiding over the Regional Executive Meetings.

b) What are the three most important responsibilities towards your Region:

- i Actively supporting the Regional President in coordinating activities across member organizations and leading membership recruitment to ensure the region is well-represented and growing.
- ii Serving as a vital link between the Global Executive and the National Member Organizations (NMOs), ensuring that global policies are communicated effectively and that regional challenges are heard at the international level.
- iii Assisting regional member associations in strengthening their internal governance and aligning their national strategies with the Global Social Work Agenda.

c) What are the three most important responsibilities towards your national association?

- i Acting as a high-level representative for the national association at global and regional levels, thereby strengthening its visibility and brand. This includes promoting the association's voice in global discussions and maintaining its reputation within the international social work community
- ii Introducing global best practices, innovative approaches, and new knowledge gained from IFSW into the national context. This involves adapting international advancements to fit the local association's unique needs, fostering continuous improvement and innovation within the home country.
- iii Supporting the association's development by coordinating with national leadership to achieve key domestic goals, such as organizing events like World Social Work Day to build local momentum, and involving students and practitioners in global initiatives

Please demonstrate:

- *Commitment to the goals of IFSW as laid down in the Constitution*

I hereby demonstrate my unwavering commitment to the goals of the IFSW through the following actions and principles:

- ✓ I dedicate my leadership to challenging social inequalities and advocating for policies that empower the marginalized. My work is anchored in the Global Social Work Statement of Ethical Principles, ensuring that every strategic decision respects the inherent dignity and worth of all persons.
- ✓ I actively contribute to the IFSW Global Action Plan by representing our regional interests at Executive Committee and General Meetings. I ensure that our local initiatives are not isolated, but are meaningful contributions to the international social work agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ✓ I commit to upholding the IFSW Constitution and By-Laws in all my professional dealings. By facilitating the development of national associations like NASWZ, I strive to bridge the gap between global standards and local indigenous knowledges, ensuring our profession remains a robust, ethical, and transformational force.
- ✓ I am committed to building networks of solidarity across borders and mentoring the next generation of social workers. My goal is to ensure that our collective voice is heard at the highest levels of policy-making, consistently advocating for the advancement of the social work profession worldwide

- ***Possession of language(s) capabilities (preferably bilingual)***

I recognize that while I am currently fluent only in English, the diverse and multilingual nature of the IFSW family requires a leader who can bridge linguistic divides to ensure no voice is sidelined. To address this gap and uphold the inclusive spirit of our global body, I commit to the following:

- ✓ I will leverage high-level digital translation and real-time interpretation tools during virtual consultations and regional meetings to ensure that non-English speaking colleagues can participate fully in their primary languages.
- ✓ In my leadership and advisory roles, I will intentionally surround myself with bilingual and multilingual support staff or sub-consultants. This ensures that the nuance of local dialects and regional languages (such as French, Portuguese, or Swahili within the Africa region) is accurately captured in our strategic outputs.
- ✓ I understand that communication transcends words. I will focus on developing deep cultural literacy—listening to the intent and context of my colleagues' contributions—and ensuring that our final documents are translated into the key languages of the region to remain accessible to all.
- ✓ I am dedicated to learning the essential professional terminologies and greetings in the other major languages of our region as a mark of respect and a step toward fostering more personal, direct connections with the membership.

Through these measures, I will ensure that my language profile never becomes a barrier to the solidarity and collective progress of the IFSW.

- ***Identification with the region you represent, mainly by residence, work experiences, and knowledge of the main language(s) spoken in the region***

I stand deeply rooted in the Africa Region, not merely by birth, but through a lifelong commitment to its people, its professional structures, and its social development. My identification with this region is evidenced by:

- ✓ I reside and work within the heart of the region, in Zimbabwe. Living here allows me to experience the daily socio-economic realities, challenges, and triumphs of our communities firsthand. This lived experience ensures that my leadership is not detached, but is informed by the actual "pulse" of the African continent.
- ✓ My career has been dedicated to the advancement of the Zimbabwean and regional social work landscape. From leading NASWZ during its critical revival years to my current strategic roles, I have navigated the unique legislative frameworks—such as the Social Workers Act—and the complex social welfare systems that define our region. My work has always focused on harmonizing global standards with Indigenous African knowledges, specifically the philosophy of Ubuntu/Unhu, which I believe is the cornerstone of social work in Africa.
- ✓ While English is my primary professional language—enabling me to bridge national efforts with international IFSW standards—I am a native speaker of Shona, one of the most widely spoken languages in Southern Africa. This bilingualism allows me to connect deeply with grassroots practitioners and communities. Furthermore, for the broader regional languages I do not speak, such as French or Portuguese, I am committed to using professional translation services and multilingual collaborators to ensure that the rich diversity of our regional voice is never lost.

My identity is inextricably linked to the African social work identity, and I am dedicated to ensuring our region remains a powerful, unified, and respected voice within the global IFSW community.

- ***Practical wisdom and objective interest in international affairs***

I approach international affairs not as a series of abstract theories, but through the lens of practical wisdom—the ability to apply universal social work values to the gritty, real-world complexities of our global landscape. My commitment is driven by an objective interest in how international trends directly impact local lives.

- ✓ I understand that global policies are only as good as their local implementation. In my work with NASWZ and the IFSW, I prioritize "what works," ensuring that high-level international agendas, like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), are translated into practical tools that a social worker in a rural district can actually use to effect change.
- ✓ I maintain a keen, objective eye on the shifting geopolitical and economic tides. Whether it is analyzing the impact of global migration patterns, climate change, or international trade agreements on the social fabric of the Africa Region, I seek to understand the "why" behind the trends to better prepare our profession for the "how" of the response.
- ✓ My interest in international affairs is rooted in the belief that the social work profession must be a global player. I advocate for an internationalism that respects national sovereignty and Indigenous Knowledges while striving for a unified global standard of human rights. I don't just follow international news; I analyze it to identify strategic entry points for social work advocacy at the United Nations and other global forums.
- ✓ International work requires navigating diverse political and cultural interests. I pride myself on my ability to remain objective and composed in these spaces, using diplomatic tact and professional integrity to build consensus among stakeholders with competing priorities, always keeping the ultimate goal of social justice at the forefront. Through this blend of grounded experience and strategic foresight, I ensure that our national and regional efforts are both globally relevant and locally transformative.

- ***Willingness and capacity to devote time to assume work responsibilities in the Executive or Regional Committee***

I fully recognize that leadership within the IFSW Executive or Regional Committee is a serious mandate that requires more than just passion—it requires dedicated, consistent time and high-level availability.

My current professional status as an Independent Social Work Consultant provides me with the unique flexibility and autonomy necessary to fulfil these responsibilities without the constraints of a traditional 9-to-5 institutional role. This independence translates into a direct capacity to serve in the following ways:

- ✓ Because I manage my own consultancy practice, I have the power to prioritize IFSW commitments. This means I can clear my calendar for emergency meetings, regional site visits, or the intense workload required during the General Meetings and the development of the Strategic Plan.
- ✓ In a global organization, issues often arise across different time zones. My flexible working structure allows me to remain responsive and available for virtual consultations and executive deliberations, ensuring that the Africa Region always has a proactive and present voice.
- ✓ Beyond just attending meetings, I have the capacity to devote the "quiet hours" needed for the heavy lifting of leadership—drafting policy papers, reviewing constitutional amendments, and providing technical oversight to the NEC and other regional bodies.
- ✓ I am not just willing to take on these tasks; I am positioned to sustain them over the full duration of my term. My career is built on delivering high-quality strategic results, and I view my work with the Executive and Regional Committees as my primary professional priority.

I am ready and fully available to put in the hours necessary to ensure our collective vision is realized.

- ***Ability, in so far as possible, to attend Executive or Regional Committee meetings***

I affirm my full commitment and practical ability to attend all scheduled and extraordinary meetings of the Executive and Regional Committees. I understand that physical presence and active participation are the lifeblood of effective governance, and I have structured my professional life to ensure this is possible:

