

IASW Motion 1

Motion to the IFSW General Meeting:

Review of Governance Documents Regarding Membership Sanctions

Proposer: Irish Association of Social Workers (IASW, Ireland)

Seconded: Consejo Gral. Trabajo Social (CGTS, Spain), Fellesorganisasjonen, (FO Norway)

The General Meeting Notes:

- The IFSW Constitution and By-Laws are subject to review by the General Meeting to ensure the effective operation of the Federation and its continued relevance as the organisation evolves.
- Decisions regarding the censure, suspension or expulsion of member organisations are rare and grave, engaging the very moral architecture of the Federation.
- There is a documented concern among member organisations that the current Constitution and By-Laws are insufficient regarding the design of expulsion, suspension and censure.
- Specific gaps have been identified, including a lack of established procedures for the duration of censure and suspensions and the specific conditions under which a member may rejoin the global body following suspension or expulsion.
- The current governance framework differentiates between censure (a formal expression of concern with no loss of rights) and suspension/expulsion (which requires a 75% majority vote at a Special General Meeting or General Meeting), yet the practical transition and timelines between these measures remain under-defined.

The General Meeting Believes:

1. The Federation's long-term credibility depends on whether its ethical standards operate as binding principles rather than merely aspirational declarations.
2. The integrity of the IFSW's ethical framework requires the possibility of meaningful consequences when minimum professional standards are persistently adhered to or not followed.
3. Governance measures must be condition-based and clearly articulated to ensure procedural fairness, transparency, and consistency across all regions.

The General Meeting Resolves:

1. To mandate the Executive Committee, in accordance with its authority to prepare By-Laws and amendments, to establish a working group (to be convened within 1 month of this motion) to conduct a comprehensive review of Article 7 of the Constitution and By-Law 4.
2. That this review shall focus specifically on:
 - Censure: Clarifying the criteria for issuing, maintaining, and lifting censures to ensure they lead to corrective action rather than becoming indefinite symbolic gestures. Clarifying the criteria for escalation from censure to suspension should corrective action not be followed through on.

- Suspension: Defining specific timelines and "Defined Term Suspensions" with clear, mandatory actions required for reinstatement. Clarifying criteria for escalation from suspension to expulsion, should mandatory actions not be followed through on.
 - Expulsion: Refining the procedural basis for expulsion for violations of the Constitution or for counteracting the "basic interests, aims and policies of the Federation".
 - Reinstatement: Establishing precise, condition-based criteria for reinstatement following a violation of ethical principles.
3. To request that the Executive Committee presents a formal report and proposed amendments to the next General Meeting, seeking the required 75% majority for approval.

Acknowledge that this motion has been created as requested. This motion is intended to facilitate formal governance discussions within the IFSW framework based on the provided sources.