



## 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 President**

Social work is being tested by rising inequality, conflict, climate disruption, migration pressures, and increasing polarisation. I am standing for leadership of the International Federation of Social Workers because I see a clear opportunity for the Federation to be more morally courageous, more connected to frontline realities, and more effective in mobilising collective action, without becoming another polarising voice.

If elected as President, I will focus on four key deliverable priorities:

1. **Moral courage with grounded compassion**  
Strengthening IFSW's ability to speak clearly on human rights and social justice, while modelling respectful, solutions focused dialogue across diverse contexts.
2. **A practice to policy pipeline**  
Ensuring that the lived realities of members and national associations are reflected in IFSW positions, advocacy, and priorities, strengthening the connection between practice and global leadership.
3. **Stronger global solidarity, strengthened through regions**  
Deepening reciprocal relationships across regions through shared priorities, mutual support, and leadership development, recognising that global strength comes from strong regional connections.
4. **Trust, transparency, and follow through**  
Strengthening accountability through clear communication, regular reporting, measurable milestones, and delivery on commitments.

My leadership style is values led and relational, with a strong focus on delivery. I build coalitions, communicate clearly, and follow through on commitments.

### **Candidate's Name and Country - Sharyn Roberts – Aotearoa New Zealand**

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

- 2012: Bachelor of Social Work – Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology
- 2014: NGO Strategic Leadership Certificate – University of Canterbury
- 2021: Masters of Social Work (First Class Honours) – Massey University

#### **Professional Leadership Experience over the past decade**

- 2011 – 2021: Te Ora Hou Ōtautahi (Youth Development Community Org): Social Work Manager
- 2021 – 2025: Te Ora Hou Ōtautahi: Pou Arahi (Senior Manager)
- 2026 – current: Te Ora Hou Aotearoa National Board (Governance): Kaiwhakauruora (Strategic Advisor)
- 2014 – current: Presbyterian Support Upper South Island: Board member
  - 2016 – 2018: Chair of Strategic Policy & Planning Committee

- 2022 – 2023: Deputy Chair of the Board
- 2023 – current: Co-Chair Māori of the Board

### **National Association and Leadership Experience over the past decade**

- 2018: Coopted to the Board of Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Social Workers (ANZASW)
- 2019 – current: President of Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Social Workers
- My leadership experience is noted above and below this section.

### **Community/Volunteer and Leadership Experience over the past decade**

- 2016 – 2018: Competency Assessor for Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Social Workers:
- 2017 - 2020: Bachelor of Social Work & Human Services Advisory Group member @ Ara Institute of Canterbury
- 2018 – 2021: Rōpū Kawa Whakaruruhau Advisory Group for Māori nursing, midwifery & social work @ Ara Institute of Technology
- 2019 – 2020: Social Workers Registration Board: Experience Pathways s13 assessor
- 2020: Social Workers Registration Board – member of the Scope of Social Work practice development team
- 2023: Institute of Directors member
- **Author:** 2016 - Chapter 14 Assessment with Māori, in Practice Skills in Social Work & Welfare: More than just common sense (3<sup>rd</sup> edition), Jane Maidment & Ronnie Egan editors.
- **Author:** 2022 – Chapter 14 Assessment with Māori, in Practice Skills in Social Work & Welfare: More than just common sense (4th edition), Jane Maidment & Ronnie Egan editors.
- **Author:** 2021 - Chapter 16 Working with Māori Families, in Working with Families Experiencing Vulnerability, edited by Menka Tsantefski and Susan Heward Belle
- **Author and Workshop facilitator** of Mana Māori frame, a Kaupapa Māori supervision framework for Māori practitioners across a variety of fields.
- Guest presenter to Bachelor in Social Work and Masters Applied students at Canterbury University, and Ara Institute of Technology:
  - Practice Skills, Assessment with Māori
  - Kaupapa Māori research project
- **Professional Social Work Supervisor:** I provide cultural supervision with a small manageable number of social workers, mostly but not exclusively tangata whenua.
- **Researcher and TOHATOHA Developer:** In 2015 I was selected by Te Ora Hou Aotearoa (National Board of Te Ora Hou) [TOHA] to explore whether Maia, TOHA model of practice since 2008, was still fit for purpose and if not to research and develop its replacement. 2017-2018 I was one of 3 researchers who developed TOHATOHA, which was implemented into practice across the Te Ora Hou Centers in 2019 and is known as ‘the way we roll’.
- **Aotearoa New Zealand IFSW Co-ordinating Body:** ANZASW representative.
- 2020: Presenter of ‘Once were Voyagers at Mō tātou, ā, mō kā uri ā muri ake nei – for us and our children after us, 2-day Symposium in Wellington & Christchurch.

### **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:**

Towards IFSW, my three most important responsibilities will be:

1. To lead with Mātātoa (moral courage) by modelling, and advancing the values, ethics, and standards of the profession, ensuring that social work practice reflects human rights, social justice, collective responsibility, and respect for diversity.

2. To actively influence and contribute to global dialogue, bringing forward diverse perspectives, including indigenous knowledge and lived realities, so the global voice of social work is inclusive, relevant, and representative.
3. To strengthen IFSW's global influence through the contribution of knowledge, leadership, and experience, ensuring local insight informs global direction and advances fair and just systems.

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

Within the Asia Pacific region, my responsibilities are relational, collaborative, and grounded in mutual support. The strength of the region comes from how we show up for one another and contribute to shared priorities.

These responsibilities are expressed through the following:

1. Strengthen regional unity by actively engaging with regional partners, participating in forums, relationships, and collective decision making.
2. To lead and advance regional priorities and initiatives, sharing knowledge, practice, and innovation to support collective progress.
3. To strengthen relationships, solidarity and capability across the region, working in ways that enable collective voice, are respectful, reciprocal, and supportive of diverse contexts and needs.

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

As ANZASW President, I have provided strategic leadership that secured the Association's direction through deeply challenging times, remaining unapologetic to our professional foundations in Aotearoa New Zealand, and leading a more courageous public voice grounded in human rights, social justice, and equity.

My key responsibilities are stewardship, accountability, and connection. These responsibilities are expressed through the following:

1. To uphold the integrity and direction of the association, acting with transparency, professionalism, and respect for collective decisions.
2. To actively contribute to the work and priorities of the association, offering leadership, skills, and experience to strengthen the profession.
3. To remain connected to members and communities, ensuring their voices are represented and that the association remains responsive, inclusive, and grounded in lived realities.

Across all levels, these responsibilities can be understood as a continual weaving of three core commitments: to uphold the values of the profession, to contribute with purpose and integrity, and to remain connected, both to each other and to the communities at the heart of our work.

**Please demonstrate:**

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

My commitment to the goals of the International Federation of Social Workers is grounded in my professional practice and leadership across local, national, and international contexts. I align strongly with the IFSW Constitution's focus on human rights, social justice, collective responsibility, and respect for diversity, which I bring to life through my work as an indigenous Māori social worker in Aotearoa New Zealand.

My practice is founded in Te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Treaty of Waitangi) and Te Whakaputanga o te Rangatiratanga o Nu Tireni (the Declaration of Independence). Through these, I give effect to kawanatanga (shared governance), rangatiratanga (self-determination), and ōritetanga (equity), shaping how I lead, partner, and advocate.

I work within systems shaped by colonisation while actively supporting approaches that restore and strengthen indigenous knowledge and leadership. My approach focuses on moving beyond awareness of inequity to practical, transformative action that rebalances systems and supports more just and equitable outcomes.

Together, these foundations inform my practice and leadership, bringing an indigenous perspective that strengthens equity, collective responsibility, and global social work.

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

I actively use both English and Te Reo Māori languages in my professional and leadership practice. This supports inclusive communication and reflects my commitment to indigenous language, identity, and culturally grounded engagement.

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

My identification with the Asia Pacific region is both lived and practiced. Based in Aotearoa New Zealand, my work is grounded in Kaupapa Māori practice, working alongside Māori rangatahi (youth), whānau (families), and communities. This has given me strong experience in culturally anchored, strengths-based approaches that centre identity, language, and whakapapa (legacy), guided by partnership, advocacy, protection, and participation.

I have travelled extensively across Asia and the Pacific, visiting many countries and being immersed in different cultures. This has strengthened my understanding of the diversity of the region, including different social, cultural, and political realities.

Through my work, I engage across cultures, languages, and communities. I can work across difference with respect and understanding. I value indigenous knowledge, cultural diversity, and relational ways of working. My experience, language capability, and cross-cultural practice enable me to represent the region with authenticity, respect, and insight.

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

I bring practical wisdom and a grounded, objective interest in international affairs that is shaped by my experience across governance, leadership, and culturally diverse practice contexts. My work requires me to navigate complex systems, competing priorities, and diverse worldviews, enabling me to approach international issues with both discernment and balance. I believe IFSW has greater potential to show moral courage (speaking clearly for human rights and social justice) while also modelling compassion and constructive dialogue that does not deepen division.

My engagement across indigenous, community, and cross-cultural spaces has strengthened my ability to listen deeply, analyse critically, and respond thoughtfully to emerging issues. I bring a focus on equity, relational integrity, and long-term impact, recognising the importance of diverse perspectives in shaping effective and sustainable solutions.

I approach international work by listening deeply across difference, building coalitions, and translating shared values into deliverable priorities. I am committed to ensuring associations and members across the globe feel connected to IFSW's work and see themselves reflected in it, particularly Indigenous and marginalised communities whose realities must shape global advocacy.

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

I am both willing and able to devote the time and energy required to assume the responsibilities of the Executive or Regional Committee. I currently hold senior leadership and governance roles, which have strengthened my capacity to manage competing priorities, maintain focus, and deliver on commitments with consistency and accountability. I understand the level of responsibility required in these roles and approach them with discipline, integrity, and a strong sense of collective purpose.

I am intentional in how I prioritise my time and ensure that my commitments are met to a high standard. I have the organisational capability and support structures in place to fully engage in the work required, including preparation, participation, and follow through. I view this role not as an addition, but as a meaningful extension of my leadership and contribution to the profession.

I am committed to showing up consistently, contributing thoughtfully, and carrying the responsibilities of the role in a way that strengthens both the Committee and the wider work of the International Federation of Social Workers.

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

I have the ability and commitment to attend Executive and Regional Committee meetings as required. I understand the importance of consistent presence in supporting effective governance, collective decision making, and continuity of work. I prioritise preparation and engagement to ensure my contributions are thoughtful, constructive, and aligned with the responsibilities of the role.

I am well accustomed to managing travel, scheduling, and competing commitments, and I have the flexibility and support to participate in both in person and virtual meetings. I am fortunate to have a supportive whānau (family) and a strong home base, which enables me to travel and be away when required, while also returning to stability and continuity. This support strengthens my ability to remain fully present and engaged in my responsibilities.

I am committed to maintaining a reliable and active presence, recognising that consistent participation is essential to the effectiveness of the Committee and the broader work of the International Federation of Social Workers.

- **Participation, so far as possible, as delegate of the General Meeting or attendance at IFSW Conferences**

Since serving on the Board, and in my role as President of the Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Social Workers for 6 years, it has been both an honour and a privilege to actively support the work of the International Federation of Social Workers. This has included attending IFSW Conferences and General Meetings, as well as ensuring representation through the delegation of Board members to participate in these important forums.

I recognise these spaces as critical for collective decision making, relationship building, and advancing the profession globally. I have approached my participation with a strong sense of responsibility, ensuring that our contributions are thoughtful, informed, and reflective of our national context.

I remain committed to ongoing participation wherever possible, both personally and through supporting strong representation, recognising the importance of these gatherings in strengthening connection, sharing knowledge, and contributing to the collective work of IFSW.

- **Any other information relevant to your nomination**

I am a proud indigenous Māori social work professional whose practice and leadership is grounded in Te Ao Māori, a Māori worldview, and guided by the universal values of respect, honour, integrity, and loyalty. I am committed to, and have experience in, strengthening the profession in ways that remain connected to people, communities, and lived realities, while contributing meaningfully at a global level.

I also bring an ambicultural approach, with the ability to move across cultures, generations, and diverse contexts, recognising the shared humanity that connects us and our collective commitment to human rights. I offer a perspective shaped by experience, relationships, and a strong sense of responsibility, and I am committed to serving the International Federation of Social Workers in a way that reflects humility, integrity, and purpose.



7<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**Signature and Date:**