

IFSW Position to which you seek nomination:  
**IFSW Global President**

Candidate's Name and Country  
**EVA P. PONCE DE LEON**  
Philippines

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

**Bachelor of Science in Commerce, Major in Banking and Finance (1975)**

Holy Trinity University  
Puerto Princesa City, Philippines

**John Robert Powers (1985) Finishing School**

Manila, Philippines

**Bachelor of Science in Social Work (1992)**

Asian Social Institute  
Manila, Philippines

**Masters Degree in Social Work (2025)**

Asian Social Institute  
Manila, Philippines

**Candidate, Doctorate of Philosophy in Applied Cosmic Anthropology**

Asian Social Institute  
Manila, Philippines

**Professional Affiliations**

**Executive Director**, Philippine Association of Social Workers, Inc. (PASWI)  
2022 to date

**National President**, Philippine Association of Social Workers, Inc. (PASWI)  
2012 to 2022

**Regular Member**, Dangerous Drugs Board of the Philippines  
Office of the President  
2012 to 2015

**Treasurer**, International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW)  
2015

**Chairperson, Committee on Membership**, Boy Scouts of the Philippines  
Palawan-Puerto Princesa City Council Palawan, Philippines  
2000 to 2010

**Chairperson**, Philippine National Red Cross Palawan Chapter, Philippines

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

Eva Ponce de Leon has demonstrated a decade of transformative, institution-building leadership within the Philippine Association of Social Workers, Inc., (PASWI) marked by strategic expansion, grassroots activation, and global positioning of the Filipino social work profession. Under her stewardship, PASWI evolved from a nationally focused association into a globally connected institution. She strengthened ties with international bodies such as the International Federation of Social Workers, particularly within the Asia-Pacific region, positioning PASWI as an active contributor to global social work discourse.

Through her efforts, she has established lasting networks with the Social Work Professions Council of Thailand (SWCPT), the Daegu Association of Social Workers (South Korea), social work professionals and associations from India, Japan, Singapore, China, EurAsia etc. Her presence in and support for international conferences, exchange programs, and memoranda of understanding between social work associations and universities expanded PASWI's footprint across borders, fostering knowledge exchange and professional development. These efforts affirmed the Philippines as a respected voice in the global social work community.

Beyond organizational growth, Eva's leadership extended into national advocacy. She championed stronger legal frameworks for the protection of vulnerable sectors aligning PASWI's voice with broader efforts in local legislation especially juvenile justice, rehabilitation frameworks, and social protection mechanisms which highlighted her commitment to systemic reform. She also lobbied for the protection and upliftment of social workers, particularly the implementation of the profession's Magna Carta, and is a recognized resource person by the Senate and Congress of the Philippines in issues relating to social services.

Eva Ponce de Leon did not merely expand PASWI in numbers; she deepened its purpose, strengthened its voice, and extended its reach from local communities to the global stage. Her legacy lies in building a more connected, empowered, and responsive social work profession, one that is firmly rooted in service, yet confidently engaged with the world, anchored on the tenet that service to one, is service to all.

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

Eva's leadership focused on organizational strengthening, inclusive growth, and strategic engagement within and beyond the Philippines. She led sustained efforts to transform the association to be more dynamic and responsive, ensuring that PASWI remained relevant to the evolving needs of social workers across diverse practice settings.

A central achievement of her tenure has been the significant expansion of membership, with the association effectively tripling in size. From a mere 800+ members in 2012, membership has now ballooned to more than 25,000 in 2025. This growth is not incidental; it was driven by deliberate efforts, strengthened member services, and creation of meaningful opportunities for engagement and professional development. PASWI not only became larger, but more cohesive and participatory. PASWI found its voice, no longer silent in the sidelines, but active in the national stage. Eva focused on activating local chapters nationwide, championing a decentralized approach

to leadership, empowering local chapters to take initiative in program implementation, and community engagement. As a result, PASWI's presence deepened with chapters evolving into active platforms for service delivery, peer support, and grassroots mobilization.

Her leadership also elevated PASWI's national voice in policy and advocacy. She represented the organization in key dialogues and initiatives aimed at strengthening social protection systems, particularly in advancing legislation and programs that protect vulnerable sectors such as children and the elderly. Through these efforts, PASWI became a more visible and credible stakeholder in national development discussions. She further ensured that PASWI remained connected to the broader professional community by strengthening linkages that facilitated knowledge exchange and the alignment of Philippine social work practice with global standards. Thus, social work students and professionals are given the opportunity to learn best practices that are not merely for experience, but more so for exposure that ultimately aims to enhance services to the people and communities.

Another defining dimension of her leadership has been PASWI's strong presence during disasters and humanitarian crises. PASWI became highly mobilized in times of need, coordinating social workers across regions to deliver psychosocial support, relief services and community interventions. Overall, Eva's leadership experience reflects a balanced and forward-looking approach, ensuring that PASWI is resilient and responsive and always at the forefront of service especially when communities need it most.

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

Over the years, Eva exemplified compassionate and responsive community leadership, particularly in disaster response, community empowerment, and inclusive social protection. In times of disaster, she led mobilization efforts to deliver timely relief operations, ensured distribution of essential goods, provision of psychosocial support, and activation of community-based networks to reach the most vulnerable sectors. Her partnership with organizations enabled donations during large-scale emergencies.

Eva championed community empowerment through disaster preparedness, organizing seminars for barangay leaders and frontline workers, equipping them with practical tools in disaster risk reduction, emergency response, and recovery planning. These efforts strengthened grassroots capacity, transforming communities into proactive and resilient partners. Beyond disaster work, she has actively supported programs for the elderly, ensuring they receive care, dignity, and access to essential services. For persons deprived of liberty, particularly women, she has led initiatives providing hygiene kits, psychosocial support, and skills-based trainings that promote dignity and self-worth even within custodial settings.

Her commitment to rehabilitation is evident in her work with juvenile offenders by supporting reintegration programs focused on life skills development, rebuilding lives and reintegrating into society. Through these initiatives, Eva has consistently demonstrated that true leadership in social work lies not only in responding to immediate needs, but in restoring dignity, building capacity, and creating opportunities for lasting transformation within communities.

Are you aware of the job 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: What are the three most important responsibilities towards IFSW:

1. To uphold and advance the Global Standards of Social Work in relation to the goals and objectives of the IFSW by exhibiting responsible, transformative and empowered leadership.
2. To support IFSW programs and activities for the promotion of social work especially in the global stage, advocate for policies that redound to the benefit of communities and reflect the visions upon which IFSW is anchored on.
3. To strengthen solidarity among member-organizations, support the growth, building partnerships and mobilizing collective action whenever and wherever it is required, ably representing IFSW, and contributing to its Action Plan goals.

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

1. Strengthen regional unity and representation by building solidarity among member countries, encourage collaboration and amplify Asia's role in global platforms.
2. Advance capacity building and professional development by providing and supporting opportunities for knowledge exchange.
3. Lead regional action through proactive response, advocate for stronger policies and build better partnerships with governments and international organizations.

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

1. I will ensure that PASWI becomes an active partner of IFSW in building stronger relations between social work associations and member countries, endeavoring that we become a community of professionals who feel represented, heard and empowered.
2. I am committed to the welfare and well-being of Filipino social workers and will seek to equip them with skills, knowledge and ethical foundation by fostering linkages and promoting continuous learning so that they become globally competitive but still deeply rooted in local realities.
3. I believe in leading with purpose, that to thrive, PASWI must be visible, responsive and proactive, especially in times of crisis, able to deliver service when and where it is most needed.

**Please demonstrate:** • **Commitment to the goals of IFSW as laid down in its constitution**

I am firmly committed to the advancing IFSW Plan Goals as well the ideals and aspirations embodied in the constitution; I am committed to upholding ethical practice, promoting social justice and human rights, and strengthening solidarity among social workers globally. I will endeavor to advocate for empowerment of marginalized communities and foster collaboration among member-countries, across borders, and ensure readiness in facing global challenges with collective strength and solidarity, all the while working with the Secretary General as well as other officers to ensure harmony and cohesion.

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

I am highly adept in using the English language be it spoken or in writing.

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

I am from the Philippines, have extensive experience in government, business and socio-civic organizations, and was able to occupy high positions throughout my 50 years of service.

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

Approach global issues with fairness and balance, ensuring that dialogue as well as collaboration is inclusive, informed and sustainable.

- **Executive or regional Committee**

I am willing and consider myself capable of assuming work responsibilities in the executive committees. I can devote my time to make sure that tasks assigned to me are duly attended to and completed.

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

I consider myself as having the ability, as far as practicable in attending executive original committee meetings.

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

I have had the opportunity to attend General Meetings before and after I was elected as Treasurer of IFSW.

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

I have been in the spectrum of service for over 50 years, and I am capable, knowledgeable in other areas that can bring the most good to my chosen advocacies.

Signature and Date



April 10, 2026