

## 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...

[Read more about the Indigenous Commission.](#)



## Latest News

[Statement on Human Rights Day 2022](#)

[IFSW Indigenous Commissioner and Human Rights Commissioner appointed](#)

## Commissioners

### Global



**Hilary Weaver**  
Global Commissioner

### Africa Region



**Charles Rutikanga**  
Regional Commissioner

### Europe Region

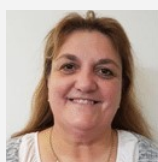


**Margaretha Uttjek**  
Regional Commissioner

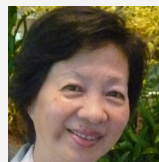
### Asia and Pacific Region



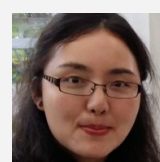
**Caroline Tana-Tepania**  
Regional Commissioner



**Linda Ford**  
Representative

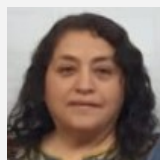


**Dr Ling How Kee**  
Representative



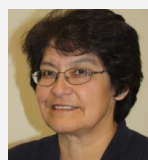
**Yang Jian (Yvonne)**  
Representative

### Latin America and the Caribbean Region



**Jenny Linares**  
Regional Commissioner

### North American Region



**Hazel Berg**  
Regional Commissioner

## Commissions

# Indigenous Commission

## General Activities and Achievements during 2022

The Indigenous Commission met six times during 2022. The year began with the Commission identifying our priorities and how we would 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 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, as we identify how all peoples may benefit from integration of Indigenous Knowledges, norms, practices, values, and skills in service delivery, locally and globally.

Members of the Indigenous Commission participated in the North American Regional IFSW Conference held March 29, 2022. This conference had the theme, Honoring the Indigenous Journey. Global Commissioner Hilary Weaver provided the opening Keynote address, Deg'énya: 'Social workers honoring Indigenous journeys through respectful helping and Hazel Berg, the North American Regional Representative, participated in a panel discussion.

Two members of the Indigenous Commission, Hilary Weaver and Margaretha Karl-

berg Uttjek, delivered a presentation at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) that took place in New York City April 25-May 6, 2022. With support from the IFSW UN Commission, they delivered an on-line presentation



on May 4 entitled Challenging government intrusion into the lives of Indigenous women: Rectifying violations of free, prior, and informed consent. Hilary Weaver attended the final portion of the UNPFII in person. 2022 was a transitional year where the primary responsibility for planning a side event at the Forum was transferred from the IFSW UN Commission to the IFSW Indigenous Commission. It is anticipated that on-going collaborations between the IFSW UN and Indigenous Commissions around the UNPFII can serve as a model for how Commissions can work together on areas of shared interest. We have reached out to other IFSW Commissions seeking opportunities for partnering. At this time, we continue to explore collaborative projects with the Education Commission.

The Indigenous Commission recorded a panel presentation, Implementing Traditional Indigenous Knowledge in Social Work: Challenges and Possibilities for the People's Summit on Co-building a New Eco-Social World: Leaving No One Behind.

## Commissions

# Indigenous Commission



**United Nations Permanent Forum  
on Indigenous Issues**

The panel consisted of commission members Margaretha Karlberg Uttjek, Carole Tana-Tepania, and Jenny Linares, with an introduction and conclusion offered by Hilary Weaver. The presentation was available in both Spanish and English thanks to translations provided by Lucía Gandolfi.

At the time of this report the Indigenous Commission is engaged in developing a statement to be issued by IFSW for Human Rights Day 2022. As we move forward, we continue to solidify our vision and processes as a united Commission integrating the voices of Indigenous people and Indigenous Knowledge in the social work profession. The Indigenous Commission looks forward to our continued contribution in advancing Indigenous perspectives and ways of being within IFSW and throughout the regions.

## Key Planned Activities and Events for Next Year

We have developed a draft workplan for 2023. We anticipate that our efforts will be guided by the theme Integrating Indigenous Knowledge in social work practice and education but may also address other topics as the need arises. Our major projects for the year include participating in the 2023 United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (April 17-28 in New York City). The theme for the 2023 Forum is Indigenous Peoples, human health, planetary and territorial health and climate change: a rights-based approach. We also anticipate involvement in World Social Work Day that may include outreach to national associations that are affiliated with IFSW, encouraging them to include Indigenous content in planned activities.

The Indigenous Commission also anticipates developing statements for key days. These may include Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's Day, World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, World Indigenous Peoples Day, Orange Shirt Day (acknowledgement of the residential schools and children who never came home), and Human Rights Day.

*Hilary Weaver*

Global Indigenous Commissioner