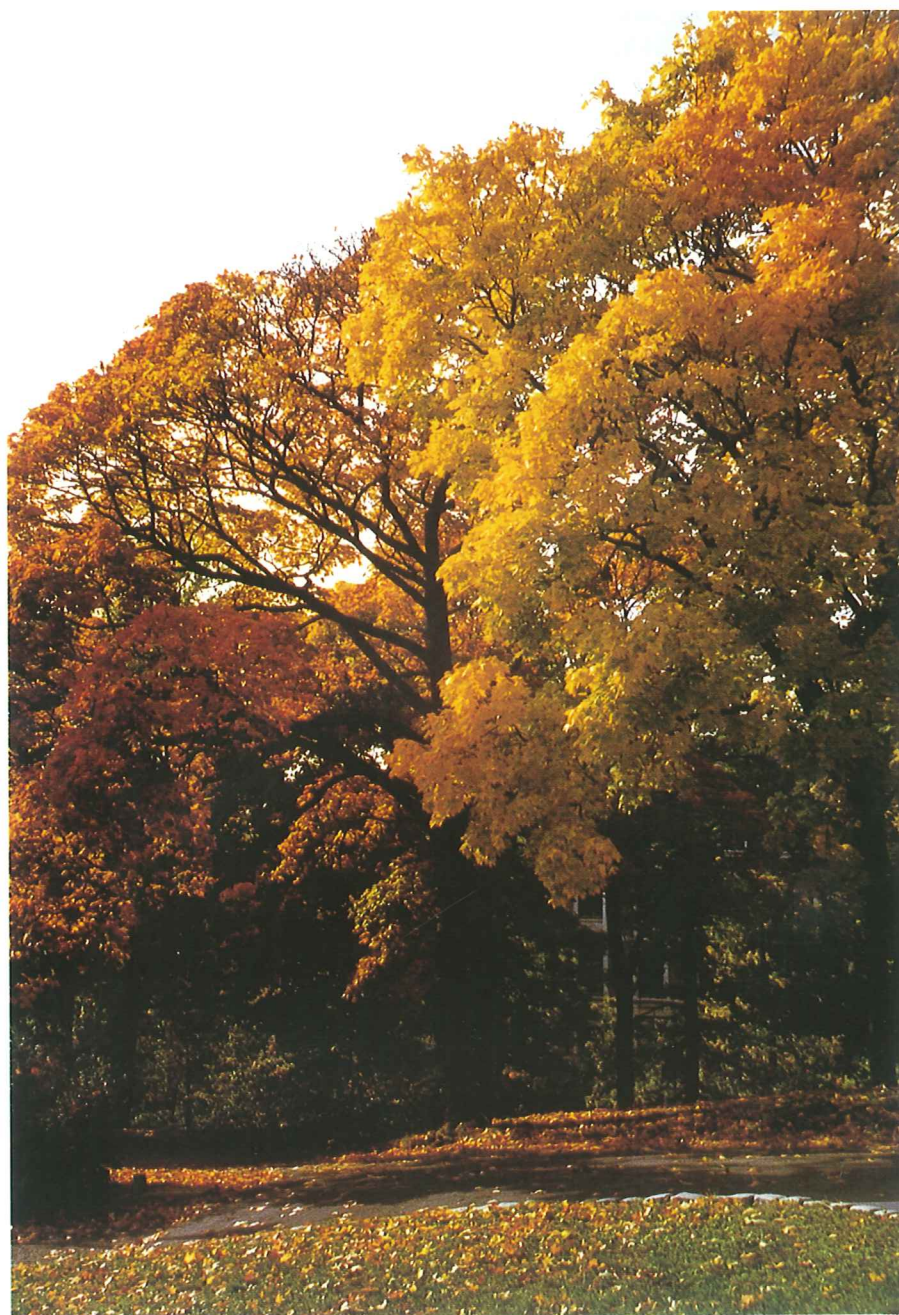




**IFSW**



**NEWSLETTER**  
**No. 4 - 1994**



**Human Rights and UN Conferences in Focus for IFSW in 1995**



# President's Message

## A Year with many Challenges for IFSW

As we near the end of 1994 it is good to look back at a year of many accomplishments. But looking ahead there are still more challenges for the year to come. Many projects are under way in Eastern and Central Europe, Southern Africa and other places where IFSW will contribute to the development of social work. The strenght of IFSW will increase further with new affiliates in 1995. Human Rights will be the theme of 1995 in most of the work of IFSW.

In January, 24 - 27, the Manual on Human Rights and Social Work will be put to a test in the regional consultation in Manila, Philippines. This will show if we are able to make a Human Rights impact on everyday practice of social work. The European regional seminar in Lisbon, Portugal, April 27 - 30, *Human Rights and Social Action* will be another highlight of the year in the field of Human Rights and Social Work.

We must also join forces with others combating the numerous violations of Human Rights, especially the rights of children. Violations such as child sex tourism and child pornography as well as the trafficking of live organs, often from children, can only be fought successfully if we, governments, NGO's and individuals, co-operate on an international scale.

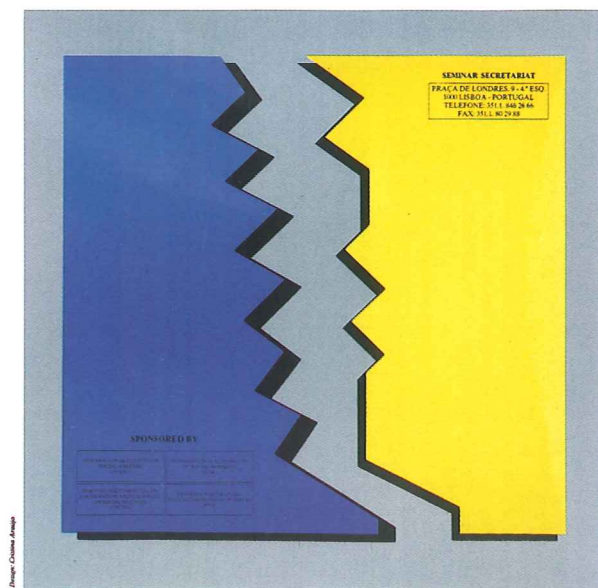
March 3 - 12, marks another important phase in the history of IFSW, when the influence of Social Work and of the IFSW has to be proven during and after the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen. This event is very important to social workers. We meet the challenges of poverty, unemployment and social exclusion daily. The Summit forms an exciting and unique opportunity to upgrade the importance of social issues. This can only happen if we move from awareness to action - at international and national as well as local level.

Social workers and their professional organizations must be ready to meet the challenges of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Program of Action. The contribution of professional social work will ensure that this outcome is transferred into reality for the poor, families, children, women, the ageing, the disabled, the disadvantaged and other groups.

I wish you all a good and prosperous 1995.

Stockholm, December, 1994

Elis Envall  
President



The Logo for the European Seminar in Lisbon, Portugal, April 27 - 30, 1995 : *Human Rights and Social Action*. See page 7 in the Newsletter.

### In this edition of the IFSW Newsletter:

United Nations celebrates 50 years  
IFSW re-elected to the Congo Board  
News from New York and Geneva  
Preparing for Cairo 1996  
Active autumn in the European region  
News from member associations:  
*Australia, Denmark, Hong Kong, Ireland, Israel*  
The Lisbon Seminar in April, 1995  
World Population Awareness Week  
Friends over 290  
Special Summit Newsletter  
IFSW Conferences and Seminars  
Diary of Events 1995



# United Nations Celebrates 50 years by Upgrading the Importance of Social Issues

## Everyone's life lived in a global context

In a message in connection with the upcoming 50th Anniversary of the United Nations in 1995, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the Secretary General of the United Nations, points out that changes in world affairs of vast significance have been recognized during recent years. Societies which once felt able to stand alone now see themselves interlocked with others. The great human goals of peace, justice and prosperity are now understood to require ever widening cooperative effort for their achievement, and a new array of problems of undeniable global dimensions are beyond the ability of any single country or group of States to solve.



## Advancing empowerment of women a cornerstone of development in Cairo

The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, Egypt, September 5 - 13, 1994 was not an isolated event. Its Program of Action builds on the considerable international consensus developed since the former population conferences in Bucharest in 1974 and Mexico City in 1984, and is linked to the two major UN Conferences in 1995 : The Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in March and the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing in September. While ICPD underlined the family as the basic unit of society, it also emphasized that advancing gender equality and equity and the empowerment of women, as well as the elimination of all kinds of violence against women and ensuring women's ability to control their own fertility, are cornerstones of population and development-related programs. ICPD also recommended that states should centre their policies on human beings as the most valuable resource of any nation.

## Copenhagen next step towards a better world

The United Nations World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) in Copenhagen, Denmark March 6 - 12, 1995 represents a possibility for change in the right direction. IFSW has in a position paper of October, 1994, pointed at the importance of WSSD for the social work

profession and vice versa. To be able to implement the expected outcome of the Summit, governments need to rely on social workers along with other groups. IFSW intends to contribute to a successful Summit in the time ahead of, during and after this landmark conference.

## 1995 International Year of Tolerance

As the *International Year of the Family* comes to an end, the *International Year of Tolerance* begins and coincides with UN's 50th Anniversary. The Year will revitalize the principles and ideals of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. UNESCO will serve as the Coordinating Agency for this effort, and is developing a program of activities, events and products designed to reinforce tolerance on the basis of civil liberties and human dignity. Ethnic, religious and social tensions and conflicts following the end of the Cold War threatens the construction of peace. Education for human rights, free speech and communications, democratic procedures in politics and government in differing cultures will be focused.

## Towards Beijing: Education is a fundamental right

In 1990 only 0.7 million of the female population aged 15 years and over in the developed countries of Asia & Oceania were illiterate. The corresponding figure for India was 173.6 millions. Recognizing that the link between literacy and women's social status is undeniable, reducing illiteracy will be on the Action Plan for the Fourth World Conference for Women in Beijing, September 4 - 15, 1995. Among the guidelines for action are recruitment of more women teachers, establishing schools and learning centres within walking distance of girl's homes, and enforce a minimum legal age for marriage.

## IFSW RE-ELECTED TO THE CONGO BOARD

The Conference of NGO's in Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (CONGO) re-elected during its 19th General Assembly in Geneva IFSW to the Board for a second three-year term. New President of CONGO is Robert Harris of Education International.

The future of international NGOs' consultative status ranks high among CONGO priorities for the coming triennium, which will also witness outreach to national and regional NGO's. One important matter involves NGO access to UN Conferences and Summits.



## NEWS FROM NEW YORK

### IFSW Team, United Nations

#### Definition of poverty

One of the ambitious goals of the upcoming UN World Summit for Social Development is *eradication of poverty*. Even if consensus has been obtained to include this aim, discussions have been going on concerning the definition. There seems to be agreement that it should be read a) eradication of extreme poverty and b) reduction of overall poverty. The 3rd Preparatory Committee for the Summit in New York in January, 1995 will deal with this and other parts of the prepared *Declaration and Program of Action* to be presented in Copenhagen. These two documents have been revised several times during the last year as the process goes on. Even if some individual countries express their right to make their own decisions and resolve their problems without the influence of the United Nations, there is also growing agreement on common aims.



#### Children's needs on the agenda

Extensive activity has been performed by NGO's to ensure more focus on children's needs on the Social Summit agenda. Member associations are stimulated to more actively promote participation of children in matters concerning their well-being, also on national and local levels.

#### 200 families in poverty gathered

*The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty* was marked October 17 in a ceremony gathering 200 families in poverty from around the world. UNICEF hosted the event, which also encouraged use of the term "people in poverty" instead of the "poor". The latter term is seen as creating a faceless permanent entity and giving a disabling perception.

#### Following the transition in South Africa

The NGO Committee on Southern Africa continues its formation and advocacy work, which is still crucial to international understanding of the situation in the sub-region. It has concentrated on following the course of events in the transition to democratic rule.

#### A freeze of could release 100 billion US\$

A disarmament symposium by the end of October, 1994 addressed many of the same topics as the IFSW General Meeting in Sri Lanka in July: Ban on Missiles, Eliminating Weapons of Mass Destruction, Dismantlement and Control of Nuclear Warheads. If developing countries froze

their military spending at the 1990 level during the next decade, this could release nearly 100 Billion US\$ for human development agendas. The 47th Annual UN/NGO conference this year had as theme "*We the Peoples: Building Peace*". The message of the conference was that peace, in the widest sense of the word, cannot be achieved by UN and governments alone, but needs involvement of NGO's, academic institutions, media and public at large. The UN Secretary General pointed at the special importance of NGO's in the peace process, because they represent the basic form of popular representation in the present world. Another way of phrasing this is as in the title of a children's book from the UN bookstore :

**"Peace begins with you"**

## NEWS FROM GENEVA

#### Raise minimum armed forces age to 18

The Convention of the Rights of the Child was debated in Geneva in November, and two proposed Optional Protocols to the Convention of the Rights of the Child were focused. One on Children in Armed Conflicts whose key issue is to raise the minimum age of recruitment into armed forces from 15 to 18 years, and one on sexual exploitation of children. IFSW continues its collaboration with the NGO Group on the Convention of the Rights of the Child, which liaises with the Convention's monitoring body, the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Reports from NGO's are encouraged.

## PREPARING CAIRO 1996



Abd El Monssef H. Hozaien, Egypt together with Nigel Hall and Helen Tapfumaneyi from Zimbabwe - all in IFSW's Executive Committee - preparing the 5th IFSW Pan Africa Conference in Egypt 1996. More information will be given in the June 1995 edition of the IFSW Newsletter.

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## Active Autumn in the European Region

### Concern for the profession demonstrated

The IFSW European member associations were assembled in Brussels in November to meet with each other and with representatives of the European Union (EU). The working of the region, relationship to EU, the social work profession, responsibilities to social work students and social work/social policy issues were addressed. The Europeans also discussed the relationship between the region and IFSW's global activities.

### IFSW Euro Roundletter on Migration

As parts of Europe are being more integrated, serious tensions and the ongoing war in the former Yugoslavia also set the agenda for social work concerns. A new publication, the IFSW Euro Roundletter, discusses *Migration* in Europe, but under a global perspective. (The Roundletter is available from the IFSW Secretariat on request) The next Roundletter will cover *Human Rights*, and is expected to appear at the time of the European regional seminar in Lisbon in April, 1995.

### Eastern and Central Europe attendance

Visa problems was one of the factors causing sparse attendance in Brussels of delegates from IFSW's growing membership in Eastern and Central Europe. It is hoped to be solved ahead of the Lisbon seminar, where a special meeting focusing on this part of Europe is planned.

### New Human Rights Commissioner

Uwe Ziebarth from Germany was elected new IFSW Human Rights Commissioner for Europe, with Mary Allen from Ireland as alternate.

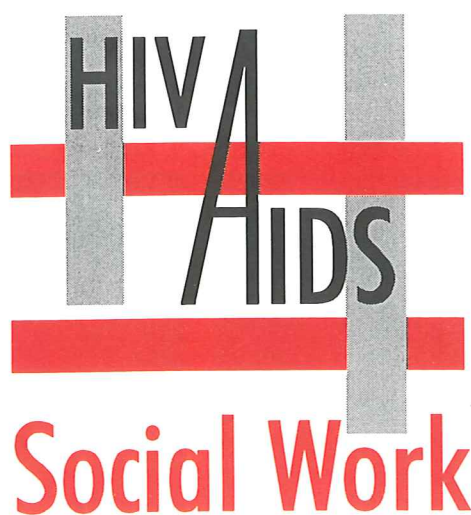
### IFSW Liaison Committee for Social Workers in the European Union

The Liaison Committee covers (from 1995) IFSW member associations in 15 countries and their relationship to the European Union. The special topic for this year's meeting was "*Changing faces of family life in Europe*" with a special view to the situation of the child. A demand for European concerted efforts to improve the situation of children concluded a presentation of a number of papers on the issue. A special report is being prepared and will be made available to all interested parties. Eila Malmström from Finland was elected new President of the Committee, while Niels Hjelm Veirup from Denmark continues as Secretary.

### HONOR TO THE HONORARY PRESIDENT

During his visit to Russia and the Ukraine this summer, the IFSW Honorary President Andrew Mouravieff-Apostol was elected an academician of the Russian Academy of Education in Moscow and awarded Doctor Honoris Causa by Tyumen University in Siberia following his address there in 1992.

He also had the satisfaction of attending the opening by the Ukrainian Minister of Education of the new Kiev College of Social Work, which has been named after him and already has some 120 fee-paying students and an impressive waiting list of future candidates.



## -Living Conditions, Human Rights & Ethics

August 16 - 18, 1995  
in  
Copenhagen, Denmark

An international conference - organised by The Nordic Associations of Social Workers - for social workers, decisionmakers and all others concerned with these burning issues. A unique opportunity to meet, discuss, develop and create networks.

For your own 2nd announcement (out medio January), please phone, write or fax the conference secretariat:

**CONVENTUM Congress Service:** Hauchsvej 14, DK - 1825 Frederiksberg C, Denmark,  
phone: +45 31 31 08 47, fax: +45 31 31 06 14



## News from Member Associations

### Australia

#### **Aboriginal social workers interested in the Philippines Human Rights Consultation**

The Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) regards it of particular importance that aboriginal social workers have shown great interest in presenting the views of indigenous people at the upcoming Human Rights Consultation in the Philippines in January, 1995.

#### **International contributions requested**

AASW is looking for international contributions to its national conference in Tasmania in July 1995 on *Science and Social Work*.

### Denmark

#### **Public debate on social assistance**

Following an outcry in most of the press this year on the level of social assistance administered by social workers in local municipalities, the Danish Association of Social Workers has published a leaflet, intended to create public awareness on the living conditions of people living on social assistance. The leaflet has caused considerable interest in educational institutions.

#### **Enhanced interest in international matters**

The UN Summit in Copenhagen and increased activity within the European Region of IFSW have increased international interest among social workers in Denmark. There is a growing awareness of the potential of co-operation. This was also emphasized during the recent annual general meeting, which presented an exhibition of international social work. The IFSW President and Secretary General were among the guests.

#### **Preparing "HIV/AIDS and Social Work"**

Denmark will not only host the UN Summit, but also an international conference on "HIV/AIDS and Social Work" in August 1995. The aim of this conference is to focus on living conditions, human rights and ethics, and to develop co-operation and networking.

### Hong Kong

#### **Low level of public assistance**

The low level of public assistance has been an issue for social workers for many years. A Report commissioned by the Legislative Council recently called for an increase, but the Government refuses to accept the recommendation. The Hong Kong Association of Social Workers joined other organizations to campaign on behalf of welfare recipients. 500 social workers and clients rallied outside the Central Government Offices, and a letter was presented to the Governor of Hong Kong, Mr. Chris Patten.

### Ireland

#### **Dublin hosts the European Seminar 1997**

The European Region approved the Irish invitation to host the 1997 IFSW Regional Seminar August 24 - 28.

#### **Videotape evidence outruled in civil cases**

A judge in the Irish Circuit Court recently ruled that videotape evidence from children and expert

witnesses was no longer admissible in civil cases involving children. The evidence would only be admissible if the child is present in court to give evidence under oath. The ruling can create difficulties for statutory bodies seeking child care orders on the basis of social workers who are unwilling to put a child through the trauma of giving evidence in court, or those children too young to give sworn evidence or being cross-examined. Amendment of legislation is likely to be sought as matter of urgency.

### Israel

#### **The Jordan-Israel Peace Treaty another bridge for Israeli social workers**

The Peace Treaty between Jordan and Israel, signed October 26, 1994, is a historic occasion opening for great hopes for comprehensive peace in the Middle East. The Peace Treaty is another bridge in the broadening of contacts with Palestinian, Egyptian and Jordanian social workers, for which Israeli social workers have worked for a long time. The IFSW World Conference in Israel in 1998 is expected to see significant delegations from different Arab countries.

#### **New Code of Ethics**

A new Code of Ethics has been approved, after a three year project of revision and renewal. The Committee of Experts, who prepared the new Code was helped by documents from Canada and USA in addition to the IFSW Ethical instruments.

#### **2500 participants expected to attend Symposium on "60 Years Social Work"**

As many as 2500 participants are expected to attend the bi-annual National Symposium of the Israeli Association of Social Workers in Jerusalem in May, 1995, celebrating "60 years Social Work in Israel - Achievements and Challenges".



Agnes K Yeung, President, Hong Kong Social Workers Association, is preparing the IFSW World Conference in 1996, while Eli Ben-Gera, President, Israel Association of Social Workers, has 2 more years until the gathering in 1998.





## Human Rights and Social Action The Lisbon Seminar the main IFSW European event in 1995

Social workers and others from all over Europe and beyond are expected to gather in Lisbon April 27 - 30, 1995 to discuss *Human Rights and Social Action*, when ICSW and IFSW together with their Portuguese partners invite to a European Seminar. In spite of all declarations and good intentions appearing, we often see violations of Human Rights all over the world. People are excluded from society and the possibility of exercising their rights. Even if this problem involves all citizens, social workers and social institutions meet a special challenge, being in direct contact with people. The Seminar will aim to identify the roots of violation of Human Rights and explore ways of dealing with the problem. It will aim at raising the awareness of all social agents and improve their expertise through dialogue and exchange of knowledge and experiences. A thorough Seminar program is available directly from: ICSW - IFSW European Seminar Secretariat, Praça de Londres, 9 - 4º Esq., 1000 Lisboa, Portugal, tel: (351) 1 846 2666, fax: (351) 1 80 29 88

### IFSW CO-SPONSORS WORLD POPULATION AWARENESS WEEK

The Population Institute in Washington, DC, USA, has been co-sponsored by IFSW for the World Population Awareness Week (WPAW). This is an educational campaign designed to create awareness of the economic, social, political and environmental consequences of global over-population, initiated in 1985.

A manual with useful proposals how awareness can be spread to citizens, media, professionals, and policy makers is available from the IFSW Secretariat on request

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The IFSW *Friends* program is offering a link to international social work for social workers, agencies, corporations and others supporting the social work profession and global social development. New *Friends* join every week. If you want to know more about how you can receive regular information about what is going on in international social work and other benefits, contact the IFSW secretariat.



### IFSW Friends

The Symbol of Professional Commitment to  
International Social Work

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## FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

IFSW thanks contributors for  
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James Kimera Ssekiwanuka, Uganda

*IFSW will accept contributions in the form of memorials or tributes, or donations to the Jane Hoey Fund for social work development, and will acknowledge support in the IFSW Newsletter. Donations may be tax deductible in some countries. More information can be obtained from the Secretariat*

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## NEXT NEWSLETTER

will be a special issue in connection with the United Nations World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, Denmark, March 6 - 12, 1995. This edition will be published in 5 000 copies in English, French and Spanish and distributed at the Summit in addition to the regular readership. Focus will be on social work responses to the three core issues at the Summit : Attacking Poverty, Building Solidarity and Creating Jobs.

This special Newsletter will due to space limitations not be open for regular contributions or advertisements. The two remaining editions of the IFSW Newsletter in 1995 will appear in June and November, and we will need your contributions not later than May 20 for the June edition and October 20 for the November edition. The same deadlines are valid for advertisements. If you want to know more about how to advertise, please notify the Secretariat.

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*More information is obtainable from the organizers of the different events or from the IFSW Secretariat. ⇒ Please inform us if you know about other events.*

## IFSW Conferences and Seminars

**Manila, Philippines, 24-27 January 1995**

Asia-Pacific Social Workers' Conference on  
*Human Rights and Development*

**Lisbon, Portugal, 27-30 April 1995**

European Seminar : *Human Rights and Social Action*

**Christchurch, New Zealand,**

**20-23 November 1995**

Asia-Pacific Regional Social Services Conference:  
*"Partnerships that work?"*

**Cairo, Egypt, 29 February - 2 March 1996**

5th Pan Africa Regional Seminar of IFSW:

*Social Work and Development in Africa: Towards the  
21st Century - Problems and Possibilities*

**Hong Kong, 24-27 July 1996**

World Conference: *Participating in Change -*

*The Social Work Profession in Social Development*

**Jerusalem, Israel, 5-10 July 1998**

World Conference:

*Social Work on the Threshold of the 21st Century*

*Some of these conferences and seminars are arranged  
in cooperation between IFSW and IASSW / ICSW.*

## Diary of Events 1995

**Jerusalem, Israel, 22-26 January**

International Conference on Social Work in Health  
and Mental Health Care: *Trends and Challenges*

**New Delhi, India, 23-25 February**

Indian Environmental Society:

*International Conference on Empowering Women for  
Sustainable Development*

**Athens, Greece, 10-13 May**

3rd Conference European Network Occupational  
Social Work: *Occupational Social Work in the  
Preparation of Retirement and Early Retirement*

**Oslo, Norway, 13-16 May**

5th European Conf. on Child Abuse and Neglect

**Helsinki, Finland, 28 May-1 June**

5th European Congress on Research in Rehabilitation

**St. Johns, Newfoundland, Canada, 31 May-2 June**

12th International Society for Quality Assurance in  
Health Care Congress: *Partnerships for Creating a  
Quality Health System. Users - Providers - Funders*

**Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala, 11-14 July**

15 Seminario LatinoAmericano de Trabajo Social

**Amsterdam, Netherlands, 16-20 July**

4th International Conference of the American  
Society of Law, Medicine and Ethics :

*Health, Law and Ethics in a Global Community*

**Calgary, Alberta, Canada, 29 July-1 August**

University of Calgary, Faculty of Social Work:

*International Social Welfare in a Changing World*

**Copenhagen, Denmark, 16-18 August**

International Conference: *HIV / AIDS and Social Work  
- Living Conditions, Human Rights and Ethics*

**Hong Kong, 19-23 November**

5th Asia/Oceania Regional Congress of Gerontology:  
*Total Care of the Elderly - A Multidisciplinary  
Approach*