

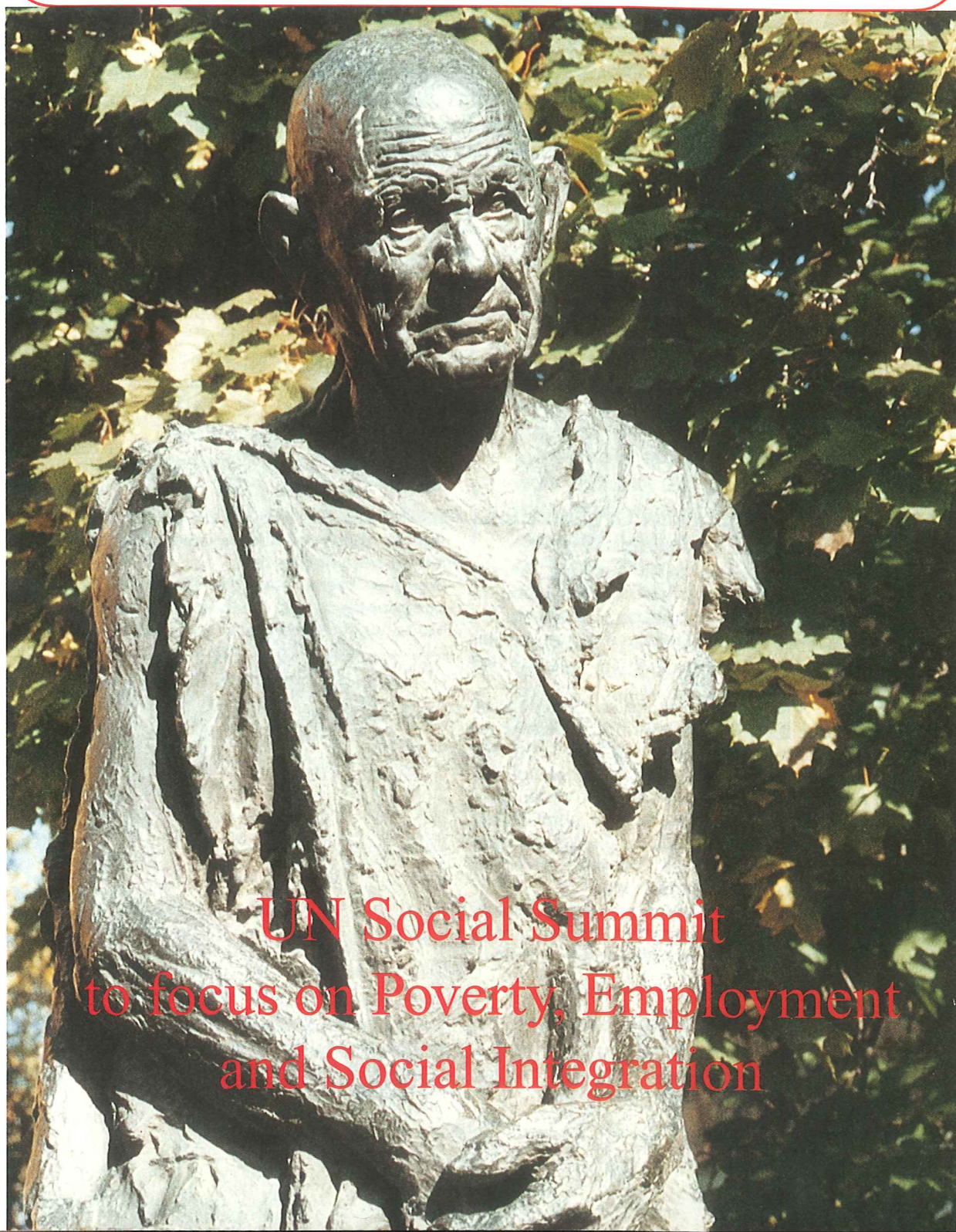


IFSW



# NEWSLETTER

No. 2 - 1994



UN Social Summit  
to focus on Poverty, Employment  
and Social Integration

# President's Message

## Positioning IFSW for the Future

As President, I have had the privilege of experiencing the influence that IFSW can provide on a world scale.

In March 1995, IFSW will play a crucial role in the UN World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen (a strategic venue for IFSW, headquartered in Oslo). The Summit will bring together government ministers from around the world to make future policy for poverty, employment, and the enhancement of social integration. This is a unique opportunity for IFSW, to impact governments about our issues that will affect the global community - now and into the 21st century. IFSW is positioning social work, and our clients, and our Associations for the future.

Our Executive Committee, General Meeting, and World Conference to be held in Sri Lanka in July 1994, will not only set goals and develop action plans for the future, but it will also provide additional opportunities for IFSW Associations to be involved in preparing for the Summit. Our focus must be on the most effective way to play an active role; one that will serve to inform and implement policy that is compatible with the social work profession.

In reflecting upon the past year and a half, since the 1992 General Meeting, many changes have taken place which motivate us to move forward and to continue pursuing global social development. The "opening" of Central and Eastern Europe has created additional channels for social work, and additional resources for this region. The Friends program continues to grow, building a connection between the social work community, individuals, and organizations within and beyond social work. IFSW is engaging in project development on a global level. Our Human Rights Commission and our own IFSW policy development is gaining momentum. Our enhanced relationship with sister organizations ICSW and IASSW, is enabling the social work profession to create a more unified voice for social change.

Together we must continue to pursue international social work goals through dedication to the social work profession and to those whom we serve.

I hope to see many of you at the World Conference in Sri Lanka in July!

Los Angeles, June, 1994

*Suzanne Dworak-Peck*  
President

### **More Non-Governmental Organizations than ever engaged in Human Rights**

An extended agenda was debated during the six weeks of the 50th session by the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, January 31 - March 11, 1994. The session was attended by a record number of Observer States and Non-Governmental Organizations.

Impact of the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action resulting from the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights was noticeable in a number of fields debated by the Commission, not least that of the human rights of women and the girl child. The Commission decided to create a focal point within the UN Centre for Human Rights for the human rights of women, and to recommend appointing a special rapporteur on violence against women.

The new UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ambassador José Ayala Lasso from Ecuador will during his four year term coordinate UN's human rights activities.

### **Xenophobia and economic adjustment**

Some of the important resolutions focused on measures to combat contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related

intolerance, and the effects on the full enjoyment of human rights of the economic adjustment policies arising from foreign debt.

Another focus was on the right to restitution, compensation and rehabilitation for victims of gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

### **World Conference stamp to be issued**



The Social Workers World Conference in Sri Lanka will be commemorated by a stamp, using the Logo of the Conference. See page 4 for more information about the upcoming event in Colombo.

# UN World Summit for Social Development

## Copenhagen, March 6 -12, 1995

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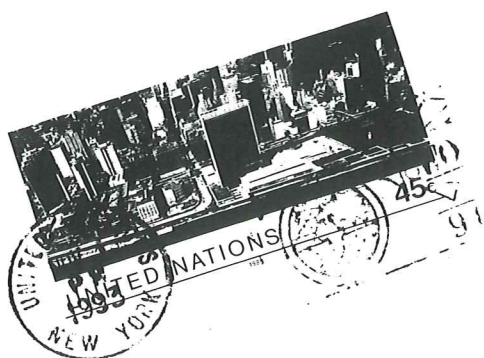
### **Alleviating and reducing poverty, expanding productive employment and enhancing social integration**

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When heads of State and Government meet in Copenhagen, Denmark, March, 1995, these three interrelated issues will be on the global agenda, hopefully not only as long as the Summit lasts, but for the years to come as we approach the next millenium. The purposes of the Summit are all linked to main goals for social workers all over the world, and our profession is expected to be a main factor when it comes to implementing policy.

### **The gap between rich and poor is widening**

UN will during three preparatory committee sessions work on a Declaration and a plan of Action, focusing on how social progress can be achieved in all societies - whether industrial or developing. Today, the gap between the 20% of the world population at the bottom of the income ladder, and the 20 % at the top, is widening. Poverty is increasing in all regions except Asia, and the Summit has an unique opportunity to form an ambitious, but realistic, policy for a better future. UN is celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 1995, and could there be a better way to do it than by arranging a Summit for Social Development ?



### **Many links to social work practice**

The Summit is of great interest to IFSW because its represents the first time that an international meeting of this kind is focussing on the humanitarian side of social development. When we look at the working paper proposals

for the first Preparatory Committee session in New York January 31 - February 11, 1994 we find many issues related to social work:

- ◆ *Providing basic social services*
- ◆ *Alleviating and reducing rural poverty*
- ◆ *Strengthening social security policies and programs*
- ◆ *Improving employment for vulnerable groups*
- ◆ *Integrating migrants into labour markets*
- ◆ *Social participation programs (including bringing government closer to people and promoting community organization and action)*
- ◆ *Migrants, refugees and foreigners (including promoting integration of migrants and meeting the needs for refugees)*
- ◆ *Protecting and integrating groups and people with special needs*

### **On the agenda for the General Meeting**

IFSW will take part in the preparatory process, as we did in New York, as well as in the Summit itself. The Summit will be on the agenda for the General Meeting in Sri Lanka this July for a discussion between member associations how social workers around the world can seek to participate in the planning for the Summit in their countries.

Some key words for this participation are :

How can poor and marginalized groups be involved in the deliberations, so that they may be heard and take part in decision making ?

How can women be fully participating in every stage of development ?

How can the children's rights be ensured ?

How can military spending be diverted to the needs of human development and education ?

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**"The problem is not that we have tried to eradicate global poverty or even it's worst symptoms and failed; it is that no serious and concerted attempt has ever been made"**

*James P. Grant, Executive Director of UNICEF,  
International Development Conference,  
January 11, 1993*

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# IFSW-News from Asia/Pacific

## Australia

### **Social workers: The most needed profession moving toward the turn of the century**

A report on Australia's workforce cited social workers as the most needed profession toward the turn of the century. This is believed to have significant implications for social work training in the country, and three additional social work courses are developing along with the 18 existing Schools of Social Work.

In the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) preparations are being made to move in the direction of self regulation of social work to ensure the quality of the profession, as official registration is not provided.

### **Rights and value of indigenous peoples**

AASW has endorsed the vision of the National Council on Reconciliations for the year 2000. This important statement recognizes the dignity rights and value of indigenous peoples in Australian society.

### **Links with the Philippines and China**

AASW has commenced a twinning program with the Philippine Association of Social Workers, and are also maintaining close cooperative with colleagues in China.

## Kuwait

### **Gulf social workers look for international cooperation**

Social workers from Kuwait, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates met in Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates February 2 - 4, 1994 for the Social and Cultural Meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council of Social Associations and Societies (GCC). Representatives of universities and other institutions and centers in the region were also present.

The future development in the region related to human resources was one of the main themes of the conference, along with developing regional cooperation and relations with the outside world. The conference also addressed the consequences of the Gulf Crisis, and looked at the role of civil society and national participation in the GCC.

Housing is a major challenge for social work

in the area. The conference also appealed to the Ministers of Social Affairs and Labour in the GCC area to give priority to the problems connected with immigrant labour.

Women's participation in society was emphasized as an essential factor in the development process.

The next social and cultural meeting will take place in Bahrain in 1996, and discuss the professional practice of social workers, as well as look into the development toward consumer societies in the area.

### **International appeal to release Faisal Al-San'a from Iraq imprisonment**

*Faisal Al-Sana'a, Secretary General of the Kuwait Association of Social Workers, is believed to be kept in prison or other form of detention somewhere in Iraq. He was, as many other Kuwait citizens, brought to Iraq during the war. The social workers present at the Conference in Sharjah appealed to the international society to urge the Iraqi government to release Faisal Al-Sana'a, and to take immediate measurements to release other prisoners of war and let them return to their families in Kuwait.*

## Sri Lanka

### **Conflict resolution in focus**

The Social Workers World Conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka July 9 - 13, 1994 will as one of its highlights focus on conflict resolution in countries like Israel, South Africa and Sri Lanka. After a plenary introduction, giving a theoretical introduction to the theme, two parallel case presentations will be offered: One on *Jewish and Arab social workers as peace makers*, and one on *Coping with conflicts caused by victimization*. A closing plenary will discuss conflict resolution experiences around the world.

To take part in this and other exciting professional events during the World Conference, ask for more information by addressing:

Social Workers World Conference,

191 Dharmaphala Mawatha,

Colombo 7, Sri Lanka

Tel : (94) 1 - 68 92 02/ 68 92 03

Fax : (94) 1 - 68 91 59/ 32 81 17

## **IFSW preparing for the Sri Lanka General Meeting**

The IFSW General Meeting 1994 will take place immediately prior to the World Conference, and is scheduled for July 6 (PM) to July 8 (PM).

The venue for the meeting will be the Ceylon Intercontinental Hotel, which also is the preferred hotel for other IFSW activities in Colombo. (48, Janadhipathi Mawatha, tel: (94) 1 42 12 21, fax: (94) 1 44 73 26).

### **Permanent Committee on Ethical Issues ?**

The General Meeting will summarize the activity of IFSW since 1992, as well as focus on future development. New applications for membership will be considered, and a report on the transition of the Secretariat from Geneva to Oslo will be presented. A major issue is the report from the Working Group on Ethical Issues, and the revision of the ethical instruments of IFSW. A proposal from the Working Group to form a Permanent Committee on Ethical Issues can make way for more dynamic IFSW activity in this important field for the profession. Preparation and participation in the UN Summit for Social Development form new possibilities for social workers. The General Meeting is invited to discuss how we can take part in the

implementation of the outcome of this landmark conference. Since 1992, the Friends program has been steadily growing. The General Meeting will be presented with action proposals to stimulate continuing growth.

Other non-dues revenue programs will also be on the agenda, as well as the revitalized cooperation with the International Association of Schools of Social Work and the International Council on Social Welfare.

### **Policy Paper on Indigenous People**

Member associations around the world have been working with revisions of some of the IFSW Policy Papers, and New Zealand will report on the preparation of a new Policy Paper on Indigenous People.

Program Priorities and Action Proposals for 1994 - 96 will be discussed and action taken to set a course for international social work development into the second part of this decade.

Hong Kong will officially invite IFSW to hold the next World Conference and General Meeting there in 1996. The Executive Committee for 1994 - 96 will be elected.

## ***HIV/AIDS & SOCIAL WORK***

### **A World Conference on Living Conditions, Human Rights and Ethical Aspects**

**Copenhagen, Denmark  
August 16th - 18th, 1995**

For your own personal copy of the 1st announcement, please write or fax  
Conventum Congress Service,  
Hauchsvej 14,  
DK - 1825 Frederiksberg C,  
Denmark  
Fax: + 45 31 31 06 14

**Organizers: Nordic Associations of Social Workers**

# IFSW-News from Europe

## Ireland

### **Irish Social Workers Face Court Action**

Social workers in Ireland, as elsewhere, are used to stress at work, particularly in the area of child protection. It is less usual to face a threat of court action from your employer, but this has happened to 170 social workers employed by the Eastern Health Board (EHB). In Ireland, the Health Boards are the local-government body with statutory responsibility for child protection and child care.

The Eastern Health Board has said that it will take a High Court action against the social worker's trade union (IMPACT), if its members do not implement the 1991 Child Care Act. The Act contains a huge range of provisions which are due to be implemented, by degrees, before the end of 1995. One of these provisions extends the age of children entitled to care from 16 to 18.

Since February last year, EHB social workers have refused to implement the Act because of insufficient funding for emergency accommodation and additional staff. Social workers have objected to placing homeless teenagers in bed and breakfast accommodation. They believe such care is unsuitable, and not appropriate until the provision of the Act.

The EHB argue that certain resources (ie. emergency beds) have already been introduced. It has also said it would hold social workers "personally responsible" if any legal action is taken against the Board for non-implementation of the Act. The adequacy of these resources is disputed by several voluntary organizations working with homeless children in Dublin.

The IMPACT believes that the IR£ 35 million (\$ 50 million) allotted for the full implementation of the Child Care Act will be adequate, but that the focus of the problem is that social workers have been asked to cater to 16 to 18 years olds before funds, beds or extra staff have been made available.



## Israel

### **Council of Social Workers**

After a break of over a year, the Council of Social Workers has resumed its activities. The Council, appointed by the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare to advise her on professional issues, consists of 35 members, almost all social workers, representing the Israel Association of Social Workers (ISASSW), all 5 Israeli Schools of Social Work, governmental / municipal employers, voluntary associations and client organizations. It is hoped that the Council will become a statutory organization when the proposal for the Social Workers' Act finally becomes law.

### **Two important innovations**

The Council has begun to put into practice two important innovations. First, Israeli social workers can now be recognized as "senior social workers" and "advanced social workers", a recognition which will carry rights and duties in the profession (e.g. supervision, administration, private practice) and, eventually, extra salary. Second, the Council has begun to recognize specializations in the profession. General medical social work has already been recognized, and 10 or so other professional groups are in the process of gaining recognition (like correctional, community, psychiatric and geriatric social work).

The Council has also set up a committee to recommend registration of beginning social workers (after completed B.S.W. degrees), and a probation period before this registration.

## France

Marie-Thérèse Paillusson, Présidente de l'Association Nationale Française, qui représente la FIAS au Conseil de l'Europe à été élué a la Commission de Liaison des O.N.G. et élué au Bureau comme rapporteur-adjoint.

*Marie-Thérèse Paillusson, President of the French Association of Social Workers and IFSW Representative to the Council of Europe, has been elected to the NGO Liaison Committee to the Council.*

# IFSW-News from Africa and North America

## Ghana

### Ageing in Africa

The first African Regional Workshop on Ageing was organized in Ghana in 1993 by the African Gerontological Society in cooperation with the UN International Institute of the Ageing. It looked into the pressing needs to create awareness as a supposition for formulating government policies dealing with the ageing.

### Family planning more needed than ever

At the current growth rate of 3 % a year, Ghana's population will more than double in 22 years. The present level of economic growth can not cope with population development, and it is more necessary than ever to regard the two factors as inseparable. Ghana's Vice President, Kow Nkensen Arkaah, described recently the disturbing aspects of high population growth as environmental degradation, rural urban drift, breakdown of families, juvenile delinquency, drug addiction, teenage pregnancy and crime. He also pointed out that adequate resources to meet the increasing social problems facing a growing population can not be mobilized today. If the capacity to overcome these problems shall be within reach in the future, family planning is crucial. It is hoped that a newly launched "Social Marketing Foundation" in Ghana can develop into an instrument able to expand access to family planning services and safe and efficient contraceptives at affordable prices.

## USA

### Continued input into health care reform

NASW continues its input into the direction of U.S. national health care reform, and focuses on promoting universal coverage, comprehensive benefits, parity for mental health services with physical health services, and recognition of social worker's role as health and mental health care providers. The agenda also includes attention to another unfolding debate - welfare reform - toward making the system empowering rather than demeaning.

### Stop violence with justice for all

NASW's 1994 public service campaign, "Stop Violence with Justice for All", addresses a

matter of increasing public attention and anger - violent crime. The campaign is based upon the premise that injustice is the seed of violence, and that by treating people justly, violence can be stemmed at its cause. Social workers are seen in key positions to ameliorate the underlying causes of violence - poverty, unemployment, high school dropout, lack of decent housing, and lack of social support.

### Violence and Development Project

6 Chapter-based Project Centers will bring together practitioners, educators, and students with representatives from the international community to engage in discussion, research and education focused on how social work concerns about violence are related to foreign assistance and development activities. This activity is part of NASW's 3-year Violence and Development Project, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development. Each of the centers will focus on one of the project's subthemes: poverty, family structure, substance abuse, ethnicity, and trauma - all leading to NASW's 1995 public information campaign on global violence and injustice.

## International Social Work

Editor-in-Chief  
Dr. Francis J Turner



Published quarterly, this is a scholarly refereed journal designed to extend knowledge and promote communication in the fields of social development, social welfare and human services. The journal places particular emphasis on articles concerned with comparative analysis and cross-national research. In each issue you'll find discussions and analyses of trends and issues in social welfare policy and social work practice, with a scope extending far beyond any single country.

### Special Offer to Readers of the IFSW Newsletter...

*International Social Work* is the official journal of the IFSW, and we are therefore offering a special rate to readers of the IFSW Newsletter.

### Special Rate for IFSW Newsletter Readers: (incl. 30% reduction)

£47 (2 yrs) / £23 (1 yr)

### Institutional Rate: (incl. 40% reduction)

£112 (2 yrs) / £56 (1 yr)



SAGE Publications, 6 Bonhill Street, London EC2A 4PU, UK. Tel: +44 71 374 0645. Fax: +44 71 374 8741

## 222 FRIENDS OF IFSW

The IFSW Friends program is growing into a more and more important link between the international social work society and individuals and organizations globally. At present, 222 Friends have registered, representing 24 countries.

If you want to know more about how you can become a Friend and receive regular information about our activities, access to International Policy Papers and other documents, discount registration at our conferences and other benefits, you may address the Secretariat. Upon registration, we will also provide a certificate of recognition and the IFSW "gold" Friends pin as symbols of your solidarity with international social work.

### IFSW Friends

The Symbol of Professional Commitment to  
International Social Work

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## FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

IFSW thanks contributors for  
donations to IFSW Funds

Suzanne Dworak-Peck, in memory of  
*Ann A. Abbott's mother*  
*Dorothy Faller's father*

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*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.*

## ADVERTISEMENTS

The IFSW Newsletter is open for advertisements, offering a communication tool for advertisers who want to reach influential social work leaders and organizations globally. The present level of distribution exceeds 1000 copies, and is growing rapidly.

Prices are set to:

Full page: CHF 700/USD 500/GBP 320

1/2 page: CHF 350/USD 250/GBP 160

1/4 page: CHF 180/USD 130/GBP 85

1/8 page: CHF 90/USD 65/GBP 42.50

Advertisements are accepted in English, French and Spanish, and can be printed in two colours at no extra cost. Camera ready is desirable, but not required.

Member associations are given a discount of 20 %, Friends of IFSW 10 %, for each ad.

Deadlines for 1994 are August 20 and November 10 for the September and December editions. More information can be obtained from the Secretariat.

## IFSW

### Conferences and Seminars

#### Colombo, Sri Lanka, 9-13 July 1994

World Conference: *The Social Work Profession: A Family United in Troubled Times*

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

European Seminar :  
*Human Rights and Social Action*

## Diary of Events

#### **Cardiff, Wales, UK, 28 June-2 July, 1994**

8th World Conference of the International Society of Family Law : *Families across Frontiers*

#### **Tampere, Finland, 3-7 July 1994**

26th International Conference of ICSW:

*Global Welfare '94: The Fight Against Poverty and Inequality on a World Level*

#### **Kandy, Sri Lanka, 3-8 July 1994**

Inter-University Consortium on International Social Development: *8th Bi-Annual Conference*

#### **Amsterdam, Netherlands 15-19 July, 1994**

International Association of Schools of Social Work: *Social Work Education - the State of the Art*

#### **Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, 24-29 July 1994**

International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centers: *Building Links among Individuals, Families and Communities*

#### **Edinburgh, Scotland, 7-9 September, 1994**

International Association for the Child's Rights to Play: *Creative Play - Meeting the Needs of Families*

#### **Potsdam, Germany, 11-16 September 1994**

XIIIth World Congress of International Association of Workers for Troubled Children and Youth:

*Educative Action and Crisis throughout the World - A Challenge for Profession and Research*

#### **Montréal, Canada, 12-15 October, 1994**

International Conferences on Social Development:

*Today's Families - A Bridge to the Future*

#### **Hartford, Connecticut, USA 27-30 October, 1994**

XIVth Annual Symposium on Social Work with Groups: *Voices from the Field - Group Work Responds*

#### **Cotonou, Benin, 5-9 December, 1994**

International Association for Community Development: *The Contribution of Community Action to Sustainable Development and Democracy*

#### **Jerusalem, Israel, 22-26 January, 1995**

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

*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.*

International Federation of Social Workers

P. O. Box 4649, Sofienberg,

N - 0506 Oslo, Norway

Tel: + 47 22 03 11 52, Fax : + 47 22 03 11 14