

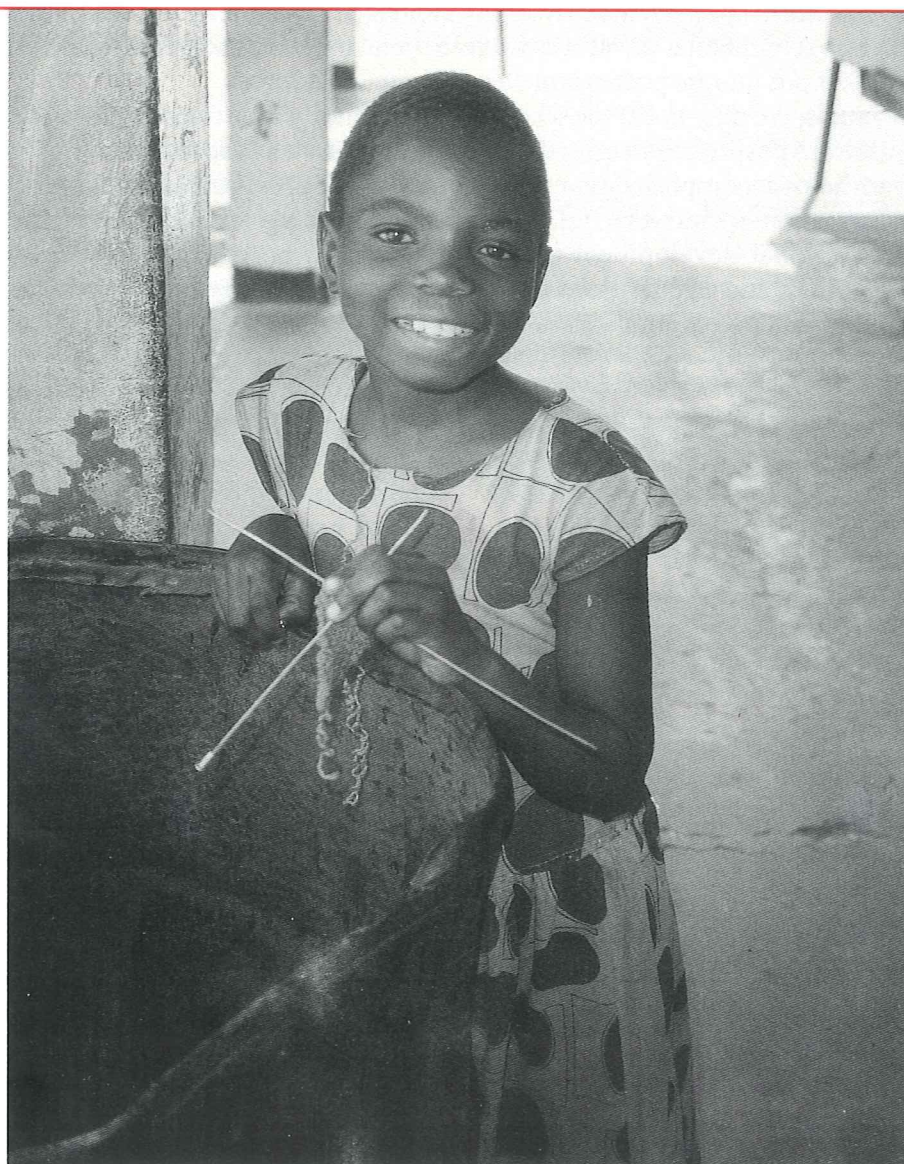


IFSW



NEWSLETTER

No. 1 - 1994



*The Children of the World will
Benefit from the IFSW-UN Work*

President's Message

Leadership for Global Change

IFSW continues to build a more influential, relevant, and timely global voice. One of the ways in which this is being accomplished, is through the Federation's access with the UN and other international bodies. IFSW has UN teams in Geneva, Vienna and New York, grappling with issues such as peace and conflict resolution, human rights, womens rights, issues related to the protection of children, and population and development issues. Currently IFSW is collaborating with IASSW and ICSW and other NGOs to impact the UN World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, 1995.

Many of the problems that the UN seeks to improve are experienced in both industrial and developing countries. This translates into a commonality of need, and the call for joint problem solving efforts by varying disciplines, but a predominate need for the involvement and expertise of social workers.

IFSW social work representatives working alongside UN colleagues, has relevance for all of us. As social workers, our humanitarian efforts extend beyond ourselves, to others who are facing problems and difficulties that our unique profession was designed to address.

As individuals, we may not always have the opportunity to influence global change, however, through IFSW we are positioned to effectively support those who are representing our interests. The *Friends* program helps accomplish this very important task. Every professional, agency or corporation in the social work or non-social work field, is not only supporting our activities financially, but is also supporting larger global development issues, dedicated to the goals of IFSW. *Friends* provides information, visibility, and an energized constituency for interactive social work around the world.

Your support and involvement enables IFSW to provide leadership for global change.

Los Angeles, February, 1994

Suzanne Dworak-Peck
President



IFSW Patron for the International Year of the Family

The World NGO Forum in Malta, at the end of 1993 was a proud occasion for IFSW, which was among the governmental and non-governmental organizations designated by UN as a Patron for the International Year of the Family.

Much of the interest generated within the Federation and subsequent action by its members is due to the persistent efforts of Monika Vyslouzil, the IFSW Main Representative at UN, Vienna, who also received a personal Testimonial. She is a Board Member of the Vienna NGO Committee on the family, and editor of the newsletter "Families International"

Attended by 1000 participants from 107 countries, the Forum was a gigantic market place for ideas, projects, debate and action. The soon-to-be published Forum Report has material from

the 24 plenary presentations, 40 workshops and 54 mini-presentations.

IFSW was represented by Bertram Weinert, UN/New York Representative, Maria Herczog and Dudley Dissanayake, Presidents respectively of the Hungarian and Sri Lanka associations. "Family and the public provision of services" was the title of Bertram Weinert's presentation. In her capacity as Deputy President of the NGO Committee on UNICEF, Ellen Mouravieff-Apostol, IFSW/UN Geneva Representative, chaired a workshop on "Substitute Families". The report will be published in English and French in February 1994.

Frontpage:

Creative young girl in Lupane, Zimbabwe, using bicycle spokes for knitting.

Photo: LMJ



The United Nations and IFSW

A Partnership for 35 years



One of the aims of IFSW is to present the point of view of the profession on an international level, promoting social work expertise, providing consultative services and influencing the development of social policies internationally and, through that, nationally. This is done partly on a regional level, especially in Europe, but channeled through our representation to the United Nations and UN bodies.

In New York, Geneva and Vienna IFSW has nominated teams of representatives, who focus on serving the Federation. IFSW has been granted consultative status by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 1959. We are involved in a number of issues facing today's world as major challenges: Economic and Social Development, Children's Rights, Sustainable Development, Human Rights, Peace and Disarmament, Population, Women's Rights, AIDS, Aging, Indigenous People and many others. In addition to the UN itself, IFSW is also represented at UNICEF, UNESCO, ILO and WHO.

Conferences related to the UN work

IFSW's many international conferences and seminars (a total of 36 since 1966) also focus on issues related to our work in the UN. The 1993 European Seminar in Hungary addressed poverty as a primary challenge to the international community and social work in the 90s. This year's World Conference in Sri Lanka will focus on subjects like conflict resolution and peace, poverty alleviation and empowerment, health and social problems, families and children in troubled times, and environment and development issues.

Policy papers and IFSW-UN material

IFSW Policy Papers, addressing major problems confronting society and social workers, have been designed to voice the viewpoints of social workers on international social work issues, and form a framework for our representatives to UN.

IFSW has developed special material to enhance the knowledge and skills of social workers worldwide. Examples are *The Social Work Response to the Growing Challenges of AIDS* with WHO and *Teaching and Learning about Human Rights - A Manual for Schools of*

Social Work and the Social Work Profession with the UN Centre for Human Rights.

IFSW - Peace Messenger and IYF patron

In 1987, the UN Secretary General designated IFSW a *Peace Messenger* in recognition of our significant contribution to the programmes and objectives of the *International Year of Peace*. As you read in this Newsletter, in November 1993, IFSW was designated as a *Patron of the International Year of the Family* for exemplary support of the UN programme.

In addition to the widerange of daily activities, UN has, and will continue in the 90's organizing a series of five landmark world conferences, all of them closely related to IFSW interests:

- 1992: *The UN Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro*
- 1993: *The World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna*
- 1994: *The International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo*
- 1995: *The World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen*
- 1995: *The Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing.*

The implementation process

The International NGOs consider these conferences major opportunities to influence world policies. If social conditions are to improve by the end of this century, the results emerging from the conferences must be transformed into action. Social workers have a crucial role in the implementation process. This is why the UN General Assembly has invited NGOs, and specifically IFSW, to participate in the conferences and the preparatory process.

Revision of the Policy Papers and Ethical Instruments of IFSW

It was decided at the General Meeting in Washington, D.C. 1992 to review all Policy Papers of IFSW, geared toward a major discussion at the Sri Lanka General Meeting in 1994. The Policy Papers to be revised or expanded are Child Welfare/ Youth (possibly developed into one document), The Welfare of Elderly People, Human Rights, Migration, Peace and Disarmament, The Protection of Personal Information, Refugees, Conditions in Rural Communities, Self Help and the Advancement of Women. A new Policy Paper on Indigenous People will be developed.

The General Meeting also decided to review the Ethical instruments of the Federation, *"International Code of Ethics"* and *"Declaration of Ethical Principles in Social Work"*, possibly integrating them into one document.

Member associations involved in the review of the ethical instruments have also been asked to consider how a continuous discussion on ethical issues can be promoted, and if a Permanent Committee on Ethical Issues should be set up and what tasks it should deal with.

IFSW World Conference 1994 Colombo - Sri Lanka

The 1994 IFSW World Conference in Sri Lanka, "The Social Work Profession: Family United in Troubled Times", is inviting social workers, policy makers, planners, administrators, researchers, educators, representatives of UN agencies, international bodies, NGOs and others interested in the pursuit of welfare and development of human services, to meet 9-13 July, 1994 in Colombo and examine the role of social work across the globe. Meetings like this are needed now more than ever, if we are to cope with the many challenges that violence, unrest, civil strife, poverty and environmental degradation place on our agendas.

The advance programme can be obtained by addressing:

Social Workers World Conference, The Secretariat,
191, Dharmapala Mawatha, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka
Tel: (94) 1 - 68 92 02/ 68 92 03, Fax (94) 1 - 68 91 59/ 32 81 17

Revitalized Cooperation between IASSW, ICSW and IFSW

Since 1992, the cooperation between the three "sister organizations" has been "revitalized". Sharing the view that we can achieve more together than apart, meetings have been held in Washington, D.C. in 1992, in Paris, March 1993 and in New York November 1993 with the Presidents and Secretary Generals of the three organizations.

IAASW and ICSW have both relocated their secretariats from Vienna following the UN move of many activities related to social development from Austria to New York. ICSW will settle in Montreal, while IASSW continues to discuss the location of its new headoffice.

Increased conference cooperation will be a reality for the 1995 European Seminar in Lisbon and the 1996 World Conference in Hong Kong.

The journal "International Social Work" published in London, and now in volume 37, is an important mutual project for the three organizations.

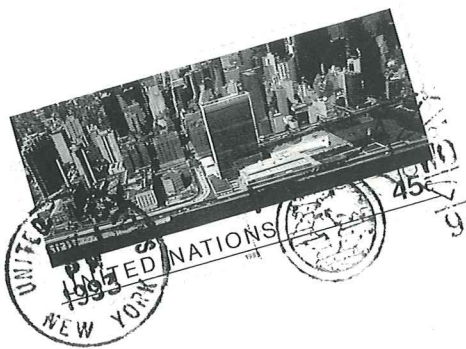
Extending knowledge and promoting communication in the fields of social work, social development, social welfare and human services, the journal provides a unique international focus. Further promotion of the journal will be an important goal for the future.

In connection with the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen 6-12 March 1995, IASSW, ICSW and IFSW will, together with other NGOs, take part in the preparatory process.

The next interorganizational meeting is expected to occur in May 1994.

IFSW Team - United Nations, New York

This has been an exciting period at the UN with the many scheduled international meetings. The team at the UN is representing the IFSW's interests in the planning for the International Conference on Population and Development (ICDP) in Cairo, September 1994. The guiding principles undergirding draft planning represents social work's concerns: 1) Human rights and population; 2) The responsibility of society for human development, reproductive health and family planning; and ensuring choices and responsibilities; 3) Sustainable development and population. Linkages between population, resource use, consumption, environmental degradation will have impact on the quality of life for present and future generations; 4) Partnership for population; moving from commitment to action. Mutual responsibility and interdependence among individuals, social groups and nations.



46th NGO/DPI Conference

There were 100 registrants representing 38 countries and close to 400 NGOs when the NGO/DPI Conference was convened at UN 8-10 September 1993. The theme of the conference was "Social Development: A New Definition for Security". The keynote address was given by the Secretary General of the UN. He stated that the social development is 1) at the heart of the UN system; 2) its objective is to address in practical terms, deprivation which has many meanings, including poverty; 3) human rights is at the core of social development; 4) sustainable social development is a vital ingredient for lasting peace.

It would be helpful for the IFSW national associations to 1) mobilize women; 2) lobby government for elevation of the status of women because with the respect to social development, women have the greatest opportunity to effect change; 3) empower the most marginalized groups; and 4) continue the promotion of democracy.

World Summit for Social Development

This summit level meeting will take place in Copenhagen, Denmark, 6-12 March 1995. In his opening remarks at the April 1993 preparatory committee, Boutros Boutros-Ghali remarked that:

"...the summit, coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the UN, will lay the foundations of the work of the UN in the social development spheres for generations. It will be the culmination of a process of rethinking which began with the

collapse of bi-polarity." The three core issues that appear to be of concern to every government regardless of size, wealth or geographic location are: eradication of poverty, enhancing productive employment, and social integration.

NGO Committee on Southern Africa

The committee discussed in September its program for 1993-94, as well as continuing refinement of its statement of purpose. Because of the upcoming country-wide election on 27 April, 1994 major focus will continue to be South Africa. Overall, one of the thrusts of the committee will be the continuing recognition that apartheid is a cancer that not only violates human rights but continues a threat to international peace and security.

UNICEF

An important five day conference carried out in Guatemala in mid-November 1993, was sponsored jointly by UNICEF and the NGO Committee on UNICEF. The conference had a purpose of strengthening the capacity of NGOs in Central America, Belize, Panama and Mexico to implement and monitor the Convention of the Rights of the Child.

While the Convention on the Rights of the Child has been ratified by an unprecedented 146 nations the challenges to be faced now in implementation are daunting. The course ahead will require reinvigorated activity on the part of NGOs everywhere to help make the convention a reality in the years ahead. To contribute to this effort the Working Group on the Rights of the Child of the NGO Committee on UNICEF has set up a project known as *Promoting the Rights of the Child: An NGO Action Campaign*.

Information about this campaign can be secured by contacting: The Working Group on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF House, 3 UN Plaza H-6F, New York, NY 10017, USA, phone: (212) 326-7482, fax: (212) 326-7260.

The NGO Committee on the Status of Women

The NGO Committee on the status of Women is part of the process leading to the 4th World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing, China, 4-15 September 1995. The purpose of the conference is to review and appraise the advancement of women since 1985, to mobilize women and men at both policy making and grass-roots levels, to adopt a platform of action concentrating on some of the key issues which are fundamental obstacles to the advancement of women world-wide. It will include areas of decision-making, literacy, education, poverty, health, violence, refugees, technology, national policy.

Areas for closer attention being discussed are: 1) Health needs of older women; 2) Traditional practices and customs affecting the health of women; 3) Human rights of women; 4) Health and education for women; 5) Nutritional bases of women's health; 6) Reproductive health, infertility, sexually transmitted diseases.

Social workers in the health and education services, in positions of policy making, and any other areas of economic, political, social, cultural and educational fields, are in a particular position to bring forward looking, thinking, and expertise to advance women's status.

Those of us working in developing countries are in a position to educate women and children, as well as men, to raise their awareness of the issues mentioned above. Social workers should be alert to the regional meetings which are projected through the world in advance of the Beijing Conference in 1995.

IFSW President and Secretary General Meet Our Team to the United Nations, New York and the Human Rights Commissioner for North America

During a visit to New York City, the President and Secretary General of IFSW met with the six members of the IFSW Team to the United Nations, New York, November 1, 1993.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss IFSW matters including our preparations for the UN Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen 1995 and other major UN issues, our representation to the UN and communication to maintain and care for our interests. As many UN-programmes have been moved from Vienna, the Representation in New York is growing even more important.

At another meeting, the President and Secretary General met with the IFSW Human Rights Commissioner for North America, Ruth Wilson, to discuss current human rights issues. The former IFSW President, Gayle Gilchrist James, has been appointed as alternate Human Rights Commissioner for the region.

IFSW-News from Africa Ghana

Visit and support from black colleagues in the US

150 members of the National Association of Black Social Workers Inc. (NABSW), USA, visited Ghana 3-14 August, 1993. The 17th International Educational conference of the NABSW enabled Ghana Association of Social Workers (GASOW) members to exchange experiences on Social Work practices with their colleagues from the Diaspora.

At the end of the visit, the NABSW made two presentations: To the University of Ghana, Legon, to help establish the Chair for Social Work, and support to GASOW.

Visit from Switzerland

12 members of the Swiss Association of Social Workers and Educators visited Ghana 5-21 November, 1993. The visitors had a country-wide tour of Ghana and interacted with social workers at their agencies. At a later date, some Ghana Social Workers will visit Switzerland.

Employment and Practice Opportunities

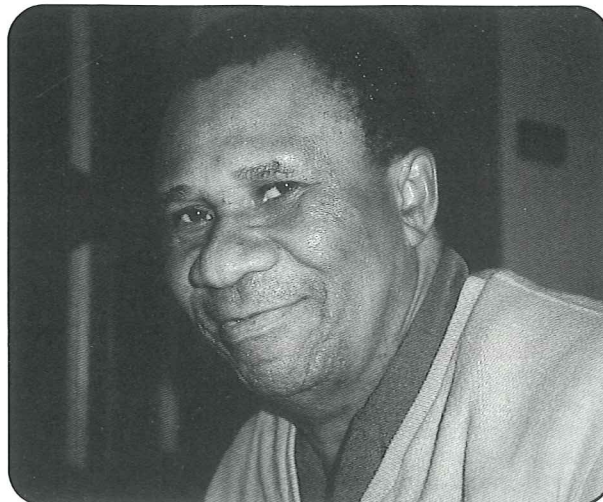
GASOW has had inquiries for employment opportunities in Social Work institutions in Ghana. GASOW and other social work agencies like the Department of Social Welfare, and the Ghana Education Service have no means to employ expatriates. They are brought into the country by international NGOs like Save the Children's Fund, Help Age etc.

However, for those who have the means and wish to have social work practice in Ghana, GASOW could arrange for placement in any social work

institution. This arrangement also applies to students who want to have their field work in Ghana. Three students from Dortmund, Germany, are expected to have three months practical field work in Ghana in 1994. A warm welcome awaits them.

Mobilizing Resources for Sustainable Development

The 5th Annual Conference of the St. John's Hopkins International Fellows Philanthropy was held in Accra in July 1993. The theme which was "Mobilizing Resources for Sustainable Development", brought together policy makers, researchers, representatives of funding agencies and local and foreign NGOs.



Samuel Komierter, Ghana Association of Social Workers, is active in the IFSW-work as Vice President for Africa.

IFSW-News from North America

USA

Delegate Assembly

NASW's elected representatives from its 55 chapters met in Washington, DC, in August. The 299 delegates who participated in the triennial Delegate Assembly laid the groundwork for changes to the NASW Code of Ethics, social work policy statements, and the association's program goals. Changes to the Code of Ethics address questions about "dual relationships" between social workers and clients and about professionals whose functioning is impaired by substance abuse or other problems. The changes will take effect 1 July, 1994. Seven new or revised policy statements were adopted, including client self-determination in end-of-life decisions, managed care, AIDS/HIV, third-party reimbursement and consumer choice, lesbian and gay issues, peace and social justice, and economic policy.

Health Care

NASW continues to make health care reform its top priority. The Clinton Administration has proposed legislation using a "managed competition" approach, but it incorporates a number of elements of the "single-payer" model advocated by NASW.

Projects on Violence

NASW has received a grant from USAID to fund a new project aimed at educating social workers and the general public about violence and international development. Five NASW chapters will house centers responding to different development-related themes: poverty, ethnicity, family structure, substance abuse, and trauma. Launched by the association's Office of Peace and International Affairs in September, the project's activities will include development of curriculum modules on each theme, a nationwide "teach-in" at schools of social work, and a teleconference during NASW's annual conference in 1995.

International Innovations Transfer

"Effective Strategies for Increasing Social Program Replication/Adaption", a recently published report based on a seminar held at NASW in June, summarizes the practical aspects of transferring good social program technologies and seeks to prompt new thinking on social innovations transfer.

The seminar featured a keynote address by Lisbeth Schorr, author of "Within Our Reach" and lecturer in social medicine at Harvard University. To obtain a copy of the report, contact Eileen McGowan Kelly, NASW, 750 First Street, NE, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20002. The fee per copy is 10 US dollars.

*Gail MacDougall, IFSW Vice President
for North America.*

Canada

1995 Summit for Social Development

CASW and other Canadian NGOs met to discuss their involvement in the preparatory process as well as in the actual summit for social development in Copenhagen, March 1995. The organizations will explore how best the Canadian NGO community can face this challenge.

Linkages with NASW

As it has been the practice in the last few years, the CASW President and Executive Director were invited to attend the NASW Annual Conference. Various issues of interest to both associations were also discussed.

Policy on Indigenous People

CASW submitted a paper to IFSW as a contribution toward the IFSW Policy on Indigenous People. The document was prepared by Marily James, Shelly Manuel and Lisa Allgaier.

1993 Election Campaign

During the 1993 election campaign CASW took a very active role in writing to the major political parties to express concern over the future of the Canadian health care system, social welfare programs and income security. As member of several national coalitions, CASW participated in various fronts aiming at expressing our association's concerns on social issues.

Services to Immigrants in Rural Areas

A new bill from the Government relates to the Immigration Act, requiring that immigrants/refugees settle in a community needing their skills, mostly remote or rural areas. CASW has made a proposal directed at how the implementation of the bill will affect individuals, families and communities.



IFSW-News from Europe

Denmark

Solidarity Funds

This autumn the Danish Association received a colleague from the Chilean Association in accordance with the 1990 exchange agreement between the two associations. This activity is supported by the Solidarity Funds of the Danish Association which gets its income from a portion of the membership fee that all Danish social workers pay to the Association.

Since the existence of the funds, aid activities for social worker's associations in developing countries have also been carried out. The funds will also be the source of new initiative to sponsor the reprint of a number of copies of the IFSW/UN Manual *"Teaching and Learning about Human Rights"*, which since first publication has been difficult to obtain. Copies will be distributed to associations in the developing countries during the coming months. The Danish Association is also working to distribute a set of copies for Eastern and Central European colleagues.

HIV/AIDS and Social Work

Acting on the initiative of the "Liaison Committee of the Associations of Social Workers in the Nordic Countries" (often referred to as the 'Nordic Group') the Danish Association is presently planning the first ever International Seminar on HIV/AIDS and Social Work to be held in Denmark in late summer or early autumn 1995.

The seminar will focus on people affected by HIV and suffering from AIDS, including a special look at the human rights' aspect. It will also provide a possibility for social workers from all over the world to meet, exchange experiences, and, thus, aim at providing the public with another non-medical view on AIDS. It is the intention of the organisers that social workers, volunteers in AIDS care and people suffering from the effects of AIDS should meet and share their views and experiences of working together for better conditions for people affected by AIDS. Further information can be obtained from the Danish Association, Fax: + 45 33 91 30 69.

Finland

With sense and heart

In October 1993 the Finnish Association organized an action day to tell politicians and media about social work in times of recession. The slogans used were "Values to their right places - with sense and heart" and "Hold on to social security!" Social workers met the public, informing about their work. In addition, local leaders were met by social workers to discuss social policy, social services and social security. The main activity was a demonstration in front of the Parliament.

Work Load up 30 %, Salaries Down 10 %?

Due to crisis in Finnish society, the work load for social workers has increased by at least 30 %. During the last six months, the number of clients entitled to social assistance has increased 16 %. As an answer to the crisis the government has proposed to decrease salaries for central and local government employees 10 %. The Finnish Association is ready to accept a freeze on wages, but not the proposed reduction. Negotiations are expected to be difficult.

France

1er semestre 1994

Session de perfectionnement sur les "Enquêtes sociales"; ce terme général en effet, recouvre une multiplicité d'investigations des assistants sociaux pour des problèmes très divers qui ne sont pas toujours forcément de leur ressort; cette session aura pour but de clarifier notamment les notions d'évaluation sociale, d'enquête, de rapport, et d'aider nos collègues à se situer très professionnellement dans les actes de cette sorte.

30, 31 mai et 1er juin 1994, à Paris

Session de service sociaux du travail, "Evaluer pour Evoluer".

- Le dernier numero de l'année 1993 de la Revue Française de Service Social sera consacré à: Relations Interculturelles et Travail Social.

Activities in ANAS

In the first half of 1994, a session will be held on developing the "Social Inquiry" instrument. The instrument includes a number of areas, which are not always seen as social work. The session aims at clarifying the differences between evaluation, inquiry and report, and will aid social workers in performing a more professional role.

- From 30 May to 1 June, 1994, another session will take place in Paris, called "Evaluate for Developing"

- The latest edition of the journal of the French association concentrated on "Intercultural Relations in Social Work".

IFSW-News from Europe

Germany

Solidarity Pact

The Government has launched a Solidarity Pact in its course to finance the cost of German unification, to fight recession and to retrench what Chancellor Kohl in his critic of the German social state has coined "The Collective Amusement Park Germany". Measures include tax increases, but also further restrictions and cuts in benefits for the unemployed and welfare dependents, forced privatization of health costs coverage, introduction of coercive labour for welfare recipients, second class in-kind benefits for asylum seekers, etc. Those and other measures of social exclusion severely hit all social work clients, especially low income families, young people and the soaring number of the unemployed and poor.

A record unemployment figure of more than 3.5 million has been reported in October, i.e. 8.4 % in Western and 16.2 % in Eastern Germany. 22 % of the women in Eastern Germany are currently out of jobs, women for whom unemployment has not been existent until unification.

In effect, "Solidarity Pact" boils down to a euphemism for continuing spending cutbacks in all social work related areas. With these events, social workers again begin to realize the growing need to act stronger politically in their *fight for true solidarity*.

Ireland

IFSW European Seminar in 1997

The Irish Association is hoping to welcome colleagues from around Europe to Ireland in 1997. The IASW will be putting forward a formal proposal to the next European Regional Delegates meeting to host the 1997 IFSW European Regional Seminar in Dublin. Preliminary discussions have taken place, and the size of the task ahead is being mapped out, a process with which past IFSW seminar hosts are doubtless only too familiar!

Joint-Conference in Dublin

The IASW is joining with the British Association in organising a conference in Dublin 24-25 March 1994. The theme is "Looking towards Europe - Social Work and Social Justice".

Homosexuality decriminalized

The Irish Government has decriminalized homosexuality. The new law creates a common age consent of 17 years for heterosexual or homosexual activity.

Condoms to all

At last, condoms are available in Ireland to all. It took the arrival of AIDS and the reclassification of the condom as an instrument for preventing the spread of disease, rather than preventing a pregnancy, for the legislation to pass unopposed through the Irish legislature.

IFSW Liaison Committee for Social Workers in the EU

Just prior to the highly successful European Seminar in Debrecen, Hungary the IFSW Liaison Committee met in connection with the European Regional Delegates Meeting. In accordance with the development in Europe and in anticipation of the impact of the European Economic Agreement (EEA), the Delegates Meeting and the Liaison Committee Meeting merged on a number of agenda items to share ideas and debate.

Social workers in Europe share a concern for the development of all parts of Europe. These past years unemployment, social exclusion, public unrest and lately tragic conflicts in parts of the region, has clearly called for the attention and indeed concern of social workers. The ensuing impact on ordinary people's lives in the shape of racism, the attempts to cut or even destruct welfare and social security is a focus of social workers in Europe.

The meeting decided to devote future time and energy to work on issues related to children's rights, social exclusion, migration (incl. refugees) and problems of family life in this changing climate. Attention to the possibilities of mutual recognition (in accordance with an EU Directive) was clear and it was decided to call a special meeting about social workers in Europe, and about changes in the basic training and post graduate study possibilities.

Israel

Israeli and Palestinian Cooperation

The peace agreement between Israel and PLO took us all by surprise. The Israel Association has already set up a special force to examine co-operation between Israeli social workers (particularly though not exclusively Arab Israel social workers) and Palestinian social workers in the autonomous area to be established.

Visit by a High Ranking IFSW Delegation

The biennial national conference with 1.800 delegates took place in Jerusalem in the spring. For the first time, we were honoured by the presence of a high ranking IFSW delegation: Andrew Mouravieff-Apostol, Eilish Walsh, Tom Johannesen and Eila Malmström. The IFSW delegation spent a week in Israel and toured the country, visiting social work agencies and institutions.

Clients in National Decision-Making

Two years ago the Israel Association launched a new project to increase the inclusion of clients in national decision-making forums. So far the project has successfully set up a national organization of all the 90 neighbourhoods included in the government's "Project Renewal" (an urban renewal programme), which has twice prevented national budget cuts in the programme. It has also set up a forum of health service clients which is taking part in the process of formulating a new national health service.

Sweden

Violence at Work

The social welfare climate in Sweden has changed dramatically over the last few years with drastic cuts in the social security systems, unemployment insurance, occupational injury insurance, health insurance etc. The work load of social workers has doubled - sometimes trippled. At the same time local governments have made cuts in public spending, resulting in unemployment also for social workers. The cuts have resulted in an increase in conflict situations - violent attacks or threats directed at social workers or their families. The union for social workers, SSR, has spent a lot of time and effort tackling the problems of violence in social work, and it has given results - new binding directives on Violence at Work.

State Certificate for Social Workers

SSR has been fighting for a State Certificate for social workers since 1958. A parliamentary committee has been set up to look into the whole system of authorization. The reason for an authorization is to give the client some sort of guarantee that the social worker meets the professional standards.

Portugal

Exchange Programme with Hungary

The Portuguese Association has established an exchange programme with Hungarian colleagues. Following the European Seminar in August, a Portuguese delegation visited the region of Nyregyhaza. In April 1994, a group of social work teachers from the region will go to Portugal.

1995 IFSW European Seminar

Next year, Portugal will host the IFSW European Seminar, 27-30 April in Lisbon. An agreement will be set up with ICSW to make this a joint project, and the theme will be "Human Rights and Social Action". So far, the draft programme includes e.g. presentations on "Human Rights in a World of Migration", "Social Exclusion and Excluded People - the World of No Rights" and "The Citizen - Actor and Co-Actor in a Society of Rights".

If you want to be on the mailing list for this exciting event, please address Associacao de Profissionais de Servico Social, Av. Casal Ribério 37 - 1, P-1000 Lisboa, Portugal.

Friends of IFSW approach 200

The IFSW Friends programme continues to grow and now includes 185 individuals and organizations in 22 countries, providing many new readers of the Newsletter, which Friends receive in addition to:

- * *Discount registration rates and a Friends reception at IFSW international symposia*
- * *IFSW Publications at reduces rates or free*
- * *A certificate of recognition*
- * *The IFSW "gold" Friends pin*
- * *Other information*

The Friends programme is important to IFSW for many reasons. It provides another platform for the Federation to achieve our purposes:

- * *Promote social work as a profession*
- * *Support national associations*
- * *Facilitate contacts between social workers*
- * *Present the viewpoints of the profession on an international level*

Equally important, it also links social workers, social work students and others to our activities, giving increased possibilities to support and participate in international social work.

In this edition of the Newsletter we have included the Friends invitational brochure as an insert, offering you the opportunity to register or, if you are a Friend already, invite a colleague to link with International Social Work.

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General Meeting and Executive Committee 1994

The Executive Committee of IFSW will hold its 1994 meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka 4-5 July, to be followed by the General Meeting 6-8 July and the IFSW 1994 World Conference 9-13 July. The General Meeting has not been held in Asia since Tokyo 1986. The Executive's last meeting in Asia took place in Singapore in 1989.

FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

IFSW thanks contributors for donations to IFSW Funds

Suzanne Dworak-Peck, in memory of
Margaret Dewhurst's parents

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

Beginning this edition, the IFSW Newsletter is now open for advertisements. Targetting influential social workers and social work organizations globally, we believe the Newsletter is an important communication tool for advertisers wanting to reach an international audience. The present level of distribution exceeds 1000 copies, and is growing rapidly.

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

Deadlines for 1994 are March 20, August 20 and November 10 for the April, 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*
See page 4 in this Newsletter.

Lisbon, Portugal 27-30 April 1995

European Seminar: *Human Rights and Social Action*
See page 10 in this Newsletter.

Diary of Events 1994

Dublin, Ireland, 24-25 March

First joint conference British Association of Social Workers (Northern Ireland) and Irish Association of Social Workers: *Looking towards Europe - Social Work and Social Justice*

München, Germany, 5-8 April

International Conference in cooperation with the UN-IYF Secretariat: *Counselling in the Family*

Hong Kong, 18-21 April

International Conference on Family and Community Care

Jerusalem, Israel, 29 May - 1 June

Israel Ministry of Science and Technology, International Conference: *The Family on the Threshold of the 21st Century: Trends and Implications*

Cardiff, Wales, UK, 28 June - 2 July

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

Tampere, Finland, 3-7 July

26th International Conference of ICSW: *Global Welfare '94: The Fight against Poverty and Inequality on a World Level*

Kandy, Sri Lanka, 3-8 July

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

Curacao, Netherlands Antilles, 24-29 July

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

Potsdam, Germany 11-16 September

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*

Hartford, Connecticut, USA 27-30 October

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

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.

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