



IFSW



NEWSLETTER

No. 2 - 1993



SRI LANKA 1994:
THE SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION:
A FAMILY UNITED IN TROUBLED TIMES

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

TOWARD A MORE INFLUENTIAL GLOBAL VOICE

What is IFSW doing for you and your association? How are we moving forward?

The challenge before us today is to build a stronger, more influential IFSW with a relevant and timely global voice that is capable of initiating programs, impacting policy, advancing values and ethical principles, and developing professional social work associations around the world for the benefit of our clients, our profession, and society.

This is a very action-oriented period. Some highlights include:
The Executive Committee met in Budapest late August. Many ground breaking positions were taken by our well informed committee (Please see page 4).

Colombo, Sri Lanka has been reaffirmed as the venue for the next World Conference scheduled for July, 1994. Finland, Sri Lanka's twinning partner, will lend expertise to maximize the success of this endeavour. The Sri Lanka Association of Professional Social Workers welcomes the support and participation of all associations in this effort.

Social workers from Eastern, Central and Western Europe and beyond joined in Debrecen, Hungary to share experiences, collaborate and exchange information on poverty in Europe. The act of coming together after many decades of being literally forced apart gives us reason to celebrate. Our diversity in cultures, traditions, and social policy backgrounds adds new dimensions to our perspective, to our ways of seeing. Now with minds open and united we can empower and support each other. The Hungarian and Norwegian Associations of Social Workers, provided the initiative and commitment that contributed to broad success of this IFSW European Regional seminar. The Ukrainian Association of Social Pedagogues and Specialists in Social Work has since applied for IFSW membership.

All of Africa will meet in March, 1994 in Alexandria, Egypt for a Pan-African Conference. It is hoped that this opportunity, will stimulate the development of Social work associations and bring many more African nations and social workers together within IFSW.

I am confident that our future will continue to yield positive results.

Los Angeles, October 1993

Suzanne Dworak-Peck
President

THE IFSW NEWSLETTER MOVES AHEAD

A small survey conducted by our Vice-President for North-America, Gail MacDougall, this summer showed that while readers find the Newsletter informative and easy to read, we have many challenging and interesting options for further development.

More illustrations is one wish, another more coverage of IFSW activities. We have also noted suggestions for profiles on member associations and social work in different countries, book reviews, "themes" issues and more translation. To increase the distribution to individual social workers as well as to agencies is deemed important. Increased participation by a new Editorial Committee established by the Executive will assist the Secretariat in achieving these goals.

Based upon a new Executive Committee decision we will now accept advertising, and an advertisement policy is being developed. Another option will be to develop and distribute information to member associations and others on how their contributions can maximize the development of the Newsletter.

The Newsletter is therefore moving ahead with your support.

Oslo, October 1993

Tom Johannesen
Secretary General

Evelyn
Balais Serrano
nominated for
Human Rights Prize

The IFSW Executive Committee nominated at its meeting in Budapest in August Evelyn Balais Serrano from the Philippines for the 1993 United Nations Human Rights Prize. The Prize is awarded at five-year intervals, celebrating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Evelyn Balais Serrano, who is the IFSW Human Rights Commissioner for Asia and the Pacific, has for many years been actively involved in human rights in the Philippines and internationally.

Since 1992 she has served as Secretary General of the Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates, an umbrella organization for about 100 human rights groups in the country.

She has also served the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines for many years, and was one of the contributors to the UN-IFSW-IASSW Manual for Schools of Social Work and the Social Work Profession "Teaching and Learning about Human Rights".

Front Page:

The host of the 1994 IFSW World Conference, SLAPSW, was visited by the IFSW President in July, 1993
Photo: TJ

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WORLD CONFERENCE 1994

COLOMBO - SRI LANKA



An IFSW delegation of three visited Sri Lanka in July 1993 to discuss the preparations for the World Conference. As part of the visit the delegation was received by the President of Sri Lanka, D.B. Wijetunga (From the left): Dr. Dudley Dissanayake, SLAPSW President, President D.B. Wijetunga, Suzanne Dworak-Peck, IFSW President and Margaret Dewhurst, IFSW Treasurer. Photo by Tom Johannesen, IFSW Secretary General.

The IFSW Executive Committee reaffirmed during its meeting in Budapest in August that the Sri Lanka Association of Professional Social Workers, SLAPSW, will host the IFSW World Conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka 9-13 July, 1994. The theme of the Conference is "The Social Work Profession: A Family United in Troubled Times", and preparations are for the moment intensive in SLAPSW to provide and distribute the advance programme, scheduled before the end of October 1993.

As the advance programme is being finalized and changes can occur, we note that six intensive training workshops are planned on the following topics: Conflict Resolution; Children in Adverse Situations; Poverty Alleviation and Women; Social Work, AIDS and Drugs; Rehabilitation of Disabled, and Aging in Caring Society.

Keynote addresses

are planned to be presented under the following headlines: How the World was one, Beyond the Global Village; The Human Service Profession of Social Work and Families and Children in Troubled Times - International Perspectives. Mini-Plenaries will concentrate on subjects like Age Related Issues and Health; Families and Children; Development and Environment; Regional Perspectives in Social Work and the UN Summit on Social Development.

Net-Working sessions

will be available on specific subjects based on the different regions, and an International Social Work Exhibition is planned. Field Visits and Home Hospitality will be offered, and optional study or tourist visits to parts of Sri Lanka outside the capital Colombo, the Maldives or South India. These visits can conclude an interesting journey to "The Resplendent Isle".

Please send your abstract proposals to:

Social Workers World Conference,
The Secretariat,
191, Dharmapala Mawatha,
Colombo 7, Sri Lanka.
Tel: (94) 1 - 689202/689203,
Fax: (94) 1 - 689159/328117

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING



The IFSW Executive Committee met at Pension Villa Rosa in Budapest, Hungary 26-28 August 1993. At this first meeting ever in Central and Eastern Europe, many items were discussed and new development sought for IFSW.

Concern had been raised regarding hosting our 1994 conference in Colombo. After thorough and open discussion the Executive Committee reaffirmed Sri Lanka as venue.

A productive agenda

Among other items on the agenda were Reports from Officers, Representatives and others, IFSW Finances, Transition of the Secretariat from Geneva to Oslo, Membership, Committee Development, Friends, IFSW Policy Papers, Ethical Issues, Cooperation with IASSW and ICSW, and Human Rights. Hong Kong also confirmed their invitation to host the 1996 World Conference.

Expanding membership globally

Targetted plans will be developed to expand IFSW membership globally. The Friends program, considered to be very important in many respects, will be reinforced. A new Student Friend rate was introduced as well as a system for incentives to member associations active in promoting the programme.

Developing the financial platform

The Executive Committee also decided to develop a long-term plan for increasing the non-dues revenue and involve IFSW more in projects both to promote social work and developing the federation's financial platform. A new approach to international conferences in terms of supporting this platform was also introduced, and will operate beginning in 1994.

Human Rights

Human Rights were also part of the Executive Committee debate, partly focused on complex and difficult cases where violence is involved. A paper presented by the Human Rights Commission on this subject was considered, and the present policy including gradation of intervention dependent upon the particular issue, was supported.

Next meeting in Sri Lanka

A decision to hold the next Executive Committee meeting immediately prior to the General Meeting and World Conference in Sri Lanka 1994, concluded three intensive work days and the first meeting in Europe since 1988.

NORTH-AMERICA

GOOD SERVICE TO THE CANADIAN MEMBERS

The Canadian Association of Social Workers completed a challenging 1992-93 fiscal year. One of the most important activities was the second Delegate Assembly. This was not only for the CASW Board to consult with representatives of member organizations but for provincial Presidents, Executive Directors and Licensing authorities to meet with their colleagues and for a major consultation on Continuing Education for Social Workers to be held.

The list of association activities and services to members in the past year includes Individual Services, Publications/Communications, Research Projects, International Activities, Social Policy, Finance, Long-term planning, Standards of Practice, Education, Language Policy, Private Practice and HIV/AIDS.

Among the highlights are a new registry of social workers in private practice, projects on Domestic Violence and on Elder Abuse among Minority Groups, preparing a national conference on HIV/AIDS, a campaign to express concern regarding the entry restrictions to Canada for people who are HIV positive, and a review/revision of the Code of Ethics.

SOCIAL WORKERS VOICE GROWING IN THE USA

A plan for national health care reform will soon be introduced to Congress, and NASW has been following its development closely. NASW has called for significant changes in the way health care is currently provided and paid for, and although the final proposal will likely fall short of NASW's ideal, the new plan will go far toward ensuring universal coverage, preventive care, and cost control. The Task Force solicited the input of a wide variety of individuals and institutions, including NASW and its representatives, in formulating its proposal.

Social Workers have a growing voice in other aspects of government as well; five social workers have been appointed assistant secretary and one deputy secretary by President Clinton.

NASW's Delegate Assembly met in Washington, DC, in August and passed policy statements on social and professional issues, made changes to the Code of Ethics and bylaws, and set broad program goals for the next three years. New or revised policy statements addressed end-of-life decisions, managed care, AIDS/HIV, third-party reimbursement, lesbian and gay issues, peace and social justice, and economic policy and will be published in the third edition of *Social Work Speaks* in January 1994. Changes to the Code of Ethics sought to clarify "dual relationships" by substance abuse or other problems.

Preparations are gearing up for "Social Work '93", the association's national conference in Orlando, Florida, on November 3-6. Assistant Secretary for Aging and social worker Fernando Torres-Gil will deliver the opening plenary address, and the closing plenary speaker is Carl Rowan, journalist and author. Full institutes will address such subjects as violence, testifying before legislative bodies, lobbying state and federal policy makers, working in the managed care field, aiding victims of natural disasters and mass murders, and providing school-linked services.

IFSW-News - EUROPE

SOCIAL WORKERS IN UKRAINE APPLY FOR IFSW-MEMBERSHIP



The Ukrainian Association of Social Pedagogues and Specialists in Social Work may be member association No. 56 in IFSW.

Their application was submitted at the European Seminar in Hungary in August, and is expected to be presented to the member associations in a postal ballot this autumn. The association has 452 members and is growing rapidly.

Representatives of the Ukrainian Association of Social Pedagogues and Specialists in Social Work, Vladimir Sidorov and Irina Zvereva with IFSW Secretary General Tom Johannesen in Russia, May 1993.

FINLAND

The Finnish Association is expecting a busy autumn with two major events: The General Assembly in November and negotiations concerning salaries, taxes and social policy. The bid from the employers in the public sector so far is a cut in salaries by 10 % for 1994-95. Recession has already doubled the load of social workers.

GERMANY

The process of integration between eastern and western Germany is becoming more and more visible. Social work tasks and social work education were present in the former GDR, but professional organizations were not allowed to exist. They developed quickly after the Wall broke down, and both German social workers associations DBS and BSH, whose roots go back to 1916, now have lively chapters in the east.

The two associations continue their quest for unification, and negotiations are taking place. Schools of social work and departments of social work are present in all the five eastern states. There is great demand for basic social work training as well as for continuing education.

FRANCE

Actuellement il y a une réflexion très généralisée sur la réforme des études. Les opinions sont très divergentes. Les associations professionnelles, le comité d'entente des écoles de service social y compris les principaux employeurs des travailleurs sociaux pensent que les travailleurs sociaux ne sont pas assez formés pour répondre aux demandes.

An educational reform is widely discussed, and the opinions differ a lot. The professional organizations and the co-operating committee for the schools of social work have conveyed to the main employers of social workers that social work education is not answering present demands.

SWITZERLAND

Also Switzerland is experiencing recession. The rate of poverty is over 10%, mainly striking one-parent families and elderly people. Restrictions on social security is provoking new problems in a situation where unemployment is higher than since the 1930s. Over 40 % of the unemployed are under 30 years old, forming a challenge to social workers in a country unprepared for this situation.

SUCCESSFUL SEMINAR IN DEBRECEN, HUNGARY: POVERTY IN THE EUROPEAN HOUSE

Over 700 social workers from 42 countries gathered in Debrecen, Hungary, 22-24 August for the IFSW European Seminar: Poverty in the European House. For the first time ever, social workers from the Central and Eastern Europe formed the majority of the participants in this first joint venture between two member associations, the Hungarian and the Norwegian. As much as 100 workshops were presented in addition to the plenary presentations, and field visits brought participants not only to Hungary but to the Slovak Republic and Ukraine also.



CONFERENCES

UN WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS



The IFSW Human Rights Commissioner for Europe, Elis Envall, and one of the IFSW Representatives to UN in Vienna, Rosa Logar, represented IFSW at the UN World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, 14-25 June -93. Present and representing her own agency was also the IFSW Human Rights Commissioner for Asia and the Pacific, Evelyn Balais Serrano.

Two IFSW Statements

The report from the Conference, including two statements from IFSW and a special report on the Global Tribunal on Violations of Women's Human Rights, is available from the IFSW Secretariat in Oslo.

2600 delegates - 1700 NGOs

More than 2600 delegates representing over 1700 NGOs took part in the NGO-forum, which started 10 June and continued throughout the Conference. The International NGO's made statements on Exploitation and slavery, Ethical and moral aspects on Human Rights, Education, NGO access to the UN, and Lesbian and Gay Rights.

Rigoberta Menchú: A Decade of Indigenous People

A highlight of the Conference was the speech delivered on the Day of Indigenous People by the last year's Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Rigoberta Menchú, who demanded a Decade of Indigenous Peoples and warned of possible escalation of ethnic violence.

INTERNATIONAL FAMILY YEAR PREPARATIONS IN TUNIS



President of the Union of Social Professions in Egypt and Member of the IFSW Executive Committee Abd El Monssef H. Hozaien in Tunis for the UN Africa and Western Asia Preparatory Meeting for the International Year of the Family.

When the year of Indigenous People comes to an end 10 December, we will begin the International Year of the Family. Abd El Monssef H. Hozaien represented IFSW in the UN Africa and Western Asia preparatory meeting in Tunis 29 March - 2 April.

In the "Declaration of Tunis", issued after the meeting, the participants list in 17 subsections the conclusions they reached. Among them a call upon all fathers and mothers of the world to socialize and educate their children in the respect and dignity of individuals, without distinction of sex, age, race or social status, in order to prepare them to be responsible citizens of civic and democratic societies.

THE FUTURE OF DISABLED CHILDREN IN THE BALTIC STATES

IFSW - represented by Ellen Mouravieff-Apostol - joined Christian Children's Fund and the International Catholic Child Bureau in the organisation of a Seminar on "The Future of Children with Disabilities in the Baltic States" which took place in Vilnius, 6-11 June 1993.

Intensive programme

45 health, education and welfare specialists from the three Baltic states, together with 27 international experts and representatives of international NGOs worked through an intensive 5-day programme culminating in the findings and recommendations of 5 working groups on the prevention of disability, work with families of disabled children, school services for the disabled child, vocational programmes for disabled youth, and the physical and psycho-social rehabilitation of children with mobility problems.

Concrete projects and valuable contacts

It is usually difficult to quantify the results of such a meeting, but in this particular case it appears to have seeded a number of concrete projects and established valuable contacts and partnerships. Being well focused on a particular theme and circumscribed to a relatively small geographical area, the seminar was able to make headway in a variety of areas

from the tackling of attitudes to the training of prosthetic technicians. The Norwegian Association of Social Workers' Hanne Luthen appraised the Seminar of Norway's ongoing shift from institutionalization of the disabled to the provision of care within the community.

Many contributors

The Lyon-based (France) Handicap International as well as World Disability (USA) provided technical input, and Germany's Lebenshilfe presented ways to strengthen self-help.

US disability specialists delivered proof how disability can be overcome, and UNICEF and WHO-Europe technical assistance. The World Bank and UNICEF contributed financially. Local professionals exchanged experiences in an atmosphere of mutual learning.

Follow up meeting in Latvia 1994

The work of the Seminar was based on research carried out in the three Baltic countries and the resulting documents. These, and specially a shorter consolidated document setting out the findings in all three countries, can be ordered from the IFSW Secretariat. A follow-up meeting in Latvia is foreseen for 1994.

IFSW TEAM - UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

The IFSW Team to UN in New York, headed by Dr. Celia B. Weisman, reports that this has been a period marked by many significant meetings, all of which are facing issues still to be resolved as we approach the 21st century. A number of UN meetings are in the planning phase, and they seem to cut across many of the issues that are of great concern to social workers.

The International Year of the Family (IYF) is being planned for 1994, with its preparatory phase culminating in a World NGO Forum to be held in Malta, 28 November - 2 December, 1993.

The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) is scheduled for Cairo in September, 1994.

The Commission on the Status of Women is already planning preparatory meetings for the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing, 1995.

Many humanitarian issues that IFSW promotes are reflected by these meetings. They also suggest a facet of the UN which is more people focussed. It should be noted that the UN is undergoing rapid change and reorganization which may have implications for the work of the NGOs.

The new emphasis is on decentralization, with the NGOs in individual countries achieving more collaboration and integration. This implies that IFSW associations will be more involved with other NGOs in their countries.

UNICEF

Our newest member of the team is Thelma Stackhouse, a social worker with many years of experience. She has been active with UNICEF before she joined with IFSW.

She reports that the activities of UNICEF continue to be guided by two benchmark documents for children - *Convention on the Rights of the Child* and the *World Summit Plan of Action*.

As of April 1993, an unprecedented 134 countries had ratified the Convention, and UNICEF has now issued a call for universal ratification by 1995. IFSW associations are urged to support their countries' efforts to provide for children those conditions needed for their well being and growth as spelled out in the articles of the Convention.

**Find out what is happening
in your country and make your presence
and your position felt!**

IFSW is also involved in planning a Central American Conference to be held 8-12 November, 1993 in Antigua, Guatemala for NGOs on the topic of *Advancing the Rights of Children: Call to Action for NGOs*.

NGO Committee on Sustainable Development

This committee is very involved with the priorities of the new UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). Highest on the list of challenges for CSD are: Eradication of poverty and hunger, greater equity in income distribution, and human resource development.

Bert Weinert, IFSW representative, has noted that supporting government approaches to sustainability is translated into empowering local community groups, generating full employment, and establishing primary and maternal health care for all - values that are very basic to the social work profession.

NGO Committee on South Africa

G. Winifred Kagwa, UN Team member, reports on the

Fourth Annual Conference of the NGO Committee on Southern Africa, which took place 6 May 1993 at UN Headquarters. "Building the New Southern Africa: Apartheid and Destabilization - Challenges to Development" was the theme. The focus of that Committee has been the elimination of apartheid in South Africa, and the encouragement of peaceful transformation of that country into a non-racial, democratic society.

NGO Committee on the Status of Women

In the years since the Nairobi Conference on Women, ongoing efforts in the area of health care for women have been made by such organizations as WHO, UNDP, ILO, UNICEF, UNIFEM, and the Population division of the Dept. of Economic and Social Affairs.

Today, the NGO Committee on Women (IFSW represented by Rose S. Rosen) has been one of the most outspoken in the current conference at the UN in preparation for ICPD, Cairo, 1994.

The Women's Committee has urged the Conference to examine, expand and carry forward efforts to improve women's health world-wide.

The definition of health, as delineated, is not just the absence of disease, but the incorporation of all aspects of a woman's life which lead to well-being: Improving educational opportunities, improving living and working conditions, improving access to methods of fertility regulation, and eliminating laws and practices which deny women basic human rights.

For social workers throughout the world, the message is a clear one. Within the framework of any social delivery system, we should be keenly aware of their opportunity to

- 1) Involve women in funding efforts so that they can effect policy,
- 2) Involve women and girls in the education process so they can learn about family planning, good health and access to health services and methods of fertility regulation,
- 3) Bring women into conscious awareness of the laws and practices which deny them basic human rights.

NGO Committee on Peace and Disarmament

New Realities: Disarmament, Peacebuilding and Global Security was the title of an international conference held at UN, April 1993. The meeting noted that 3 historic tasks face the world in the post cold war: 1) to undo the armament legacy of the cold war; 2) to strengthen the UN based security system; and 3) to address non military sources of insecurity.

International Conference on Population and Development - Cairo, 1994

This conference has expanded its title to include development. It has as its mandate to address the themes of population, economic growth and sustainability. Addressing population issues within their development perspective is a new approach for the UN and should be of great interest for IFSW.

Just a few UN statistics which highlight why the population issue is of such great importance. There are now 5.5 billion people in the world, and global population is growing at a rate of a quarter of a million per day. By the year 2020 the combined population of Asia and Africa will be 6 to 8 billion, more than now live on our planet - and the single greatest threat to our planet's health.

The 12th Annual NGO-UN Population Consultation to organize for the Cairo Conference was held in April, 1993. David Roth's report on this as well as the complete report from our team to UN in New York is available on request from the IFSW Secretariat in Oslo.

FRIENDS OF IFSW DOUBLED SINCE APRIL

In the April edition of the Newsletter we reported 69 Friends of IFSW. Since then, the number has doubled. 141 Friends from 18 different countries have now linked with IFSW and International Social Work. They are not only supporting our activities financially but also forming an international network dedicated to the aims of IFSW. The Friends booklet is available in four new languages in addition to English: Finnish, French, German and Portuguese. For an annual cost of 45 American Dollars or an equivalent amount in other currencies, friends are entitled to:

- * Discount registration rates and Friends reception at IFSW international symposia
- * The IFSW Newsletter three times a year
- * IFSW Publications at reduced rates or free
- * A Certificate of Recognition
- * The IFSW "Gold" Friends Pin
- * Other information

If you want to know more or register as a Friend, you can use the following:

To: International Federation of Social Workers
P.O. Box 4649, Sofienberg
N-0506 OSLO NORWAY

☐ YES, I want to register as a Friend of IFSW
I am enclosing USD 45.00/
Please send me an invoice for USD 45.00

☐ YES, please send me more information about
the IFSW Friends Programme

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Postal Code:

Country:

IFSW
Friends
The Symbol of
Professional Commitment to
International Social Work



IFSW CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS 1994

Alexandria, Egypt March 1994

Pan-African Conference: *The Social Effects taken from the Programme of Economical Reform and how to rebuild the Structure of Africa*

Colombo, Sri Lanka 9-13 July 1994

World Conference: *The Social Work Profession: A Family United in Troubled Times*
See page 3 in this Newsletter

1995

Lisbon, Portugal 27-30 April 1995

European Seminar: *Social Action and Human Rights*

DIARY OF EVENTS 1993

Antigua, Guatemala, 8-12 November

Central American Conference for NGOs: *Advancing the Rights of Children: Call to Action for NGO's*

Turin, Italy, 11-13 November

The European Regional group of IASSW:
Social Work Education for a Changing Europe

Lisbon, Portugal, 25-27 November

Annual Congress of the European Regional Council,
World Federation for Mental Health: *The Reform of Mental Health Service. Current Perspectives in Europe.*

Valletta, Malta, 28 November - 2 December

World NGO Forum Launching the International Year of the Family: *Promoting Families for the Well-Being of Individuals and Societies*

Warsaw, Poland, 1-4 December

ICSW European region: *Social Problems, Social Development and Community Response*

Valletta, Malta, 14-16 December

International Conference marking the European Year of Older People: *Active Ageing in the 21st Century*

1994

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*

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*

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.