



international federation of social workers

Newsletter

Secretariat: 33, rue de l'Athénée, 1206 Geneva, Switzerland, Tel. (22) 347 12 36, Fax: (22) 346 86 57 November 1992

NEW ADDRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS as of January 1, 1993

P.O. Box 4649, Sofienberg
N-0506 OSLO, Norway
Tel.: 47 2 40 11 52 - Fax: 47 2 40 11 14

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is a tremendous honour to serve IFSW as an incoming President - particularly when I consider the caliber of leadership that my predecessor Gayle Gilchrist James provided. With great style and sensitivity she represented IFSW by enhancing and encouraging global solidarity. Also, she always understood her responsibility to individual social workers like you and me, who stand for and carry out, the values of our profession every day.

The unique combination of dedicated leaders like Gayle and her predecessors; a highly experienced, skilled and committed Secretary General and Associate Secretary General of many years, Andrew and Ellen Mouravieff-Apostol; and the hard work of so many leaders of associations, made IFSW what it is today.

The foundation built by these leaders enables IFSW to link social workers around the globe. IFSW represents 54 social work organizations from different countries in all parts of the world. Thanks to the contributions of so many over the years, IFSW is poised for continued growth and organizational development.

Andy and Ellen will continue to share their expertise until January 1, 1993, at which time our newly appointed Secretary General Designate, Tom Johannesen, will join the team. Andrew Mouravieff-Apostol is our new Honorary President and will thus not be lost to us. The newly elected Officers and Executive Committee members who will guide IFSW's policy making during the next two years are:

OFFICERS

VICE PRESIDENT, AFRICA
VICE PRESIDENT, ASIA & PACIFIC
VICE PRESIDENT, EUROPE
VICE PRESIDENT, LATIN AMERICA
& CARIBBEAN
VICE PRESIDENT, N. AMERICA
TREASURER

Samuel O. Komieter (Ghana)
NG Shui Lai (Hong Kong)
Eilis Walsh (Ireland)

Carlos A. Pascanán (Argentina)
Gail McDougall (Canada)
Margaret Dewhurst (Canada)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Eli Ben-Gera (Israel)
Dudley Dissanayake (Sri Lanka)
Adb El Monssef H. Hozayen (Egypt)
Juan Manuel Latorre (Colombia)
Gloria Lizarraga (Bolivia)
Eila Malmström (Finland)
Julius Ola Ojesina (Nigeria)
Anthony Tan (Malaysia)
Helen Tapfumane (Zimbabwe)
Barbara W. White (United States)

Our Executive Committee's next meeting is scheduled for August 1993 in Hungary.

On behalf of IFSW, we will always work with the recognition that the common goals of social work transcend borders, that a global voice benefits the profession and, most importantly, the people it serves. Thanks to the support of all of you, IFSW will continue to enhance and promote an influential global voice for the social work profession.

*Suzanne Dworak-Peck
President*

FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

This is last IFSW Newsletter to be issued from Geneva. Starting early next year you will be receiving the Newsletter from our new Secretary-General from the future Secretariat whose full address figures at the top of page 1.

The Associate Secretary-General and I wish to express our heartfelt thanks to our past and present Presidents, Officers and members for their confidence, support and friendship over the past years, to our many colleagues whose personal contributions have helped the Federation attain its present worldwide standing, and to all the participants at the General Assembly in Washington for their unforgotten generosity and kind words and gestures on that occasion. Leaving the new leadership in such devoted and capable hands, we bid farewell and God speed to the International Federation of Social Workers and all its Member Associations.

Andrew Mouravieff-Apostol

Ellen Mouravieff-Apostol



INTRODUCING SUZANNE DWORAK-PECK, ACSW, LCSW

IFSW «inherited» Sue Dworak-Peck from its largest (140,000 members) Member Association, the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) USA, of which she was President from 1987 to 1989.

A social work practitioner for more than 25 years, Sue Dworak-Peck has spent much of her career working with vulnerable and traditionally excluded populations as well as in clinical supervision and treatment of families and individuals. Her academic functions are at the University of Southern California, the UCLA School of Social Welfare and the California State University system. Sue Dworak-Peck is also the founder and President of NCN, the NASW Communications Network, Inc., which provides the media and entertainment industry with data on social issues, nationally and internationally.

Suzanne Dworak-Peck's other numerous functions include or included chairing the California

Board of Behavioral Science Examiners; a two-time presidency of the California Council of Psychiatry, Psychology, Social Work and Nursing; member of the Interdisciplinary Advisory Committee of the Journal of Hospital and Community Psychiatry; and representing Social Work on the National Mental Health Leadership Forum, amongst others.

Suzanne Dworak-Peck was the NASW California Chapter's Social Worker of the Year; she was appointed by the Governor of California to the White House Conference on Families and to the Board of Behavioural Science Examiners; she is Co-Chair of the National Institute of Mental Health/State of California Mental Health Manpower Advisory Panel; and she won the International Communications Industries Association Achievement Award.

In short, IFSW is lucky to have her as President.



INTRODUCING THE NEW IFSW SECRETARY GENERAL TOM JOHANNESSEN

IFSW is equally lucky to have Tom Johannesen as Secretary General as of January 1, 1993.

A native of Norway, Tom Johannesen graduated in social work in 1972, and thereafter worked in child psychiatry, child welfare and social welfare until his appointment as Executive Manager of the Norwegian Association of Social Workers (NOSO) in 1982. He has special training in marriage counselling and family therapy.

Tom Johannesen's administrative skills and past responsibilities at NOSO which encompass personnel and financial management, computerisation, and coordinating a large portion of the Nordic Region's involvement in European and non-European affairs, will be of great help to him in his new functions. It also augurs well for the Federation that he should have been NOSO's Honorary Treasurer as far back as 1977 - 1983.

Tom Johannesen has taken part in IFSW's activities in the European Region since 1982, and in its world-wide activities since 1988.

IFSW - NEWS AND DEVELOPMENT

The Executive Committee's election of Tom Johannesen as Secretary General of the International Federation of Social Workers following the retirement of Andrew and Ellen Mouravieff-Apostol, Secretary General and Associate Secretary General at the end of 1992, and the admission into provisional membership of the Association of Social Pedagogues and Social Workers of the Russian Federation, and the admission into membership of the China Association are probably the most important news coming out of the International Federation of Social Workers' administrative meetings in Washington in July 1992.

The outgoing Secretaries-General were honoured at the inaugural session of IFSW's World Assembly '92 where they were given the Litsa Alexandraki International Award for Outstanding Contributions in Social Work and Social Welfare. Presented for the first time, the award was constituted in 1990 to honour the contributions of the late IFSW President and Honorary President, Litsa Alexandraki, whose values and behaviour as a professional in the national and international arenas are a model for social workers the world over.

In October the Secretary-General was guest speaker at the Finnish Association of Social Workers' seminar at Tampere University held to mark the 50th anniversary of social work training in Finland.

From there he went on to visit IFSW's new Russian member association and attend their International Seminar at Tumen University in Siberia. There his hosts took him to visit the log cabin, now a national monument, where his great-uncle and revered national hero Matvei Mouravieff-Apostol spent 30 years after being exiled in 1826 by Czar Nicholas I in the wake of the ill-starred Decembrist movement of 1825.

FUTURE IFSW SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

The International Federation's next **International Symposium** will be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Its theme is: The Social Work Profession: a Family United in Turbulent Times and dates 9-13 July, 1994. A **Latin American Preparatory Seminar** for the Symposium will probably be held in Chile.

A **Pan-African Conference** is scheduled for March or April 1993 in Alexandria, Egypt.

Preparations for the **11th European Seminar in Debrecen, Hungary**, scheduled for 22-24 August 1992, are advancing. For IFSW it is a «first» as far as venue (in a country of Central and Eastern Europe) and joint sponsorship (by the Hungarian and Norwegian Associations) are concerned.

Debrecen, a university town also called «the capital of the Puszta» is situated in the eastern part of the country. Field visits will be arranged to Romania, the Ukraine and Slovakia. **Poverty in the European House - Challenges for Social Work** is the theme of this event which will address important issues such as State Power or the Power of Poverty, the Consumer Society, Crisis Management or Long Term Strategies, amongst others.

A call for papers has gone out; the deadline for their presentation is January 15, 1993. Participants can obtain an important discount on their registration fees if payment is made before April 1, 1993. A limited number of bursaries are available for participants from Southern, Central and Eastern Europe. The languages of the Seminar will be: English, French, Spanish and German.

For further information contact:

Szociális Munkások Magyarországi Egyesülete
H-1056 Budapest V, Váci u. 60, fszt. 5, Hungary
Tel. +36-1-117-3942, Fax +36-1-122-8853

or

Norsk Sosionomforbund
Postboks 4682, Sofienbergg
Tel +47-2-401170, Fax +47-2-401114

The **IFSW European Test Project** (European Regional Executive) met in mid-June in Kotka, Finland. Eila Malmström, President of the Finnish Association of Social Workers and member of the IFSW Executive Committee reports:

«The Project Group is composed of representatives from Ireland (Eilis Walsh), Spain (Elena Pelaez) and Sweden (Agneta Bygdell) as well as the Vice President for Europe (then Paul Dolan), the two European members of the IFSW Executive Committee (Eli Ben-Gera and Eila Malmström), and the President of the IFSW Liaison Committee with the European Community (Kurt Eriksen). The main aim of the meeting in Finland was to establish goals for the Group and work out means to implement them. Spadework for a comprehensive development plan for the European Region was undertaken, and

the plan itself will be presented to the **European Delegates Meeting** to be held in Brussels on 20-21 November 1992 prior to the **meetings of the Liaison Committee for Social Workers in the European Community** whose presidency will pass on to Maria Tereza Abrantes of Portugal.

The meetings of November 23 will comprise a morning session on topics such as social policies regarding **families** in the Social Charter and in the Maastricht resolutions; **exclusion; migrants; the draft Directive on child labour; handicapped people**. In the afternoon, representatives of the social worker associations in the EC countries will meet with experts of the EC Commission to discuss the actualisation of the social work training report and the application of the EC Directive 89/48.

THE LOSS OF A GREAT AND GREATLY ESTEEMED COLLEAGUE

On May 6, 1992 Brigid Willmore, Treasurer of the Zimbabwe Association of Social Workers was tragically killed in a car crash in South Africa, together with her mother and niece.

Brigid will be sorely missed by social workers in Zimbabwe. A tireless development worker, she never ceased to fight for people's self-determination and contribution to their own development.

Brigid worked with numerous organisations involved in training and adult education. She furthered quality and professionalism in social work and social development literature, and was the founding editor of the high-standard Journal of Social Development in Africa. She also co-edited the book describing the experiences of Noerine Kaleeba, a Ugandan woman whose husband died of AIDS.

A one-time lecturer at the Harare School of Social Work, Brigid worked in a children's home and with the Catholic Development Commission. She was a leading member of the Federation of African Media Women, the Women and AIDS Support Network, the Women's Action Group and the AIDS Counselling Trust.

Her contribution to the Zimbabwe Association since its inception in the late '60s was immeasurable. Although her untimely death is a great blow for NASW (Zimbabwe), all members recognize that they are the richer for having known her, and more knowledgeable for having worked with her.

NEWS FROM IFSW MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

BOLIVIA

Acaba de salir el primero boletín informativo del Colegio Nacional de Trabajadores Sociales de Bolivia y del Comité Ejecutivo Nacional de Trabajado-

res Nacionales (CEN). La Presidenta del CEN para la gestión 1991-1993 es la Lic. Marta Gaby Mercado, la Secretaria General, Lic. Gloria Lizárraga de Sossa, y la Secretaria de Relaciones, Lic. Teresa Sanz de Belmonte.

En la ciudad de Cochabamba se realizó el Congreso Extraordinario del 13 al 15 de marzo que trató de la reelaboración de reglamentos del Tribunal de Ética Profesional. En vista de la inoperancia de los Comités Nacionales y Departamentales de durante 12 años de funcionamiento, el VII. Congreso Nacional de Trabajadores Sociales (Cruz, septiembre de 1991) resolvió que el Comité de Ética elegido conjuntamente con el CEN, debe presentar informe de labores de su gestión en el Congreso Nacional.

The Bolivian Association of Social Workers and its Executive Committee (CEN) just published its first joint Newsletter. For 1991-1993, CEN's president is Lic. Marta Gaby Mercado, the Secretary General, Lic. Gloria Lizarraga de Sossa, and Secretary for External Relations, Lic. Teresa de Belmonte.

The statutes of the Court of Professional Ethics were redrafted at the Association's Special Congress held in Cochabamba, 13-15 March, 1992. In view of the non-performance of the National and Provincial Committees on Ethics, the VII. National Congress of Social Workers (Santa Cruz, September 1991) resolved that the Committee on Ethics, elected at the same time as the Executive Committee, will henceforth be under the obligation to report on its work at each National Congress.

CANADA

1992 CASW Award for Outstanding National Service

During the CASW Delegate Assembly in John, N.B., Gayle Gilchrist James was honoured as the recipient of the 1992 CASW Award for Outstanding National Service in recognition for her leadership in the field of social work and her many contributions to the profession at the provincial, national and international levels.

Gayle Gilchrist James was born in Alberta, graduated from the University of Alberta in 1962 thereafter was awarded Bachelor and Master Social Work degrees from the University of Toronto in 1963 and 1967. She is currently an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Social Work of the University of Calgary in Edmonton.

Gayle Gilchrist James' contributions to the social work profession are remarkable and manifold. She has served as President of the Alberta Association of Social Workers and the Canadian Association of Social Workers. Within IFSW she was Vice President for the North American Region and later President for two consecutive terms.

Her services were or are always outstanding and she has served as Chairperson for the National Council

Canada's Sustaining Grants Committee, as a Board Member of the Edmonton Society for the Retired and Semi-Retired, as a Board Member of the Canadian Research Institute on Law and the Family, or as a Member of the Professional Advisory Board of the Edmonton Association for Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities of which she was a co-founder.

In 1978, Professor James received a Province of Alberta Achievement Award (Excellence Category) and in 1981 was recognised by the A.A.S.W. for her exemplary contribution to the profession provincially, nationally and internationally.

As a former Chairman of the National Council of Welfare, an advisory committee to Canada's Minister of National Health and Welfare, she made a noteworthy contribution to the welfare of the people of Canada in addition to her truly remarkable work on behalf of the social work profession.

National register of Social Workers in Private Practice

Following consultations with its member associations, the Canadian Association of Social Workers agreed to develop a national register of social workers in private practice. The purpose of the register is to foster networking, to facilitate referrals, to provide a service for the public and to enhance the credibility and visibility of the profession. In due time further benefits, such as the obtention of third billing party privileges and GST exemption, may be achieved.

DENMARK

In the summer of 1992, the Danish Parliament Folketinget passed an Act on the legal status of children and parents. The Act is important for cases where the welfare and development of children and young people are at risk requiring intervention by State social services.

Under the new Act young people who reached the age of 15 are given rights independent from their parents while children of 12 will have to be heard prior to interventions by the social welfare system.

One of the innovative measures of the Act concerns the quality of social work with threatened children and their families. The Act prescribes that such work needs to be systematic and based on an action plan for each case. Transparency is mandatory as parents will have to be clearly informed about the reasons and the aims of actions such as taking children into care.

Long years of dissatisfaction with the quality of case work in municipal social administrations are at the root of the Act's promulgation. The lack of openness towards parents and children was an area of special concern.

The Social Commission set up by the Danish Government in the spring of 1992 focused on youth unemployment. It is difficult, especially for young people with poor training, to be absorbed in the

labour market on a lasting basis. The Commission has ascertained that young people whose parents are either unemployed or early retirees run a serious risk of becoming themselves long-term unemployed. «Children of winners seldom become losers and children of losers seldom become winners» is a truism which is not new to social workers but which has become common knowledge thanks to the work of the Social Commission.

As for remedial measures, the Social Commission presented a comprehensive plan for further training for all young people. Stepped up vocational training for academically weak young people was a strong thrust of the plan whose implementation will now depend on the political will of the Danish Parliament to solve this grave and festering problem.

EGYPT

IFSW's Egyptian member, the Union of Social Profession, Egypt (U.S.P.E.) was established in 1973. Its President, Adb El Monssef H. Hozayen, now into his second term, has been in his post since 1982, and he has just been elected to the IFSW Executive Committee at the Federation's 1992 General Meeting in Washington, D.C.

U.S.P.E. used to be a member of IFSW and it was regularly represented at meetings by Dr. Shawki whose belief in international work led him to pay the Egyptian Union's fee from his own pocket.

U.S.P.E. is a strong association within 40,000 members and 21 branches, i.e. local councils of social professions in the different provinces.

Two years ago, U.S.P.E. became a member of the Arab Federation of Social Workers. It has a long history of organizing its Union and of co-operation with the Arab and African regions.

Mr. Hozayen established U.S.P.E. with some colleagues in 1973 at a time when he was Chairman of the Social Committee of the Egyptian Parliament. U.S.P.E. managed successfully to introduce the social work profession among other social professions.

U.S.P.E. has been active in crucial areas such as social development, child welfare, social welfare, links with social non-governmental organizations and social research in rural and remote areas of Egypt.

U.S.P.E. offers the following services to its members:

1. A pension plan.
2. Health care coverage.
3. Housing.
4. Holiday and recreation (a summer resort).

It also celebrates an annual Social Workers' Day.

FINLAND

An important development programme is under way at present in the Finnish Association of Social

Workers which, like the other Nordic associations, is a professional organization as well as a trade union. The aims of the Association are being redefined, the internal organization simplified, and orientation is slanted towards action for member organizations as well as individual members of the Association. «From Vision to Action» is the motto expressing this new framework which is being established with the help of a consultant from «Leadership Studies International Inc.»

The first phase of this development project was finished by the end of May 1992. A strategy group consisting of board members, the President and Vice-President of the Annual Meeting and Association staff met in four two-day seminars to analyse trends and the Association's shortages, strengths and possibilities, and to search for a clear vision. A plan of activities for the next year and an embryonic five-year plan resulted from this successful team work.

The second phase which will hopefully start at the end of the present year and be implemented in 1993 expands the process on a regional basis.

Such development projects carried out with the help of consulting firms are becoming popular among non-profit organizations in Finland.

Social Work Education celebrates its 50th anniversary

On October 23-24, 1992, the Finnish Association of Social Workers and the Association for Social Policy in Finland celebrated 5 decades of social work education in Finland. The first course for social workers was, in fact, started fifty years ago at the forerunner of the University of Tampere.

A seminar, banquet and meetings for the different social work courses was held at Tampere University to mark this memorable occasion.

Social work education in Finland started with a four-year course, and it is only since the early 80's that a masters degree involving 5 to 7 years of study has been mandatory for practising social workers in the country.

At the celebrations in Tampere, FASW named this year's social worker of the year (Super Social Worker) and granted scholarships for research in social work education.

HUNGARY

Please note the new address of the Hungarian Association of Social Workers:

Szociális Munkások Magyarországi Egyesülete
(SZMME)

Hungarian Association of Social Workers (HASW)
H-1056 Budapest V. Vaci u. 60. fszt. 5.
Tel.: (36)-(1)-(117-3942)
Fax: (36)-(1)-(122-8853)

HASW hosted a NOSO (Norwegian Association of Social Workers) delegation in Debrecen, Hungary, during the first week-end in February 1992 to

plan the organizational aspects of the IFSW '93 Debrecen Seminar. The joint Magyar/Norwegian sponsorship will ensure a far wider outreach for the event than could have been envisaged under a one-country-only sponsorship.

As of the end of August 1992, British social workers Ms. Jan Beagley is spending at least one year in Hungary as a social work consultant at the Hungarian Ministry of Welfare. She will help in the reorganization of Hungarian child welfare institutions and act as a supervisor for a reorganization project of child welfare institutions in rural and urban settings.

ISRAEL

Do public relations have any bearing on the recognition and quality of social work?

«Yes», say the Israel Association of Social Workers. «Any job that involves interaction with the public requires understanding and applying public relations».

This statement is based on the experience gained during three years of work undertaken by ISASSW's General Secretary Eli Ben-Gera and his team in response to a crisis situation. A group of social workers in a Ministry had been accused of inhuman behaviour towards its clients, and since the social workers involved refused to provide information about the case in order to protect their clients' privacy, they were helpless in the face of accusations from the press and faced suspension. Their «no comment» attitude was perceived by the public as an admission of guilt over a crime that was never committed.

The team's findings pinpointed some of the following facts or attitudes as being at the root of social workers' behaviour patterns:

— A low professional self-image. Amongst others, social workers underestimate their extensive academic training and unique competence to deal with human problems, to raise social consciousness and to prevent social crises.

— Identification with clients. The fact that most social service clients come from low-income groups, influences social workers who either identify themselves with, or distance themselves from their clients in appearance and self-presentation.

— Modesty and discipline are part and parcel of social work training. Public relations are anathema to them as they represent self-promotion or proactive attitudes.

And yet, clients as well as the public need to understand and respect social work.

For **clients** it is important to understand what social work is and what it is not, and adjust their expectations realistically.

For **families and communities** it is important to know that they need to become part of the rehabilitation process.

For **colleagues** from other professions, it is important to understand social workers' role within a team and in common actions undertaken by trade unions.

For **opinion makers** it is important to be informed correctly in order to spread the word and to influence the way social work is perceived.

For **decision makers** it is imperative that they understand and value social work in order to make informed decisions about social projects and the allocation of resources.

(Condensed from an article by Margalit Toledano)

KUWAIT

About 850 hostages, most of them Kuwaitis, are still held in Iraq, and amongst them, the Secretary General of the Kuwait Association of Social Workers. Their address is not known, and it is believed that they live under extremely difficult conditions. The Kuwait Association of Social Workers hopes that all IFSW Member Associations will take up the petition signed in Washington and published under «Human Rights» below.

Before the Iraqi invasion, the Kuwait Association of Social Workers had a caseload of 41 families requiring, and receiving, assistance to enable them to care for their children. The size of the assisted families averaged 5 to 7 persons while some exceeded 11 persons of which most were children. Not all families can be located after the invasion and all records and files were destroyed by the invaders.

During the occupation the Association provided food and medicine and clothing to needy families in close co-operation with hospitals and dispensaries. Special care was given to mentally and physically disabled people.

The following are among the Association's plans for the nineties:

- continuing assistance to needy families with emphasis on child care and pre-school education and recreational facilities for children during the summer holidays;
- seeking compensation for people affected by the invasion and war through applications submitted to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour. Compensation will be used to rebuild homes and replace equipment and furniture. The total sum requested by the Kuwait Association of Social Workers is the approximate equivalent of US \$ 360.000.

SPAIN

El Colegio Oficial de Diplomados en Trabajo Social y Asistentes Sociales de Catalunya (España), ha creado la Sección de Jubilados, apoyándose en el artículo 7 de los Estatutos apartado e) el cual señala como función del Colegio: «organizar actividades y servicios comunes de carácter profesional, formativo, cultural, **de atención, de previsión y análogos** que sean de interés para los colegiados».

El grupo que ha creado la Sección de Jubilados cree que es importante que los profesionales que han dedicado las mejores horas de su trabajo a la ayuda de los demás, cuando ellos puedan necesitarlo, encuentren un soporte que les ayude a solventar sus necesidades.

Los objetivos de esta Sección de Jubilados son:

- a. Organizar actividades y servicios comunes de información, asesoramiento y atención a Asistentes Sociales jubilados.
- b. Colaborar con el Colegio en actividades de estudio y análisis del Trabajo Social, especialmente en la búsqueda de documentación sobre la profesión.

La Sección se ha iniciado con las tareas de:

- Elaboración del censo de los asistentes sociales jubilados.
- Estudio de la necesidad de servicios residenciales especiales.
- Organización de un fichero de recursos.
- Visita a Asistentes Sociales muy mayores o enfermos para descubrir sus necesidades, etc.

Nos gustaría saber si en algún país europeo existen asistentes sociales jubilados organizados. En caso afirmativo, agradeceríamos que se pusieran en contacto con nosotros.

(Dirección: Puerta Jerrisa, 18, 08002 Barcelona, Espana)

The Catalan Association (Colegio) of Social Workers established a section for retired social workers based on Article 7 of its Constitution.

The group which created the Section believes that it is important that social workers who gave the best of themselves to others during their working life should find support and help if and when they need it.

The aims of the Section for retired social workers are:

- a. *to organize information activities and services and counselling for retired social workers;*
- b. *to collaborate with the Colegio for studies and analysis of social work, especially in the search for documentation.*

The Section also started a census of retired social workers; a study on sheltered housing; a resource card index; visits to elderly or sick social workers to determine their needs.

The Catalan Association would like to know if there are organized retired social workers in any of the European countries, and would welcome information on the subject. Please contact the Association at Puerto Jerrisa, 18, 08002 Barcelona, Spain.

UNITED STATES

The National Association of Social Workers of the US wishes to express its deep gratitude to all of our colleagues who helped to make World Assembly '92 a success - and most especially to our Secretaries General Andrew and Ellen Mouravieff-Apostol and Past-President, Gayle Gilchrist James. We were honoured to host this conference and delighted with the results. Over 80 countries were represented at the Assembly.

Current association efforts focus heavily on following up on the strategic planning process that the association has had under way for several years.

Task forces have been established to devise new structures and processes for meeting member practice needs and for establishing centers for expertise. The association is also working on new methods of sustaining and expanding membership.

Special projects include activities to promote the role of professional social workers in public social services and the Office of Peace and International Affairs' «Strengthening Families through International Technology Transfer». The latter project identified innovative family support programmes outside of the United States and is promoting their adaptation in the U.S. It is also identifying innovative family support programmes outside the United States to be included in the next edition of the Directory on International Innovations for Strengthening Families. If you would like to recommend programmes for your countries to be included in the directory, contact Lynn Holley, NASW, 750 First Street NE, Room 700, Washington D.C. 20002-4241, USA. The cost of the directory is \$ 25.00 plus postage. To order, contact Brenda Ruiz-Bastos at the same address given above.

NASW's recently published book, **Profiles in International Social Work**, describes social work in South Africa, Sweden, Uganda, the U.S., Chile, Great Britain, Hungary, India, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan. The cost is \$ 27.95. It can be ordered from the NASW Distribution Center, P.O. Box 431, Annapolis JCT. MD 20701, USA.

PACE (Political Action for Candidate Election), NASW's political action arm, is mobilizing social workers across the country to elect Bill Clinton the next president of the United States. The endorsement, approved by NASW's Board of Directors in June, is NASW's positions on health care, family issues, abortion rights, education, civil rights and economic justice.

Major legislative initiatives that are under way include health care, reform, family leave, abortion rights, a children's initiative, and a prohibition on corporal punishment in schools.

The National Association of Social Workers' national health care plan was introduced as a bill in the U.S. Senate on June 9, 1992. This plan would replace the existing system of public and private health insurers with a single-payer system that would ensure universal access for all Americans to quality health care. The bill, known as the National Health Care Act of 1992, is the result of a major policy effort of NASW for nearly three years.

The following are some highlights of the plan:

- freedom to choose from among existing health care providers
- expanded efforts at prevention and health promotion
- care co-ordination to ensure appropriate and cost-efficient health care
- limited cost-sharing to control excess utilization
- negotiated fee schedules for physicians and other practitioners
- emphasis on community-based health and mental health services
- primary financing through income and payroll taxes,

with a additional revenue from state contributions, earmarked estate taxes and higher taxes on alcohol and cigarettes

- quality insurance standards
- targeting of services to underserved populations
- support for research
- support for reduced medical malpractice costs.

HUMAN RIGHTS

As usual, one of the 1992 General Meeting's prime considerations, like those of past years, were its activities in the field of human rights. The IFSW General Meeting gave the IFSW Human Rights Commission full endorsement for its continued support of social workers across the world persecuted for their personal and professional stand on human rights.

Two sessions on human rights were held during World Assembly '92 with the active participation of IFSW's Regional Human Rights Commissioners and of some of the social workers on whose behalf the Commission had intervened in the past. Among them was Shirley Gunn, a social workers and human rights activist from South Africa.



Human Rights Commissioner for Asia & Pacific, Evelyn Balais Serrano, the newly appointed Secretary General of the Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates and Terry Bamford, Secretary of the IFSW Human Rights Commission

The following Resolution was signed by the Associations of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Russian Federation, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, Zimbabwe.

We, member associations of the International Federation of Social Workers gathered in Washington, D.C., USA for the World Assembly of Social Workers 1992, valuing our former member association, the Iraq Association of Social Workers and believing that human rights are indivisible, urge the President and Government of Iraq to release immediately Mr. Faisal Al-Sana's, Secretary-General the Kuwait Association of Social Workers, who was deported to Iraq in September 1990 and has been held incommunicado since that time.

This resolution was sent to Iraq and all IFSW Member Association were asked to forward it to the Iraqi Missions in their countries.

The news of Nobel Peace Prize award to Rigoberta Menchu Tam, the indefatigable Guatemalan champion of indigenous people's rights, will have caused great joy to all our members, not least to our Vice President for Latin America & Caribbean, Carlos A. Pascanan who, together with Nobel Prize winner Adolfo Perez Esquivel, forwarded her candidature to IFSW who proposed it for the UNESCO Peace Education Prize in 1990 which Rigoberta was likewise awarded.

The Manual «Teaching and Learning about Human Rights» published by the United Nations Centre for Human Rights in collaboration with the International Federation of Social Workers and the International Association of Schools of Social Work within the framework of the UN Centre's World Campaign for Human Rights, was launched at World Assembly '92 as well as at a special session of the IASSW Congress in Washington. Several UN Agencies and non-governmental organizations are disseminating the Manual among their staff, and it is hoped that both social work schools and associations will utilize this publication fully and incorporate it in their curricula and programmes. The publication can be obtained free of charge from the Centre for Human Rights, United Nations Office at Geneva, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland, quoting the publication's number HR/PUB/92/1. The Manual should be available also in French and Spanish by the end of 1992.

IFSW REPRESENTATION AT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

IFSW Representatives at the United Nations and at organizations within the UN system continue to be active in ongoing NGO groups as well as in the preparations of major international conferences and international years.

The Federation's contribution to the follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) will be debated at future IFSW meetings. Meanwhile IFSW representatives join with others in NGO fora which hope to work with the new Commission on Sustainable Development whose task it is to monitor the implementation of UNCED's Agenda-21.

IFSW is also active in the preparation of the very important International Conference on Nutrition (ICN) scheduled for 5-11 December 1992 in Rome. The contribution of social work to the implementation of ICN's Plan of Action is crucial, and social workers' presence at the Conference is therefore of utmost importance.

Preparations are under way for the World Conference on Human Rights scheduled for June 1993 in

Vienna. It goes without saying that IFSW will and ought to be strongly represented at the Human Rights Conference and that it was represented at the PreCom in Geneva.

IFSW is also involved in preparations for the World Conferences on Population and Development (Cairo, September 1994) and Women (Beijing, 1995).

Dr. Celia B. Weisman, Chair of the IFSW team at the United Nations, reports that team member G. Winifred Kagwa, who is also Secretary of the NGO Executive Committee of the U.N. Department of Public Information, attended that Department's 1992 Conference whose theme (REGIONAL CONFLICTS: THREATS TO WORLD PEACE AND PROGRESS) reflects the United Nations, and indeed the world's priority concerns of conflict resolution and peace keeping.

Much stress was laid on preventive diplomacy which involves, amongst others, increased education and training in intercultural relationships; interpretation of culture and the establishment of lines of communication; helping people to be more responsive to differences; finding ways to break down inter-ethnic conflicts. This may sound as if it came from a social work curriculum. Social workers practise preventive diplomacy at grass roots level, and they might, and sometimes do, attempt to exercise their skills at other levels.

A three-day celebration of the 10th anniversary of the World Plan of Action on Ageing drew unprecedented crowds to the UN to discuss «THE ELDERLY IN THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY: AN UNTAPPED RESOURCE».

According to Celia Weisman, the speakers and discussions clearly indicated that the Plan of Action had not been implemented as expected, and that demographic trends made it imperative that changes occur.

In order to deal with increasing numbers of elderly persons throughout the world, their involvement, self esteem and social role had to be reinforced. Changed life expectancy so far had to be considered in quantitative rather than qualitative terms. The involvement of older persons needed to be envisaged not only as a benefit to themselves, but as a productive contribution to the whole of society.

EDUCATION

Let us remind ourselves once more of some of the data emanating from the 1990 Summit and World Conference on Education for All (Jomtien, Thailand). The following still represents the magnitude of the gender gap in education:

- Out of 130 million children with no access to primary schools,
81 million are Girls!
- Out of 960 million adult illiterates,
640 million are Women!

— the widest education disparity is found in the following regions:

Sub-Saharan Africa with a literacy rate of 59% for Men and 38% for Women

South Asia where literacy rates are 54% for Men and 28% for Women

CHILDREN

As the Guidelines on Refugee Children of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees were considered not to address sufficiently a current phenomenon of evacuation of unaccompanied children, UNHCR and UNICEF published a Joint Statement in August 1992 on the Evacuation of Children from Former Yugoslavia which calls attention to the dangers inherent in such evacuations.

Believing that «evacuation is **not** the most appropriate solution» and «often more harmful than helpful to the children involved», UNHCR and UNICEF cite several reasons for their stand, and the following among them:

«The trauma of being separated from the family is often greater than the trauma of remaining with the family in an area affected by hostilities and conflicts.

Initiatives for evacuation often come from evacuation organizers rather than from parents whose emotional stress in the duress of the situation may result in decisions which might not have been taken otherwise.

Evacuations of children are often conceived as mainly logistical operations and may not necessarily be carried out by groups that have a proven record in child welfare, including assessing the best interest of the child, and in placement experience.

There is a risk, particularly where large numbers are involved and there is a lack of resources, that the situation of the child will not be adequately documented and monitored. Children may become «lost» without the possibility of eventual return to their families.

Where displacement and ethnic relocation are goals of the hostilities, parties might be pressured to evacuate children for this purpose.»

In their **Guiding Considerations**, UNHCR and UNICEF cite the relevant Articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, especially with regard to adoption (Art. 21), stress respect for family unity clearly stated in the Convention, and provide a checklist for clarification before any evacuation of a child is undertaken.

POVERTY

Should October 17 become an international day of refusal of extreme poverty?

The International Movement ATD Fourth World launched this initiative for which additional signatu-

res are required prior to its transmission to the U.N. General Assembly in 1994 - the International Year of the Family.

While a «DAY» will not make poor people richer, it will keep the issue in the public eye and help our common fight for the rights and dignity of all people, and against the root causes of enduring poverty.

COUNCIL OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

The Council of International Programs, based in Washington, D.C., USA, in association with the Council of International Fellowships (CIF) has a wide range of training programmes available for social workers and other social welfare professionals world-wide. The programme includes training possibilities in Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom and the United States of America.

IFSW member associations will receive more information about CIP's activities and programmes from the Council, including information on the next CIF biennial conference to be held in Stockholm, Sweden, August 9-15, 1993 on the transformations of the Scandinavian social welfare model. Study tours to the new Baltic nations will follow the conference.

Further information can be obtained through the U.S. Information Service (USIS) around the world or from:

COUNCIL OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

500 23rd Street, NW, Suite B-902

Washington, DC 20037

Tel. 202-429-4351, Fax 202-429-4354

CALL FOR PAPERS

Boston College is organizing an international conference on «Privatization and Socioeconomic Policy in Central and Eastern Europe» to be held from June 7-10, 1993 in Krakow, Poland. The conference will be hosted by the Jagiellonian University (Krakow) and the Krakow Academy of Economics. Paper proposals are invited for sessions on approaches to privatization, rights and economic relations, the role of the state and the political process, women's issues, the role of the industrial west and international organizations, the privatization of social programmes, coping during the transition, labour markets and unemployment, and ownership transfer. Conference sessions will include papers, case studies and panel discussions. More information and application forms are available from Prof. Demetrius Iatridis, Graduate School of Social Work, Chestnut Hill MA 02617. Tel.: (617) 552 40 41, Fax (617) 552 31 99.