



international federation of social workers

# Newsletter

Secretariat: 33, rue de l'Athénée, 1206 Geneva, Switzerland, Tel. (22) 47 12 36, Fax (22) 46 86 57

Nov/Dec. 1991

## REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS AND THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS OF SOCIAL WORK MEET IN GENEVA TO PREPARE A HUMAN RIGHTS CURRICULUM FOR SOCIAL WORK SCHOOLS AND PRACTITIONERS

A meeting of experts financed, at the request of the Brazilian Government, by the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, took place in Geneva, September 14-17, 1991, to prepare the final draft of the Human Rights Curriculum with specialists from the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and UNESCO.

Members of the working party, other than the United Nations and UNESCO specialists, were the IFSW President, Prof. Gayle G. James; the IFSW Human Rights Commissioners from Africa, Asia & Pacific and Europe as well as the Commission's Secretary, Terry Bamford; the Secretary-General of the International Associations of Schools, Dr. Vera Mehta; Social Work Educators from Europe and Latin and North America; the IFSW Vice President for Europe; the IFSW Associate Secretary General.

Thorough restructuring of the Curriculum as well as some drafting were achieved during three and a half days of intensive work. The final draft of the Curriculum will be ready by the end of December for two-month testing and review at selected schools in Africa, Asia, Europe and North Americas. The Curriculum will be printed in three languages by the United Nations Centre for Human Rights, and is expected to be ready for dissemination by June 1992.



*Back row - from left:* Nigel Hall (Zimbabwe); Elis Envall (Sweden); Dr. George Kutukdjian (UNESCO); Paul Dolan (U.K.); Terry Bamford (U.K.);

*Front row - from left:* Dorothy van Soest (USA); M. Lorena Molina (Costa Rica); Ellen Mouravieff-Apostol (IFSW Geneva); Dr. Vera D. Mehta (IASSW Vienna); Prof. Gayle G. James (President IFSW, Canada).



## PREPARATIONS FOR THE WORLD ASSEMBLY 92

The President and Secretary General were present in Washington, D.C. October 4-6 to participate in the last meeting of the World Assembly 92 Steering Committee as guests of the National Association of Social Workers.

On behalf of IFSW, both underlined to the Steering Committee the importance of preparing and holding an IFSW Third World Seminar in 1992, and/or providing scholarships and favourable conditions for Third World participants at World Assembly 92. Without such assistance it would be difficult, not to say impossible, for social workers from developing countries to afford registration fees for and living costs during the Assembly.

**The World Assembly 92 and XII International Symposium on «Improving the Human Condition» will be held in Washington D.C., 18-22 July 1992**

For further information, please contact Ms. Linda Spink, Director, World Assembly, National Association of Social Workers, Inc., 7981 Eastern Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, USA. Tel. (301) 495 7243, Fax (301) 587 1321 (until February 1, 1992, and thereafter at the new address given under «UNITED STATES» below).

**MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS, PLEASE NOTE that you should name your delegates to the IFSW General Meeting as soon as possible to enable them to apply for their U.S. visas.**

**Officers should likewise apply not later than at the beginning of next year in order to allow for sufficient time for intervention by the NASW organisers in Washington in case of unforeseen visa difficulties.**

**Just in time:** As we go to press, we have just received information from NASW that the registration fee for persons from A.I.D. designated «Third World» countries has been set at US\$ 100.00, and that this fee could be further reduced to US\$ 75.00 per person for groups of 15 or more participants from designated «Third World» countries recommended by their association.

## APPOINTMENT OF A NEW IFSW SECRETARY GENERAL

During their stay in Washington, the President and Secretary General, together with other members of the Selection Committee: Mark Battle (NASW) and Njal-Petter Svensson (Norwegian Association of Social Workers) interviewed three US candidates for the position of IFSW Secretary General.

It is hoped that a final appointment will be determined before the beginning of 1992.

## IFSW MEETINGS

### IFSW's Executive Committee of 1991

The International Federation's Executive Committee met in Harare, Zimbabwe, July 29-31 against the backdrop of structural adjustment feared and countered by Zimbabwe social workers intent on safeguarding the employment possibilities and living standards of their mostly vulnerable clients.

Officially opened by the Deputy Minister of Labour, Planning and Social Welfare, Cde Florence Chitauru, and the Deputy Director of Social Welfare, Capt. Claudius Kasere, the Executive Committee successfully completed a heavy agenda involving decisions in the areas of human rights, finance, future symposia, relations with U.N. Specialized Agencies, amongst others.

### Joint APASWE/IFSW Asia & Pacific Seminar in Hong Kong

«Ecology and Deprivation — Implications for Social Work» was the theme of this important Seminar which took place in Hong Kong in August 1991 with 170 delegates from 20 countries of the Asia/Pacific Region.

It concluded that an attack on poverty and the drive for ecologically sustainable development must be concomitant as well as complementary.

The «bottom-up» approach in community development was deemed a basic strategy in social work, and the components of the approach were identified as follows:

- The poor must possess the basic prerequisites for tackling their poverty, i.e. health and literacy.
- The poor must have access to productive assets such as land, capital and materials.
- Involvement of the people in their own development, not only as intended beneficiaries but also as active participants, advisers and leaders in development projects.

Other components involved awareness raising as well as enabling and empowering strategies and actions.

It was also stressed that social workers needed to possess intellectual capacity, a definite ideology and a willingness to make personal sacrifices.

### 10th IFSW European Seminar in Glasgow, Scotland

Some 400 plus social workers assembled in Glasgow to discuss «Love, Law and the Child» in early September. The Seminar's special mark was the presence of social workers from the former Eastern Block countries: Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Yugoslavia, the Republics of Russia and the Ukraine.



Interaction with these colleagues from Central and Eastern Europe and their poignant descriptions of conditions in their countries united social workers in their common quest for the well-being of children, and forged strong links between professionals who seemingly managed to overcome important language communication difficulties. There will be visits, exchange programmes, transfer of knowledge and social work literature, and probably a number of new applications to join the International Federation.

Preceding the Seminar, a two-day European Delegates Meeting and a meeting of the Liaison Committee with the EC tackled important problems and reached incisive decisions.

The European Delegates Meeting heard a progress report on preparations for the **next European Seminar in 1993** scheduled to take place in **Szeged, Hungary, 25-27 August, 1993** on «**Poverty in the European House - Challenges for Social Workers**». There will be support from the IFSW/EC Liaison Committee for the **European Congress in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 19-20 November, 1992**, on «**The Social Worker in a Social Europe - Views, Perspectives and Challenges**».

## NEWS FROM MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

### AUSTRALIA

The election for National President and a Vice-President were finalised and Di Gordon was re-elected for a second term in office as President, and Sr Annetta Llewellyn as Vice-President.

At the end of September the bi-annual National Conference for Social Workers was held in Adelaide, South Australia. Some 520 registrants attended and participated in an action-oriented programme. Much attention was given to the implications of the major industrial and social reforms in Australia. Of particular interest have been the developments flowing from mutual recognition policies: competency-based assessment for people holding overseas qualifications, award restructuring and challenges to education.

IFSW Vice President for Asia & Pacific Sheila Truswell was able to attend the conference and present a paper on the activities of the International Federation of Social Workers. Many participants found the presentation exciting, and it is hoped that there will be increasing interest in the international links available through IFSW.

### CANADA

#### *Social Work Meeting in Moscow.*

The President of the Canadian Association of Social Workers was invited by the Soviet Association of Social Work Educators to take part in an international conference on social work programmes and social work education.

Thus, during those August meetings and in the middle of the unsuccessful coup d'état, Margaret Dewhurst had the opportunity to share with Soviet colleagues the positive roles played by Canadian social workers in service provision, policy and programme development, and social work education.

### *CASW Code of Ethics Review*

The Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW) is presently undertaking a review of its Code of Ethics in collaboration with its member associations. A resource book of articles, materials and documents has been prepared by CASW to assist the provincial associations in this project. A questionnaire has also been circulated.

Each provincial association is conducting a section-by-section review of the Code. Their comments will constitute the basis of the changes to be proposed. The revision of the Code will be discussed at the Delegate Assembly in June 1992.

### *Employment Equity Act Legislation*

On behalf of CASW, Kim Clare, Chair of the CASW Social Policy Committee, participated in the Canada Employment and Immigration Advisory Council consultations in Toronto on the federal Employment Equity Act.

The Council is conducting a study of the Employment Equity Act in the context of the forthcoming Parliamentary review of the legislation.

As the study proceeds, the results of the Toronto consultations will form the basis upon which the Council's report to the Minister of Employment and Immigration will be developed.

The Council's mandate is to provide independent advice to the Minister of Employment and Immigration on all matters within his jurisdiction.

### *1992 CASW Delegate Assembly*

The CASW Long Term Planning Committee, responsible for organising general assemblies, has begun to plan the 1992 Delegate Assembly.

The Association is required by its By-laws to hold assemblies every three to five years to provide advice and consultation on various matters, including the means to implement the objectives of the Association, priorities for CASW, and to assess the Association's performance in terms of its objectives.

In general, Delegate Assembly participants bring the interests and views of the provincial membership to the national level. Each provincial association sends official delegates, but other members are welcomed and encouraged to attend as observers.

The CASW Board accepted the invitation from the New Brunswick Association of Social Workers to hold the Assembly in St. John, June 26-27, 1992.

### CHILE

Good, wonderful news! On Friday, 27th September 1991, our colleague, the former social work student



**Fermin Montes Garcia  
has been released in Santiago  
after 11 years in prison**

Fermin was released pending final court procedures on two of the five charges brought against him. He warmly thanks all who helped throughout his long years of imprisonment during which, at one time, he was condemned to capital punishment.

He certainly requires support to cope with his new life, and letters of congratulation and solidarity can be sent to him at the following address:

Casilla 52205  
Correo Central Santiago  
Santiago, Chile

## COLOMBIA



- 1) «En Casa de Herrero ... Azadón de palo»  
The hoe that is nothing but a stick  
La houe qui n'est qu'un manche
- 2) Qué haces como Trabajadora Social?  
What do you do as a social worker?  
Que faites-vous en tant qu'assistant social?
- 3) Trabajo por la movilización, organización y participación comunitaria!  
I work for community mobilisation, organization and participation  
J'oeuvre pour la mobilisation, organisation et participation communautaires
- 4) Qué bien, debes pertenecer a muchos grupos y agremiaciones! No es cierto?  
How wonderful! You must belong to many groups and associations! Is that not so?  
Comme c'est bien! Tu dois appartenir à bon nombre de groupes et groupements! C'est bien cela, n'est-ce pas?

- 5) No... no me gusta participar!  
No... I do not really like to participate!  
Non... je n'aime pas vraiment participer!

(Taken from the Colombian Federation of Social Workers' Newsletter of July 1991).

Juan Manuel Latorre, President of the Colombian Federation of Social Workers (FECTS) was the only IFSW candidate chosen (among 4000 applicants) to participate in the French Government financed TOWARDS 1992 GLOBAL NGO CONFERENCE in Paris, 17-20 December 1991. This Conference will prepare NGO input into the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (1-12 July, 1992).

## DENMARK

Starting February 1, 1992, 30 Danish social workers will be embarking on a graduate course in social work. On completion of almost three years of study, they will be the first Danes to hold advanced degrees in this field. This is a pilot project planned in the first instance for three groups of students, and it will be assessed before being instituted on a permanent basis.

Successful graduates will certainly have earned their new title. The structure of the course entails a lot of self-tuition, and is designed for practising social workers who will study in their free time on top of their full-time jobs. Students will be required to follow the established training modules.

On the other hand, successful graduates will find their qualifications in considerable demand. Local authority employers and managers, leading social policy makers, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Social Affairs, and the Danish Association of Social Workers have repeatedly stressed the need for improved theoretical training and for new approaches in social work. Advanced degree holders will find themselves working in research and development which will have a major impact on the future of professional social work.

## FINLAND

Finland finds itself in the grip of the worst economic depression since the 30s. For the first time in Finnish history, unemployment has reached 10 per cent of the working population, and in some towns and regions is as high as 40 per cent.

It has also hit social workers as small institutions had to cut down their programmes, and municipalities no longer replace workers on maternity or sick leave.

At the same time, the numbers and new categories of social welfare clients are on the increase. There are now unemployed engineers, economists and entrepreneurs who lost their companies. Economic difficulties generate emotional stress, and suicide has become an accepted way of escape.

It is under such adverse circumstances that trade unions are negotiating a new collective agreement



with employer associations and the Government. The Government is proposing two weeks leave without pay for civil servants, including social workers; an increase in taxes; increased contributions from trade unions to the unemployment fund which would greatly jeopardize trade union budgets (including that of the Finnish Association of Social Workers); lower unemployment benefits; increased hospital fees; extending the retirement age, amongst others.

Over 40,000 people staged a demonstration on the Senate Square in Helsinki at the beginning of October in support of the trade unions. It was the biggest demonstration since the general strike of 1956.

Negotiations were endangered by heavy opposition from the largest trade union body representing 1 million workers. A compromise settlement, supported a 5% cut in salaries but less adverse conditions for unemployment benefits and pensions, and representing a 7% decrease of employers' salary costs, was finally accepted at the 11th hour, thus avoiding the feared and expected massive devaluation of the Finnish currency.

#### *HUNGARY*

Please note that all correspondence to the Hungarian Association of Social Workers should now be sent

c/o Gosztanyi Géza  
XI Bikszeri Ut. 12A1. 4  
H - 1119 Budapest, Hungary

#### *IRELAND*

After more than 20 years campaigning by social workers, child care workers, politicians and others, Ireland has at last put new comprehensive child care legislation on its statute books - the Child Care Act 1991. Up to now, workers in the area of child care and protection have worked mainly within a law dating back to 1908. Detailed regulations have still to be made by the Department of Health before the Act comes into force.

Another long campaign reached a milestone in late September with the first meeting of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Social Work Qualifications. Established by the Department of Health, the Committee has as part of its brief the assessment of the qualifications of social workers from abroad who are applying to work with the Irish health boards. The eight regional health boards are the largest statutory employers of social workers in Ireland. This assessment will be designed to meet the requirements of the EC Directive on Mutual Recognition. Interestingly no fewer than ten of the fifteen-person Committee are qualified social workers, although wearing a variety of hats and representing different interests on the Committee. The Irish Association of Social Workers has three places on the Committee.

The IASW will be 21 years old in 1992 and is planning an extra special annual conference May 14-16 to celebrate its majority, with papers focusing on Irish research into social work practice, policy and client needs. The Conference will also have what is

being called «an all-Irish dimension», and to this end the IASW and the Northern Ireland Branch of the British Association (BASW) have just held a very successful second meeting in Belfast at which issues mutual interest and concern were discussed. These included AIDS and HIV, child protection and practice/teaching cross-border co-operation. The next meeting in the series will be in Dublin in January.

IFSW President Frank Moran and International Vice President John Brennan, whom European delegates will have met in Glasgow at the beginning of September, also attended the conference in Belgrade, northern Italy, at the end of October. The conference of «study convention», as it was called, was organised by the Lombardy regional group of the Italian social work associations, the ANAS.

In the wake of the discussion at the European Delegates Meeting in Glasgow on the subject of inter-country adoption, and particularly the implementation of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child in Romania, President Frank Moran has scheduled a fact finding visit to Bucharest. For its population, Ireland has adopted more children from Romania than any other country in Europe, and this has been a matter of concern to the IASW, and a very controversial and emotive issue in Ireland. Frank plans to meet representatives from schools of social work, and the UNICEF Representative in Bucharest, and explore potential for exchange. IASW is happy to work with any other national organisation involved in the Romanian adoption issue. In a further development I.A.S.W. is to meet shortly with the Irish Romanian Adoptive Parents Association.

#### *ISRAEL*

Without doubt, the major issue confronting Israeli social workers today is that of the absorption of immigrants: Jews from Ethiopia who arrived this year in «Operation Solomon», Jews from the USSR who continue to pour into the country in tens of thousands each month, and a stream of Jews from various countries, e.g. Albania, Argentina, Yugoslavia. The unemployment rate is high at nearly 11%, and considerably higher among new immigrants, and no immediate solutions appear to be in sight. Though housing is still a problem, temporary housing and an upsurge in construction alleviate the situation and give rise to some hope for the future.

The national budget for 1992 is a reminder of the state of the country's economy, and, although the Government's most radical proposals to weaken the welfare state did not succeed, this was of no benefit to the social services. 1992 will be the year in which the poor become poorer in Israel, and social workers will have to work harder with fewer resources and more clients.

Privatization has become fashionable in Israel, and the next step will involve hospitals which are to be turned into non-profit and non-governmental organizations by the end of 1991. All trade unions and professional organizations are opposed to the way



in which privatizations have been carried out and by the lack of consultation and information, though not all are opposed to the idea. The hundreds of social workers employed in the health sector are generally opposed to the present moves of the Government which are being fought by the Union of Social Workers in an attempt to either prevent or delay them.

Social worker Helen Eliaspore looks after the port employees' welfare at Ashdod, and would like to be in touch with other social professionals working in ports or for port authorities, possibly with a view to organizing an international meeting of such professionals. Interested persons are asked to contact the IFSW Secretariat in Geneva or Ms. Eliaspore, Ashdod Port, Ashod 77191, Israel.

#### ITALY

At a «convenio» (Conference) organised by the Lombardy Section of the Italian Association of Social Workers during the last week-end in October at Belgirate on Lake Maggiore, 100 Italian social workers shared experiences with their colleagues from 7 European countries. The Conference was attended by the IFSW Secretary General, Andrew Mouravieff-Apostol, and the Vice President for Europe, Paul Dolan.

Central to the discussions was a comparative study of social work education in Europe carried out by the Lombardy Section on the basis of comparative study undertaken, at the request of the EC Commission, by the President of the francophone Belgian Association of Social Workers, Liliane Coccozza, on behalf of the IFSW/EC Liaison Committee. The document known as the «Coccozza Report» so far exists only in French but will be available in English by the end of 1991. Liliane's presentation greatly contributed to a clearer understanding of the importance of cohesive social work education in Europe in preparation for professional mobility within the European Community as of 1993.

#### KUWAIT

IFSW Member Associations have already been asked to intervene on behalf of the Social Workers Associations of Kuwait's former Secretary General, Mr. Faisal AL-SANA, who is among the 2242 Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq. Mr. AL-SANA was abducted with his family in September 1990 and is reportedly in ill health. All action and intervention by social workers should help to build international pressure on the Government of Iraq to release Mr. AL-SANA and all other illegally held Kuwaiti prisoners.

On resumption of activities at its headquarters in Kuwait, the Social Workers Association of Kuwait decided to donate the sum of US\$ 3,000.00 to the International Federation of Social Workers' budget as a sign of its gratitude for the Federation's stand at the time of the invasion of Kuwait. The Association also looks forward to continued and increased cooperation with IFSW in the future.

IFSW wishes to express publicly its gratitude to the Kuwaiti Association for its generous gesture.

#### PORTUGAL

Legislation to regulate the profession of «social work technician» whose standing has been upgraded following the adoption in 1990 of legislation conferring university level to social work degrees, has finally been passed following a ten-year struggle by unions and by the Portuguese Association of Professional Social Workers (APSS). The new law also defines the modes of transition to this higher-level career. Many professional social workers supported the struggle, pressuring the Government through communiqués and by strikes and other means.

In 1992, the first Portuguese social workers will have completed their doctoral degrees at the Higher Schools of Social work in Lisbon and Oporto which carried out the programme with the active support of the Pontifical Catholic University of S. Paulo, Brazil.

Considerations of the need for a more profound approach to ethical questions led to the holding, throughout 1991, of six courses on ethics for approximately 200 students under the leadership of a Professor of Ethics at the Lisbon School of Social Work. A Working Group comprised of social workers with legal training is preparing a bill intended to regulate social work practice. In reality this would amount to having the Code of Ethics of the profession enshrined in a law.

#### SPAIN

Recently, a new Council (Consejo General) was elected in Spain. The main points of its programme can be summarized as follows:

- Encourage, support and update research in the area of social work.
- Achieve the university level corresponding to other related professions, extend the undergraduate curriculum to a 5-year period, and adapt undergraduates' practical training to future professional needs. Establish courses leading to a doctoral degree in social work.
- Participate actively in national and international forums on social policy and social work.
- Update professional experiences for exchange with professionals in other European Community countries, and encourage closer links with professionals in Latin America.
- Work towards improved working conditions for social workers and a clear legal framework for social work in close collaboration with Spanish trade unions.

#### SWITZERLAND

*The Swiss Association of Social Workers (SBS) and Europe.*

«Professional Policy - All Encompassing or Circumscribed?» will be the theme of the SBS one-day conference in November 1991.

Will European integration bring about changes in Swiss professional policy and social work content and action? And what about the mutual recognition of diplomas in Europe? With 1993 looming large on



the horizon, and cooperation in the economic field making great strides, where does that leave Swiss social work and social workers?

The Conference will set up guidelines for future SBS policy.

### *Social policy*

The SBS Commission on Social Policy has had the opportunity to develop and submit the Swiss Association's position on proposed amendments for existing laws or proposed new bills. It is an important activity for the Association which allows it to exert some influence on the country's social policy.

In the current year, positions were developed on supplementary allocations for housing (rent) within the framework of the persistent housing shortage, on the transfer of rights in cases of change of pension funds, on subsidies for schools of social work, on the revision of the health insurance, on the unemployment law, on the bill for equal rights for men and women, and for the lowering of the age of majority from 20 to 18.

The Association's stand on these matters is of great importance, all the more as its members are confronted daily with the consequences of rising poverty, drugs, housing shortage and unemployment, amongst others.

### *UNITED STATES*

On February 1, 1992, the National Association of Social Workers' (NASW) national headquarters will move to a new location within view of the U.S. Capitol. NASW will occupy the seventh and eight floors of a building located at 750, First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C.

NASW is launching a Building Fund Campaign for tax-deductible donations to help equip the new headquarters which, in addition to the associations itself, will also house the NASW Research and Education Fund. «It's Your Move» is the campaign's motto.

### *«News from Non-Member associations»*

#### *SOUTH AFRICA*

One of the many bonanzas of the Associate Secretary's presence at the NGO Committee on UNICEF Forum on «Effective Participation in Local and Global Child Development» at Kadoma, Zimbabwe, in early November 1991, was meeting Shirley Mabusela, a colleague from the South Africa Black Social Workers Association, SABSWA.

SABSWA has 33 branches around the country. It is the only national professional association in the country.

SABSWA's membership render considerable voluntary services to the community. In fact, in addition to their regular jobs, members are required to involve themselves in community development activities and projects.

Among a staff of five, SABSWA employs a full-time National Project Manager, an AIDS Program

Coordinator, a Coordinator for the Repatriation Program, a Secretary and a Book-keeper.

Work with returning exiles and involvement in AIDS work are high on the agenda.

Lobbying for social and political changes and striving for improved working conditions and remuneration for social workers are undertaken with other regional social workers associations and community groupings.

SABSWA and other social work/welfare organisations are currently involved in formulating an alternative social welfare policy for a post-apartheid, democratic, non-racial and non-sexist country.

SABSWA is aiming at establishing networks and ties with sister organizations internationally now that changes in the country seem imminent.

SABSWA's headquarters are in Johannesburg.

Address:

46 Marshall Street  
409 Standard Bank Chamber  
2107 Johannesburg  
Tel. (011) 836 6553/4  
Fax (011) 834 3661

The current National President is Ms. Anne Letsebe.

Shirley Mabusela is the Assistant Director of the Children's Foundation in Johannesburg.

### *PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA*

The Vice Secretary for International Co-operation at the Ministry of Civil Affairs of China, Mr. Xu Lin Gen, who is also one of the 11 members of the China Association of Social Workers' Executive Council, visited the IFSW Secretariat in Geneva in October 1991. He brought with him the China Association's completed application for membership in IFSW, and promised to make himself available during the IFSW Executive Committee's deliberations on China's admission at the next E.C. meeting in Washington, D.C. in July 1992.

### *IFSW - UNITED NATIONS - NGOS*

#### *IFSW elected to the CONGO Board*

On 31 October 1991, at the close of the 18th Assembly of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Status with ECOSOC, the International Federation of Social Workers was elected to serve on the 20-member CONGO Board. The present Board will serve for 3 years and its meetings will take place in New York, Geneva and Vienna.

#### *IFSW co-sponsors a Colloquium in Vienna on Social Welfare and Social Work Education in Central and Eastern Europe*

IFSW will be one of the sponsors of the Colloquium on «Eastern Europe in Transition: Issues for Social Welfare and Social Work Education» scheduled to take place in Vienna, Austria, November 25-27, 1991. The Colloquium was convened by the Austrian Ministry of Education and the International



Association of Schools of Social Work for Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare and Training of Personnel in countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The Federation will be represented by the Associate Secretary General and by its Vienna Representative, Monika Vyslouzil.

#### *IFSW Associate Secretary General attends NGO Committee on UNICEF Forum at Kadoma, Zimbabwe*

In her position as Deputy President of the NGO Committee on UNICEF, Ellen Mouravieff-Apostol participated in the Forum on «Effective Participation in Local and Global Child Development» held at Kadoma, 4-8 November 1991. Thirty-four African Sub-Saharan countries were represented among the approximately 160 delegates which also included non-African representatives from international NGOs. The Forum was opened by H.E. the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Robert G. Mugabe, introduced by the Zimbabwe Minister of Health, Dr. Timothy Stamps.

The findings of the Forum were summarized in a final declaration - the «Kadoma Declaration» - which should be of interest to the Federation's African Member Associations. The Declaration is obtainable from the IFSW Secretariat on request.

#### *News from the IFSW Team, United Nations, New York*

##### *UNICEF*

Addressing the problems of education of the girl child, IFSW Representative Rose S. Rosen believes that social workers have an important role to play in the policy making process aimed at equal opportunities for education for all, **including girls**. The world-wide trend towards female-headed households makes it even more imperative that girls and women be educated.

Social workers in every country should assess their own situations. If there is an economic factor keeping the girl child at home, parents and the school system should find innovative ways to educate the girl child.

Rose S. Rosen attended the commemoration on October 8, 1991, to mark the achievement (or rather surpassing) of UNICEF's Child Immunization goal of 80% world-wide coverage by the end of 1990.

##### *DISARMAMENT and ARMS TRANSFER*

IFSW Representative Willeen Smith covers Disarmament and Arms Transfer issues, and promises to make a transcript of proceedings of the NGO Committee on Disarmament forum of October 31, 1991 available to interested IFSW Member Associations.

##### *SUB-COMMITTEE on SOUTHERN AFRICA*

The CONGO Sub-Committee on Southern Africa (an offshot of the NGO Committee on Human Rights) recently elected IFSW Representative G. Winifred Kagwa as their Deputy Chairperson. The Sub-Committee's tentative plans for 1991-1992

include: 1) working with other NGO committees for greater impact; 2) looking at the general question of South Africa in transition; 3) requesting the U.N. Department of Information to hold a briefing on South Africa's regional economic development strategy; 4) requesting the Centre on Transnational Corporations to brief the Sub-Committee on its role in the region.

##### *NGO COMMITTEE on AGING*

**Humanity comes of Age: Promise or Peril** was the subject of the symposium held by the Department of Public Information and the NGO Committee on Aging on October 3, 1991 at UN Headquarters. IFSW Representative Dr. Celia B. Weisman presented a brief history of the NGO Committee on Aging.

The keynote speaker, H.E. Julai Tavares de Alva-rez, Dominican Republic Ambassador to the United Nations, called attention to the Banyan Fund. This fund is based in Paris, and though independent, is under the patronage of the United Nations. It intends to raise capital from the private sector and from non-governmental organisations to finance projects in which older people become masters of their own economic fate, even agents of economic development, rather than passive recipients of assistance.

When the fundraising goal is reached, the Banyan Fund will be open to proposals from both developing and developed countries for innovative programmes that will tap the resources of older people and help them maintain involvement and independence.

##### *IFSW representation in Vienna*

IFSW Representative Monika Vyslouzil reports that the NGO Committee on the Family is planning its 4th Seminar for November/December 1992 to be held in Vienna, Austria, on the theme «Family and Environment - A Partnership».

The Committee is looking for various speakers and workshop coordinators but has no funds for travel and living expenses. Would social workers interested in participating in this important event at their own expense please get in touch with Monika Vyslouzil at Sickenbergg. 7/16, 1190 Vienna who will be glad to provide them with the draft programme of the Seminar and other relevant information?

##### *New Secretary-General of the International Council on Social Welfare takes office*

The International Federation of Social Workers wishes to extend its good wishes to the Secretary-General of the International Council on Social Welfare, Ms. Sirpa Utriainen of Finland, on the assumption of her new duties in Vienna on November 1, 1991.

IFSW looks forward to working with her and to strengthening the links between the two organisations.