



international federation of social workers

Newsletter

Secretariat: 33 Rue de l'Athénée, 1206 Geneva, Switzerland.

July 1988

PERESTROIKA!

What a word 'to set the darkness echoing'.

Change for the better is in the air and every effort, great and small, aimed at bringing peace to the world is to be celebrated. For our own contributions to the peace movement, the International Federation of Social Workers was honoured by the United Nations last year in being designated a *Peace Messenger*. Such recognition is an encouragement for us to continue to work for peace through justice — the philosophy which lies at the very heart of social work practice.

The IFSW General Meeting is a time for us, firstly, to endorse our accomplishments, secondly, to take stock of our activities and thirdly to set our course for the future.

Overall, slowly but surely, we have been making progress:

- We have stepped up our level of activity on the Human Rights front.
- We have developed our links with the World Health Organisation through the international AIDS programmes.
- We have been improving our contribution, both in quantity and quality, to the United Nations forum.
- We have been successful in our endeavours to create links with our social work colleagues in Eastern Europe. Not only are we looking forward to welcoming colleagues to the Stockholm Conference, but we have programme participation from Poland and Yugoslavia.
- We look forward to what promises to be the biggest gathering to date when we meet in Stockholm. Full credit to our colleagues in Sweden for their all-out approach and professional expertise. It is with real excitement that we can anticipate our meeting to share news and views.

We have much work to do at our General

Meeting and some important decisions to take. Not the least of these will be agreeing the process by which we will select and appoint our next Secretary General. As you will know, our present Secretary General, Andrew Mouravieff Apostol, who has served us so long and so valiently, has signified his retirement by 1990. The location of our GHQ must be considered and we are looking at the new technology. Now that the magic of the new FAX system has enabled us to communicate between Geneva, Calgary and Dublin in minutes — anything is possible!

The Newsletter continues to grow. Contributions are on the increase and we are receiving requests for extra copies from member Associations and colleagues in other organisations. The communication has provided me with the opportunity to keep you informed of my activities on behalf of IFSW during my term as President. Now, as my term of Office draws to a close, it is appropriate to take my leave of you through the same medium.

In all of my endeavours, I have been sustained by the support and affirmation I have received as your representative. My energy has been fuelled by family, friends and colleagues both at home and abroad. I must note that one of my heart-warming memories (among so many) will be the Honorary Membership bestowed by my colleagues in the Irish Association of Social Workers.

On behalf of the member Associations of this organisation, I wish to thank both Andrew and Ellen Mouravieff Apostol. I make special mention of those Officers and individual members who have contributed so much of their time and talent to furthering our aims. In coming to the end of my Presidency, I am satisfied that the IFSW is in good shape, is in good hands and is ready to cope with any necessary changes.

Augusta McCabe
President

Dublin
June 1988

Regional Meetings and a Seminar on "Social Workers, Volunteers and Elderly People" in Madrid (April 21-23, 1988)

The spring 1988 Meeting of the European Region of the IFSW, and the Liaison Committee for Social Workers in the European Community took on an added dimension. The meetings, held in Madrid, were alongside a meeting of social work experts addressing policy and practice issues concerning the roles of social workers and volunteers with elderly people.

The Expert Meeting, convened at the request of the Commission of the European Community, is part of a wide-ranging process of consultation by the Commission. To the economic and demographic perspective of the Commission, the social workers from 10 member associations added their own views. There was general agreement that volunteers represented a potentially valuable resource, but one which was in danger of being misused. The distinctive roles of social workers, with particular skills and responsibilities, complement the proper roles of volunteers — if volunteering is treated seriously, supported and subject to adequate training. A recommendation to emerge strongly was that social workers should, in co-operation with volunteers, trade unions, consumers and government, make a code of practice for volunteering in social work. The Report for the European Commission, to be issued later this year, should help the preparation of such a code and enable social workers to resist the inappropriate use of volunteers.

Farewell to two IFSW Representatives

● Etienne Chouffier (France), the Immediate Past President of the IFSW Liaison Committee and the Federation's long-time Representative at the Council of Europe, signified her regret to IFSW President August McCabe at having to relinquish her international activities due to failing health. She had been instrumental in obtaining consultative status for the Federation at the Council of Europe in 1966, and had represented IFSW at the Council since 1968, with the exception of a four-year period between 1974 and 1978. She was for many years a leader within the Liaison Committee of NGO's Enjoying Consultative Status with the Council of Europe, and commanded the respect of her

peers in the NGO community as well as that of Council of Europe officials and Government delegates. Her successor as IFSW Representative to the Council, subject to confirmation by the IFSW General Meeting in Stockholm, is Mme. Marie-Francoise Charrier, Director of Social Services at the SNCF, the French National Railways.

● Charlotte Jean-Richard (Switzerland) IFSW Representative at the United Nations Office at Geneva since 1981 has informed the IFSW President of her decision to cease her activities on behalf of the Federation as of July 1988. During her seven-year term of office, Ms Jean-Richard was particularly active on behalf of women's concerns and responsible for liaison with UNIFEM (United Nations Development Fund for Women) at the NGO Sub-Committee on the Status of Women in Geneva. IFSW members will remember her vigorous and persistent action to press them to urge their Governments to sign or ratify the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Ms. Jean-Richard is the former Secretary General of the Swiss Association of Social Workers and currently President of LAKO, the Swiss counterpart and member of the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW).

Both Representatives will be sorely missed by the Federation whose gratitude will be expressed officially at the meetings in Stockholm.

The Secretary General this spring paid two long-overdue visits to the British and Italian Associations of Social Workers. In April he spent a day in Milan with Sr. Pogliosi, the Secretary General of the Italian Association, going over arrangements for the 40th Anniversary General Meeting of the IASW on Lake Como, attended by a number of Italian government officials. In June, after a lengthy meeting in London with the President of IFSW in preparation for the July meetings in Stockholm, he and the Associate Secretary General paid a visit to David N. Jones, General Secretary of BASW, at the latter's headquarters in Birmingham where they were joined by Executive Committee member Paul Dolan.

News from Member Associations

Canada

A Canadian delegation of approximately 38 social workers has been preparing for participation at the 1988 IFSW General Meeting and World Conference in Stockholm. The conference agenda provides an important opportunity for social workers to come together, share ideas, and give support to each other. CASW sends best wishes to all IFSW colleagues for a successful 10th International Symposium/World Conference.

Canadian social workers continue to upgrade their skills and services in the face of social service cutbacks in a number of regions. Within Canada there are trends in changing human service delivery to more community-based services, to more privately-operated services outside of government administration, towards families and neighbourhoods taking more responsibility for their own social needs, and with planning that stresses health promotion and less focus on high-cost treatment. Such shifts in public policy challenge the social work profession to provide treatment outside of institutions and to respond to new community development initiatives.

The Canadian Association of Social Workers is involved in two national Projects. The "Continuing Education in Canadian Social Work Project" is developing pilot projects on national standards for certification education/learning kits for social workers, future information systems, and models of providing continuing education. The "Interdisciplinary Project on Domestic Violence" has social workers working with eight other professional organisations to improve interdisciplinary service to individuals and families suffering from domestic violence.

Ireland

This year's Conference and Annual General Meeting of the Irish Association of Social Workers were held on May 6th-8th in the historic city of Kilkenny in the south east region of Ireland. The theme of the

Conference was "Power and the Art of Social Work". Various workshops were held and for the first time one was run by a client group.

At the Annual General Meeting one of the motions passed was in connection with the setting up of a pilot project to provide a structured programme for the treatment of child sexual abusers. Another dealt with the pursuance of an Irish Board for Education and Training in Social Work.

It was decided to establish a central register of incidents of violence towards social workers in order to assess and monitor such violence.

The Minister of State at the Department of Health addressed the Conference dinner and the President in her reply made reference to the cutbacks in services currently being experienced.

Three members attended the IFSW Seminar in Madrid in April on "Volunteers with the Elderly and other Vulnerable Groups".

The Association is currently exploring the possibility of acquiring larger office premises and the services of a General Secretary.

The most recent issue of the Association's magazine "The Irish Social Worker" dealt with the problem of child abuse.

Libya

Recent activities of the Libyan Association of Social Workers (LASW) included the following:

1. Participation in a multi-disciplinary team for an in-depth study of the psychological, health and social aspects of life in social institutions, including institutions for the disabled, and their impact on residents. The aim of the study is to improve the level of service and to detect the causes of disability in order to determine optimal preventive measures.
2. Preparation of a symposium on legal and social aspects of personal as well as social problems confronting inmates of children's homes and geriatric institutions.
3. Participation in two training courses in the field of care for blind and deaf-and-

dumb people facilitated by the Libyan Social Security Fund and UNESCO.

4. Establishment of a children's club for recreational programmes stimulating children's imagination and skills.
5. Participation in a study for the social and economic development of a district of Benghazi.
6. LASW moved to a new two-floor building in Benghazi.
7. LASW contributed to the establishment of a "National Social Care Organisation" whose aims and regulations have been set out as follows:
 - a. to contribute to and co-operate with associations and foundations in the social field, offering direct service to users of social services wherever that is not readily available;
 - b. to contribute to the solution of family problems and to protect the family against social risks;
 - c. to provide service and care to individuals and groups who are either dissatisfied with existing statutory services or require services not available in government agencies;
 - d. to establish service units for prevention and treatment of social problems;
 - e. to channel and optimise the service of volunteers, both national and international, in the social work field;
 - f. to participate in the work of international organisations and interact with institutions on a bilateral and international basis for the exchange of information and experience in social work and social welfare.

Philippines

Please note the new address of the Philippine Association of Social Workers:
c/o Philippine Social Service Centre
Mariano Marcos Avenue
Quezon City, Philippines.

Switzerland

SBS/ASAS, the Swiss Association of Social Workers and Educators, will host the International Federation's 9th European Seminar at the University of Basle, September 19-21, 1989 on the theme "When people turn into foreigners".

Migration has been a European phen-

onism for thousands of years. People leave or are forced to leave their countries for various reasons and often have to face difficult situations in the receiving countries with regard to their personal and professional lives. Frequently the problems they encounter are passed on to the second and third generation.

Social workers increasingly have to deal with the problems of foreigners and their families. Different strategies have been devised and initiatives undertaken in emigration as well as immigration countries. Many experiences have been successful, others not. Social workers will learn from both as they gather in Basle to exchange experience and know-how and gain valuable background information on migration in Europe.

Prior to the Seminar, SBS/ASAS will organise a *Special Programme for Social Workers from Southern European Countries* including Portugal, Spain, Italy, Greece, Turkey and Yugoslavia. They will be invited to look closely at living and working conditions of their compatriots in Switzerland. Participants will be given a chance to meet with migrants and with representatives of their respective organisations, their employers, their children's teachers, among others.

For further details please contact SBS/ASAS, Hopfenwegs 21, POB, CH-3000 Bern 14, Switzerland. tel: (31)45 54 21.

United Kingdom

The UK Government has rejected proposals, backed by the British Association of Social Workers (BASW) and social work educators, to improve basic social work training by extending it to 3 years and therefore making it more comparable with training in most other European countries. The rejection was on the basis of its cost to the Government, but commentators and social workers have contrasted this with the recommendations of expensive enquiries into child abuse — which have themselves tended to recommend improved social work training. By coincidence a Report on "Community Care: An Agenda for Action", commissioned by the Secretary of State for Social Services from a leading commercial entrepreneur, appeared only weeks before this decision. It too recommended major

new directions for social work, but recognised the importance of training in this process.

United States of America

Responding to the AIDS Crisis

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) has launched a year-long public education campaign to raise awareness about the growing incidence of AIDS in the United States, its prevention and its psychosocial impact. The campaign, "AIDS: We Need to Know. We Need to Care", makes available several publications and other materials focusing on what people need to know about AIDS, and why we need to care about the people who have it.

NASW-sponsored radio and television public service announcements about AIDS are being broadcast nationwide on networks and local stations throughout the country.

A National Social Agenda for America's Families

During this election year, NASW's Political Action Committee published "A National Social Agenda for America's Families." It urges both the Democratic and Republican parties and their presidential nominees to support a national agenda that strengthens existing family support systems and encourages family independence. The agenda proposes public policy initiatives within six broad social and economic objectives: building productive families, ensuring economic security, promoting family health and well-being, supporting family care givers, ensuring equality and fairness, and creating a peaceful environment. Among the many specific programmes outlined are family and medical leave legislation, affordable day care and respite care, and family care giver income supports for those whose care giving demands impede their continuous participation in the labour force.

IFSW Action in the field of Human Rights

IFSW's letter writing campaign for the liberation of two social workers detained in Malaysia who have been recognised by Amnesty International as true "prisoners of conscience" detained on account of their beliefs peacefully held or expressed, has not yet obtained the desired result. Further information on the two — Irene Patricia Lourdes Xavier and Sebil John Joseet — has reached the Federation from the New York based Committee for Chilean Inquiry, including a copy of a letter from John Joseet's wife, presently residing in London. The letter tells of physical torture and humiliation suffered by the prisoners.

Twelve families of Malaysian detainees

have formed a "Families Committee" split into three teams: the Writing Campaign Team, the Newsletter Team and the Finance Team.

The case of the condemned and detained social worker Fermin Garcia Montes in Chile has been actively taken up by the Finnish Association of Social Workers which was told by the Aliens' Department of the Finnish Social and Health Ministry that Mr. Montes would be welcome in Finland but could not be granted asylum until his arrival in the country. Mr. Montes has been offered housing by the Sipoo municipality of Finland.

International News

HUMAN RIGHTS

At the time of the meeting of the Committee against Torture in Geneva in April 1988, 29 States had either ratified or acceded to the U.N. Convention against

Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The Committee was established under the terms of the Convention and hopes to convene once more during 1988. Joseph

Voyame (Switzerland) was elected as its first Chairman.

PEACE

Members of the IFSW team at U.N. Headquarters in New York followed the Third Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD III — 31 May to 25 June 1988) as accredited Observers for the Federation.

Monika Vyslouzil, IFSW Representative at United Nations Office at Vienna, participated at the European Consultative Meeting "*Children and Peace*" at the Vienna International Centre, May 12-13, 1988. This was a meeting of Peace Messenger Organisations and other NGO's interested in promoting peace whose object was to exchange information about ongoing and planned projects regarding children and peace, and to facilitate networking and co-operation among NGO's. Different working groups discussed concrete projects, peace education and plans for the celebration of this year's International Day of Peace (third Tuesday in September) which will be a special occasion highlighting the 40th anniversary of the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The meeting was organised by the U.N. Peace Studies Unit which will soon be publishing a newsletter to which NGO's may contribute. Two projects among the many mentioned appeared to be of special interest: an exhibition of non-war-like toys organised by the Polish Peace Committee who intend to make this a biennial event to further one of the aims of the United Nations and its Peace Studies Unit: preparation for a life in peace, and the other, an exhibition of material gathered by a secondary school in Budapest from its correspondence with Nobel-Prize winners. The Swedish organisation "Life-Link" was trying to bring together young people from all over the world for the preparation of a world-wide three-minute appeal for a better world.

Monika Vyslouzil reports that some of these and other projects are open to co-operation from individuals and organisations. Other ideas discussed at the meeting could be adopted by IFSW members individually, and interested associations are invited to contact Monika Vyslouzil in Vienna.

POPULATION

The United Nations Fund for Populations Activities (UNFPA) set up a Global Programme of Training in Population and Development which might be of interest to IFSW members. The programme is designed to enhance the capabilities of mid-career professionals in integrating and operationalising the linkages between population and development. The programme addresses itself specifically to staff members of ministries of health and social development, amongst others.

At present only short-term courses of approximately three months are organised in several languages. The Global Training Programme will also include long-term courses of approximately ten months duration of which the first three have been established in association with the following institutions:

The Catholic University of Louvain (UCL) at Louvain-la-Neuve for French-speaking candidates from developing countries; The Centre for Development Studies (CDS) at Trivandrum, Kerala State, India, and The Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in cooperation with the Netherlands Interuniversity Demographic Institute (NIDI) at The Hague, Netherlands for English-speaking candidates from developing countries. A course in Spanish will be organised at a later date in Latin America.

Admission requirements include a recognised Masters or Honours degree or equivalent; some practical experience which is considered desirable but not mandatory; and proficiency in the appropriate language. Candidates successfully completing the training course will be awarded a post-graduate diploma in population and development from the respective institution.

Inquiries concerning the training courses should be directed to the institutions themselves at the addresses given below:

International Director
International Centre for Training and Research
in Population and Development
Catholic University of Louvain
1, Place Montesquieu, bte 17
B-1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

Director, International Programme of
Training in Population and Development
Centre for Development Studies
Prasantnagar Road
Ullor Trivandrum-695011
Kerala State, India

Course Convenor
International Programme for Training in
Population and Development
Institute of Social Studies
P.O. Box 90733
2509 LS, The Hague, Netherlands.

*For general inquiries regarding the Global
Programme contact:*

International Coordinator
UNFPA Global Programme of Training in
Population and Development
Catholic University of Louvain
1, Place Montesquieu, bte 17
B-1348 Louvain-la-Neuve
Belgium

Application forms can also be obtained from the UNFPA Representative at the UNDP/UNFPA Field Office located in most developing countries.

The State of World Population Report 1988 heralds an urgent and potent message calling for action to halt the depletion of the world's resources.

World population, now over 5 billion, will be 6 billion by the end of the century according to the Report which stresses that nearly all of this growth will take place in developing countries. The Report asserts that "slower growth and more even distribution of population would help to take pressure off agricultural land, energy sources, vital watersheds and forest areas, giving time for governments, the private sector and the international community to evolve strategies for sustainable development". It likewise contends that in the poorest areas, the "scissors effect" of poverty and increasing population is slicing away at their ability to sustain human life.

Winners of the United Nations Population Award in 1988 were Ms. Shizue Kato, President of the Family Planning Federation of Japan and Vice-President of the Japanese Organisation for International Cooperation in Family Planning, and the Colombian family planning organisation PRO-FAMILIA which has been active and successful since its foundation in 1964.

DELINQUENCY AND CRIME

Ingrid Machek, a member of the Austrian Association of Social Workers, represented IFSW as an Observer at the Third Inter-regional Preparatory Meeting for the 1990 Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of

Offenders which took place April 18-22, 1988 in Vienna.

The Interregional Preparatory Meeting adopted by consensus the United Nations Draft Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency, designated as the "Guidelines of Riyadh". They stress early preventive and protective intervention for young persons, and accord special attention to children at social risk. They also make recommendations in the areas of social policy, legislation and multi-sectoral co-ordination.

The Meeting which was attended by experts from Barbados, Brazil, China, Federal Republic of Germany, Lebanon, New Zealand, Poland, Senegal, Sierra Leone and the Soviet Union, affirmed that the placement of a juvenile in an institution should always be a "disposition of last resort" and only last for the minimum necessary period.

CHILDREN

A kit on the U.N. Draft Convention on the Rights of the Child produced by UNICEF in cooperation with Defense for Children International is available at UNICEF and can also be obtained from the IFSW Secretariat in Geneva.

A newsletter has recently been launched by "Childhope", the international non-governmental movement for street children. Called "Let us speak", it will be open, amongst others, to contributions from street children themselves or to those from other children who want to know more about street children. For further information, please contact: Childhope, Apartado Postal 992-A, Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala.

WOMEN

Sweden, the host country of the Federation's Tenth Symposium/Conference is well known for its efforts towards the achievement of equality for women based on legal provisions. As of 1981, assault and battery has been subject to public prosecution even though the plaintiff may not have complained formally; 1982 saw the granting of qualifying points under the supplementary pension scheme for the care of children at home; and also the ban on live sex shows in public places; 1983 brought the opening of all occupations to women, including service in the defence forces; and 1984 the

agreement on equal opportunities in the central governmental sector. Other measures are foreseen, including the extension of parental insurance from 12 to 18 months and provision of child-care facilities for all children from the age of 18

months whose parents are working or studying. This should be available from 1991. However, even if *de jure* equality will be assured, *de facto* equality will not be as easy to achieve.

Other International News

- Plan ahead for 11 December 1989! The U.N. General Assembly decided to proclaim Social Progress and Development Day on that date to mark the 20th anniversary of the U.N. Declaration on Social Progress and Development.

- Hospital Social Workers who have undertaken research in their area of practice are invited to make their work known to the organisers of a Colloquium on European Hospital Social Work — Research and Action, scheduled for 5th-7th April, 1989 in Strasbourg. The mailing address is:

Université des Sciences Humaines
Département de formation continue
A l'attention de Monsieur Gizelo
8, rue de Londres
67000 Strasbourg, France.

- The Fifth International Conference on AIDS will be held in Montreal, Canada from

4th to 9th June 1989. The theme of the Conference is:

AIDS:

the Scientific and Social Challenge

The Conference is sponsored by:

- The International Development Research Centre
- Health and Welfare Canada
- The World Health Organisation.

Official languages of the Conference are English and French. The deadline for abstract submissions is January 31st 1989. An exhibition of scientific and professional products and material will take place.

Contact: Secretariat,
Kenness Canada Inc.,
P.O. Box 120 Station B,
Montreal,
Quebec H3B 3J5,
Canada.

We look forward to meeting you in Stockholm
at the General Meeting, July 24th-26th, 1988
and at the Symposium/Conference on:

*"Attitudes, Values and Ideology in
Social Work Practice"*

from July 26th-30th, 1988

TO ALL TRAVELLING WE SAY:

*"May the road rise with you,
may the wind be always at your back
and may God hold you in the hollow of his hand."*

(Old Irish saying)