



international federation of social workers

Newsletter

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

APRIL 1988

Message from the President

Spring has arrived and with it the reminder from our Secretary General that it is time to prepare the Agenda for the General Meeting of 1988. We will not feel the time passing until July is upon us and all the things we meant to do "should have been done yesterday"!

If you are wondering what you might focus on before we meet in Stockholm, might I suggest you consider the following possibilities?

- **IFSW Twinning Programme:** Is your Association interested in twinning or being twinned? You could clarify with your colleagues what you might be able to offer or what it is you need. This kind of information will make all the difference to our deliberations when we meet.
- **IFSW Newsletter:** We are hoping to increase the circulation of our Newsletter. You can help greatly by sussing out with your Association, before you come to Stockholm, how you think you can support our drive.
- **Strategies for the Advancement of Women:** Has your Association set up a special committee to look at women's issues in social work? IFSW has been encouraging members to engage in this movement and we will be eagerly looking

forward to learn of any progress you have made since our last General Meeting in 1986.

- **IFSW Policy Papers:** Will you have news for us on the use you were able to make of our policy papers to date? As you know we plan to have all the papers published in time for our Meeting. Your response to development in this area will be most welcome.

- **IFSW Resolution on Inter-Country Child Custody:** Did you have any opportunity to promote the welfare of children with reference to our 1986 Resolution?

Development has been taking place on a number of fronts in recent months. Examples include: IFSW HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, the IFSW BRIEFING BOOK — all you ever wanted to know about the Federation, the publication of the collected POLICY PAPERS, as mentioned above, not to mention the 1990 venue.

So, take your courage in both hands, see what you can bring to the 1988 General Meeting and whether your contribution be great or small — there will be a warm welcome waiting for you.

*Augusta McCabe
President*

IFSW Activities

Third Pan-African Conference

This event organised by the National Association of Social Workers of Uganda took place in Jinja on 23 November, 1987, and was attended by 100 participants from every region of Uganda, including the current "no go" areas. Other African delegates came from Libya, Tanzania, Ghana and Zimbabwe.

IFSW Vice President for Africa, Mustafa Bushaala, also convened a business meeting to explore possibilities to establish four Sub-Regions (North, East, West and South), to ease some of the serious communication problems and facilitate the

recruitment of other African Associations. Each Sub-Region would have its Co-ordinator who could meet with the Vice President in the intervening period between Pan-African Conferences. The next Conference will be held in 1989, probably in the Western Sub-Region, and might be convened by the Ghana Association.

A Seminar under the aegis of the IFSW Liaison Committee with the European Community will be held April 21-23, 1988 in Madrid on "Social Workers, Volunteers and Elderly People: The Role of the Social Worker". A report to the E.C.

Commission on the findings of the seminar will be printed within 30 days and be available on request from the IFSW Secretariat in Geneva.

Business meetings of the Liaison Committee and of European Delegates are scheduled for the evenings of April 22 and 23.

The Secretary General paid a long overdue visit in February to the Alberta Branch of the Canadian Association of Social Workers to convey to its President, Margaret Dewhurst, the Federation's thanks to the Branch for its generous support over many years of IFSW programmes and its leadership in the twinning programme helping less endowed IFSW member associations. IFSW Executive Committee member and currently Presidential candidate Prof. Gayle James and Ms. Dewhurst

arranged a meeting in the former's house in Edmonton with many of the Branch's leading social work personalities, a number of whom are forming a group to attend the IFSW International Symposium and General Meeting in Stockholm in July.

In Calgary, IFSW Treasurer Richard Ramsay, fresh from his Gold Medal Award for his film on "Suicide" at the New York Academy, and the Secretary General worked together extensively to prepare the new form of accounting requested by the General Meeting, lunched with the Dean of Alberta University's Faculty of Social Work and met with many of Calgary's prominent social workers, being particularly impressed with the energetic activity of the Calgary Branch's Co-ordinator Cheryl Bodnarchuk.



News from Member Associations

Australia

The 20th National Conference 1987 was held in Perth, Western Australia, in September 1987. The Conference theme "Social Work in a Changing Society" was opened by the Minister for Community Services, Western Australia, and followed by the keynote address given by IFSW Vice President for Asia & Pacific and currently Presidential candidate Corazon Alma de Leon. In this address she set the stage for the Conference, and during the 5 days was an inspiration to the 550 delegates who attended. There is no doubt that the international flavour which she supplied was much appreciated, and she succeeded in raising Australian Social Workers' awareness and interest regarding their responsibilities to colleagues in other countries. It was one of Australia's most successful conferences.

The Australian government has recently set up a Committee to advise on Australia's immigration policies, and AASW was invited to make input. A detailed submission was sent in December 1987 raising a number of issues centering on the basic premise that policies should reflect the view that refugee intake be based predominantly on a humanitarian criterion. Proposals were suggested for easing the family sponsorship programme, and for more facilities to be made available in Australia for migrants of different cultures and language backgrounds, to assist them in the settling-in period.

Australia is a multi-cultural country in which over 150 different nationalities are now represented.

Canada

Canadian social workers still feel the warmth and energy of having the IFSW President, Augusta McCabe, visit Canada for 10 days in September 1987. Deep thanks are owed to her for representing the active world-wide social worker federation when speaking with many groups of social workers, with key government officials, and with the Minister of Health and Welfare. She inspired members of the Canadian Association to think "globally" about social issues, and to play a more active role in IFSW and in international social development work. A great deal was learned from Augusta about the development of social work practice in other parts of the world, and Canadian social workers found that their concerns and challenges did not stand alone. Some local social work groups expressed interest in "twinning" with associations in other parts of the world.

From time to time, individual social workers in Canada express interest in having an international work exchange experience with social workers outside of North America. No formal exchange programme or system to this effect exists within the Canadian Association of Social Workers, but the

national office would welcome offers from foreign social workers for an exchange with a Canadian social worker. Such offers should be addressed to Mary Hegan, Executive Director, Canadian Association of Social Workers, 55 Parkdale Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1Y 1E5.

The Canadian Association continues to provide positions and to take action on the following issues: services for sexually abused children and their parents, a national child care programme, tax reform and improved income security for persons in financial need, privatisation of human services, health promotion and the role of social work, and improved services to the elderly.

The Canadian Association is also exploring the idea of an annual "National Social Work Week", and would appreciate learning from the experience of associations in other countries.

Chile

To complete the information given in the last issue of the Newsletter concerning the important Seminar on Social Work and Human Rights held last December, it may interest you to know that 150 social workers attended the event of which 21 came from countries other than Chile: Argentina (2), Brazil (1), Bolivia (1), Peru (4, including representatives of the Latin American Social Work Centre CELATS), Uruguay (8), Denmark (1), Norway (1), Spain (2) and Sweden (1). The Seminar issued a statement (Declaracion de Santiago) which is available on request from the Chilean Colegio or the IFSW Secretariat.

The Human Rights Department of the Chilean Association (Colegio) has repeatedly petitioned the Government in recent months for information on the fate of detained and "disappeared" social workers and social work students as well as justification for the execution of two social work professionals: Elizabeth Cabrera Balariz and Segundo Norton-Flores. The following professionals disappeared: Elizabeth Rekas Urria, Carolina Wiff Sepulveda and Maria Cecilia Labrin Sazo. Detained or "disappeared" social work students are: Jacqueline Binfa Contreras, Maria Teresa Bustillos Cereceda, Jacqueline Paulette Drouilly Juric, Maria Teresa Elltit Contreras, Alfredo Grabriel Garcia Vega and Juan Ernesto Ibarra Toledo.

The Colegio's President, Wilna Saveedra, lodged an appeal for protection at the Court of Appeals in Santiago on behalf of the President of the Colegio's Regional Council in Santiago, Gloria Vio, and a Regional Counsellor, Pablo Miranda, following threats, pressure and shadowing from and by persons unknown.

The Colegio also petitioned the Government for reinstatement of its public law status and the prerequisite of university training for social work practice.

Colombia

The Colombian Federation of Social Workers wishes to call attention to its new journal "Revista de Trabajo Social", for whose publication a grant from the Jane Hoey Development Fund was approved by the Executive Committee in 1987, and paid to the Federation at the end of last year. It is an excellent publication which should be of interest to Spanish speaking social workers. For subscription please contact the Federacion Colombiana de Trabajadores Sociales, Apartado Aereo 54992, Medellin, Colombia.,

The Colombian Federation's XI National Delegates' Meeting was held in Cartagena, 19-20 March, 1988. A new board was elected and a work programme established for the period 1988-1990.

Ghana

The Ghana Association of Social Workers achieved two major successes in 1987: the introduction of a Bachelor of Arts Social Work Honours Degree at the University of Ghana, Legon, starting 1988/89, and the establishment of a "check-off" system by which working members will be paying dues at source.

The Ghana Association of Social Workers (GASOW) was represented by two of its members at the 3rd IFSW African Regional Conference and Symposium at Jinja, Uganda, 25-28 November, 1987. Four members participated in a seminar on "Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the Context of Ghana's Development" in Accra, 2-4 December, 1987, where the National President of the Ghana Association, Professor D.N.A. Nortey, read a paper on "Crime Trends in Ghana". The Seminar was organised by the Law Reform Commission of Ghana.

In November 1987, a member of the Ghana Association, Mr. J.B. Amoako, who is also a former Acting Director of Social Welfare in Ghana, was appointed U.N. Advisor/Consultant on Social Welfare Services in the Somali Democratic Republic.

At a meeting held in February 1988, the Ghana Association's National Executive Committee examined the following topics:

- (a) The 1988 GASOW Annual Conference;
- (b) Intensifying the membership drive and the collection of dues;
- (c) Sponsorship of delegates to the 1988 Social Workers World Conference in Stockholm;
- (d) Payment of membership dues to IFSW and its African Region.

Following a meeting convened by the Ministry of Local Government and Social Welfare in January 1988, the Ghana Association will join with non-governmental organisations in the country in an effort to improve the quality of life of Ghanaians within the framework of national endeavours. The

Association's Vice President, Mr. David Acquah, acted as a Resource Person for the meeting.

A number of members serve in other capacities in non-governmental organisations. The National President, the two Vice-Presidents and the Secretary-General occupy honorary positions in organisations such as the Ghana Rural Reconstruction Movement, the Lay Magistrates Association of Ghana, the Christian Council of Ghana, the Ghana Apartheid Committee, Y.W.C.A., the Ghana Red Cross Society, the Valco Fund and the National Technical Committee on AIDS.

Hong Kong

Please note that the new President of the Hong Kong Social Workers Association, following elections at the Annual General Meeting in January, is Mrs. Justina Leung.

Ireland

IASW has devoted time and energy in highlighting the effect on social work services of the severe economic cuts of recent times. The Association had a meeting with the Minister for State of the responsible Department to discuss the issues involved and to spell out the social work view.

Work on mutual recognition of social work training has taken on a new dimension in the Irish context in recent months. It is proposed to establish an Irish Board to recognise Irish courses but which would have equivalence with other European countries.

Up to now, Irish training courses in social work had the benefit of being recognised by the Central Council in Britain which ensured equivalence. However, changes in the British system has brought about the need to re-think the Irish dimension and it is now proposed to establish an Irish Board to recognise Irish courses. This development is of prime importance to the Irish Association and much work has been involved in the ongoing negotiations. This is a big opportunity to bring all parties involved together, and to set the course ahead on lines that will maintain high standards, our equivalence with our European neighbours and strengthen the base of social work in Ireland.

It could well be said that it is an "ill-wind" that brings no good, but the increased awareness of child abuse has led to an increase in resources to deal with the growing problem. In spite of the embargo, since 1980, on all new posts in the public service, there has been an increase in social work posts in those areas with special responsibility for child abuse services.

The IASW Committee on Women's Issues is steaming ahead and plans a workshop for the AGM in May. The title will be "The Feminisation of Poverty in Ireland" and will provide information from the social work perspective for the European Community's Conference on Poverty to be held in Brussels in September.

Israel

The Israeli Prime Minister appointed a National Council for Social Planning with 11 social workers among the 41 members, including IASSW Secretary General, Ms. Sara Silberstein, and IFSW Executive Committee Member, Dr. Yitzhak Kadman.

A group of graduate students from Mexico visited Israel recently to participate in a special programme for advanced social work students.

Two Israeli social workers, Mr. Yossi Glush and Ms. Yehudit Recanatti, visited Hungary in 1987 and were able to have valuable contacts with their Hungarian colleagues. One of the projects which are being discussed at present involves an advanced study programme in Israel for Welfare Workers from Hungary.

Representatives of the Israeli Association have been active in a grass roots organisation working against a proposed tax reform which is likely to be favourable to high income groups and detrimental for the weaker strata of the population. This organisation's unique aspect is that it brings together representatives of various groups of women, pensioners and invalids with professionals and academics. Representatives of this organisation appeared before the Committee of Experts appointed by the Minister of Finance to examine the proposed tax reform.

The Israeli Association published a new pamphlet on professional values and ethics.

The Association's Annual General Meeting took place in Kiriat Shmone, a developing town in the north of the country, in March, 1988.

Recent study days held by the Association focused on the following themes:

- Moral and professional aspects of abandoned children in hospitals (desertion).
- Violence in the Israeli society — an increasing or decreasing phenomenon?
- The contribution of community work to neighbourhood renewal projects.
- Exposure of children in communication media — legal aspects and aspects related to communication and treatment.
- Social work and professional ethics.

Italy

The 16th National Congress of the Italian Association of Social Workers was held in Milan in March 1988 on the theme: "The Protection of Professional Practice; The Social Work Profession's Cultural and Scientific Components and its Links to Social Policy". The Congress was a festive occasion which marked the recent recognition and regulation of social work training, and the status of social work qualifications by the Italian State, as well as the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Association.

Nicaragua

The former President of the Nicaraguan Association of Social Workers, Xanthis Suarez Garcia, is her Association's Representative at, and a member of the Board of CELATS (Latin American Social Work Centre). She represented CELATS and her Association at the Fourth Meeting of Social Workers from Mexico, Central America and Caribbean which took place on 24-28 August 1987 in Guatemala. As expected, this meeting approved the establishment of a body of Social Work Professionals from Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, and named as Coordinator of its Provisional Committee a social worker from Honduras, Lic. Maria Elena Mendez. The next and Fifth Meeting is scheduled for 1990 in the Dominican Republic.

Xanthis Suarez Garcia also represented her Association at the Third National Assembly of the Brazilian Association of Social Workers in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, at the end of 1987.

Sri Lanka

Please note that the new name of the Sri Lankan Association is "Sri Lanka Association of Professional Social Workers" (SLAPSW). Its new President is Dr. Dudley Dissanayake, and all correspondence should in future be directed to him at the following address:

Dudley Dissanayake
(M.S.W., Ph.D.)
191/8 Wattarantenna Place
Kandy, Sri Lanka.

Among its long-term planning, SLAPSW is contemplating the establishment of a school of social work in Kandy, a town situated in the northern part of the island. This school which will be affiliated to the Sri Lanka University but run by SLAPSW, will require material and other assistance from IFSW member associations, both within the Asian & Pacific Region and from other Regions.

SLAPSW is a member of the National Committee for AIDS Control, recently set up by the Sri Lanka Ministry of Health.

Within the Sri Lanka Association, a committee was established to draft a Code of Ethics, and steps are being taken to revive the Sri Lanka Journal of Social Work. Contributions from other associations, in the form of articles, news items or other material, are invited and will be gratefully received.

United States of America

The end of 1987 saw the first full year of development for the National Center for Social Policy and Practice (NCSPP). Created by the National Association of Social Workers' Board of directors, the separately incorporated centre committed the NASW to a new and vital role for social work in shaping the social policy of the U.S. for years to come.

The idea of creating the centre came amidst shifts in social policy during the past decade which profoundly threatened the quality of life for which social workers have long been articulate advocates. NASW recognized that this threat will require social workers to become more powerful participants in the policy debate.

The goals of the centre are to draw on the experience and practice of social workers, analyse relevant information, and develop policy options based on these data.

Key parts of the centre's programme are:

- To develop an electronic communication capacity that will permit access to data bases that the centre builds, as well as to other, supporting data bases. NASW members will be able to call the centre, request information it has access to, and quickly receive that information, including an issue brief summarising the latest research and policy recommendations, a current bibliography, and a list of experts who have agreed to serve as resources.
- To develop policy options based on data gleaned from social work practice. Through a combination of in-house research and analyses, with outside help as required, information will be gathered, analysed, and developed into a series of policy recommendations. The centre will keep those who formulate and make policy, in and outside the profession, apprised of its findings. It will provide both data and analyses to individuals and groups involved in developing and disseminating social policy.
- To provide practice and policy learning opportunities for individuals at all stages of their professional development. The centre has recently received endowment funds to honour two great contributors to the social work profession, Eileen Blackey and Jane Aron. These endowments will allow the centre to offer two doctoral fellowships each year.

The appointment of Dr. Karen O. Kaplan as General Director allowed NCSPP to move ahead on a number of important projects.

Non-Member Associations

Poland

A Polish Association of Social Workers was constituted in September 1987, and held its first national congress on 22 November. It has set up a special commission to draft its Code of Ethics.

The Vice President of the Polish Association, Dr. Ewa Les, will be among the speakers at the Stockholm Conference, sharing a presentation on "Social Work Experiences in Eastern Europe" with Dr. Vida Milosevic from Yugoslavia.



International News

Lillian Lampkin, Head of the IFSW Team at the United Nations, New York, submitted reports on:

- 1) Human Rights Day Commemoration at U.N. Headquarters on December 10, 1988,
- 2) Briefing by World Bank economist, Stephen O'Brien, on the Crisis in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Both reports are on file at the IFSW Secretariat in Geneva where they can be obtained on request.



WHO Programme on Aids

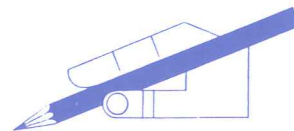
The joint WHO/IFSW project for the active participation of social workers worldwide in the WHO Programme on AIDS has been greatly advanced by the speed with which IFSW member associations on all five continents have sent in names, addresses and qualifications of their members willing to play an active role in WHO's great emergency programme. Their names, many with impressive qualifications and experience, have been registered at WHO Geneva headquarters, and invitations will be sent out in the coming months to individual social workers to attend WHO regional seminars in various parts of the world.

The Programme Director and members of his staff will conduct a seminar on AIDS prevention at the IFSW meetings in Stockholm next July, where they will be arranging a special exhibit stand.

International Literacy Year 1990

This "International Year" proclaimed by the

United Nations will be a "Summons to Action" and a launching pad for efforts during the ensuing decade to eradicate illiteracy by the year 2000. ILY's lead organisation is UNESCO and its task daunting, considering that 889 million people are affected, representing 27.7 per cent of the world's adult population (15+). Although close to 98% of illiterates are found in developing countries, illiteracy is on the increase in developed countries and must be considered a global problem.



Children

Sufficient progress was achieved by the U.N. Working Group on the draft Convention of the Rights of the Child during the forty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights in 1988, to make hopes for its adoption in 1989, ten years after the International Year of the Child, a reasonable probability. IFSW continues as an active member of the NGO Ad Hoc Group on the drafting of the Convention.

At its 39th ordinary session, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, in October 1987, adopted Recommendation 1065 "on the traffic of children and other forms of child exploitation" which requests Member States to take a number of measures, notably to ratify international conventions relating to adoption, including The Hague Convention and ILO Convention 138 on the minimum age for employment.





Other International News

- The first Meeting of the States parties to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, held in Geneva in November 1987, established the Committee against Torture. This Committee, made up of 10 experts from the States parties, will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Convention, and will ensure that torture's perpetrators will no longer find a hiding place among the Convention's signatory States.

- The Third Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament will be held at U.N. Headquarters in New York from 31 May to 25 June, 1988. It is hoped that IFSW will be represented as an Observer by some members of its UN/New York team.

- The implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging adopted by the 1982 World Conference, will be reviewed for a second time by the Commission for Social Development (Vienna) in 1989. Concerned United Nations bodies and non-governmental organisations as well as Member States will be asked to contribute their findings during 1988, and it is hoped that IFSW will be making meaningful input based on information provided by its Member Associations.

- The draft constitution of the Philippines, if adopted, will be the first constitution containing direct references to the problems and needs of disabled persons. The most important sections containing mention of disability are found under Article XIII entitled "Social Justice and Human Rights".



Council of International Programs (CIP)

Through its annual program, the Council of International Programs

- gives professionals who work in the social service field, youth work, and special education, the opportunity to meet in the United States;
- contributes toward international understanding;
- facilitates exchange of professional experiences and skills;
- offers first-hand experience and understanding of cultures, living conditions and aspirations in the U.S.

This is achieved through a combination of seminars, lectures and practical field-work experience and family living.

Project period:

April 24 to August 10, 1989 for the regular 4 months program; April 24, 1989 through April 30, 1990 for the extended program.

Those selected for the extended program remain in the U.S. for an additional eight months of field work with independent living accommodations provided.

Qualifications:

Candidates must be at least 23 years of age, currently engaged in either social work, youth work, community development and planning, public administration, or special childhood education and have had two years of direct service experience.

Date for applications: May 1, 1988.

Costs: Participants will have to pay their own travel expenses and contribute US\$ 1,200 towards the program costs.

Contact:

Council of International Programs
1030 Euclid Avenue, Suite No. 410
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44115, USA
Phone 216/861-5478
Cable CIPRO, Telex 241423



*Have you already registered for the
Social Workers World Conference,
Stockholm 1988?*

If not, it is high time to do so — NOW!

Remember:

General Meeting will take place July 24-26,
1988.

The Symposium/Conference on:
**“Attitudes, Values and Ideology in Social
Work Practice”**
July 26-30, 1988.

Send completed registration forms to:

Social Workers World Conference
c/o Stockholm Convention Bureau
Box 6911
S-102 39 Stockholm, Sweden

or direct enquiries to:

Social Workers World Conference, Stockholm
1988

Sturegatan 56
S-114 36 Stockholm, Sweden
Tel. 46 8 629954
Telefax 468606201