

Proposed motion for the IFSW General Meeting, Seoul, June 2016

Motion regarding Child Labour

Proposed by: Japan

This motion was drafted at the conclusion of the Asia Pacific Pre Conference workshop entitled “*Promoting the Rights of Children: Child Labour and Children on the Move*”, held on 20 October 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand as a remit to go forward to the IFSW General Meeting in Seoul in 2016.

Guest speakers at the pre-conference workshop were Mr M V Sriganesh from India, Dr Bala Nikku from Nepal, Mr Habibur Rahman from Bangladesh and Mr Sompong Srakaew from Thailand. Mr Sriganesh defined child labour as “Work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity and that is harmful to physical and mental development.”

Although speakers advised of a number of international conventions related to child labour, they also noted the variation in implementing and monitoring the government policies with respect to these conventions, in their countries. It is also recognised that whilst the issue of child labour needs local, national and international solutions to address poverty and the lack of educational opportunities for children, raising awareness of the issue and lobbying internationally is required as well. Many global corporations are benefitting from maintaining the status quo of employing cheap child labour, often in unsafe and unhealthy workplaces and this is unacceptable.

Sectors commonly exploiting child labour include factory industries (including apparel and carpet), mines and quarries, agriculture, domestic service, shop work, transportation (producing and assembling vehicle parts) and the construction industry. In addition the exploitation of children in the sex industry is a major concern.

This motion proposes:

“That the General Meeting acknowledges that in all corners of the world, child labour is an unacceptable exploitation of the Rights of Children and that such exploitation seriously and negatively impacts on their long term health and wellbeing. We call upon IFSW to develop a position or policy statement against child labour policies and practices.”