

Madrid, 29 April 2016

Dear IFSW Elections Officer, David Jones, and IFSW General Secretary, Rory Truell,

The Board members of the Spanish General Social Work Council show our support for the nomination of Ana I. Lima Fernández for the position of IFSW European Regional President

Ana I. Lima Fernandez is a **referent for the profession** and for the Spanish General Council of Social Work. Since 2006, she holds the position of President of the Spanish Council and previously, from 1998 to 2002, held the position of General Secretary. In addition, she has collaborated as expert at the regional professional association of social work of Madrid since 1989. During these years she has shown a **strong commitment to social work** and is an example to follow for many professionals as defender of human rights, freedom and social justice.

We want to highlight her tenacity as well as her dedication, effort and commitment. **Ana I. Lima's vision for the profession has meant to our organization a more global opening to advance in the dynamics of a multifaceted social reality**, with the aim of contributing from the profession to a new social model.

She is certainly a person who can generate spaces for sharing good practices and for developing structures of dialogue and mediation within the European region. Ana I. Lima is a professional with a wide strategic vision that contributes to bring everyone together with respect and taking into consideration values as the heterogeneity and multiculturalism. We are sure that her commitment and her ability to create networks and connect organizations will contribute to providing a better response to new emerging social needs as well as will enable our profession to gain visibility from our strengths and not from our weaknesses.

Ana I. Lima has wide experience in management and governance of professional organizations and has worked on main axes such as political and social commitment; good professional praxis; areas of social intervention; communication and social networks; professional competences; training , research and publications. Her energy and motivation, together with her leadership skills will be assets to support members of the European Region to face the challenges of articulating new spaces, where we can reconceptualize the social work and empower users and professionals to contribute to the transformation of the social structures.

She is a strong believer in promoting the role of social workers as expert interlocutors in the European entities. She advocates working with the current networks to give voice to the social work at European organizations.

We are sure that she will contribute to work on a transversal basis to guarantee a positive image and identity of the profession, promote the presence of social workers in social media as well as open spaces for training and professional discussions. In addition, we are sure that her experiences in developing activities to improve professional practice will bring great value to the work of the FITS Europe.

She has a clear position on the role that practitioners must play against issues such as the fight against austerity, evictions, poverty, social inequality, gender violence. She is a strong advocate for the guarantee of social rights, dignity and respect for human rights and has been a driven force of social movements such as the Orange Tide and the Campaign Social Rights for Dignity, that have mobilized the Spanish local professional associations of social work, the practitioners as well as other professional associations.

We also want to highlight her capacity and negotiating skills. She has played a key role in the defense of the profession during the recent processes of reorganization that the profession has suffered in Spain to adapt to the new European Framework as well as during the process of modification of our Statutes and during the revision of the Code of Ethics of Social Work.

Along these years, the work and effort that Ana I. Lima has made in the performance of her duties as President of the General Council have been rewarded. In 2014, the General Council was awarded by the Spanish Socialist Party with the Rosa Manzano Prize Award; in 2012, the Ministry of Social Affairs granted the General Council with Gold Cross Solidarity; the National Institute for Older Persons and Social Services awarded the General Council with the Social Merit Award in 2010. Likewise, the passion and dedication that Ana I. Lima has to social work have been also recognized. In 2010, she received from the General Assembly of Professional Associations the Gold medal of the profession and in 2014, the International Federation of Social Workers granted her with IFSW Secretary-General Award for outstanding services to Social Work.

It is a pleasure for this board to support the nomination of Ana I. Lima for the position of IFSW European Regional President. We are confident that this new path she has decided to undertake, will be a boost for IFSW and will be an asset to strength and continue to build together new social order based on the values of social work.

THE BOARD OF THE SPANISH GENERAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL WORK SUPPORTS THE NOMINATION OF ANA I. LIMA FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIAL WORK - EUROPE.



Encarnación Peláez Quero
Vice-President
Spanish General Council of Social Work