

# *ifsw news*

*1/2001*



*Looking for the best possible  
structure to meet the demands*



# *New ways to discharge our commitment to social work*

*Dear Colleagues,*

In the December 2000 issue of the Newsletter I noted the real and persistent challenges to the economic, social, political, human and civil rights of the world communities. These are being differently manifested throughout countries and regions. Nevertheless they require our attention as individual practitioners and as national and international organisations. The demand is great and our capacity to meet these needs is finite. Consequently as we begin 2001 the IFSW is looking at new ways to discharge our commitment to the international social work community as set out in our constitution.

The IFSW, in one form or another, has existed since 1928. Since that time it has had a strong commitment to the development of the profession throughout the world in a manner that is consistent with the goals of social justice. Our predecessors have, in my opinion, been enormously successful in the development of a vibrant international organisation. Our current work is testimony to their effort and commitment.

The General Meeting in Montreal endorsed the further development of a discussion paper outlining potential models for the future operation of the IFSW. The first paper was distributed to member organisations and representatives in February this year. It is a discussion paper which seeks to identify a range of issues confronting IFSW, and looks for member input. A further paper summarising responses and making recommendations to the Executive Committee for its Meeting in Singapore in July 2001 will follow. The final paper will be distributed in

preparation for our next General Meeting in Harare 2002. Rest assured that we are committed to a full consultation process. We are anxious to ensure that everyone has the opportunity fully to consider the issues and any recommendations which may flow from this process.

Some may ask why is the organisation expending so much time and energy on structural matters? We believe that we need now to look at different ways to meet the ever-increasing and diverse demands on our largely voluntary support system and to make sure we utilise to maximum effect all of our resources.

Finally I would also like to draw your attention to two important events occurring this year. The first is in September when the UN will hold a Special Session on Children which is intimately linked to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The second is the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance also occurring in September in South Africa. IFSW will be an active participant in both of these events. I commend to you the report of our UN New York Main Representative Michael Cronin. He provides chilling statistics about the fate of millions of children today and every day. He reminds us of the breadth and nature of violence and discrimination directly related to racial intolerance. These two issues represent a key part of the important work being undertaken by IFSW as the international voice for social work practice. It is further reason to make sure that we have the best possible structure to continue and extend our work.

*Imelda Dodds*  
President

Sydney, March 2001

**Frontpage:**

Herbert Paulischin, John Mould, Ellen and Andy Mouravieff-Apostol, Imelda Dodds, Fiona Robertson, Tan Ngoh Tiong, Tom Johannesen, Kishore Ramgoolam and Juan Manuel Latorre Carvajal at the inauguration of a plaque in Memory of the late Dr. Celia B. Weisman.

*Photo: Lisbeth Mattsson*

## *Deadlines for material to the ifsw news in 2001*

July Edition - 15 June

November Edition - 15 October



# The Gulf Social Work Conference: Globalisation seen from Arabia



*Social Workers from the Arab World met in Sharjah in February to discuss Globalisation from an Arabian point of view and Social Work Responsibilities in a Changing World. At the opening of the Conference HH Crown Prince Sultan al-Qassimi and the Minister of Social Affairs were also present.*  
(Photo: Lisbeth Mattsson)

The Gulf Social Work Conference, held every second year, includes the six Gulf states Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, with the latter as host when the gathering took place in Sharjah February 7-8. The Conference consisted of social workers both from the region and from the wider Arab world, in addition to the IFSW Secretary General and Information Officer.

Much of the discussion at the Conference dealt with how the Arab world could cope with the hectic pace of change and globalisation. The

general feeling was that while globalisation is a phenomenon rooted in the west, its impact can not be overlooked in the traditional Islamic societies. There is a movement towards finding a platform for a more significant role to be played in the process and to avoid victimisation. The Ruler of Sharjah, HH Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed al-Qassimi has contributed to the NGO sector's ability to be more active by providing outstanding conference and office facilities to among others the social workers, headed by Mr. Obeid Khalfan Al-Roumi.

**3rd International Conference on Social Work in Health and Mental Health  
1-5 July 2001, Tampere, Finland**

**Visions from around the Globe**

Conf. Secretariat: CongCreator CC Ltd., PO Box 762, FIN-00101 Helsinki, Finland  
Tel (358) 9 4542 190, Fax (358) 9 4542 1930, Email: [swh2001@congcreator.com](mailto:swh2001@congcreator.com)

# News from the UN, New York

Two new members have been appointed to the IFSW team of representatives in New York, Lisa Morrell and Robin Mama. Ms. Morrell works for a victim service agency as a director of a program that helps families of homicide in New York City. Dr. Mama is an Associate Professor of Social Work at Monmouth University in New Jersey.

## ***Say Yes to Children***

No less than 1.2 billion persons, half of them children, struggle to survive on less than one dollar per day. The overwhelming effects of external debt, poverty, weak infrastructure and services of poor quality contribute to more than 10 million children under the age of five dying each year, mostly from preventable diseases and malnutrition.

At least 40 million children per year are unregistered at birth, violating their right to name and the right to acquire nationality. Many NGOs are convinced that efforts to overcome poverty and exclusion must be guided by universal values and human rights, beginning with the rights of the child.

An unprecedented meeting of the UN General Assembly dedicated to the children and adolescents of the world, the Special Session on Children, will bring together government leaders and Heads of State, NGOs, children's advocates and children themselves in September 2001 at the UN in New York. The Special Session is an important follow up to the 1990 World Summit for Children, where 71 Heads of State and Government leaders signed the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and adopted a Plan of Action to achieve a set of precise, time-bound goals. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted in 1989, has set the foundation for these objectives.

IFSW Representatives from New York and Geneva were in attendance at the Second substantive session of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on Children, which was held in New York from 29 January - 2 February 2001. This PrepCom meeting was notable for the emergence of a disciplined and well-organized NGO lobby on behalf of child rights.

The official debate centered around the draft document entitled "A World Fit for Children", intended to serve as a mission statement for the Special Session, and restate the commitments that were made to children in 1990. NGOs from all over the world formed issue-oriented caucuses throughout the week to influence the document. There were three main areas of particular concern: (1) The lack of a clear

strategy and action program for achieving the document's goals. (2) The failure to reflect the full range of rights. (3) The absence of key issues such as the protection for children separated from their families and the impact of environmental damage on children's health and children's participation.

In a concerted push to improve the draft outcome document, NGOs prepared an alternative text for presentation to governments.

UNICEF will incorporate the comments they have received. They will find it particularly difficult to strike a balance between the 'rights-based approach' - which holds governments legally accountable for failing to meet the needs of children - and the conventional approach to child survival, which relies on development aid.

## ***Health and Mental Health***

Recent discussion at the UN on the inter-connectedness of Human Rights and Mental Health pointed that human rights violations frequently receive less of a focus than those of physical health. The prevailing concept seems to be that people with mental health problems do not seem to have the same rights as those with physical illnesses.

IFSW has supported the creation of the new CONGO Committee on Health and Communication. The Committee will explore health information available in all media to various constituencies around the world, but will give particular attention to the uses of the new information technologies.

## ***Human Rights***

Despite continuing efforts by the international community, racial discrimination, ethnic conflicts and widespread violence persist in various parts of the world. Racial minorities, migrants, asylum seekers and indigenous peoples are targets of intolerance.

A World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance will be held in South Africa in 2001. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson has stated that the conference can shape and embody the spirit of the new century, based on the shared conviction that we are all members of one human family ([www.unhchr.ch](http://www.unhchr.ch)).

The 18th Annual Social Work Day at the UN to be held on March 21, 2001 has embraced the theme Racial and Ethnic Oppression: Local and Global Impact.

*Michael Cronin*

IFSW Main Representative to the UN, N.Y.



# *More than 1000 Friends of IFSW*

The IFSW Friends program has now passed 1 000 registrations, and Friend no. 1000, *Ms. Maria da Conceicao de Soussa Matias* from Coimbra, Portugal, will be celebrated at the European Seminar in Vienna and Bratislava in August.

The request sent to existing Friends to renew for 2001 has been met with a strong response, and renewals keep coming in to the Secretariat on a daily basis. The affiliate program is of growing importance for IFSW, both because of the funding it provides for our activities and because of its contribution in linking social workers globally to what is happening in international social work.

## **IFSW Officers met in Berne**

The 7 IFSW Elected Officers held their annual meeting in Berne, Switzerland 12-14 January. Among a full agenda the meeting reviewed progress on the Action Plan 2000-2002. It discussed at length the present situation concerning the planned World Conference in Zimbabwe 2002, and decided to continue preparing for the conference as scheduled, but to keep the political development under close observation and be prepared to alter plans if needed. IFSW member organisations have been informed in a roundletter, and will be kept posted. The Manual on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and Social Work was brought a step forward, and is being further developed, aiming at publication in time for the UN Special Session on Children in New York in September 2001.

## **IFSW WORLD CONFERENCE**

**Harare, Zimbabwe**  
**28 July - 2 August, 2002**  
***Building Effective***  
***Strategies in Social Work***  
***Practice in a New Era***

Conference. Secretariat:  
IFSW 2002 World Conference  
Zimbabwe Convention Bureau (Pvt) Ltd.  
Mr. Satchmo Witness  
PO Box BE 1080, Belvedere  
Harare, Zimbabwe  
Tel (263) 4 702811, Fax (263) 4 724242  
E-mail: [zcb@harare.iafrica.com](mailto:zcb@harare.iafrica.com)

## **IFSW endorses Montreal Social Work Manifesto on HIV/AIDS**

IFSW has endorsed the Manifesto on Social Work and HIV/AIDS, developed at a one-day interdisciplinary symposium prior to the World Social Work Conference in Montreal last July. The Manifesto is intended to place HIV/AIDS on the agenda of social work organisations and social work education programmes globally and to guide action. It can be found at the IFSW web-site: [www.ifsw.org](http://www.ifsw.org)

## **Teach in Japan**

**Starting April 2002**

### **Tokyo University of Social Welfare**

is now accepting applications from professors in: Social Work, Clinical Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Psychiatry, Medicine, Sociology, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and related disciplines. **To be considered applicants must:**

- \* **Speak and write Japanese fluently**
- \* Have an earned doctoral degree or MSW
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- \* and relocate to Japan.

### **Excellent Compensation and Benefits.**

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Dr. Richard Altschuler, 100 West 57th Street, #2M,  
New York, NY 10019, USA; Tel: (1) 212 397 7233,  
Fax (1) 212 397 6090, E-mail: [icra@aol.com](mailto:icra@aol.com)

Interviews will be in the US, Canada  
and Tokyo during Spring 2001.

Internet site: <http://www.tokyo-fukushi.ac.jp>

# *What are the most important ethical challenges for social workers today?*

The IFSW Permanent Committee on Ethical Issues considers placing ethical issues high on the international social work agenda as its primary goal. An important element is the revision of the *Ethics of Social Work - Principles and Standards*. The world is changing rapidly and the basic question is "What are the most important ethical challenges for social workers today?"

The British social worker and ethicist Sarah Banks identified the following challenges in society, social policy and social work practice at a conference in Oslo in September:

- 1) Privatisation and the growing role of the market in social care
- 2) Fragmentation and specialisation of social work
- 3) Growth of multi-disciplinary working
- 4) Declining public trust in professionals and concern for more accountability and credibility
- 5) The rise of the 'consumer' movement and demands for service user and community participation
- 6) A growing concern with the responsibilities of citizens (communitarianism)
- 7) Questioning of universal values (postmodernism).

The list could be formulated differently, but it shows the strong need for ethical considerations among social workers today.

At the World Conference in Montreal 2000 the IFSW document on ethics was criticised for being too complicated and difficult to use. There were strong demands for a new document. The IFSW General Meeting has decided that it is an aim that the General Meeting in 2004 adopts a new document. The revision process is starting now.

The main questions asked by the ethical committee are as follows:

- *With respect to cultural norms and values, how can the ethical instrument reflect these and yet be applicable to all members?*
- *What are the ongoing issues in the different countries and regions and in what way should the ethical document be helpful in addressing these issues?*
- *What should be the nature of the document and how would you like to see it used? Do we need a code of conduct or a statement of principles?*

So far the feedback tells us that the IFSW document should be a value based template rather than a code of conduct. It should be brief and applicable to all cultures. It should deal with universal principles and with universal applicability. These principles are linked to human rights and the UN declarations. Human rights should explicitly be incorporated into the ethical instrument. The code must cover both respect for the individual and respect for diversity.

The Permanent Committee consists of 5 regional representatives. We want to develop a new way of working that links the representatives to the regional bodies. The regional representatives and the regional bodies should discuss how to develop closer cooperation and broad participation in the revision process. Through this way of working we hope to include a broad range of social workers around the world in the process ahead.

*Arne Grønningsæter*

IFSW Permanent Committee on Ethical Issues

## **The School of Social Work Theory and Practice**

Inter-University Centre Dubrovnik, Croatia, June 2001 offers 5 six-day courses: Neighbourhood and Community Support Systems; Social Work with Children and Youth; Social Work and Spirituality; Social Work and Social Policies; Social Work with Juvenile Offenders. Similar Courses are offered in June 2002 Information: Dr. Dada M. Maglajlic, Organizing Director, IUC School of Social Work Theory and Practice, Social Work Program, Bemidji State University, 1500 Birchmont Drive NE, Bemidji, MN 56601, USA, Tel (1) 218 755 2837, Fax (1) 218 755 2822, E-mail: [dadam@bemidjistate.edu](mailto:dadam@bemidjistate.edu)

ICSW Regional Symposium,  
Lisbon, Portugal, May 23-25, 2001  
**For an effective implementation  
of social rights in Europe:  
Building an inclusive society**  
Conf. Secr.: Abreu, Congress Dep.,  
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2795-195 Linda A Velha, Portugal  
Tel (351) 21 415 6106, Fax (351) 21 415 6383  
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Web: [www.icsw.org](http://www.icsw.org)



## Interested in working as a professional social worker in Ireland?

### Social work mobility opportunities - the case of Ireland

*Not everyone may know that there is a shortage of social workers in Ireland. This introduction to the opportunities and issues for current Irish social work practice may be of interest to the international community of social workers.*

#### What do social workers in Ireland do?

Social work in Ireland takes place in a variety of settings; statutory, voluntary as well as community social services.

The majority of social workers in Ireland are employed in the health sector, which falls under the Department of Health and Children. Here, the main service providers are the regional health boards, covering both community and institutional settings. Social workers in the health sector are involved in the following, and more: child protection and family work, medical social work, adoption and fostering, learning disability, child and adolescent psychiatry, and adult psychiatry.

Over half of the social work posts in Ireland are dedicated to social work with children in some form.

Further information in relation to the health and social care services and structures in Ireland can be found on <http://www.doh.ie>. Information about the regional health boards can be obtained from <http://www.irlgov.ie/healthboards>

The second largest sector for social work employment in Ireland is criminal justice, here referred to as probation and welfare services. These posts fall under the aegis of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform and are dedicated to work in the courts, prisons, workshops, special schools, places of detention and special projects. Further information may be obtained from <http://www.irlgov.ie/justice/>

A smaller group of social workers in Ireland work in the local authority sector under the Department of the Environment and Local Government. These

posts are mainly dedicated to work in the housing welfare area and also with the travelling community, an Irish ethnic minority. Further information can be obtained from each of the local authorities at <http://www.irlgov.ie/cocouncils>

#### Are there social work jobs for me in Ireland?

Many holders of non-Irish qualifications in social work have discovered that there are vacancies available in Ireland and have taken the opportunity to gain valuable experience in a new country. Irish employers are also highly aware of the contribution that non-Irish qualified social workers can make and are actively recruiting abroad.

#### What do I need to do in order to work in Ireland?

If you are interested in working in Ireland and hold non-Irish social work qualifications, you should first of all be aware of the need to apply for accreditation of your qualifications. This process may take two-four months from receipt of complete application (average time two months). Applications should be submitted to: National Social Work Qualifications Board (NSWQB), 22 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, Ireland. Tel +353-1-676 62 81. Fax +353-1-676 62 89. E-mail [nswqb@nswqb.ie](mailto:nswqb@nswqb.ie). Web <http://www.nswqb.ie>

Application Forms can be downloaded on-line from the NSWQB website.

#### Will my qualifications be recognised in Ireland?

Recognition of non-Irish qualifications takes into account EU Directive 89/48 and Irish

standards. Criteria are based on the following four categories: 1. length of training, 2. level of training, 3. curriculum content (practice and academic) and 4. recognition in country of qualification. Further information on the criteria is provided on <http://www.nswqb.ie/qualif/nng2.html> or directly from the NSWQB. If you meet the criteria you will be issued with a Letter of Accreditation, which entitles you to apply for posts as a professionally qualified social worker in Ireland.

#### What kind of salary would I get in Ireland?

Salary scales vary from sector to sector. In the health area, the salary scale for professionally qualified social workers ranges from a starting point of IR£ 25,308 (€ 32,135) per annum to IR£ 30,476 (€ 38,696) per annum with a long-service increment of IR£ 31,086 (€ 39,471). In addition, promotional opportunities include team leader and senior social worker posts. Full credit is given for previous professional experience abroad, subject to certification.

#### For further information

*Information on areas of work:* Department of Health and Children <http://www.doh.ie>

*Information on recognition:* National Social Work Qualifications Board <http://www.nswqb.ie>

A resource pack for holders of non-Irish social work qualifications, including a website, is currently being developed. This will provide information on social work in Ireland, including vacancies available and will be brought to the attention of those who are accredited.

# Some important UN Days and Weeks

3 May	<i>World Press Freedom Day</i>
15 May	<i>International Day of Families</i>
17 May	<i>World Telecommunications Day</i>
25 May	<i>Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights</i>
31 May	<i>World No-Tobacco Day</i>
4 June	<i>International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression</i>
5 June	<i>World Environment Day</i>
17 June	<i>World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought</i>
26 June	<i>International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking</i>
26 June	<i>International Day in Support of Victims of Torture</i>
First Saturday of July	<i>International Day of Cooperatives</i>
11 July	<i>World Population Day</i>
9 August	<i>International Day of the World's Indigenous People</i>

More International Days will follow in the next issue of *ifsw news*

## ASIA PACIFIC CONFERENCE

Singapore 31 July - 3 August 2001

### *Millenium Challenges and Action for Social Work Education and Practice*

Conference Secretariat: 16th Asia-Pacific  
Social Work Conferenc. Dept of Social Work  
and Psychology, National Univiserity of  
Singapore, Blk AS6, 4th Floor, 11 Law Link,  
Singapore, 117570

Fax: (65) 7781213

E-mail: [swksec@nuc.edu.sg](mailto:swksec@nuc.edu.sg)



### *Managing Conflicts in Social Work - Dealing with Contradictions The Danube Conference EUROPEAN SEMINAR*

Vienna/Bratislava 27-30 August 2001

Conference Secretariat: OBDS, Mariahilfer-  
strasse 81/1/3/14, A-1060 Vienna, Austria

Fax: (43) 1 587 465610

E-mail: [oebds@ins.at](mailto:oebds@ins.at)



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