IFSW Inaugurates Permanent Office
President’s Message

In the rear view mirror

Exactly five years ago, the IFSW Newsletter was a special 16-page tri-lingual presentation of social work in relation to the core issues of the United Nations World Summit on Social Development. IFSW took part in the Summit as the global voice of social work. The main goal of the IFSW in connection to the Social Summit was to make social work visible, as a profession with its values, – at the Summit and in the documents: the Declaration and the Programme of Action. Leaders of the world’s governments committed themselves to create the necessary conditions to eradicate poverty, to develop sustainable employment and to stop social exclusion. The message of IFSW was that the profession was ready to take on responsibility for social development and that the Summit provided a chance also for the profession - to commit itself wholeheartedly to empowerment and social integration.

I have said it many times in different settings. We have not seen results. Not from the governments and not really from the NGOs and professions involved. Despite fine words and policy commitments at the Summit we have seen broken promises and more exclusion, the gap between the rich and the poor continues to grow.

But this the first year of the new millennium it is time to look back and try to take up the work again. The United Nations will dedicate a special session of the General Assembly to following up on the promises. The NGO-community will again take part with the Geneva Forum 2000. Together again NGOs and governments will make efforts. New aims will be set for the years to come. IFSW will also take part and follow up on behalf of the social work profession. We also need to note that there is a changing attitude in the World Bank, which we need to build on, to develop the focus of such activities towards social justice and social rights.

This year will also review the progress of women’s rights since the Beijing UN Conference in 1995. There will be a special UN conference Women 2000 in New York later this year. IFSW will take part and needs to continue to focus the needs and rights of women.

Women suffer the patriarchal structures of society in almost all countries, structures that create inequality. Structures that lead to the fact that the majority of the world’s poor are women, or children, thus making poverty and exclusion a mainly female problem. These structures also are root causes, though not sole causes, of men’s violence against women. Gender related violence is a destructive aspect of almost all cultures and societies, often concealed by family integrity and societal denial. Social work can contribute in changing attitudes to culturally “accepted” and concealed violence such as female genital mutilation, corporal punishment and domestic violence. These problems are nothing but serious violations of the human rights of women and children.

We as social workers must take up and continue to take on the challenge to change this world order.

If we continue to look back we see another important issue that is in the focus of IFSW and social work. It is the trafficking and sexual abuse of women and children in prostitution and pornography. This year it is Stockholm +4, since the World Conference in Stockholm against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. A very successful conference where NGOs were allowed a more equal role, which they deserve. A follow-up conference will be held next year and we, as social workers need to show what we are doing in direct support and in pressuring our governments to fulfill their commitments to these children.

On a personal note this is also for IFSW and me: Colombo, Sri Lanka + 6. This is my last year and I wish to look back and ask: what have we accomplished in these six years? I believe we can truly say that we have accomplished a great deal. Not that we will "one day ... wake with wings" as Cousin Caterpillar in the Incredible Stringband song, but we have come a long way with a lot of hard organizational work towards developing a powerful timbre in the global voice of social work and now with a permanent site.

Stockholm, March 2000

Elis Enwall
President

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The Dransfield-Dewhurst Scholarships

for the World Conference of IFSW and IASSW in Montréal, Canada July 29 - August 2, 2000

Scholarships assisting social workers to attend the World Conference are available for the following regions under the Dransfield-Dewhurst Fund, whose major donor is Margaret Dewhurst, former President of the Canadian Association of Social Workers and past Treasurer of IFSW: Eastern Europe, South and Central America, Africa and Asia.

The scholarship consists of economy air fare, return tickets and up to 1,000 Canadian Dollars for meals and accommodation. Applicants should
1) Be a member of a member association of IFSW,
2) Never had the opportunity to attend an international social work conference,
3) Be front line social worker, not an administrator or executive member of their social work association,
4) Provide a letter of support from her/his social work association, and
5) Be fairly fluent in one of the three official languages of the conference (English, French and Spanish).

Apply by April 15, 2000 to the Canadian Association of Social Workers, 383 Parkdale Avenue, Suite 402, Ottawa, ON K1Y 4R4, Canada, Fax (1) 613 729 9608, Email: casw@casw-acts-ca
Inauguration of Permanent IFSW Office

The Officers’ Meeting preparing IFSW for the Future

IFSW inaugurated its new permanent Secretariat site in Berne January 28 during the Officers’ Meeting.

In close cooperation with the Swiss Association of Professionals in Social Work, the Secretariat has moved into two convenient offices centrally located in the Swiss capital. The site is designed to be permanent, and not to move around as new Secretary Generals have been taking office as the history of IFSW has been up till now with offices changing from New York to Basle to Geneva and to Oslo. The Secretary General, Tom Johansen, has moved with the office from Norway and is joined by the new part time Information Officer, Lisbeth Mattsson.

IFSW’s Officers had their annual meeting January 27-29, following a meeting in the Task Force on a New Definition of Social Work January 26 and a meeting between executive representatives of IFSW and the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) January 30.

The Officers continued their efforts to shape IFSW for future challenges by developing the action plan and biannual report instruments, meant to make the member associations more able to form directions for their international body and enhance transparency. A Strategic Plan for the Federation is also being designed, focusing on priorities and decision making for current and future efforts.

As part of the meeting a study visit to the United Nations in Geneva was arranged with high-level meetings at the United Nations and with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The expected outcome of these meetings will among other things be to strengthen the human rights training both in schools of social work and for the social work profession.

The Officers’ Meeting received a report on the work with a New Definition of Social Work, which has reached a final level, and will be presented to the General Meeting in Montreal July 25-27, based on distribution to member associations by the end of April.

Among other themes at the Meeting were:

- Membership issues, including receiving applications from Peru and the Dominican Republic and notification that Lebanon will apply shortly.
- IFSW Investment Policy after the move to Switzerland.
- Follow-up of the Social Summit in Copenhagen 1995
- International Social Work Day

Executives from IFSW and IASSW met January 30 for a productive meeting looking at how the two organizations can further develop cooperation on policy issues, standards for social work training, cooperation in relation to UN events and conferences.

A number of concrete initiatives were made to support the social work profession in being able to act with one voice in the new millennium.

A Memoriam - Thelma Stackhouse

We mourn the passing of our beloved colleague, Thelma Stackhouse, on February 17, 2000.


During this time she covered mainly the events and activities at UNICEF.

In 1998 she was honored by the Working Group on the Rights of the Child, of the NGO Committee on UNICEF, and by the Sub-Committee on the Rights of the Girl Child.

She was an active representative to the very end. Thelma was highly valued as a member of the IFSW team and will be sorely missed.

Dr. Celia B. Weisman
Head of IFSW Representatives to the United Nations, New York
News from the UN

Many Initiatives for a more Social Global Agenda

The last period has seen a flurry of activities at the United Nations, all geared towards the Millennium. There will be a number of significant meetings occurring in the year 2000.

Among them are:

The 5th UN Women's Conference, known as Women 2000 - Beijing +5, taking place in New York June 5-9, convened as a special session of the General Assembly and called Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the 21st Century. As for the other conferences, the event will form a possibility to look back at the achievements since the historic Women’s Conference in Nairobi 1985 as well as setting targets for further development.

Later in June (26-30), a double event will take place in Geneva: Another special session of the General Assembly and the Geneva 2000 Forum, where governments, intergovernmental organizations, NGO's and others will meet. The Geneva event is a follow-up of the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen 1995 and it will be considered what progress has been made in relation to the aims set in the Platform of Action and Declaration. NGO's will have an important role to play in reporting back how poverty, unemployment and social exclusion has been dealt with around the world, and to present their concerns. New aims will be set for the years to come.

UN is also arranging a Millennium Assembly in New York September 6. In preparation of this, a Millennium Forum will be held in New York May 22-26 with the goal of setting a common agenda for NGO's and Civil Society for global efforts to improve the lives of people.

The ongoing globalization process is a key to all these conferences. Globalization can not only be concerned with economics and maximum profits, but must include moral, social and human considerations to modify competition and promote cooperation and linkages between countries. If not, many parts of the southern world, especially Africa, will fall behind, stuck in commodity production with low wages and agricultural exports facing high tariffs from the industrialized world.

The Social Work Day at the United Nations will this year be celebrated March 29 with the World Health Organization (WHO) as co-sponsor for the first time. The topic is “Fighting Poverty Through Development: The Social, Economic, and Psychological Dimensions”.

We end this presentation by taking a look into 2001, when the UN, August 31 - September 7, will arrange a World Conference Against Racism in South Africa, inspired by Kofi Annan's statement: "Bigotry, hatred, prejudice - these are the ugly symptoms of a sickness humanity has always and everywhere suffered. Racism can, will and must be defeated”.

For more information see the website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights at www.unhchr.ch

Based on the report of Cetta Weisman and the other IFSW Representatives to the UN in New York

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University of Maryland School of Social Work
10th Annual Advanced School on EAP Management and Practice

All-new unique program to prepare former students and first-time participants to deal effectively with workplace challenges and opportunities.

EAPs in the New Millennium
Sunday, April 30 - Wednesday, May 3, 2000
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
1779 Massachusetts Avenue, NW Washington, DC

Sponsored by
University of Maryland School of Social Work
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Dallen, Inc.

Topics Include: Workforce 2020; Workplace Integration of MBH, EAPs and Work-Life Programs; Licensure-Accreditation-Certification; Evaluation of EAP/MBH Programs; Legal Aspects of EAP Practice; International Issues; Telephone Counseling; Technology Demonstration including E-services and E-commerce; and more.

Instructors Include: Dr. Dale Masi, Program Director (Univ. of MD); Bernard Beidel (US House of Rep.); Dale Kaplan (EHP); James Kelley (Morgan, Lewis & Bockius); Ronald Manderscheid (SAMHSA); Christina Thompson (Magellan); Richard Wall (Mobil Corp.); Linda Hall Whitman (Ceridian); and others.

Tuition: Including all presentations and workshops, two luncheons, Gala Banquet, Reception, and more - $1799.00 (US). Doyle Hotel rooms are available at a special rate.

For further information, please contact: Dallen, Inc., 2549 Virginia Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20037, Tel: (202) 965-3077 or (202) 223-2399; Fax: (202) 223-2392; E-mail: masirsch@aol.com
Nairobi, Kenya
IFS W 5th Pan-African Conference

220 participants, mainly from Kenya but with a number of African countries represented, gathered in Nairobi November 22-25, 1999 for IFSW’s 5th Pan-African Regional Conference, after a break for ten years since the last one. The Kenya National Association of Social Workers, headed by Afia Mugambi, and the Africa Region of IFSW made the event memorable through their commitment and by the many topics addressed. For IFSW, having a conference in Africa again is seen as a major achievement. It is hoped that we can continue to sponsor a Pan-African Conference every second year from now on, and the representatives present from Mauritius and Uganda went home to explore possibilities for hosting a conference in 2001.

The theme was “Social Workers in the Development Process: Marching into the Next Millennium”, and the conference was divided into two sections, one sharing experiences on a country level and the other covering a wide array of topics in social work, e.g.: Poverty Alleviation; Disaster Management; Domestic Violence; Vulnerable Groups, HIV/AIDS, Youth; and Children.

The African region of IFSW also had a special meeting, aimed at vitalizing the cooperation between the social worker associations in IFSW and developing a more firm structure. Nigel Hall, IFSW Vice President for Africa, summarized many of the problems faced by the African organizations, emphasizing the need to: Move away from the marginalized status of the profession; Develop a sustained income basis; Obtain formal registration; Gain more representative membership; Have paid secretariats; Communicate more efficiently; Seek a higher public profile; and Aim at strategic partnerships.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Eileen McGowan Kelly Tribute Fund Scholarship
World Conference Montréal 2000

Eileen McGowan Kelly founded the Office of Peace and International Affairs in the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), USA in 1989 and was its Director until she passed away in October 1996. Eileen did a tremendous job advancing the social work profession’s role in the international arena. Her vision was to promote international links and exchanges for professional social workers and social work associations throughout the world. Realizing the global impact of social issues and the significant role of social workers, Eileen worked with substantial knowledge, intense passion and commitment to link social workers throughout the world with each other.

In close cooperation with NASW, the International Federation of Social Workers has linked with the Eileen McGowan Kelly Tribute Fund, established by NASW in 1997. By doing so, the international social work community wants to contribute in keeping Eileen’s spirit alive and stimulate the future social work generation to continue building links throughout the world. At each World Conference of IFSW, held every second year, one scholarship is announced for a professional social worker or social work student.

This year’s World Conference is held in Montreal, Quebec. Canada July 29-August 2. The scholarship holder is also invited as an observer during the IFSW General Meeting July 25-27, and the full stay in Montreal will therefore be from July 24 to August 3.

Applications should be received not later than by April 30, 2000, and will be considered by the IFSW Eileen McGowan Kelly Tribute Fund Committee. Priority will be given to a younger social worker or social work student active in hers or his social work association, and with a demonstrated interest in international social work. Applicants must be fluent in English, French or Spanish, and any application should be supported by a letter of recommendation from the applicant’s social worker association. The scholarship holder is expected to write a report focusing international social work based on the participation in the IFSW General Meeting and World Conference. Applications should be sent in form of a letter to the IFSW Secretariat. The letter shall include information about the applicant’s name, address, age, sex, educational background and work experience. The letter shall also include a statement of why the applicant is seeking the scholarship, and how she or he is expecting to make benefit of the experience.

The scholarship will cover discount air travel, accommodation, conference participation and daily allowances.

IFSW, Postfach 6875, Schwarztorstrasse 20, CH-3001 Berne, Switzerland, fax (41) 31 381 1222, Email: secregen@ifsw.org
THE 29th ICSW INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL WELFARE

Poverty, Social Welfare and Social Development Challenges for the 21st Century

23 - 27 October 2000 - Cape Town, South Africa

The International Council on Social Welfare invites you to attend the 29th ICSW International Conference on Social Welfare in Cape Town, South Africa from 23 - 27 October 2000. The conference programme will cover a wide range of stimulating ideas and perspectives and provide opportunities to exchange information on social welfare and social development activities worldwide.

Who Should Attend?

Participants will be from all parts of the world and will be from non-government, academic and government backgrounds, as well as intergovernmental organisations.

Registration Fees

The registration fee for the conference is US$400 for registrations received by 31 July 2000. A 10% increase will apply after that date. Discounts on the standard fee will be available for participants from developing countries and countries in transition.

Expressions of Interest

If you would like more information on the conference, please contact Odette at Tel: +27 (21) 762 8600, Fax: +27 (21) 762 8606 E-mail: icswglobalconf.co.za or visit our Website: www.icsw.org.

If you would like to speak at a workshop, convene a workshop, display a poster or organise an exhibition stand, please contact Odette.

Visit our Website

www.icsw.org

Organised by:

International Council on Social Welfare

In conjunction with:

South African National Council for Child & Family Welfare

National Welfare Social Service and Development Forum, South Africa
UNICEF’s New Initiative: A Global Movement for Children in the Twenty-First Century

In the run-up to the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly to follow up the World Summit for Children in September 2001 (Resolution A/54/L.51), UNICEF is preparing to launch a Global Movement for Children which will be shaped by input from Governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs), including NGOs, and the private sector.

It will call on international and national leaders in all sectors to promote such a movement whose vision for the 21st century is that every child should be able to develop her and his talents and full potential in a climate of peace, equality and respect for human dignity. Special focus will be on:

1. children’s start in life encompassing their physical health, mental alertness and emotional security which in turn will further their social and intellectual skills;
2. children’s access to basic education of good quality;
3. an enabling environment for the development, participation and contributions of adolescents.

It is hoped that IFSW member associations can be encouraged to contribute to the global movement at national and regional level, either by participating in NGO Committee on UNICEF co-opted or newly established national and regional NGO networks or by joining in other activities to promote the movement in their countries and regions.

Member associations can also contact UNICEF country and regional offices. Some documents on the Global Movement for Children initiative can be obtained from the IFSW Secretariat on request.


UN International Year for a Culture of Peace: Manifesto 2000

Year 2000 is proclaimed by the United Nations’ General Assembly as the “International Year for a Culture of Peace”. A group of Nobel Peace Prize Laureates has drafted Manifesto 2000 on the occasion of the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Signatures are now gathered to support the Manifesto, and will be presented to the UN Millennium General Assembly in September.

If you want to join the Campaign, signatures can be made on Web site www.unesco.org/manifesto2000

Under the campaign motto “Peace is in our hands”, the following text is presented for support:

Manifesto 2000 for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence

• Because the year 2000 must be a new beginning, an opportunity to transform - all together - the culture of war and violence into a culture of peace and non-violence.
• Because this transformation demands the participation of each and every one of us, and must offer young people and future generations the values that can inspire them to shape a world based on justice, solidarity, liber-

• equality and respect for human dignity, harmony and prosperity for all.
• Because the culture of peace can underpin sustainable development, environmental protection and the well being of each person.
• Because I am aware of my share of responsibility for the future of humanity, in particular to the children of today and tomorrow.

I pledge in my daily life, in my family, my work, my community, my country and my region, to:

1. Respect all life
Respect the life and dignity of each human being without discrimination or prejudice;

2. Reject violence
Practise active non-violence, rejecting violence in all its forms: physical, sexual, psychological, economical and social, in particular towards the most deprived and vulnerable such as children and adolescents;

3. Share with others
Share my time and material resources in a spirit of generosity to put an end to exclusion, injustice and political and economic oppression;

4. Listen to understand
Defend freedom of expression and cultural diversity, giving preference always to dialogue and listening without engaging in fanaticism, defamation and the rejection of others;

5. Preserve the planet
Promote consumer behaviour that is responsible and development practices that respect all forms of life and preserve the balance of nature on the planet;

6. Rediscover solidarity
Contribute to the development of my community, with the full participation of women and respect for democratic principles, in order to create together new forms of solidarity.
Social Work Conferences 2000 - 2002

If you want more information about any of these conferences, or would like to be on the mailing list, please contact the relevant conference secretariat

Montréal, Canada, July 29 - August 2, 2000
Joint IFSW and IASSW World Conference
Promoting Equitable Societies in the Global Economy:
Social Work in the 21st Century
Conference Secretariat: World Conference of IFSW/IASSW 2000, Events International Meeting Planners Inc., 759 Victoria Square, Suite 300, Montréal, Quebec, Canada H2Y 2J7. Tel (1) 514 286 0855, Fax (1) 514 286 6066 E-Mail: info@eventsintl.com

Vienna, Austria and Bratislava, Slovakia August 27-30, 2001
IFSW European Seminar "The Danube Conference".
Managing Conflicts in Social Work: Dealing with Contradictions
Conference Secretariat: Austrian Association of Social Workers, Mariahilfstrasse 81/114, A-1060 Vienna, Austria. Tel (43) 1 587 4656, Fax (43) 1 587 465610, E-Mail: oebds@ins.at

Harare, Zimbabwe July 28 - August 2, 2002
IFSW World Conference:
Building Effective Strategies:
Social Work in A New Era
Conference Secretariat: National Association of Social Workers (Zimbabwe), P.O. Box 5369, Harare, ZIMBABWE Tel (263) 4 771801 or (263) 4 771802, Fax (263) 4 771802, E-Mail: nasw-z@icon.co.zw

INTER-UNIVERSITY CENTRE (IUC) DUBROVNIK, CROATIA SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK THEORY AND PRACTICE
IUC offers academic programs composed of international and multidisciplinary courses and conferences. The School of Social Work Theory and Practice offers each year 5 courses, each for 5 days. In 2000 and 2001, the following courses are available:
Information: Dr. Dada M. Maglajlic, Organizing Director, IUC School of Social Work Theory and Practice, Social Work Program, Bemidji State University, 1500 Birchmont Drive, N.E., Bemidji, MN 56601, USA Tel (1) 218 755 2837, Fax (1) 218 755 2822, Email: maglajlicdam@vax1.bemidji.msus.edu

IFSW Newsletter
is published by International Federation of Social Workers
Postfach 6875, Schwarzerstrasse 20, CH-3001 Berne, Switzerland
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The Newsletter is open for advertisements. Deadlines are
June 1, 2000 for the July edition and September 20, 2000 for the October edition

For more information, please notify the Secretariat.