



International Federation of Social Workers

**Newsletter** 3/98

*Major Move Forward*  
*Associations in 70 countries now form IFSW*



# President's Message

*"Death is the ultimate social injustice",*

Shimon Peres pointed out in his opening speech at the Jerusalem World Conferences. Death is also the consequence of a failure to attain Peace, multiple death the consequence of war. In a setting of enduring conflicts we held our biannual General Meeting and SOCIAL WORKERS' WORLD CONFERENCE to support the ending of the conflict, thus taking on the challenge that social work as a profession, true to its basic values, must always contribute to a process towards peace and reconciliation. One of the pioneers of social work, Jane Addams was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931 for her work. We all need to follow in her footsteps. But to reach peace we must accept differences and diversity, we must see the uniqueness and similarities in each other, the basically human aspects. We must dare to take risks.

There was criticism of our decision not to change the venue from Jerusalem. There has been reproach of the position not to take part. The General Meeting dealt with this our own conflict in a resolution. We must accept differences and diversity and now put all that behind us. The Jerusalem conference gave numerous possibilities to exchange ideas and experiences in all the fields where our profession contributes to human well-being. To develop these should be our primary goal.

Women's rights and the violations of those were the focus of many sessions and the theme for a special symposium before our conference opened. I feel it is true to say that social workers' first priorities lie with women and children as the most vulnerable and most excluded in our global society. The empowerment of women is therefore a major challenge for social work now and in the future as it was to our pioneers. It is true to say, as was also discussed in the conference, that we must take up the challenge to change the world - the world order. The order that is excluding so many from power and participation. At the same time we need to address the needs of individual fellow human beings.

It was also remarked that *"Social Work must welcome Surprise"*. Perhaps this is the reason why it is so difficult to agree on a definition of the social work profession. The work to develop a revised definition will continue this coming period. Perhaps Social Work cannot be definitely described because it always changes, because it never can

be exact, and we must welcome the unexpected – and utilise it.

In the on-going project to produce a manual on psycho-social methods of prevention and recovery of victims of sexual exploitation of children I have travelled a lot and met many colleagues. There are many good methods used, but what makes a significant difference is perhaps hope and confidence. As phrased by Sister Elisabete in Fortaleza, Brazil: *"The most effective is to give hope that a different life is possible"*. Or as said, by Cecy Presterello in Recife, Brazil, about our role as professionals in what seems to be endless and hopeless miseries *"See that you have power in yourself. The structure is there. If you believe in this power you can do miracles."* Yes, there is power in social work, but it has to be used.

As I now begin my last term as president I am thrilled that we constitute 85 member associations in 70 countries and reaching out to as many as 460.000 social workers. There is power in our federation too and we must utilise it well. We shall follow up the ambitions, expressed in the General Meeting, to modernise and make our work more effective with the help of our new Executive Committee Council of Officers, ECCO and continue to work towards even more stable and sound finances that will ensure that IFSW becomes a truly economically democratic organisation.

We shall of course continue our important work in several projects: Organisational development in Zimbabwe and Ukraine/Belarus, the two projects focusing rights of children, the ambition to define or describe our profession in a way that is encompassing globally and has relevance in all cultures and levels of social work. We have now ahead of us another two year period before we all meet again. I and the Executive Committee of IFSW will do everything we can to forward the interests of the profession and the federation and I hope that we shall meet in Montreal, Canada in the year 2000 with new experiences and ideas to share.

Stockholm, October 1998

Elis Envall  
President

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## IFSW Newsletter

is open for advertisements, including inserts  
Deadline is **January 20, 1999**  
for the February edition

For more information, please notify the Secretariat.



# Social Work seriously affected by globalization

1385 participants from 64 countries met in Jerusalem July 5 - 10, 1998, for the World Congress of IFSW and the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW).

Several plenaries and other events were shared with the parallel World Conference of the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW).

Somewhat more than half of the participants came from the host country, where the Israel Association of Social Workers and the Israeli Association of Directors of Schools of Social Work shared the organizing responsibility.

The Congress "Peace and Social Justice - Challenges Facing Social Work" had been chosen at a time when the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians seemed to be gaining momentum, and a congress in Jerusalem was thought to provide an opportunity to look at social work contributions to conflict resolution.

As time passed, the Middle East peace process came to a standstill, and professional associations and schools of social work in all Arab countries, including Palestine, refused to take part in the congress.

Still peace remained a central theme, and experiences in conflict resolution and rehabilitation of war victims were shared with contributions from Israel, former Yugoslavia, Africa, Latin America, Northern Ireland and other troubled areas.

Social justice as the other interlinked main theme reflected the serious effects of the forces of globalization and the "Neo-liberal project" on social policy and social work.

The current political and economic trends form a challenge throughout the world, as they tend to work against core values of social work.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to counter discrimination, exclusion and poverty in a world where the



*"The current political and economic trends form a challenge throughout the world, as they tend to work against core values of social work"*

market rules. Social welfare is often sidelined in this rapid process.

The Congress represented an opportunity for social workers from across the world to gain strength from the similarities of our experiences, and to see the global importance of each of us putting our most basic professional values into action.

Shimon Peres, former Prime Minister of Israel and Nobel Peace Prize

Laureate in 1994, contributed through an inspirational opening speech to encourage social workers to continue to counteract exclusion and strive for conflict resolution.

He declared that "more than land and natural resources the people themselves are the source of human strength. Instead of replacing politics with economics, we should replace economics with social effort".

## Video Registration of the World Congress in Jerusalem

Video-recordings of meetings, introductions, workshops and presentations were made by a Dutch team. This has resulted in a video film with a duration of about one hour with highlights of the congress.

To order please contact Hanzehogeschool Groningen, Faculteit Gamma, Zernikeplein 23, 9747 Groningen, The Netherlands



# Major move forward in IFSW membership

Many new member associations were approved for IFSW membership during a well attended General Meeting in Jerusalem in July.

In addition to reinstatements of member associations in Kenya, Korea, Luxembourg and Niger and inclusion of the Japanese Association for Medical Social Work in the Japanese Coordinating Body for IFSW-membership, the following new associations entered:

Faeroe Islands Association of Social Workers; National Coordinating Committee of Professional Social Workers, India; Mongolian Association of Social Workers; Pakistan Association of Social Workers; Association of Social Workers in Slovak Republic; and the Interim Committee of Social Workers' Associations, South Africa.

Record high, associations in 70 countries with more than 460 000 members now form the Federation.

Michael S. Cronin from New York was awarded the Eileen McGowan Kelly Tribute Fund Scholarship, set up in cooperation with the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), USA to commemorate the

late Eileen McGowan Kelly, NASW's former Director of the Office of Peace and International Affairs, who passed away in 1996.

The meeting approved a new executive structure for IFSW with the establishment of an Executive Committee Council of Officers (ECCO) to conduct executive affairs between Executive Committee meetings.

ECCO, consisting of the President, the five regional Vice Presidents and the Treasurer will have its first meeting in New York in January 1999.

An Activity Plan 1998 - 2000 is to be formulated based on the General Meeting approval of an Biannual Action Plan and will also incorporate the IFSW Development Plan. The philosophy is to continue developing transparency and democracy in the affairs of IFSW.

The next world conference will take place in Montréal, Québec, Canada July 29 - August 2, 2000. Harare, Zimbabwe was decided as venue for the World Conference in 2002, while Adelaide, Australia has presented a bid for 2004 to be decided in 2000.

The General Meeting approved a resolution on the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians, regretting the present standstill, supporting human rights and economic and social development, and condemning all violent activities.

Another resolution was concerned with the lack of participation in the General Meeting and World Congress from member associations in the Arab world and parts of Scandinavia, and made recommendations on how decisions on venues for events like this should be dealt with in the future to allow IFSW to move forward in a healthy and integrated way.

Finally, the General Meeting approved two resolutions proposed by Australia, one a statement of apology to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia and one expressing concern with the growth of the One Nation Party of Australia and other xenophobic groups.

Terry Bamford, United Kingdom resigned as Secretary of the Human Rights Commission after ten pioneer years, and Jim Ife, Australia was elected as his successor.

Eugenia Moreno, Canada was reelected as Elections Officer.

Elis Envall, Sweden was reelected for his third term as IFSW President, and Ng Shui Lai, Hong Kong is new Treasurer.

While Nigel Hall, Zimbabwe is in for another term as Vice President for Africa, new Vice Presidents took their seats in Asia & Pacific (Imelda Dodds, Australia), Europe (Herbert Paulschin, Austria), Latin America and Caribbean (Juan Manuel Latorre Carvajal, Colombia) and North America (Josephine A. V. Allen, USA).

Members at large of the Executive Committee are: Brian Auslander, Israel; Terry Bamford, United Kingdom; Buster Curson, New Zealand; Maria Herczog, Hungary; Patricia B. Luna, Philippines; Valdete de Barros Martins, Brazil; Josphat M. Mathe, Zimbabwe; John Mould, Canada; Tan Ngoh Tiong, Singapore; and Elis Walsh, Ireland.



*IFSW Executive Committee 1998 - 2000*



# Noticias de America Latina y El Caribe

**Brasil.** Con gran éxito y una asistencia cercana a los tres mil profesionales y estudiantes de Asistencia Social, se desarrolló entre el 20 y 24 de Julio en la ciudad de Goiania el IX Congreso Brasileiro sobre el tema: "El Servicio Social rumbo al Siglo XXI".

El evento constituyó una excelente oportunidad para discutir valiosos aportes en torno a la construcción y desarrollo del "Proyecto Etico Politico Profesional".

El Vicepresidente FITS para la región latinoamericana fue invitado y presentó en mesa redonda con miembros de los países del MERCOSUR la ponencia titulada: "Globalización, Organización Profesional y Trabajo Social".

**Bolivia.** Para el periodo 15-18 de Octubre está prevista la realización del X Congreso Nacional de Trabajadores Sociales en la ciudad de Tarija.

**Colombia.** Convocado por el Consejo Nacional para la Educación en Trabajo Social - CONETS - y la Universidad de Caldas, se realizo en

la ciudad de Manizales del 16 al 18 de Septiembre el Seminario Internacional sobre "La Calidad de la Educación en Trabajo Social". Participó del evento el Vicepresidente de la FITS para América Latina y el Caribe. El propósito final ha sido la creación de la "Red Internacional sobre la Calidad de la Educación en Trabajo Social".

A su vez, en Bucaramanga, entre el 26 y el 29 de Octubre se realizará el II Congreso Universitario Internacional de Trabajo Social. El Vicepresidente FITS para América Latina y el Caribe participará con una ponencia sobre El papel de la Investigación en la Formación de los Trabajadores Sociales en relación con el desarrollo social.

**Chile.** La ciudad de Santiago será sede entre el 9 y el 13 Noviembre del XVI Congreso Latinoamericano de Escuelas y Profesionales de Trabajo Social. El tema será "La Globalización y su impacto en el Trabajo Social hacia el siglo XXI".

**Costa Rica.** El Colegio de Trabajadores Sociales y las Escuelas

de Trabajo Social están convocando al V Congreso Nacional y al II Internacional del Trabajo Social. Temática central: "Hacia la construcción de enfoques en Trabajo Social para el nuevo milenio". Fecha 4-6 de Mayo de 1999, en San José.

## Summary

In **Brazil** 3000 members took part in the 9th Congress on Social Work. Of special interest is the development of the Project on Professional Ethics. **Bolivia** will hold its 10th congress during October. In **Colombia** a seminar on the Quality of Social Work Education has suggested to create an international network. During October the Second International University Congress on Social Work is to be held. **Chile** is the venue for the 16th Latin American Congress for Schools and Professionals of Social Work on the theme of Globalisation. In **Costa Rica** the 5th National Congress and "2nd International of Social Work" will be held in May 99.

## INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SOCIAL WELFARE

Announcing the relaunch in 1999 of the

*Scandinavian Journal of Social Welfare* as the *International Journal of Social Welfare*

As the twenty-first century approaches, it has become evident that major social forces of a global nature - such as demographic trends, migration patterns and the globalization of the economy - are reshaping the policies and practices of social work the world over.

In recognition of these changes, the

*Scandinavian Journal of Social Welfare* will be relaunched as the *International Journal of Social Welfare* to provide an international and interdisciplinary forum for the study of social welfare and related fields.

The IJSW offers an integrative approach to the study of social welfare.

The only high-quality journal with an international perspective on social welfare, it will encourage debate about the implications for the global picture.

To support its new international orientation, the IJSW will be edited out of Stockholm and Berkeley.

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# Australian Association

## Organizes Regional Meeting in 1999

The Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) is a flourishing organisation at the moment with membership continuing to grow. AASW is increasing its special policy role and is active in commenting on the issues that affect the members and the client groups.

The association is planning for the next Regional meeting of the International Federation of Social Workers (Asia Pacific) and the Asia Pacific Association of Social Work Education. This will be held in conjunction with the 26th National Conference of the Australian Association of Social Workers, from September 26-29th 1999, in the subtropical Australian City of Brisbane. The Call for abstracts will soon be distributed world-wide.

The deadline for abstracts will be January 28, 1999.

AASW has recently completed a thorough review of Policy and Procedures for establishing Eligibility for Membership. The process involves reviewing all the BSW programs offered by Australian Universities against AASW criteria. The AASW thus assesses the program not the individual.

The AASW has recently been authorised as the relevant assessing body for people needing an assessment of overseas social work qualifications in order to migrate to Australia. AASW also assesses overseas social work qualifications for those people in Australia wishing to know whether or not they are eligible for membership of AASW.

For application forms and information please contact AASW, PO Box 4956, Kingston, ACT 2604, AUSTRALIA or e-mail: [aaswosea@aasw.asn.au](mailto:aaswosea@aasw.asn.au)

## Droits de l'Homme et Travail Social

Document des Nations Unies et de FIAS à l'usage des centres de formation et de professionnels en travail social. Traduit en français par l'Association nationale des assistants de service social (ANAS)

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# International Social Work

An Official Journal of IFSW, IASSW & ICSW

## Communicating Knowledge Across the Spectrum

*International Social Work* is a scholarly refereed journal designed to extend knowledge and promote communication in the fields of social development, social welfare and human services. Its major focus is on international themes in the delivery of services, the functions of social work professionals and the education of social workers. Social policy and social service provision provide the context for this focus.

## Comparative Focus

The journal places particular emphasis on articles concerned with comparative analysis and cross-national research. In each issue you will find discussions and analyses of trends and issues in social welfare policy and social work practice, with a scope extending far beyond any single country. *International Social Work* will also provide you with timely thematic issues dedicated to specific international developments both in the developing and developed world.

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# News from the United Nations

## Several significant events

**In June** there was a special session of the General Assembly devoted to the fight against narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

170 nations deliberated on the major issues including: the illicit production of drugs, sales, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and substances which is a billion dollar enterprise world wide.

The governments present made six major pledges among them to reduce the demand for drugs, to counter money laundering and to improve judicial co-operation among nations and to eradicate illicit drug crops.

**The NGO Committee on Ageing** has been very involved in the launching of the 1999 International Year of Older Persons on October 1, 1998 at the New York Headquarters.

The theme for the day was "Toward a Society of All Ages", and the goal of the NGO Committee is to develop a plan of Action that will carry the ideas, concepts, programs and policies forward into the next century.

We urge all of the member associations of IFSW to acknowledge the year with some sort of program.

**Another major activity** planned is a international video conference. It will be broadcasted Thursday February 11, 1999, at 9.15 a.m. from New York as an interactive telecast with Japan, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Kenya, Chile and Switzerland.

The telecast will be made available through the Internet in 15 other countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Cameroon, China, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Germany, Hungary, India, Netherlands, Philippines, Portugal, South Africa and United Kingdom.

**We urge** the IFSW member organizations in the above countries to plan discussions following the video telecast that will raise awareness as well as identify the future needs and programs for the ageing population.

**The NGO Committee** on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples sponsored the annual program at the UN to celebrate the International Day of Indigenous Peoples.

Fundamentally, all aspects of the situations of Indigenous Peoples are connected to the two primary objectives of the International Decade: to achieve acceptance of the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to establish a Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples at the UN.

**The Working Group**, a sub group of the UN Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, has given much attention to the draft declaration. It has had input from hundreds of Indigenous representatives around the world plus a number of UN experts and some UN member States. The draft is currently under consideration by the UN Commission on Human rights as part of the process leading to presentation to the General Assembly for adoption.

The NGO Committee on the Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples is playing a role at the UN to disseminate copies of the Draft and to promote understanding of its content.

Members of IFSW National Associations are urged to become acquainted with this document and to lobby within their own countries for its adoption.

**The UN Secretary General** proposed 1997 that the session of the General Assembly in the year 2000 be designated "The Millennium Assembly".

He also proposed that there be a "Millennium NGO Forum" in conjunction with the Assembly. A preliminary proposal was distributed this summer for the establishment of a Millennium NGO Forum.

The planning process and the proposed organizational structure as well as a tentative schedule is outlined in this proposal. You will be receiving updates as planning proceeds.

### Human Rights and Social Work: Regional Perspectives and Action responses

A one-day workshop for social workers  
Saturday September 25, 1999  
at The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

This is preliminary notification of a one-day workshop, to be held on September 25, 1999, in conjunction with the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of IFSW and APASWE, and the National Conference of AASW.

The workshop is organised by the Human Rights Commission of the International Federation of Social Workers.

It is intended to give social workers from the Asia-Pacific region an opportunity to identify the key human rights issues for social workers in the region, and to develop appropriate human rights strategies for social workers, social work educators and professional associations. The workshop will not be a forum for

presenting formal papers, but rather will involve all participants in exchanging views and developing strategies for engagement with the key human rights issues facing the social work profession. It is hoped to keep the registration fee to around A\$40, including lunch.

If you are interested in receiving further information and a registration form when available, please contact:

Professor Jim Ife, Secretary, IFSW Human Rights Commission, School of Social Work & Social Administration, The University of Western Australia Nedlands WA 6907 Australia

Fax: +61 8 9380 1070

Email: [jife@cyllyene.uwa.edu.au](mailto:jife@cyllyene.uwa.edu.au)



# Social Work Conferences 1999 - 2000

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

## ***Helsinki, Finland/St. Petersburg, Russia, June 13-18, 1999***

The IFSW European Seminar 1999 is based on a cooperation between associations of social workers in Finland and Russia, and will be located in the two Baltic cities of Helsinki and St. Petersburg.

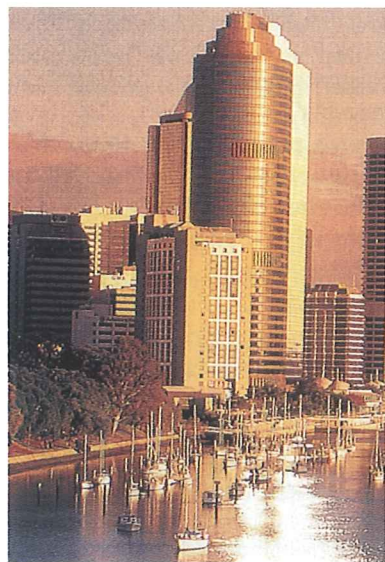
### **Work, Economy and Welfare -**

#### **Professional Social Work Promoting Human Society for All**

Can social work manage change, is a question that must be asked when major changes are taking place. The aim of the seminar is to explore ways by which social work can play an active part in societal and economic changes and thereby helping to build a humane society for all. The seminar will coincide with the 50th anniversary of the Finnish Association of Social Workers.



**Seminar Secretariat:** IFSW European Seminar 1999, Congrex/Blue & White Conferences Oy, P. O. Box 81, FIN 00371 Helsinki, Finland.  
Tel (358) 9 5607 500, Fax (358) 9 5607 5020, E-mail: ifsw@bluewhiteconferences.fin



## ***Brisbane, Australia, September 25, 1999***

IFSW Human Rights Commission: One-day workshop in conjunction with the Regional Conference of IFSW.

### **Human Rights and Social Work: Regional Perspectives and Action Responses**

For more information see page 7 of this newsletter.

## ***Brisbane, Australia, September 26 - 29, 1999,***

Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of IFSW and APASWE (Asia Pacific Association of Social Work Education) in conjunction with the 26th National Conference of the Australian Association of Social Workers.

### **Promoting Inclusion - Redressing Exclusion: The Social Work Challenge**

Social work has retained a core interest in promoting a just and inclusive society. The conference will explore the causes and consequences of social exclusion, and the manner in which social work can confront and redress social exclusion in many domains of its practice.

**Conference Secretariat:** Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of IFSW and APASWE,  
P. O. Box 3496, South Brisbane Business Centre, Queensland 4101, Australia  
Tel (61) 7 3844 1138, Fax (61) 7 3844 0909, E-mail: social@icms.com.au

## ***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**

We live in a world where changes occur at a greater pace than ever before. What role will social work play in the 21st century? How can social work be oriented to better meet the needs of people and communities in a global economy? Social workers must promote the inclusion of all people; they must formulate and articulate social and multidimensional solutions for today's complex problems of inequity, violence, migration, population health etc.

The World Conference will look at the development of successful experiences that could bring changes and foster equality everywhere in the world. Social workers and Educators will be invited to inform each other about the projects and ideas that empower people and that can be translated from one community to another.



**Conference Secretariat:** World Conference of IFSW/IASSW 2000,  
Events International Meeting Planners Inc., 759 Victoria Square, Suite 300, Montréal, Québec, Canada H2Y 2J7.  
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