



International Federation of Social Workers

**Newsletter** 3/97 – 1/98

*New fields to plow*  
*70 years of international cooperation*



# President's Message

This year we celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the first International Conference of Social Work held in Paris 1928. This was the starting point of IFSW, then as the Permanent Secretariat of Social Workers and the other two global sister organisations that we are still cooperating with, IASSW and ICSW. It is especially satisfactory that we can celebrate this with a fruitful cooperation in the joint conferences in Jerusalem in July.

1998 is significant in many aspects being the golden jubilee of Human Rights and from an American perspective the Centennial of social work, as the first social work training started in USA 100 years ago.

## Social Work Day

It is important that we as representatives of the profession strive to make social work visible and give it a profile. This is done nationally in some countries and locally in many places through different manifestations. At an international, regional level the first Social Work Action Day on November 12, 1997 celebrated throughout Europe was an important manifestation of the power of social work and the contributions we as social workers can make to further social inclusion.

## Diversity

Social work is manifold and influenced by the diverse cultures and frameworks it is active within. IFSW represents, through all of its members and the almost half a million social workers represented in those associations, a variety of professional manifestations. We have over the last few

years seen the arrival in IFSW of social work associations which use other epithets for the profession, for instance "social pedagogue".

The demands on the professionals and the social welfare systems in the five regions vary considerably. The history of the social work profession is very different from country to country. In some places and aspects it is a mature profession celebrating a hundred years of social work training this year. In other countries it is in the delivery stage, new born or just being born. But throughout the world there are similarities. There is a core identity, a nucleus of values and aims directed towards social justice and empowerment of the weak, the poor and marginalised.

There is, I am sure, a core professionalism that we can identify as professional social work. But there are many different specialities within the context of professional social work. The Task Force now working to seek a revision of the Definition of Social Work I am sure will find and describe the core that unites us as professional social workers within the global network of IFSW. A core that will allow us to identify one profession of social work, but with varied forms and specialities, answering to the needs within the setting in which it operates.

## Conflict and Peace

As social workers we must always denounce violence as a conflict resolution method. We must also fight oppression and violations of human and social rights, strive for peaceful change and cooperation to reach a


stage of respect and coexistence. The fact that the peace process in Palestinian/Israeli relationship has stopped and that terror and continued violations of human rights have again taken over must not allow us to avoid addressing the basic issues of social work. There are colleagues who feel that they cannot or are unable to take part in the coming World Congress in Jerusalem in spite of the efforts to establish cooperation on a professional level between the two sides in this conflict. Many attempts have been made to support cooperation between the parties and facilitating inclusion of Arab and Palestinian social workers. There may still be hope for participation.

The choice of venue is fully a professional decision, not a political action. It is not an indication that IFSW is favourable to any specific political view in the conflict, besides supporting the peace process. Often it is easier to criticise than to offer solutions. The choice of venue *has* been through our democratic processes several times.

We cannot as a federation and individuals affect the shadow of war in the area (apart from cancelling or moving to another venue if the risks are too high), but to abandon our colleagues – Arab, Israeli or Palestinian – is no solution neither to the conflict nor the violations of rights. From our social work experience in counselling and working with family violence etc we know that we must face the problems and pursue our efforts for peaceful conflict resolution.

Therefore I believe that we as social workers and as members of IFSW can best show our solidarity with all those colleagues in the area, who are trying to cooperate and to improve the lives of the poor, the marginalised, the suppressed and all the victims of war, terror and conflict, by standing by their side and fighting for Peace and Social Justice.

*Stockholm, February, 1998*



*Elis Envall  
President*

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**Insert**



# IFSW at UN in New York

*Report prepared by Dr. Celia Weisman, Head of the IFSW team at UN in New York*

The 52nd General Assembly of the United Nations has been convened and is busy at work through its 6 major committees. The Third Committee which has most relevance to IFSW is concerned about the humanitarian issues about which it makes recommendations re resolutions which are submitted to the General Assembly.

The major thrusts of the General Assembly through its committees that are of interest to IFSW for 1997-98 are as follows:

Human Rights; Implementation of the Copenhagen Summit; Implementation of the Beijing Conference on Women; Reform and reorganization of the UN; The Kyoto conference on Climate Control; Disarmament and the Comprehensive Test Ban (CTB) and the ban of Land Mines.

In addition, there has been a great interest on the disabled, crime and the prevention of drugs, refugees, and the 1999 Year of Older Persons. Many resolutions are being formulated on behalf of these populations and the issues involved. A most significant action that has been taken by Kofi Annan, the Secretary General of the UN has been the appointment of a new office to be concerned with gender issues. Angela King has been appointed as the Assistant Secretary

General and Social Adviser to the Secretary General on Gender issues and the Advancement of Women.

The Committee on Mental Health has become well aware of how little understanding there is in the secretariat and among governments at the UN about the importance of mental health and emotional well being. For World Mental Health Day in collaboration with the World Health Organization, the Committee put on a meeting on

cents in Latin America; and the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children. The team feels that this is an important area for advocacy in protecting the mental health of children and urges the IFSW member organizations to encourage education and actions in these areas.

The NGO Committee on Aging has been busy disseminating information re programs to celebrate the 1999 Year of Older Persons. The Committee has

also urged its member organizations to be watchdogs on some of the social policies which may be shifting due to the longevity factor. There have already been some rubblings about the necessity to cut social security benefits and pension systems. The whole thrust of the year is to call attention to these social policy issues and to make sure that older people's needs are being met. The Creative

Connections Program of the committee has encouraged all members of the Aging Committee whose organizations are having meetings and conferences in various part of the world, to host dialogues that will serve to alert other organizations about the importance of 1999.

We urge that IFSW member organizations plan some celebration for the 1999 Year of Older Persons.



Children in Extreme Circumstances: Consequences for Mental Health. There was a concern expressed for the survival, protection and the development of children within the broad framework of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Other areas dealt with were: Mental Health and the Treatment of Children with HIV in Africa: Broad Approaches to Community Mental Health Care for Children and Adoles-

Please observe that the IFSW Secretariat has new telephone and fax numbers

**Tel (47) 23 06 11 52, Fax (47) 23 06 11 14**

IFSW on the World-Wide Web

On <http://www.ifsw.org> you find updated directories, our ethical document, and other publications.



## ANNOUNCEMENT

# Eileen McGowan Kelly Tribute Fund Scholarship - World Congress Jerusalem 1998

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 decided to link to 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.

As part of this program, IFSW is proud to announce one scholarship for a social worker to take part in the Joint World Congress of IFSW and IASSW (International Association of Schools of Social Work) in Jerusalem, Israel, July 5 - 9, 1998. The scholarship holder is also invited as an observer during the IFSW General Meeting July 1 - 3, and the full stay in Jerusalem will therefore be from June 30 to July 10. Applications should be received not later than April 1, 1998, and will be considered by the IFSW Eileen

McGowan Kelly Tribute Fund Committee. Priority will be given to a younger social worker active in hers or his social work association, and with an 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 the World Congress. Applications should be sent to the IFSW Secretariat.

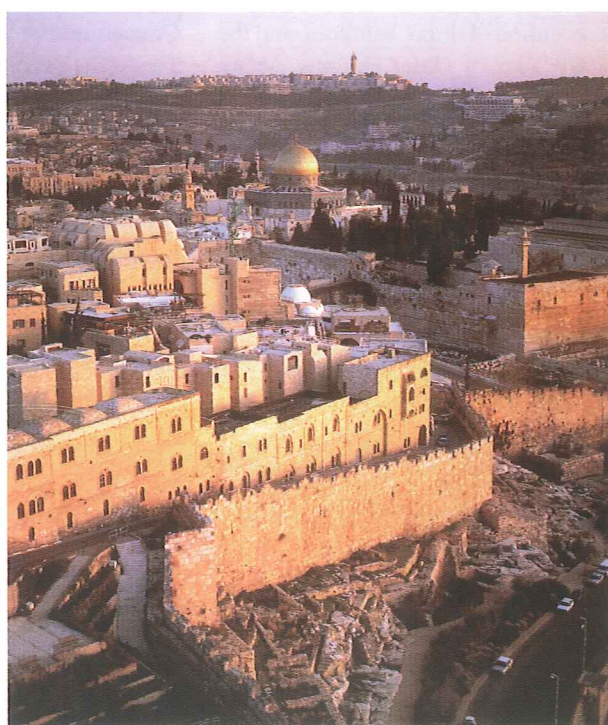
The scholarship will cover discount air travel, accommodation, congress participation and daily allowance.

## Peace and Social Justice The Challenges Facing Social Work Joint World Congress July 5 - 9 in Jerusalem

More than six hundred abstracts have been received by the program committee for the Joint World Congress of IASSW and IFSW in Jerusalem. The ambition to concretely involve Palestinian social worker associations in the World Congress in a manner acceptable to all parties is continued by the local organisers and the President of IFSW primarily. No final results can be reported at this stage.

Please make note that early bird registration deadline is April 1, 1998. A limited number of scholarships will be available to participants from countries with low BNP. Apply through the Congress Secretariat:

Joint World Congress of IFSW and IASSW  
PO Box 50006, Tel Aviv 61500, Israel.  
Tel: (972) 3 514 00 00; Fax: (972) 3 517 56 74 or 514 00 77  
E-mail: ifsw@kenes.com  
Web-site: <http://www.isassw.org.il>





# Social Integration at risk in times of Rapid Change

## Bangkok: 1997 Asia and Pacific Conference

265 participants gathered in Bangkok, Thailand, November 17 - 21 for the 1997 Asia and Pacific Regional Conference of APASWE (Asia and Pacific Association of Social Work Education) and IFSW Asia-Pacific in cooperation with the Faculty of Social Administration at Thammasat University in Bangkok. The theme of the conference was "Enhancing Social Integration: Structure, Process and Intervention for Social Development". It was presented through a number of plenaries and workshops with the aim of "enhancing social integration in a diversified society so that there will be no division along the lines of race, religion and ethnicity", as Ng Shui Lai, IFSW Vice President for Asia and Pacific, (photo ->) put it in his welcoming remark. He added that this is the key to the future of the region.



Janet George, APASWE's resigning President focused the risk social integration is at in times of rapid change, when all our societies are af-

ected by global macro-economic processes.

Her remark was underlined by the dramatic development in Thai and other Asian societies at the time of the conference, with destabilized currencies and decreased security for large parts of the population.

One of the main speakers, David Cox, Australia, emphasized in his presentation on "The potential impact of globalization on social integration in the Asia-Pacific region" that the negative sides of globalization currently are

comprehensive human rights regimes and establishment of effective and democratic systems of global governance. For the positive side to emerge, an appropriate social policy should be developed at state level combined with a strong civil society. In this process, people involved in social work and social welfare have the potential to contribute.

No challenge is more important today to those concerned with international human well-being than that of steering globalization toward a strengthening of social integration at all levels through the formulation and implementation of appropriate social and other policies, especially at the international level.

The Regional Asia and Pacific Conference in Bangkok confirmed the event as an important meeting place for social work practitioners and educators in the region.

This was the 11th conference involving

dominating: Structural adjustment and neo-liberal economics. However, there are potential, positive sides of globalization: Implementation of

IFSW, arranged since the late 1960's. The next conference is scheduled for Brisbane, Australia in September 1999.

## Human Rights Manual in French

En accord avec le haut Commissariat aux Droits de l'Homme de la FIAS, la traduction française (rédigée par l'A.N.A.S-France mais non officiellement reconnue par les Nations Unies) du Document "Travail Social et Droits de l'Homme", est en cours d'édition. Les Associations francophones membres de la FIAS intéressées sont priées de se manifester auprès de l'Association Nationale des Assistants de Service Social, 15 rue de Bruxelles-75009, Paris.

In agreement with the Human Rights Commission of IFSW the French translation (edited by the French association, ANAS but not officially recognised by the United Nations) of the Manual on Human Rights and Social Work is now being edited. For copies of the Manual please refer to l'Association Nationale des Assistants de Service Social, 15 rue de Bruxelles-75009 Paris, FRANCE.



# The Progress of Nations

## A look at UNICEF reporting the world in a child perspective

The day will come when nations will be judged not by their military or economic strength, nor by the splendour of their capital cities and public buildings, but by the well-being of their peoples; by their levels of health, nutrition and education; by their opportunities to earn a fair reward for their labours, by their ability to participate in the decisions that affect their lives, by the respect that is shown for their civil and political liberties; by the provision that is made for those who are vulnerable and disadvantaged; and by the protection that is afforded to the growing minds and bodies of their children"

*The Progress of Nations, 1997*

UNICEF publishes a remarkable number of publications focusing real progress in the world - not the kind of progress that can be measured at the many stock exchanges, but the progress made in human development. Foremost of these publications are "The Progress of Nations 1997", "The UNICEF Annual Report 1997" and "The State of the World's Children 1998". All publications present a number of articles and statistics that should be helpful tools also for social workers in a position to inform the public and media, influence government and educate colleagues and others in order to contribute to progress and betterment.

**Carol Bellamy**, UNICEF's dynamic Executive Director, writes in her introduction to "The Progress of Nations 1997" that "with all but three nations having ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the idea is gaining ground that bettering children's lives is not a matter of government largesse but a fundamental legal requirement." Still, the way forward is long. One article covers the "sanitation gap" as a deadly menace to development, with for instance diarrhoea killing 2.2 million children a year. Access to sanitation is available to less than 25 % of the population in countries like Afghanistan, Angola, Benin, China, Haiti, Malawi and Viet Nam. An estimated 2.9 billion people lack this access. Another section of the report shows that malaria kills a child every 30 seconds, 5 million children per year. As prevention is difficult, the ability to provide effective

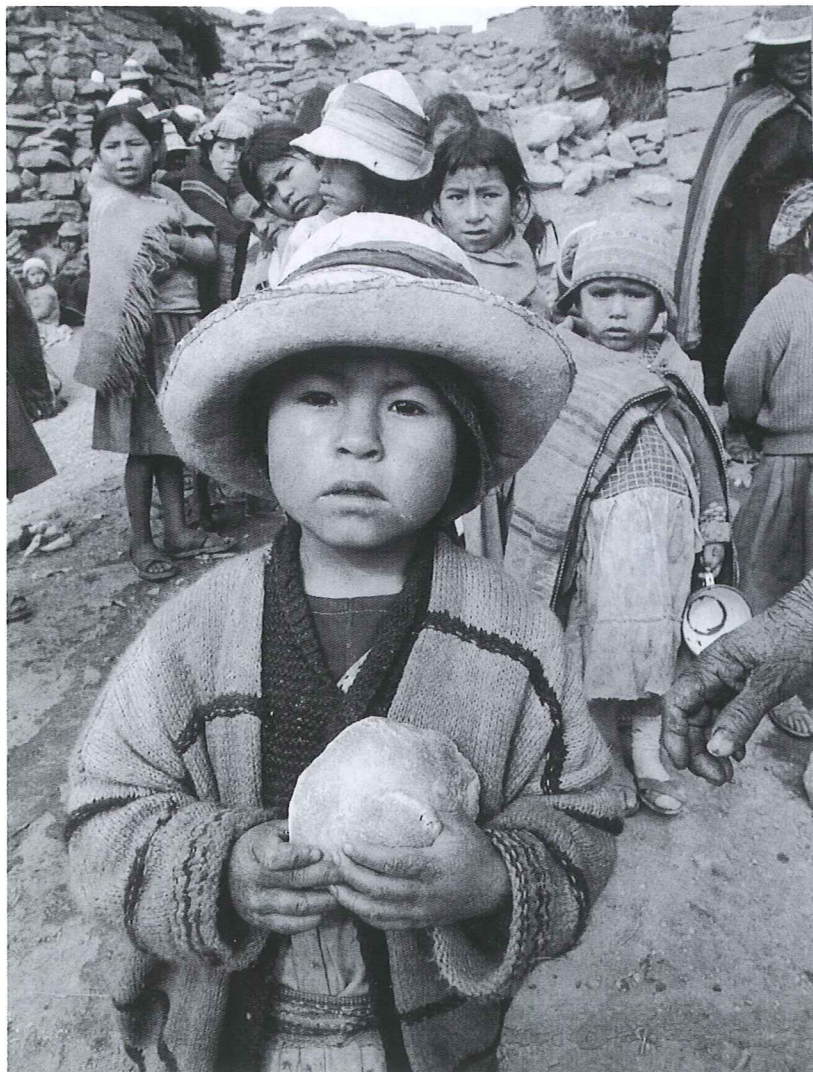


Photo from The State of World's Children, 1998

treatment is of great importance. At the same time, official development aid is at its lowest level since aid statistics were first collected in 1950. Denmark is the most generous country, measured both by % of GNP and aid per person.

The UNICEF Annual Report 1997 presents the organization's many programs around the world to accomplish its mission as a protector of children's rights and a provider to help meet their basic needs and expand their opportunities to reach full potential. Describing the global goals combined with detailed examples on how they are achieved in a selection of countries, the report gives a vivid and often hopeful tale of the usefulness of this main instrument for children's rights. One coverage is from Viet Nam, where there is a long tradition

of children working in the rice fields from an early age preventing them from attending education, with illiteracy as the result. Moreover, those children who enter schools will often drop out early, especially when the curriculum and language of instruction are too unfamiliar or irrelevant to their needs. This has been especially true for ethnic minorities. One education project was funded by UNICEF, the World Bank, Australia AID, the Vietnamese Government and local communities, to improve education opportunities for ethnic minority children. To date around 240,000 children have been reached and given a start in life that can provide a life also out of the rice field.

The State of the World's Children 1998 focuses nutrition as the main theme. Over 200 million children in



developing countries are malnourished, contributing more than half of the nearly 12 million under-five deaths in developing countries each year. Malnourished children often suffer the loss of precious mental capacities. They fall ill more often. If they survive, they may grow up with lasting mental or physical disabilities. South Africa is one of the countries giving child nutrition priority as the government is reorienting the health system from a highly sophisticated medical research infrastructure serving the white minority, pioneering for instance heart transplants, to a community based system serving the majority.

UNICEF has developed the so-called U5MR statistics, which stands for "The under-five mortality rate", and reflects the probability of dying between birth and exactly five years of age expressed by 1,000 live births. U5MR is the result of a wide variety of inputs such as nutrition, health knowledge of mothers, level of immunization, availability of services, income, food, clean water and safe sanitation. U5MR is by many believed to tell more about human development than for instance per capita GNP development. U5MR shows for instance that a country like Sierra Leone, with the third highest U5MR in the world, still has moved from a rate of 385 in 1960 to 284 in 1996.

*Division of Communication, UNICEF House, 3 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA, E-Mail: pubdoc@unicef.org Web: <http://www.unicef.org>*

*National and regional offices of UNICEF are located throughout the world, where documents and material are available.*

## NASW, USA

NASW, Schools and other Organizations will Highlight the Profession's Past and Present during **Social Work's Centennial** – Spotlighting its heroes past and present, the social work profession will celebrate its 100th year starting in January 1998. The year-long observance, under the theme, "100 years of Professional Social Work – Celebrating America's Real Heroes," will highlight the profound impact social workers have had on the quality of life in America. Many benefits and protections Americans now take for granted came about because social workers sought to remedy social injustices and inspired others to do the same, according to NASW Public Affairs Director Lucy Sanchez. The 1998 campaign will focus on early social workers who actively fought for social reforms that many take for granted today.

The campaign will also highlight how today's social workers are still America's heroes, working to protect the young,

## Social Workers Wanted to Teach in Japan Starting April 2000

TOKYO UNIVERSITY OF SOCIAL WELFARE, opening April 2000, is now accepting applications from social work professionals and professors who:

- ☐ Speak and write Japanese
- ☐ Have an earned doctoral degree (or are completing the degree), or an MSW, from a U.S. or Canadian University
- ☐ Have experience teaching any of the following subjects on a fulltime or part-time basis: Social Work, Social Welfare, Child Welfare, Industrial Welfare, Health Gerontology, Sociology, Nursing, Psychology, Public Administration, or related subjects in the Liberal Arts and Humanities
- ☐ Have Professional publications
- ☐ Are all ages – including professors near retirement age

### EXCELLENT COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

To learn more or apply for immediate consideration, directly contact the Office for Preparation to Establish Tokyo University of Social Welfare:

**Internet:** <http://www.mesh.ne.jp/sunshine/>

**Email:** [dr-nakajima@muc.biglobe.ne.jp](mailto:dr-nakajima@muc.biglobe.ne.jp)

**Fax:** (81) 3 3987 0360

Or in the U.S. send resume to the:  
U.S. Director of Faculty Procurement  
Tokyo University of Social Welfare  
60 Madison Avenue, Suite 1026  
New York, NY 10010  
E-mail: [icra@aol.com](mailto:icra@aol.com)

the old and the vulnerable and to advance social reforms. Several NASW chapters, schools of social work and allied social work organizations have already built the Centennial theme into plans for their 1998 programs and celebrations of Social Work Month in March. Information about the Centennial will also be available on NASW's World Wide Web site at <http://www.naswdc.org>

**Register is Going On-line**—The newly published edition of NASW's *Register of Clinical Social Workers*, already available in print and on CD-ROM, will for the first time be accessible to the general public for free on the association's World Wide Web site. NASW publishes the *Register* to help assure consumers and third-party payers of social worker's eligibility to receive reimbursement and in consultations and referrals. The 1997 edition contains professional information about nearly 10,000 clinicians in every state and several foreign countries.



# India to rejoin IFSW?

Preparations made for membership application.

The IFSW Newsletter can report of the endeavour by a number of committed social workers in India, mainly in Bombay/Mumbai and Bangalore, to bring this great country back into membership of IFSW.

The process to re-join Indian social workers, social work traditions and practice with the global network has got started well at an All-India seminar in Bangalore last November.

Professor Vimla Nadkarni the possibilities of Indian membership of IFSW.

The President and Secretary General then travelled to Bangalore with some representatives of BATSW to take part in the All-India Seminar there. They also later travelled south to the Madurai region in Tamil Nadu and visited among other things the Nanban project lead by the social

*cies, many voluntary and non-governmental organisations have been taking lot of initiatives to tackle the formidable social issues. These efforts are being ably supported and executed by many social workers. Here the role of Professional Workers has been significant. With training and appropriate skills and inputs they have been able to contribute in a planned and systematic manner to ensure that some tangible solutions are found for the identified social problems.*



This was written by Professor Marulasiddaiah and Mr. Nagaraj in the preface to the program to the All India seminar *India in Transition: Challenges to Social Workers*, held in Bangalore, state of Karnataka, India last November 24 – 25.

Professor Marulasiddaiah has been instrumental in reactivating the organising of social workers in the state of Karnataka and the further organising of social workers in India.

The IFSW President, Elis Envall and Secretary General, Tom Johannesen participated in the regional seminar of IFSW and APASWE in Bangkok in November (see page 5) having several meetings with IFSW representatives present. They were also able to discuss the situation of social work and social problems in Burma with members of the Burmese exile government while there.

While in the region they also visited India to meet with colleagues in Mumbai (Bombay) and took part in a seminar arranged by the Bombay Association of Trained Social Workers, BATSW discussing with its President,

worker Brother James, a project for street children working against sexual exploitation.

The year 1997 was the Golden Jubilee of India's independence. Social workers in India chose to celebrate this anniversary by doubling their efforts to organise the profession in the country. India has more than 70 centres for social work training. The education of professional social workers dates back to 1936.

*The magnitudes of India's social problems are enormous and the efforts to overcome them do not seem yet to yield the expected results. Besides the Governmental agen-*

taka and the further organising of social workers in India.

The Indian Association of Social Workers was founded in 1951 and its regional chapter in Karnataka in 1977. India was a member of IFSW for many years, but during the mid 80s dropped out of membership as the association withered.

Professor Marulasiddaiah called an informal meeting a little over a year ago in his home to discuss the possibility of revitalising the Karnataka Chapter of the Indian Association of Trained Social Workers. This resulted



in the launching of The Karnataka Association of Professional Social Workers, KAPSW in March last year. As President of the new association Mr. Prakash Chandra was elected and Mr. Jayaprakash Soans was elected General Secretary.

During the year, many different activities were launched including a number of seminars and conferences on different topics e.g. child labour, women issues, environment, community development and human rights. The efforts of the young association culminated with the All-India Seminar in November. The seminar gathering participants not only from Bangalore and surroundings but from different parts of India, Mumbai (Bombay), Chennai (Madras), Mangalore, Madurai and many other places.

The seminar, visited by almost 200 social workers and students, covered liberative education, voluntary and professional social work, child labour, child prostitution, employee assistance programmes and mental health etc.

One of the most significant parts of the seminar was the goal of this seminar to become a lever for the launching of an All-India organisation for

professional social workers. At the end of the seminar a meeting was held where an ad-hoc coordinating committee was formed. Present at the meeting were representatives of the local organisers KAPSW, the vice president of the Bombay Association of Trained Social Workers, BATSW, Ms. Jyotsna Modi and the BATSW Secretary Ms. Melita Vaz, representatives of social worker groups from several cities. The aim of the coordinating committee is to form an Indian federation of social worker associations to seek and coordinate membership in the IFSW. Mr. Sriganesh, one of the leading activists in this project took on the responsibility of making contact with colleagues around the subcontinent to further the cause.

IFSW President Elis Envall, in his address to the seminar pointed out:

*"The fact that you are re-organising yourselves as social workers in India and striving to seek membership in IFSW is a personal and professional success. A personal satisfaction for me as this is my country of birth. Professionally important to IFSW because India has such a rich experience of social work as well as culture, but also of poverty and other social problems. India will enrich the work of IFSW and Indian social workers will benefit from exchange with colleagues from all over the world."*

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## Social Worker Impact at Commonwealth meeting

The social work voice was heard loud and clear at the CHOGM in October 1997 in Edinburgh (the British Commonwealth Head of Government Meeting), the biggest international meeting in the UK this decade (around 50 Heads of Government). Trade Investment and Development was the CHOGM theme.

Officials of the new Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work, COSW delivered a social work message to all Heads of Government and spoke personally with Tony Blair, UK; Nelson Mandela, South Africa; Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe; James Bolger, New Zealand and many other Heads of Government and senior ministers.

The COSW message said that "social workers around the Commonwealth make a central contribution to development by releasing the potential of individuals and communities, by tackling crime, problems of social adjustment and social exclusion and by protecting and promoting human rights. Social workers deal with the human realities of trade and development. They make a crucial investment in people."

*We ensured that the social work contribution to trade, investment and development was brought home to Heads of Governments, said Anthony Tan, COSW Chair.*

## IsASSW-Israel

The preparations for the Jerusalem conference continue apace. All the committees and sub-committees are working hard and the programme is more or less agreed upon. So far we have had over 400 applications from outside Israel for the conference and we look forward to an outstanding and exceptional event. We hope that all the readers to this newsletter intend to come!

The government's proposals for the 1998 budget were even more draconian than we expected: Health, education and welfare are to be drastically cut. A large demonstration was organized by the Israel Association of Social Workers in Jerusalem in the summer, particularly around the cuts to services for children and youth (enclosed picture). We hope that, by the end of the budget debate many of the cutbacks will have been reversed.

The Social Workers' Council (the statutory body that advises the Minister of Social Welfare) continues to establish itself, in spite of budgetary problems.

All social workers are now registered and a permanent committee considers programmes and curricula which are outside the general scope of the Social Workers Law (1996). The council will soon begin to discuss which areas of work will be served only for social workers and which will be open to other professions.

## New Journal of Social Welfare

The Scandinavian Journal of Social Welfare, published in cooperation between the Swedish association SSR and the Department of Social Work at the University of Stockholm is to become **The International Journal of Social Welfare**.

The first issue of the new journal is planned to be published in January 1999. According to a letter of Agreement drawn up Professor Sven Hessle, Stockholm will serve as Editor and Professor Neil Gilbert, California will be serving as Chair of the Editorial Board.



# How many children ... ?

## Sexual Exploitation of Children meetings in Geneva, January 1998

IFSW, represented by the president Elis Envall and Geneva representative Ellen Mouravieff-Apostol took part in three meetings in Geneva, 15-17 January, 1998 on the above subject, and also held meetings on the Federation's future training manual **Lives at the Crossroads** on strategies and psycho-social methodologies aimed

at prevention and recovery of children abused through sexual exploitation.

The first meeting took place at the United Nations with members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child who had expressed the desire to debate the matter of children's sexual exploitation

with NGOs active in the field. Many NGOs from outside Geneva (North America, Asia, Latin America, South Africa) attended and spoke of their work and their hopes to see State parties to the Convention take a more active stance in fighting the growing scourge of child abuse, prostitution and pornography. The Committee as the monitoring mechanism of the Convention, while anxious to help, is hampered by the time allotted to each State party report which does not allow for in-depth consideration of special protection measures, e.g. against sexual exploitation, which are usually left until more basic rights have been considered.

The second meeting took place at UNICEF and was, in fact, the first meeting of the Support Group set up to assist and monitor implementation of the Agenda for Action of the 1996 World Congress against Commercial Exploitation of Children. The Support Group initial members were the organisers of the Stockholm Congress : the Swedish Government, UNICEF, ECPAT (End child prostitution, pornography and trafficking in children for sexual purposes) and the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child, but its core group

now also includes other interested governments, ILO/IPEC (International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour), WHO/UNAIDS, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, Interpol, World Tourism Organization, two women's organisation networks, two academic institutions, regional NGOs with international outreach and others.

The meeting was attended by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, Ofelia Calcetas Santos and members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Future meetings of the Support Group will be held in different regions to involve more people active at field level, though the Group's Focal Point - the NGO Group on the Convention on the Rights of the Child - remains in Geneva.

Networking went on throughout the day, and plans were laid or furthered for data banks and joint studies and operations. The presence and interest of a member of the EU Parliament, Wilmya Zimmermann (Germany) ensured support from that important body. The IFSW training project and the more practice oriented one of the International Catholic Child Bureau were presented by the organizations' joint Coordinator, Jane Warburton.

IFSW was also allowed a separate meeting with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child with aim to seek support for the production of a Manual on Social Work and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Committee showed much interest and decided to set up a special working group to liaise with the IFSW to support the development of the manual. This support will probably ensure the official publication and printing of the manual by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The third day a final meeting was held as The Second DCI (Defence for Children International) Forum on Chil-

dren's Rights took place on Saturday, 17 January and turned into an in-depth continuation of the previous day's deliberations. The overarching theme of the day were the monitoring mechanisms, and the question asked : 'do they work and do they help?' The replies to these questions were country- and region oriented.

IFSW was given the brief to address the problem of sexual exploitation and sexual violence in Eastern Europe. It was accomplished thanks to information gathered by the IFSW's Russian and Ukrainian member associations,

In rounding up discussions at the end of the day, the well-known specialist Vitit Muntharborn of Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, asked the burning question :

### 'How many children have we helped ?'

– and concluded that international monitoring mechanisms had difficulty in answering that.

The tracks he proposed included enhanced cooperation and coordination within the UN ; more concise and coordinated information ; systematisation of efforts through links between the United Nations, International Governmental Organizations and NGOs ; synchronization of meetings, key principles, key times ; junction and juncture. Maybe, at some time, a single consolidated report subsuming child related reporting on specific issues, e.g. on sexual exploitation.

**IFSW will lead and hold a special session or round-table discussion during the World Congress in Jerusalem on this issue.**





# United Nations reforms

## Narrowing the gap between Aspiration and Accomplishment

*The United Nations is a noble experiment in human cooperation. In a world that remains divided by many and diverse interests and attributes, the United Nations strives to articulate an inclusive vision: Community among nations, common humanity among peoples, this singularity of our only one Earth.*

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in the United Nations Chronicle 3 - 1997

Nevertheless, UN is in need of reforms. This is the view not only of Republican politicians in the USA, holding back much needed membership dues, but also of the UN itself. Kofi Annan states that the fundamental objective of the reform is to "narrow the gap between aspiration and accomplishment". It seeks to do so by establishing a new leadership culture and management structure, leading to greater unity of purpose, coherence of efforts and agility in responding to the pressing needs of the international community. The major source of institutional weakness in the UN is the fact that its organizational features have tended to become fragmented, duplicative and rigid, in some areas ineffective, in other superfluous. More often than not, according to the UN Secretary General, previous reform efforts have produced parallel mechanisms or created additional bodies that were intended to coordinate, rather than instituting effective management structures. Now that the

immediate post-cold war years have passed, UN must step back to reassess which are the most effective means to realize its enduring goals. The fundamental challenge is to fashion a leadership and management structure that will result in a better focused, more coherent, more respon-

sive and more cost-effective organization; Humanitarian Affairs; and Human Rights)

- A changed management culture accompanied by management and efficiency measures, eliminating at least 1000 staff posts
- Shifting resources from administration to development activities



sive and more cost-effective organization.

Among the proposals presented by the Secretary General are

- The establishment of a Senior Management Group that will function like a cabinet and help lead the process of change
- Integration of 12 Secretariat entities and units into 5 (Peace and Disarmament; Economic and Social Affairs; Development Coopera-

- Designation of the General Assembly session to be held in 2000 as a "Millennium Assembly", with a companion People's Assembly, to focus on preparing the UN to meet the major challenges and needs for the world community in the 21st century.

Sources:

*UN Chronicle 3 - 1997 and The Economist*

## Andrew Mouravieff-Apostol – 85

IFSW's Honorary President and former Secretary General, Andrew Mouravieff-Apostol, celebrated his 85th birthday in February. Born in Cannes, France February 7, 1913 with parents belonging to Russian (Ukrainian) nobility.

Mouravieff-Apostol, known by the international social work community as Andy, started his career as a journalist and foreign correspondent in the Daily Telegraph and Evening Standard before and during WW II. After

the war Andy took up work with the World Council of Churches and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, serving in a number of countries with resettlement programs, mainly in South America. He holds many orders, awards and decorations from governments and others. Andy is also a professional interpreter, having served in UN and other international bodies.

From 1975 to 1992, Andy served as IFSW's Secretary General. The IFSW

General Meeting 1992 elected him Honorary President. He is also part of the IFSW team to the United Nations in Geneva.

The international social work community sends its best wishes to Andy, so dear to and respected by colleagues throughout the world.

**Congratulations!**





# Social Work Conferences 1998 - 2000

Three scheduled regional and global conferences arranged by IFSW and partnership organizations in the years to come. We also include information on three other conferences.

## ***Jerusalem, Israel, July 5-10, 1998***

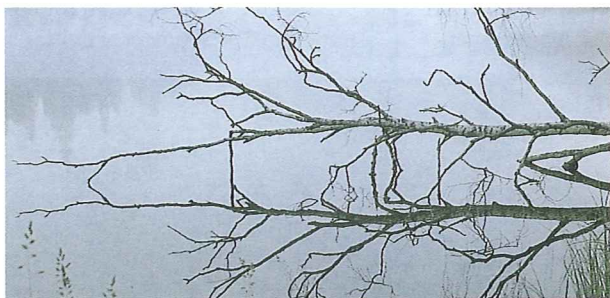
World Congress: **Peace and Social Justice -**

**The Challenges Facing Social Work**

Kenes, P O Box 50006, Tel Aviv 61500, Israel

Tel (972) 3 514 0000, Fax (972) 3 514 0077

E-mail: ifsw@kenes.com



## ***Helsinki, Finland/St. Petersburg, Russia,***

***June 13-17, 1999***, A joint Finnish/ Russian venture

European Seminar: **Work, Economy and Welfare - Professional Social Work Promoting Human Society for All**

The Finnish Union of Professional Social Workers,

Rautatieläisenkatu 6, FIN-00520 Helsinki, Finland

Tel (358) 9 15021, Fax (358) 9 149 6440

E-mail: upsw@sostl.fi

## ***Montréal, Canada, July 29 - August 2, 2000***

World Conference: **Promoting Equitable Societies in the**

**Global Economy: Social Work in the 21st Century**

Canadian Association of Social Workers, 383 Parkdale

Avenue, Suite 402, Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4R4, Canada

Tel (1) 613 729 6668, Fax (1) 613 729 9608

E-Mail: casw@casw\_acts.ca



## ***Challenges for Excellence - The Asia Pacific Workforce in the 21st Century***

*Asia-Pacific Conference of Employee Assistance Programme*

*March 5 - 7, 1998, Hong Kong*

*Conference Secretariat: c/o International Conference Consultants, Ltd., 19/F., Wing Yue Building, 60-64*

*Des Voeux Road West, Hong Kong, Tel (852) 2559 9973 or 2528 6136, Fax (852) 2547 9528 or 2865 1528*

*E-Mail: icc@asiaonline.net*

## ***Building Networks - European Foster Care Conference 1998***

*August 21 - 23, 1998, Nyíregyháza, Hungary*

*Conference Secretariat: European IFCO Conf. 1998, Plantage Parklaan 12, NL-1018 ST Amsterdam, Holland*

*Tel (31) 20 626 9007, Fax (31) 20 626 9534, E-Mail: conference@ifco98.org*

## ***Rehabilitation of People with Mental Health Problems in the Society in Transition***

*April 23 - 25, 1998, Minsk, Belarus*

*Belarusian Union of Social Pedagogues and Social Workers, Box 179, Minsk 220123, Belarus*

*Tel (375) 17 260 26 86, Fax (375) 17 234 64 35, E-mail buspsw@nsys.minsk.by*

***IFSW-Newsletter is published by International Federation of Social Workers***

***Box 4649, Sofienberg, N-0506 OSLO, NORWAY***

***Tel (47) 23 06 11 52, Fax (47) 23 06 11 14***

***E-mail: secr.gen@ifsw.org Web: <http://www.ifsw.org>***

The IFSW Newsletter is open for advertisements, including inserts.

Deadlines for our 1998 editions are May 20 for the June edition and September 20 for the October edition.

For more information, please notify the Secretariat.