



# IFSW

## Newsletter

1 - 1997

*Social  
Inclusion*  
*A Core Issue for  
Social Work*



# *President's Message: The Power of Social Work*

The Federation is stronger than ever. We are represented in 59 countries with more than 435 000 social workers. We are expecting an accelerating development with important working groups, crucial policy issues and numerous tasks to fulfil during the following 14 months.

## *A Global Friend*

In hectic periods it is essential to pause - at times - for reflection and to look back. Occasionally these intervals come unexpectedly. This past period is such a time, where we are forced to halt and reflect, to commemorate our dear friend and respected colleague, Eileen McGowan Kelly, Director of Peace and International Affairs in NASW, USA, who passed away at the end of October. We are very grateful for all her contributions.

We must now continue her work for social work development. IFSW is at present engaged in and committed to some major development projects in co-operation with other main actors in the field in Zimbabwe, Belarus and Ukraine. There is - or at least can be - a lot of power in social work and social work knowledge and competence. Utilised in the right way social work furthers empowerment of people living in poverty and others who are marginalised in society.

## *Definition of Social Work*

Our past General Meeting, July 1996, set up a task force to elaborate a revised definition of the social work profession and minimum standards for the training. This task force is to produce a definition that reflects regional and cultural differences. I believe that it must also reflect the diversity of social work and the universality of basic social work values.

All input on the definition is welcome. This work is naturally performed in close co-operation with the International Association of Schools of Social Work, IASSW.

## *Co-operation*

Ever since 1928 the three sister organisations - IASSW, ICSW and IFSW - in the field of social work and welfare have co-operated. Such co-operation is fundamental to IFSW. One of the basic objectives of the Federation is to encourage contacts between social workers of all countries and to establish and maintain relations with international organisations relevant to social welfare. The next world conference in Jerusalem, 1998 is such a project of part-

nership. Among other parties of collaboration this world conference represents the cooperation between the Israeli Association of Social Workers and the Palestine Association of Psychological and Social Workers.

## *Peace, Disarmament and Conflict Resolution*

IFSW and the social work profession have always supported and strived for peace, disarmament and conflict resolution on micro, meso and macro levels.

IFSW has together with the other organisations involved taken a very firm decision to support the peace process in Israel and the Palestinian Territories. With our decision to arrange our congress in Jerusalem we hope to influence the restart of this necessary process.

I am convinced that we as social workers have an obligation to the people in the area to make our contributions to this necessary process towards peace and reconciliation. This is the only way social work can go.

## *Violation against Children*

I reported briefly in Newsletter 2/1996 about the successful world congress in Stockholm against sexual exploitation of children. It now looks as if there will from this develop a more concrete IFSW response to the commitment and responsibilities of the profession. A project to disseminate the results and other relevant information from the world congress held in Stockholm; to motivate social workers and other professionals to engage in psycho-social rehabilitation of victims of exploitation and prevention; to introduce professional psycho-social methods of prevention and rehabilitation utilised by professionals in several projects in different parts of the world, and to develop a framework for global professional co-operation. It is very enticing and some other major NGO-partners in the field are willing to co-operate and contribute to a very meaningful response to the most atrocious of violations against children.

## *Stronger than ever*

Yes, the Federation is strong, stronger than ever. Let us use our strength and the power of social work during this next year for the empowerment of the marginalised and oppressed; for social justice and human rights.

*Stockholm, June 1997  
Elis Envall  
President*





# *Eileen*

## *McGowan Kelly*

### *1946-1996*

There comes a time when each of us is touched by a special individual. Eileen McGowan Kelly was such a person. Eileen McGowan Kelly, 50, died of a brain tumor on October 31, 1996 at Hospice of Washington, DC. She was the Director of Peace and International Affairs for the National Association of Social Workers. During Eileen's tenure at NASW, she worked tirelessly as an international leader, promoting international social work, peace, and advocating for human rights.

Born in North Attleboro, Massachusetts, Eileen held a dual masters in rehabilitation counselling (George Washington University) and social work (Catholic University). Her extensive professional history included administrative responsibilities, policy and program development, legislative and community advocacy, and consultations worldwide. She also served on the boards of a number of social service organizations including PeaceLinks and the US Committee - International Conference on Social Welfare.

Eileen McGowan Kelly was known for her tremendous accomplishments advancing the social work profession's role in the international arena. Eileen's 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 intense

passion and commitment to link social workers throughout the world with one another.

She was an integral part of the IFSW family who promoted and fostered international social work, social development, and social organizations. She believed in the vitality and strength of international relationships and exchange among individuals committed to peace, understanding, and human dignity. Her perseverance and commitment made this vision a reality for all of us. In addition to being remembered for her knowledge, strength, leadership, and dedication, Eileen is also remembered for her warmth, compassion and sensitivity.

Many people have been fortunate to have been touched by Eileen McGowan Kelly. She was a catalyst in creating understanding of the enormity and importance of linking social workers to the world and the world to social workers. It now becomes the responsibility of her peers and the social work profession to carry forth the work that she has begun and to continue to make strides in keeping this dream and vision alive. Her energy and leadership created a momentum and legacy for the social work profession. We have the capacity, knowledge, strength, and responsibility to continue this work.

*Suzanne Dworak-Peck*  
*IFSW Ambassador*  
*Past President NASW and IFSW*

It is with such a deep sense of shock that I learnt of the death of a dear friend and colleague - Eileen. I wish to convey my heart felt sympathy to NASW, IFSW and Eileen's family for such a terrible loss.

I have very fond memories of Eileen from Zimbabwe, Washington, DC, Moscow, Sri Lanka and New Zealand. To me the loss of both Eileen and IFSW's former Elections Officer Jones Muguse (whom themselves were dear friends) is very stressful. To Jones wife, Loveness, it's a double tragedy, as Eileen assisted Loveness following Jones' death and had become a pillar for her to lean on. Now to imagine Eileen has fallen, it is very hard. She had so many unfinished agendas. Please accept that words are not enough to express the way I feel.

May Eileen rest in peace.

*Helen Tapfumaneyi, Zimbabwe*



# *IFSW European Project on Social Inclusion: Europe Must Continue to Reach out to People in Need*

***IFSW's European Region has concluded a major project with the European Commission on "Social Exclusion and Social Work in Europe - Facilitating Inclusion."***

Social workers across Europe were invited to seminars in Austria, Sweden and Spain to discuss their experiences in promoting social inclusion.

## ***Activity and Participation***

The concept of inclusion must be defined through activity and participation and not necessarily through traditional employment, also as there may not be jobs for all in a competitive labour market. Social exclusion also means lack of proper housing, access to health services or just communication with the general population. Exclusion is often the unintended outcome of uncoordinated and conflicting social policies.

Projects were presented illustrating the promotion of social inclusion in all these areas. It became clear that even if some factor is identified as the main contributor to social exclusion, marginalisation usually results from a complex interaction of several personal and social factors.

## ***Funding for Social Projects***

Many European countries these days reduce or fail to increase funding for social projects, at the same time as there are more people in need. Social workers suggest that governments should consider the long term cost of **not** providing an appropriate service alongside the cost of its provision.

The project describes the contribution of exclusion, active outreach to people in need, developing client/user participation, combination of counselling with practical assistance, active net-

working, drawing up of an individual care plan and working with the general population to increase awareness and thereby action to combat exclusion.

The project proposes changes in training of social workers to enable them to respond to problems that will come with more open borders within the EU, emphasising training on civil and human rights as well as practical skills in promoting inclusion. A set of recommendations to the profession are made, including establishment of **National Councils for Quality in Social Care**, organising a **European Social Work Action Day** to increase awareness and work more directly toward policy makers.

## ***Recommendations***

Other recommendations include:

- Incorporating existing international treaties on human rights and social rights as the framework for European law: UN Declaration of Human Rights, European Human Rights Declaration, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the 10 Commitments of the World Social Summit and the European Social Charter
- Publish annual social cohesion impact statement
- Appoint an EU Commissioner for Children

Social exclusion is a reality in Europe, and will be a growing threat to social stability and further integration if not counteracted. Europe must therefore continue to reach out to people in need.

## ***Project objectives***

- to point out the social consequences of existing policies (Are we really building an active society for all?)
- to present a number of practical examples to demonstrate how social work has contributed to the inclusion of people in society
- to propose standards to be taken into account by EU when evaluating the impact of its decisions on social inclusion/exclusion
- to underline the crucial contribution of social workers to promoting social cohesion, social stability and the expansion of individual opportunity



# Canada

## *Section 745 of the Criminal Code*

The Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW) joined the National Associations Active in Criminal Justice in supporting the preservation of Section 745 of the Criminal Code, which enables federally-sentenced individuals who are serving a life sentence, with a parole eligibility date of greater than 15 years, to apply to the court for a reduction of the parole eligibility date.

There is little evidence to suggest that section 745 is a problem in terms of allowing dangerous inmates out on the streets. Supporters of section 745 maintain that the rehabilitation of offenders is one of the public's best protections against a convict's re-offending. Unless we are prepared to abandon all hope that people who have been convicted of murder can change during the course of their sentence, the challenge for the justice system is to find a way to re-focus the provision so that it is available only for the exceptional cases.

## *Right of Citizenship of Babies Born in Canada*

In the light of the rumours that the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration is considering the introduction of legislation which would remove the automatic right of citizenship to babies born on Canadian territory, CASW joined the Canadian Council of Refugees, the labour movement, members of groups seeking equality and community organizations in opposing the introduction of this legislation.

If this divisive legislation is introduced, it would represent a dramatic departure from the traditional Canadian definition of citizenship, which has been on the basis of place of birth and not by blood. Other issues identified include the potential for stateless children, the removal of refused refugee claimants who have children born in Canada, and the violation of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.

# *IFSW Delegation visits China and Japan*

IFSW President Elis Envall, Vice-President for Asia & Pacific Ng Shui Lai and Secretary General Tom Johannesen visited at the end of October last year China and Japan to improve links with social workers in the two countries.

## *China*

The visit to Beijing included discussions with the China Association of Social Workers on the development of social work in China. The visit also included meetings with government officials, social work educators, social institutions and projects.

The Chinese hosts and the IFSW delegation discussed the needs for development of the profession in this large country. Needs are immense and will be hard to meet with only 5.000 social workers to a population of more than 1.200.000.000. But resources are also enormous and the human resources of the rapidly developing country are especially great. For IFSW, the visit was of special value. As in so many other areas of society, the importance of China as arena for professional social work will grow in the years to come. The return of Hong Kong this year and Macau in 1999, both with long history of professional social work, will add to this.

## *Japan*

In Tokyo appr. 200 social workers gathered for an international social work conference with the IFSW delegates as speakers on human rights and social work, social work in an Asia & Pacific context and in a global perspective. The Tokyo visit also included talks with the leadership of the IFSW member Japanese Association of Social Workers (JASW) and its international committee. JASW is moving to increase its international commitment, one sign of this is a cooperation agreement with the Philippine Association of Social Workers.

IFSW also had meetings with the Japanese Association of Certified Social Workers (JACSW), who will be looking for membership in IFSW during 1997. Also one more Japanese social worker association may be interested in joining IFSW. This will lead to an even more substantial Japanese presence in IFSW.

## *Advertisements*

The IFSW Newsletter is open for advertisements. Deadlines for our remaining 1997 editions are September 1 for the September edition and November 20 for the December edition. More information is available from the Secretariat.



# Report from the United Nations

*In this report from the IFSW team to the United Nations, New York we will touch upon some of the highlights of events and happenings at the UN headquarters the second part of last year - the Habitat II conference in Istanbul, a workshop for UNICEF, the Annual DPI/NGO conference and other activities.*

The daunting task of the UN Second Conference on Human Settlements, also known as Habitat II, in Istanbul, were the hammering out of new strategies for cities, to which one million people a day from around the globe are said to migrate.

The impact of such migration on rural areas has also to be considered by social workers. When the young and the able-bodied go off to the cities, the impact on the care of the elderly who are left behind, the productions of food for both rural and urban dwellers, the provision of pure drinking water (which a billion people today are said to lack), the provision of shelter, the existence and creation of poverty, theft, degradation of the environment etc., have to be given serious consideration.

The acceptance of adequate shelter for all as a basic human right was indeed a major victory at the Istanbul meeting. Another gratifying outcome of the Istanbul Conference, was the increasing role of NGOs who are now permitted to circulate questions to delegates, and to make comments from the floor during official meetings. The work of CONGO (Conference of NGOs) is beginning to reap rewards.

## UNICEF

The purpose of a two-day workshop sponsored by the Working Group on the Rights of the Child of the NGO Committee to UNICEF, was to consider ways

ways in which there can be greater mobilisation of families and communities in support of children's rights.

Though there has been almost universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (187 countries) and implementations are going forward, there is a gap between activity at the policy standard setting level, and the level of families and communities where the convention may be unknown in many instances. The workshop objectives included the examination of aspects that promote or hinder the integration of child rights into the programs of organisations serving children and families.

## Challenges of a Changing World

1450 representatives from 515 NGOs convened at the 49th Annual DPI/NGO (Department of Public Information/Non Governmental Organisations) Conference "The UN Facing the Challenges of a Changing World".

For the NGO's the significance of this conference is the recognised and articulated need for the support of NGO's in helping the UN carry out its humanitarian, development and peace keeping roles. The UN is recognizing that it needs more articulated partnership with NGO's, and some discussion centered around a Civil Society Forum.

## Professional Training Program offered in USA

The Council of International Programs, in Cleveland, Ohio, USA, offers a professional practical training program in 11 of its affiliate cities all over USA. Applicants should be highly qualified, mid-career professionals. Social workers and others in human service-related fields are eligible to participate in a 4 to 18 month training and cultural exchange program. Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- o at least 3 years of work experience in your field
- o excellent command of the English language
- o ability to pay your international and domestic airfare, health insurance and program fee
- o ability to work in a foreign environment

If you would like to apply, contact:

Cleveland International Program, 1700 East 13 Street, Suite 4SE, Cleveland, Ohio 44114-3213, USA  
Tel (1) 216 566 3213, Fax (1) 216 566 1490, E-Mail: dorothy.a.faller 74143.43@compuserve.com

## IFSW on the World-Wide Web

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



# *Arab Gulf States: The Social Work Profession to be more Indigenous*

***Social work practitioners and educators in the Arab Gulf States and other Arab countries met in Bahrain November 18-20, 1996 for the 4th Congress between Gulf social worker associations.***

During a stimulating conference, lively discussions took place on present conditions for social work in the Arab World - strong cultural traditions, facing today's challenges of urbanisation and globalisation. A major problem for social work is that much of its theory is imported from Europe and North America. This may have weakened the ability of social work to be an active component in social development. It is therefore necessary to let experiences from practice influence theory building to a larger extent, and to let the curriculum reflect contemporary Arab realities. Extended families have been the fundament of social security and care. Today, social workers often take on the role of the family. This role is complicated, and reflection and indigenous tool development a necessity.

## ***Facilitate Arab Participation***

The IFSW Secretary General, who visited the Congress, stated in an address that the Federation is looking at Arab social work with great interest, hoping that more social worker's associations in the region will join in the years to come.

IFSW will look for possibilities to facilitate Arab participation to a larger extent, and the Federation hopes that it soon will be possible to arrange an international conference in one of the Arab countries.

## ***Active Cooperation***

The Administrative Council of the Gulf Social Worker Associations (Bahrain, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates) decided at a meeting following the Congress to work on a unified and opera-



*Some of the participants in Bahrain: Soraya Labna, Egypt, Tom Johannesen, IFSW, Salman Darbas, Bahrain, Abdul Aziz Abdullah Al-Sarawi, Kuwait, Abd El Monseff H Hozaien, IFSW and Rashid Moh'd Rashid, United Arab Emirates.*

tional common definition of social work, and on the classification of social work. The Council will also engage in the development of ethical instruments and national bibliographies for social work studies, and continue to investigate the possibility of assisting in forming social worker associations in the three other countries in the region (Oman, Qatar and Saudi-Arabia).

## ***Royal Support***

The Monarch (Emir) of Bahrain, His Highness Shaikh Isa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa received social work leaders from Bahrain and the foreign countries and expressed personal interest in the development of social work.

Also the Prime Minister, His Highness Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa received the delegates for an extended reception to discuss the topics from the Congress. This high level support resulted in broad media coverage of the 4th Congress for Gulf Social Workers.

## ***2nd International Conference on Social Work in Health and Mental Health January 12-15, 1998, Melbourne, Australia***

***Conference Secretariat:***

***2nd International Conference on Social Work in Health and Mental Health  
C/-ICMS Pty Ltd, 84 Queensbridge Street, Southbank, VIC 3006, Australia  
Tel (61) 3 9682 0244, Fax (61) 3 9682 0288  
E-Mail: 2icsw.98@icsm.com.au***





# IFSW Conferences 1997 - 2000

## *Dublin, Bangkok, Jerusalem, Helsinki/St. Petersburg, Montréal*

*These six cities are venues for five scheduled regional and global conferences arranged by IFSW and partnership organizations in the years to come. They cover a wide range of social work concerns and challenges, and give you an opportunity to exchange experiences with colleagues globally. For more information, please contact the addresses provided below.*

### **Dublin, Ireland, August 24-28, 1997**

European Seminar: Culture and Identity:

Social Work in a Changing Europe

IFSW/EASSW Registration Office, Clifton House, Lower  
Filtzwilliam Street, Dublin 2, Ireland

Tel (353) 1 661 3788, Fax (353) 1 661 2073



# 1997 DUBLIN



### **Bangkok, Thailand, November 13-17, 1997**

Asia & Pacific Conference:

Enhancing Social Integration - Structure, Process  
and Intervention for Social Development

Faculty of Social Administration, Thammasat Uni-versity, 2 Prachan  
Road, Bangkok 10200, Thailand

Tel (66) 2 223 1351 or (66) 2 224 1365,

Fax (66) 2 224 9417, E-Mail: sirephan@alpha.tu.ac.th

### **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



### **Helsinki, Finland/St. Petersburg, Russia, June 13-17, 1999**

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

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

World Seminar: Theme not decided

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@caswActs.ca



IFSW-Newsletter is published by  
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