1957

- IFSW Constitution adopted Special Meeting of Council August 16
- List of Member Organisations
- Officers and Executive Committee Members
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

Explanatory Notes on the Constitution

The attached Constitution was unanimously adopted by a special meeting of the Council held in Brunnen, Switzerland on August 16, 1957, at which representatives of nine member associations were present.

In adopting the Constitution, the Council agreed that the following points should be called to the attention of the member national associations and others:

1. **Section II (a)** — It is intended that persons who are accepted as members of national associations by the standards recognized in their own countries should likewise be accepted by the Federation.

2. **Section III (c)** — In nominating and electing members of the Executive Committee of the Federation every effort should be made to ensure that the Committee is as widely representative as possible — covering all parts of the world and the various functional specialties within social work and representing both large and small countries.

Although a limit of three terms has been set for officers and members of the Executive Committee, it is urged that not all should continue for this period, since it would be highly undesirable for the terms of all officers and members to expire simultaneously.

In the fourth paragraph the sentence "It shall appoint such persons as may be necessary to carry out specific tasks furthering the aims of the Federation" is intended to cover, among others, the appointment of correspondents in countries without member association and the appointment of a paid staff as soon as practical.
I. AIMS

The aims of the Federation shall be:

To promote social work as a profession through cooperation and action on an international basis, especially as regards professional standards, training, ethics and working conditions, and to promote the establishment of national associations of social workers where they do not yet exist.

To encourage and facilitate contacts between social workers of all countries and to provide media for discussion and the exchange of ideas through meetings, study visits, research projects, exchange of publications and other means of communication.

To present the point of view of the profession on an international level by establishing relations with international organizations operating in, or interested in, the social welfare field, and to assist in the carrying out of welfare programs sponsored by such international organizations.

II. MEMBERSHIP

(a) Members

One professional national organization of social workers in each country may become a member of the Federation. Such an organization may be a national association or a coordinating agency representing two or more national associations. It should require from its members regular professional training compatible with standards recognized in that country.

(b) Admission to Membership

Admission to membership shall be approved by the Executive Committee of the Federation within broad policies approved by the Council.

(c) Subscriptions

The amount of annual subscription for members shall be decided by the Council upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee. The fiscal year of the Federation shall be 1 January to 31 December.

III. Organs

(a) National Organizations

The national member organizations shall further the aims and activities of the Federation in their respective countries.

(b) Council

The governing body of the Federation shall be the Council. It shall determine the general and financial policies of the Federation, elect the Executive Committee and review its activities and accounts.

It shall consist of representatives of the member organizations on the basis of three from each country. Each member organization shall have one vote.

The Council shall meet at least once in every two years. It shall be convened by the President of the Federation or at the request of one-third
of its members. In the absence of the President the Secretary shall serve as convener.

A quorum of the Council shall consist of representatives of one-third of the member organizations.

(c) Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall conduct the affairs of the Federation. It shall determine and carry out the program and activities of the Federation in accordance with the general policies laid down by the Council. The Executive Committee shall adopt the annual budget.

The Executive Committee shall consist of a maximum of fifteen members, including the officers of the Federation. The officers shall be President, nor more than seven Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer. With the exception of the officers, not more than one member of the Executive Committee shall come from the same country. The term of office of the Executive Committee shall be two years. No member may serve for more than three consecutive terms. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once a year.

The Council shall elect the Executive Committee. Its members may be selected from the Council but need not be restricted to it. The President shall appoint a nominating committee, consisting of five members of the Council, whose terms of reference shall be determined by the Council. Persons nominated for election must receive the approval of their national organizations.

The Executive Committee shall decide the powers and duties of the officers and fill temporary vacancies arising among the officers for their unexpired terms of reference shall be determined by the Council. Persons nominated for election must receive the approval of their national organizations.

Members of the Executive Committee not able to attend a meeting may appoint an alternate.

A quorum of the Executive Committee shall consist of five members of alternates. Decisions shall be taken by a simple majority. Between meetings of the Executive Committee the President may submit proposals to the members by postal ballot. In this case a decision shall be taken by a majority of ballots returned, provided that ballots are received from one-third of the members.

IV. AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

This constitution may be amended by a decision of the Council requiring a majority of two-thirds of those present and voting. Any proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be circulated to the member organizations at least three months prior to the meeting of the Council.

V. A decision to dissolve the Federation shall require the vote of two-thirds of the

Vc. DISSOLUTION OF THE FEDERATION

A decision to dissolve the Federation shall require the vote of two-thirds of the member organizations.

16 August 1967
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

Officers and Executive Committee Members

President:
Mlle. M. L. Ginet
2 Rue Corot
Paris XVI, France

Vice Presidents:
Maj. J. Löhns
12 b Richard Holstraat
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Miss Bessie Tousel
Ontario Welfare Council
96 Bloor Street West
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Treasurer:
Mlle. Hedda Fredenhagen
Bahnhweg 12, Kusnahof
Zürich, Switzerland

Secretary:
Mr. Donald W. Wilson, Secretary General
International Society for the Welfare of Crippled
701 First Avenue
New York 17, New York, U.S.A.

Other members of the Executive Committee:
Mr. Erik Andersen, President
Danish Association of Social Workers
Hoboldevj 3
Copenhagen, F. Denmark

M. Jean Nihon
118 Chaussée de Fleurgat
Bruxelles, Belgium

Mlle. A. de Laage
3 rue de Stockholm
Paris VIII, France

Mr. Morris Raphael
61 Arahovis St.
Athens, Greece

Miss Nancy Rice-Jones
16 Gloucester Walk
London W. 8, England

Frau Renata Schlüter
Altenessener Strasse 540
Essen-Altenessen, Germany

Miss Violet Sieder
New York School of Social Work
2 East 91st Street
New York, New York, U.S.A.

Miss Rosetta Stasi Giallombardo
Via Arminion 8
Roma, Italy
Mrs. Chris Thompson, Honorary Sec.,
Australian Association of Social Work
26 Tribe Street
South Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Address Correspondence to</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUSTRALIA</td>
<td>Mrs. Chris Thompson, Honorary Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Association of Social Workers</td>
<td>26 Tribe Street, South Melbourne, Victoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Haverbrack Avenue, Malvern, Victoria</td>
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<td>BELGIUM</td>
<td>M. Jean Nihon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Union Belge des Associations d'Assistants Sociaux</td>
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<tr>
<td>118 Chaussée de Vleurgat, Bruxelles</td>
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<tr>
<td>CANADA</td>
<td>Miss Joy A. Mains, Executive Secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canadian Association of Social Workers</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Rideau Street, Ottawa, Ontario</td>
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<tr>
<td>DENMARK</td>
<td>Mr. Erik Andersen, President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dansk Socialradsiverforening</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Randersgade, Copenhagen</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRANCE</td>
<td>Mlle. A. de Lange, President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association Nationale des Assistantes Sociales et Assistants Sociaux</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3 rue de Stockholm, Paris VIII</td>
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<tr>
<td>GERMANY</td>
<td>Frau Gertrud Herzog, President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deutscher Berufsverband der Sozialarbeiterinnen</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>90 Vautierstrasse, Dusseldorf</td>
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<tr>
<td>GREECE</td>
<td>Mrs. Kairis, President</td>
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<td>Greek Association of Social Workers</td>
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<td>&quot;H MHTEPA&quot;, Agioi Anargyroi, Athens</td>
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<td>ITALY</td>
<td>Siga. Dott. ssa Flora Santucci-Martino</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associazione Nazionale Assistenti Sociali</td>
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<tr>
<td>75 Piazza della Accademia di San Luca, Roma</td>
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<tr>
<td>NETHERLANDS</td>
<td>Mr. M. E. Tjaden, President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nederl. Bond van Maatschappelijke Werkers</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 II Habbimakade, Amsterdam Z</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWEDEN</td>
<td>Fru Birg It Ragna, Secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sveriges Socionomförbund</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sättraängsvägen 6, Danderyd</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWITZERLAND</td>
<td>Mlle. Yvette Mayor, President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Association Suisse des Travailleurs Sociaux</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Avenue Davel, Lausanne</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>UNITED KINGDOM</td>
<td>Miss E. Dumball</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Association of Social Workers</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>25 Villiers Street, London, W.I.</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNITED STATES</td>
<td>Mr. Joseph P. Anderson, Executive Sec.</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Association of Social Workers</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>95 Madison Avenue, New York 16, N. Y.</td>
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