

High Level Political Forum 2017, United Nations, New York Workshop to promote Social Workers Role for reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Members of IFSW Representative to the UN in New York and Geneva organized a Workshop which took place during the High Level Political Forum at the UN Headquarters in New York. The SDGs are the Agenda 2030 of the United Nations. They conduct each member state to develop partnership from Civil Society, Business and (local) government to “transform our world”.

This workshop aimed to promote Social Worker’s Role for reaching the Sustainable Development Goals on local, subnational, national and international level.



For the introduction we started to explain IFSW and its **Special Consultative Status** to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and is also on the International Labour Organization’s Special List of Non-Governmental Organizations.

Proudly we introduced the Global Agenda and the World Social Work Day and continued with Presentation on specific themes on which we focus as Professors, at work or as IFSW Representatives to the UN.

Elaine Congress (SDG 3 and SDG 5)

Good health and well-being for women and girls of all ages.

SDG 3 and SDG 5 are interconnected and social workers continually address these SDGs in their work around the world. In contrast to the Millennium Development Goals, the SDGs apply to developed countries, as well as developing countries. Health risks for women and girls that occur across the life cycle include maternal and infant mortality, rape, violence, diminished educational opportunities, substance abuse, suicide, childhood marriage, lower pay, microaggressions, intimate partner violence, sexual and work trafficking, early mortality from noncommunicable diseases, and elder abuse. Social workers are actively engaged in providing counseling, support, education, and advocacy in prenatal, well baby clinics, in hospitals, in outpatient clinics, and in the community. The IFSW policy on health and the IFSW policy on women are references.

Michael Cronin (SDG 1 and 9)

Poverty, Social Innovation & Development

This section discussed how social innovation development projects have contributed to poverty eradication. Several measures of poverty were reviewed, noting that in 2015 the

World Bank has updated the definition of extreme poverty as living on less than US\$1.90 per day and moderate poverty as less than \$3.10 a day. A social innovation is a market-based solution to a social problem that is more effective, efficient, sustainable, or just than current solutions. The value created accrues primarily to society rather than to private individuals. Several innovation examples from Bangladesh, India, and Canada were presented. In conclusion, specific recommendations for SDGs 1 & 9 from the NGO Major Group were also shared.

Robin Mama (SDG 2)

Community Gardening. Food insecurity: limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways. Globally, this translates into 925 million people who will not have sufficient food to eat. The majority of the people who are food insecure globally are in the developing regions of the world. The triggers of food insecurity include income, health of adult caregiver, marital status, child care arrangements, certain populations are more vulnerable. An example of an initiative that can help decrease the impact of food insecurity are community gardens. The community garden at Monmouth University, New Jersey was highlighted. Some community gardens today often have multiple agendas, which can include education, social needs, as well as economic concerns.

Priska Fleischlin (All SDGs)

Transdisciplinary teamwork

'Trans' is used for describing the vision of the SDGs 'transforming our world' and 'stop thinking in silos'. A clear distinction to multidisciplinary is necessary. This heterogeneous teams include members of civil society, NGOs, government and business. With this broad view, they are able to find sustainable solutions. However, it is also challenging to handle different opinions. Some results of the research show what helps to build a successful teamwork.

At the end of the event we have taken the chance to promote the latest book: Social Work Promoting Community and Environmental Sustainability, available on the www.ifsw.org website.



Elaine Congress, Priska Fleischlin, Robin Mama, Michael Cronin