



International Federation of Social Workers  
Fédération Internationale des Travailleurs Sociaux  
Federación Internacional de Trabajadores Sociales

## World Social Work Day

World Social Work Day was launched by The International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW): in 1983 and later other social work organizations such as the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) have joined as partners to the event. WSWD has become a highpoint in the social work calendar with social workers all over the world celebrating and promoting the contributions of the profession to individuals, families, communities and wider society. The day is celebrated on the official date every 3rd Tuesday in March.

On this date social work organizations throughout the world mark World Social Work Day bringing messages to their governments, communities, and peer professional groups on the unique and significant contributions of the social work profession. The actions highlight social work's approach to facilitating sustainable community outcomes by applying a developmental and capacity building approach coupled with advocating for social justice and human rights.

The themes of WSWD are set for two years according to the goals of the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development:

2012 - 2014: Promoting social and Economic Equality

2015 - 2016: Promoting the Dignity and Worth of Peoples.

2017 - 2018: Promoting Community and Environmental Sustainability

2019 - 2020: Promoting the Importance of Human Relationships

Every year IFSW produces a poster announcing WSWD. It is spontaneously translated into over 45 languages, and presented to governments, political bodies posted on the notice boards of social services and in social work class rooms throughout the world. The event has become so successful in recent years it is now generally considered as highlight of international solidarity and cooperation of social workers.

Furthermore five Regional Observatories have been installed to collect the results and good practice examples of social work and social development practice. The findings are analyzed and set in the context of the actual social, political and economic realities, resulting in a publication which is launched at the biannual World Conference of Social Work and Social Development. ([www.ifsw.org/shop](http://www.ifsw.org/shop))

## World Social Work Day at the United Nations

IASSW and IFSW have special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) (IASSW since 1947 and **IFSW** since 1959). Jointly the representatives of both organizations have annually celebrated WSWD at the UN in New York since 1983 and in Geneva since 2012. Sporadically WSWD at the UN has also been celebrated in Vienna, Nairobi, and Santiago de Chile. In 2017 for the first time WSWD shall be celebrated at the UN in Bangkok.

### **Objectives of WSWD at the UN are:**

- To strengthen existing or to establish new contacts, cooperation and partnership with UN organisations and with allied international NGOs.
- To spread knowledge about social work, its values, principles and methods in practice and theory among UN-organisations and allied international NGOs.
- To highlight social work actions, policies and achievements in the pursuit of common goals.
- To disseminate the knowledge about UN activities, goals, program and campaigns among social workers and social work organisations and schools.