

Vienna, 4 May 2016

International Federation of Social Workers
Executive Committee
PO Box 6875
Schwarztorstrasse 22
CH-3001 Berne
Switzerland

Letter of Support
Candidacy 2016 – IFSW Treasurer – Dunja Gharwal

The Austrian Association of Social Work is delighted to nominate Ms. Dunja Gharwal as IFSW treasurer. We highly support her candidacy.

Ms. Gharwal is engaged at the OBDS as a member of the executive board since 2014. As a social worker she is experienced in different fields, roles and functions of social work. But she also brings in a wide range of business skills and experience as a former entrepreneur in the health sector.

As the deputy treasurer of OBDS she is a very active member of the executive board, rearranging the budget, suggesting new ideas of funding and developing new business models for the OBDS.

She also took over a leading role in our organization development process „OBDS 2025“ and inspired the team members in this agenda. She reorganized our financial management and works very close with our secretary and CEO.

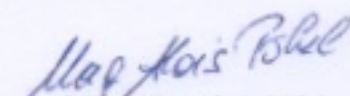
During the late political crisis forcing people into displacement and refugee status she set up a voluntary mobile social work team with interpreters to provide information and help for asylum seekers in Austria's biggest detention centers. This project started as a local community based service and has become a national operating organization providing information and support for NGOs to deliver specific information services for refugees and asylum seekers. The international opening-up will take place in the next 6 months.

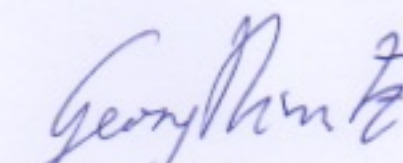
She also was the impulsive force to prepare and realize the international Symposium „Responding to the refugee Crisis” on WSWD 2016 in Vienna - a very successful event with 50 participants from war-, transit- and asylum countries.

Ms. Gharwal will finish her Master of Social Work in June 2016. Her Master Thesis „Ethical Dilemmas in Social Work” provides awareness of the practical use of ethical principals and human rights documents in every day social work. The Austrian Association started the process of adaption of the ethic codex last year and set up a working group. Ms. Gharwal is mainly involved in this process with her academic and practical expertise.

Ms. Gharwal is known as a very experienced social worker with excellent social competence and communication skills. She is a very active networker and skillful negotiator with an analytical approach, strategically planning and strong motivation. Her reliability and loyalty are valuable features as a team player.

The Austrian Association of Social Work is pleased that Ms. Gharwal can offer these qualities to an international level and highly recommends her for the position of IFSW Treasurer.


DSA Mag. Alois Pölzl
Chairman OBDS


Georg Dimitz
Treasurer OBDS