



IASSW AIETS

www.iassw-aiets.org

International Association of Schools of Social Work
Association Internationale des Ecoles de Travail Social
Asociación Internacional de Escuelas de Trabajo Social
国际社会工作教育联盟
国際ソーシャルワーク学校連盟

Notes from the field...

February 2016

By the IASSW Interns at the United Nations, New York, 2015-2016

IASSW at the 54th Commission on Social Development

IASSW was an active contributor to the 54th Session of the UN Commission for Social Development, held in February. All members of the team attended the Civil Society Forum on February 1 & 2 and the IASSW sponsored one side event and participated in two others. To further the Global Agenda theme of human dignity, we co-sponsored a side event on: “The Quest for Dignity: Towards universal social protection coverage” with the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW), the ILO, and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung foundation of Germany. Lynne Healy, IASSW Main Representative, presented on the discourse of dignity and Sergei Zeleney, Executive Director of ICSW, served as moderator. Among other speakers was Vinicius Pinheiro of the ILO who addressed progress in moving towards universal social

protection and urged universal protection across the life cycle.



“Grassroots Matter” Side Event Panelists, including IASSW Intern Sarah Johnson

IASSW representatives played a significant role in planning a second side event, “Grassroots Matter: Anchoring the SDGs in Community-Based Economies” (see below), sponsored by the NGO Committee for Social Development, the Permanent Mission of Ireland, and several other NGOs. IASSW Intern Sarah Johnson presented a summary of results of a survey conducted by the NGO Committee of community-based local economies projects. Through micro-finance projects, savings groups, small scale industries, community farming and cooperatives, people at the grassroots are making progress in sustainable livelihoods while preserving their environments. These findings will be shared with governments as exemplars for the 2030 Agenda. Aspects of the survey highlighting empowerment of women will be presented at the March Commission on the Status of Women. A full report of the survey findings will be available in the

spring at <http://ngosocdev.org> Finally, Lynne Healy moderated a session on “The Social Dimensions of the 2030 Agenda” sponsored by UNESCO, UNDESA (Economic and Social Affairs) and (Research Institute for Social Development) UNRISD.



implementation of the goals in areas concerning girls
(e.g., educational attainment, violence against girls).

Other Events at the UN

New Resource Available on Human Rights and
Poverty

Making Human Rights Work for People Living in Extreme Poverty is a new handbook to help community members and professionals implement the United Nations Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, adopted by the UN Human Rights Council in 2012. The handbook was published in 2015 by International Movement ATD Fourth World and Franciscans International.

Following an introduction, users are led through a series of key principles for engaging with people living in poverty. The main section identifies numerous rights-based actions that can address issues of those living in poverty, including rights to health, food, work, education, participation, and more. The final section addresses the importance of monitoring and holding governmental authorities accountable for respecting and fulfilling rights.

Local examples and photographs illustrate the text.

The manual is available free at: bit.ly/see-handbook.

There is also a brief video available at the same website.

The English version of the UN Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights can be accessed [here](#). (also available in other languages).

Request for Input

If you know an IASSW member (including yourself!) whose work should be highlighted, please contact Sarah Johnson so she can recognize that member in the monthly spotlight. Additionally, if one of the committees is working on a topic that is within your expertise or area of interest, please reach out to us so that we can make social work's voice heard.

Respectfully,

Sarah Johnson

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