

## **Linda Kreitzer**

### **Biographical Sketch**

Dr. Kreitzer practiced social work in the U.S. and the UK from 1976-1994. From 1994 - 1996, she taught social work at the University of Ghana, Legon. She finished her Master's in Social Work at the University of Calgary, completing her social work practicum and thesis data collection Buduburam refugee camp, Ghana. From 1999-2000, she worked for the American Red Cross in Armenia.



In 2004, she finished her PhD program at the University of Calgary looking at social work curriculum in Africa. She continues to be involved in African social work. Presently, she teaches at the University of Calgary, Faculty of Social Work, Central and Northern Region with her teaching interests that include international indigenous issues, community practice, professional use of self, international social work and immigrants and refugees. Her book *Social Work in Africa: Exploring Culturally Relevant Social Work Education and Practice in Ghana* was published in 2012. Other books include *Lying down in the ever-falling snow: Canadian health care professionals' experiences of compassion fatigue* and *Sherpa in my backpack: A guide to international social work practicum exchanges and study abroad programs*. She currently sits on the Board of Directors for the International Association of Schools of Social Work.

### **Statement of my vision for IASSW**

My name is Linda Kreitzer and I have had the privilege of serving on the Board of Directors of IASSW for that past four years as a member at large. I have learned a tremendous amount concerning how this organization fits within the global social work community and its relationship with the other two international organizations; IFSW and ICSW. As can be imagined it has taken quite some time to understand how IASSW works and during my time on the board, we have regularly looked at the future of the organization through a strategic planning process.

### **Areas of interest**

My work on the committee has been in three areas: 1) publication committee; 2) education committee; and 3) world census committee. As chair of the publication committee we have worked to publish and sell social work education books that help us with our revenue as well as produce current social work education books to distribute worldwide. With the education committee, I have offered support to mini workshops that are held after our board meetings, was involved in capacity building in Vietnam, and regularly participate in choosing the international projects to fund during the year. I helped write guidelines for setting up the mini workshops and have been involved in rewriting the policies and procedures concerning board meetings, when they will occur and where. This includes how business meetings are conducted, a follow-up process to board meetings, and the induction of new members.

**My vision for IASSW**

I would very much like to continue work in each of these areas as I feel I am just beginning to understand the work involved. The success of the Social Dialogue continues and the future task is to secure advertising so that the magazine will financially support itself. Other IASSW publications are in the works and interest in more publications is something that needs to be encouraged through the committee. I would also like to be involved in tightening up some of our guidelines in various areas of the organization. Most importantly, as we look at our future as an organization, it is an exciting time to be involved in paving the way for the next ten years for IASSW and for social work worldwide. I look forward to being part of this and would hope that you would allow me to continue, as member at large, in this important work with IASSW.