

**Brief Biography (200 words)**

Dr. Aamir Jamal is an Associate Professor with the University of Calgary Faculty of Social Work. Jamal is the Director of Global Engagement and International Partnerships and leads the faculty's International Community Development graduate program. Dr. Jamal has a PhD in International Social Development (University of Calgary), an MBA (Adelphi University, New York) and more than 25 years' experience working in the international development sector. His knowledge, experience and extensive network of personal and community relationships are vital to guiding curriculum development in International Social Work.

Dr. Jamal's scholarship in gender justice, girls' education, and women's rights has informed policy and practice for national governments and international agencies. He is most recognized for his book *The Gatekeepers: Engaging Pashtun Men for Gender Justice and Girls' Education in Pakistan*, which has been translated into several local languages. Jamal has extensive insight into the relationship between human rights and social and economic marginalization in a region impacted by decades of war. This understanding makes him an influential leader and allowed him to collaboratively lay the foundation of a new Indigenous social movement for gender justice in the Pashtun region of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Dr. Jamal's exceptional volunteer and professional activities were recently recognized by the City of Calgary, with the prestigious *International Achievement Award* (2021).

**Statement of my vision for the IASSW (400 words)**

As an international social worker, social activist, educator, and researcher, I remain committed to transformative work that interrogates deeply rooted socio-cultural and political issues that marginalize women and other oppressed groups in the Global South. Central to my work is the advancement of girls' and women's rights to education. With a background in teaching, research and social activism in the Global South and Global North, I have been successful in respectfully engaging Indigenous communities and local students in efforts for global social justice, human rights and gender equity. I work closely with the government sector to develop and introduce peace-building strategies which include preventing domestic violence and promoting girls' schooling in countries experiencing war, conflict and associated human rights and gender equity problems.

I have been substantially involved in advancing international social work education through program design, research and practice seminars, including organizing conferences in regions where social work is still an emerging profession. Through community-based approaches and the co-construction of knowledge, I have facilitated opportunities for social workers to build their capacities to practice ethically, engage in policy and contribute to human rights and gender equity initiatives around the world. I currently lead the design and delivery of a qualitative research course for 65 Social Work

Ph.D. students in Pakistan as part of Academics without Borders. IASSW's vision to promote and develop "excellence in social work education, research and scholarship across the globe, in pursuit of a more just and equitable world" aligns well with my mission and life goals.

In Canada, I led the redesign of the University of Calgary graduate program in International Social Work, which is rooted in an ethical and theoretical framework that centers on Indigenous worldviews, anti/postcolonialism, anti-racism, transnational feminism, anti-oppressive theory/practice and mutual aid. This one-of-a-kind program in Canada is the result of ongoing collaboration, community involvement and professional consultation.

The IASSW has an essential role to play in developing sustainable global alliances in co-constructing and decolonizing social work education and practices. As a member of the Board, I will collaborate with colleagues for collective efforts in strengthening the IASSW's vision and mission of "engaged community," "mutual exchange" and "global partnership" for advancing excellence in social work education, research, and practices. I believe my experience of international social work program development, global capacity building and extensive research and community engagement will help me to effectively work on the IASSW Board as Member-at-Large.