Pamela Singla, Professor and Head, Department of Social Work (DSW), University of Delhi (DU), teaches Social Work Education, Gender Studies, Social Policy and Social Statistics. She brings the voices of the people to the classroom by undertaking empirical research with diverse groups, a journey which started in 1992 with a study of manual scavengers for the Delhi Government. Over a span of 30 years of her career she has extensively researched and published on various areas of social work practice like- women's participation in Panchayati Raj (*Local Self Government*), women in the corporate world and their job satisfaction, safety on the university campus; natural disasters; human trafficking; welfare schemes and forced marriages. She has gender sensitized diverse groups, including imparting training on soft skills to 11,000 police personnel of Kashmir zone. She is associated with the Government of India (GoI) as Member Expert Panel and Task Force for women's safety in Delhi; NOC Member for International Adoption, GoI; Visitor's Nominee, JNU; Provost, International Students Hostel, DU. Widely travelled, she has presented research papers in international and national conferences and is committed to combining theory and practice and academic and intellectual work along with administration. She is also International Consultant for Social Work at Samarkand University (Uzbekistan) and core team member for internationalizing the Social Work Curriculum of DU.

Vision for
IASSW

Through the medium of IASSW, a global body to promote social work education, there is an urgent need to strengthen social work education, practice and research across the globe to meet current demand of unforeseen crisis, emerging needs, violence, abuse, and deprivation. These aspects need to be reinforced through fact, figures, and narratives. In the developing world, the life stories of the deprived and marginalized need to be heard and documented. This is crucial to framing appropriate policies, legislations and local specific schemes. Hence it is imperative to carefully identify stakeholders and seek their active participation. The values of equality with equitarian approach, justice, solidarity, inclusion need to be globally transmitted to reach every corner of the world, keeping also the SDG agenda 2030 in mind. The IASSW could prove to be an excellent channel to:

- Build on theory, practice and research components of social work keeping in mind the changing contexts in wake of COVID-19 and other crises;
- Build on indigenous models to address the local situations of cultural and socio-economic differences with regard to scarcity, withdrawal and denial;
- Create specific models/ methods like an Asian model of social work where the family is an important unit, and bonding and mutual support are forms of survival and building resilience, revisit the existing methods of social work practice;
- Use the gender lens for bringing about change in attitudes, gender stereotyping, discrimination and frame adequate policies using Gender Analysis Frameworks;
- Develop strong praxis between the practitioners and academicians to revisit and create a knowledge base on emerging areas of intervention;
- Devise mechanisms for better visibility of the social work discipline/ national associations through collective discussions;
- Internationalize Social Work Curriculum for dissemination of the local issues and good practices;
- Collectively voice for Centers of social work education and research, for data generation, discussions, knowledge dissemination with equal participation of those in field and in academics;
- Document best practices/ successful models at regional/national level for knowledge dissemination [on the lines of IASSW (during COVID-19) to gather regional experiences, and practices];
- Identify our stakeholders and seek their participation in building appropriate communities, spaces, environment;
- Build global solidarity among the social work fraternity to address unforeseen crisis situations like COVID-19; train social workers to respond to crisis.