**REPORT OF THE GLOBAL STANDARDS TASKFORCE**

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The Taskforce has been progressing with the review of the Global Standards as planned. As noted in the last report, we conducted a workshop at the Canadian conference in order to obtain preliminary feedback. Thanks to Karene, the Global Standards were also discussed at sessions during the Caribbean and US (CSWE) conferences this year. Feedback from these sessions will be incorporated when we receive all of the documents.

IASSW Taskforce members (Ute, Vimla Nadkarni, and I) have also submitted an abstract to hold another workshop at the Dublin conference. Please see attached. One of our Graduate students will be assisting with this session. As we were finalizing the abstract, we learned from Anna-Maria that two IFSW representatives, Vasilios Ioakimidis and Mariko Kimura, will be working with us on the Taskforce. We contacted them asking for their ideas on how we could to proceed collaboratively to develop a structure and process (i.e. Terms of Reference) for the review. We also informed them about the proposed workshop in Dublin, and sought their suggestions as to how we could make the workshop a rich source of information to aid in updating the Global Standards. Ioakimidis did not respond and Kimura was only interested in seeing the feedback that we garnered so far. So, we proceeded to submit the abstract without their inputs.

In addition to preparing for the workshop in Dublin, we will be conducting a literature search to identify relevant national and regional standards and issues related to social work educational standards.

**Title:** Revising the Global Standards for Social Work Education and Training

**Abstract Body:** In 2004, the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) and the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) produced a set of standards for social work education and training across the globe. The main aim was to enhance social work education, training and practice. The flexibility of this document provided for accommodation of diverse interpretations of locally specific social work education and practice. Thus, it could potentially serve as a guideline to develop national standards for social work education and training.

Since its adoption, the global context of social work education and practice has shifted dramatically. In addition to challenges, such as privatization, retraction of the welfare state and deprofessionalization, the two organizations adopted a new International Definition Social Work (2014). We are now embarking on a new initiative to update these standards. This workshop aims at facilitating dialogue to inform the revision. Participants will learn about the present standards and their significance. They will discuss the challenges of developing “universal standards” while respecting local, national and regional contexts, and also explore alternatives to the existing standards. It will be reflect the essence of the original standards:

*“Thus, there is a call for our colleagues across the globe to critically engage with the document, assess its relevance for their particular historical, socio-economic, political and cultural contexts and engage in cross national and cross regional dialogue about social work education and practice (IASSW, 2004).”* Retrieved from <https://www.iassw-aiets.org/global-standards-for-social-work-education-and-training/>

FACILITATORS

Dr. Dixon Sookraj is an Associate Professor at the School of Social Work, University of British Columbia (Okanagan Campus). He holds a Doctorate of Philosophy from the College of Social Work, Ohio State University. His teaching areas include ethics, international social work, social welfare policy and research. He is the immediate, past President of the Canadian Association for Social Work Education, and served Canadian representative on the Board of Directors on the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW). He serves as Co-chair of the IASSW Research Committee, and IASSW co-chair of the Taskforce for revision of the Standards for Social Work Education and Training.

Ute Straub holds a tenure professorship at the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences, Germany, since 20 years. Her teaching area is mainly international and transnational social work but also theories and methods. Prior to this, she gained professional practice in social-pedagogical care of mentally and physically challenged young people, gender-oriented work with boys/girls with migrant background, domestic violence (shelter for mistreated women and their children), community-oriented media pedagogy and public relations for a social institution. Ute Straub is the international coordinator at her faculty, and chair of the International Social Work section of the German Associaton for Social Work (dgsa). As a member-at-large on the IASSW Board of Directors, she has been delegated as co-chair of the Taskforce for revision of the Standards for Social Work Education and Training.

 Professor Vimla V. Nadkarni is Immediate Past President of IASSW having served as President from 2012 to 2016. After heading the department of medical and psychiatric social work at Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) for 20 years, she was founder Dean of the School of Social Work in 2006. She also worked as the Secretary General of the Family Planning Association of India when she was on lien for two years in 2001-2002. After attaining her M.A. degree in Social Work in 1971, she worked for 5 yrs as a medical social worker in a public hospital and thereafter as lecturer in the College of Social Work, (University of Mumbai) for 8 yrs. Her publications include NGOs, Urban Health and the Poor, and articles on right to health, poverty and human need, HIV/AIDS, and human rights perspectives in social work.

Emily Taylor is a Master of Social Work student at the University of British Columbia (Okanagan Campus). In 2016, she received her Honors Bachelor of Social Work and Disability Studies. Her practice experiences include services to Indigenous children living in isolated communities and adults with physical and intellectual disabilities. She is currently a student intern assisting the Research Committee of the International Association of Schools of Social Work.

PARTICIPATION

Our target audience includes educators and practitioners who are involved (or are interested) in developing and implementing standards for social work education and training worldwide.

This experiential workshop will actively engage participants in discussing challenges related to the existing Global Standards and exploring alternative standards that better reflect the contemporary realities of social work education and training. The format will include presentations by the facilitators, small group discussions, and dialogue within the larger audience.

Key terms:

Education; training; global or international; standards