**IASSW Global Standards Taskforce: Terms of Reference**

Draft: Prepared by Dixon Sookraj

Date: October 2, 2019.

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**NAME: IASSW Global Standards Taskforce**

**GOALS:**

1. To revise and update the Global Standards for Social Work Education and Training
2. To coordinate the development of the new standards with the IFSW Taskforce

**SCOPE/AUTHORITY:**

The Taskforce gathers inputs for updating the standards from a wide variety of sources. Key sources of information are international publications and related materials, national and international educational bodies, conference sessions, a survey of individual and institutional members, and consultations with other key stakeholders, including the regional Vice Presidents and the Board of Directors of the IASSW. The Taskforce will coordinate its activities with the Task Group (Global Commission) of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) and recommend changes to the document to the IASSW Board of directors for approval.

**MEMBERS:**

1. **Carmen Castillo (COSTA RICA)**: Member, Latin American Rep.
2. **Karene Nathaniel-DeCaires (TRINIDAD & TOBAGO):** Member, North American/Caribbean Rep.
3. **Liu Meng (CHINA):** Member, China National Rep.
4. **Teresa Francesca Bertotti (ITALY):** Member, European Association Rep.
5. **Alexandre Hakizamunga (RWANDA)**: Member, African Association Rep.
6. **Vimla Nadkarni (INDIA):** Member, Past IASSW President
7. **Emily Taylor (CANADA):** Student Rep.
8. **Dixon Sookraj (CANADA)**: IASSW Co-Chair & Coordinator with IFSW
9. **Ute Straub (GERMANY**): IASSW Co-Chair & Board Representative

**INITIAL CONSULTATION GROUP:**

1. **Carol S. Cohen (USA):** Commission on Group Work in Social Work Education of the International Association for Social Work with Groups, Co-Chair.
2. **Shirley Gatenio Gabel (USA).** Journal of Human Rights and Social Work, Co-Editor
3. **Varoshini Nadesan (SOUTH AFRICA).** Association of South African Social Work Education Institutions, President.

**MEETING ARRANGEMENTS**

**Communication**

The work of the Taskforce will be conducted primarily through email. Meetings through Skype will be held periodically, as deemed necessary by members, and with due regard for the challenges in coordinating meetings across diverse time zones. Communications will focus on the schedule presented below.

The Taskforce will coordinate a series of international media releases with the IFSW Task Group throughout the process. These releases will serve to inform members and the public about the process, and to raise the public profile of social work and social development across the globe.

**Governance/Decision-making**

A small group consisting of the IASSW/IFSW co-chair and one or two other Taskforce members will review existing resources, including those from sources identified under the Scope / Authority above. This group will draft updates to the standards and submit them to the Taskforce for their inputs and suggestions for improving the draft. The group will also seek input from other stakeholders, including the Regional Vice Presidents. The co-chair will engage in ongoing coordination with the IFSW co-chair and keep the Taskforce informed of and new developments.

**The Taskforce will adhere to the following principles in its decision-making processes:**

1. Consensus decision making -All decisions of the Taskforce should be made by consensus. Voting by simple majority will be a last resort - to be used only when consensus cannot be reached.
2. Participatory – Members of Taskforce should be actively involved throughout the process.
3. Transparency - Everyone involved should understand the process. We will provide our rationale (or justification) for every major change made to the standards.
4. Inclusiveness – We should ensure representation of perspectives from all IASSW/IFSW regions and other key stakeholders, including service users

**Sharing of information**

The Taskforce will establish a shared space for information, including relevant resources to be shared among members of the Taskforce. The sharing of information with the IFSW Task Group will be coordinated by one Co-Chair, Dixon Sookraj. The other Co-chair, Ute Straub, will be cc’d correspondence with the IFSW Task force, specifically related to the Standards.

**REPORTING**

The Taskforce reports to the IASSW President and Board of Directors. The two co-chairs will coordinate reporting to the IASSW President and Board of Directors

**RESOURCES AND BUDGET**

There is no budget for this project. It is understood that costs incurred, such the cost of the fact-to-face meetings with the IFSW representatives to consolidate the drafts, will be covered by the IASSW.

**DELIVERABLES**

The updated Standards for Social Work Education and Training will be delivered to the Boards of Directors of the IASSW and the IFSW as recommendations for their approval. We will strive to submit the recommended updates to the Standards to the IASSW Board by the end of May 2020, allowing ample time for feedback and amendments before the International conference in Italy in the summer.

**Additional Notes**

* The leadership of the IFSW does not support the IASSW Board’s preference for a joint IASSW/IFSW Taskforce. The two Presidents have endorsed an alternative approach. Through this approach, each organization maintains its own Taskforce, and the Co-chairs coordinate the activities of the two Taskforces. The outputs to the two Taskforces will be consolidated by the end of January 2020, and the consolidated draft document is to be circulated widely for further inputs.