

## **International Association of Schools of Social Work President's Report (July - December 2020)**

Dear Colleagues,

I hope I find all of you and your loved ones in good health. It has been a terrible year and although we are hoping that vaccine will be helpful in fighting the virus, there is still much to do in the future months to protect ourselves and be assured that all people in the world have access to the vaccine.

In a world that wants to erect walls, the virus has shown us that borders do not exist and once again this confirms the importance of reinforcing the international dimension of social work education and practice.

It's a pleasure for me to present my first report, July - December 2020 for my second term as President. Thank you for your trust and support and I hope to fulfill your expectations.

The board meeting and the General Assembly were successfully organized in an on-line format in July 2020.

The last six months were marked by the COVID Pandemic having an impact at different levels. The physical distancing has been replaced by an increasing virtual closeness. IA Officers and Committee Chairs have continued their work on line, Rashmi has managed the association, Agnes worked on Social media posts and we have planned different initiatives.

Committee Chairs will be submitting their reports but I will include some in my report as well. Some of the activities that we have been involved with are:

### **Tripartite Committee**

IASSW, ICSW and IFSW have had different meetings and email exchanges during these months on different topics such as the: Global Agenda, 2022 and 2024 International Conferences and future cooperation among the three organizations.

- The general frame for the Global Agenda, and the first topic has been defined and was launched at the beginning of November. I want to wholeheartedly thank Antoinette Lombard and Angie Yuen for their important contribution to the Global Agenda Task Force and also Abye Tasse for his leadership and significant mediation activities in his role as coordinator of the Task Force.
- There was a through discussion on the future of the 2022 International Conference including representation from Panama. The Tripartite decision was to plan an online conference for 2022 due to the uncertainty of the future of the Coronavirus. Although the vaccination process can start, it will be difficult to have a homogeneous vaccination coverage worldwide and, moreover, the critical economic situation would not allow many people to afford the costs of a trip and participation fees.

Once again thank you to Vishanthie Sewpaul who is our contact person with Panama, in name of the Tripartite group.

- The new Tripartite Memorandum of Agreement is still pending, because although the text was approved in our meeting in London in January 2020, IFSW reports that their Executive Committee wants to simplify it. We haven't received their proposal.
- Our last meeting followed the elections held in November for the President and the Executive Director for ICSW. Eva Holmberg-Herrström and Tom Johannesen introduced the new President Sang-Mok Suh from South Korea and the Executive Director Antonio Lopez from Spain. We have had a supportive and effective working relationship with ICSW in the past several years, and I hope that we can continue this level cooperation in the future.

### **Rimini conference**

As you know after having postponed the conference to November, due to the general situation of the pandemic, we were forced to cancel the conference.

It has been a really painful process, as all the elements for an incredibly successful event (around 1400 abstract received, 1200 approved, many social initiatives planned in the city) were in place.

Following advice from legal counsel, it was not possible to clearly inform the public of the cancelation, while negotiating the conference organizers (IA and IC) obligation to pay the conference venue and all other service providers. The formal notice was released at the end of the litigation process.

MV congress was able to negotiate no penalty for canceling the venue, the contracts with the different providers of services and the pre-booking of the hotel. We do have to pay for services that had been completed.

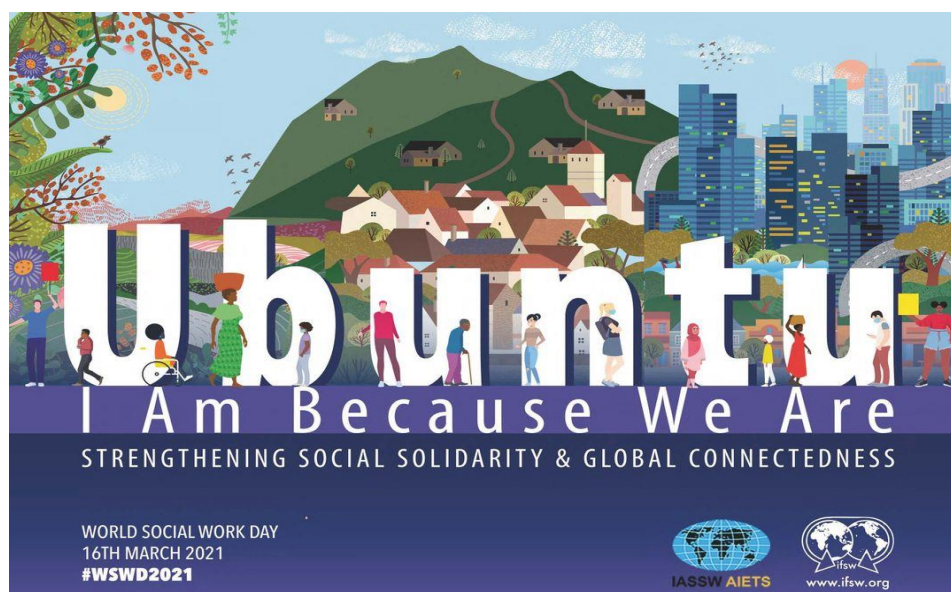
Adhering to the contract, the primary cost will be covered 50% each by IASSW and ICSW, and the Italian associations are responsible for 8000 Euros. This was the agreement that was determined after IFSW decided to organize their own conference in Calgary.

The cost for IASSW and ICSW will be approximately 31,000 Euros, that we will pay in three installments: two in 2021 (January and September) and the last in 2022.

In order not to lose the richness of the contributions presented, we decided to carry out a series of initiatives to be reported by Tiong.

### **World Social Work Day 2021**

The poster for the WSWD 2021 was prepared by IFSW and has been co-branded by IA. For the moment, there are plans for celebrating the WSWD at the UN in Geneva and I've been invited to participate. No other information from New York and Bangkok has been received at this time.



### **COVID 19 initiatives**

The webpage with social work stories, new and updates, and teaching experiences have been regularly uploaded by Rashmi, with review by Lena Dominelli.

David McNabb, Chair of the International Projects Committee in collaboration with Lena Dominelli launched a successful call for International Projects on COVID 19. 4 projects were selected.

Unfortunately, it was not possible to actualize the initiative proposed to the Board in agreement with Darla Coffey, Chair of the Capacity Building Committee to discuss the effect of COVID 19 in specific areas. Both leaders of the two proposals selected - a zoom meeting led by Shajahan on "on line teaching" and another by Anneline Keet on "older adults" - were too busy and couldn't fulfil the task .

### **Website**

We have continued to improve the website and we have plans to develop it more user friendly. Agnes Yuen IASSW communication manager is working on plan and hopefully she will be able to bring some innovative ideas. Of course, IASSW website is having all important functionalities with prompt support of Rashmi Pandey and Preshit Deorukhkar - IASSW website manager.

### **Task Force on Global Standard**

The document finalized by the Task Force has been officially launched and disseminated through google groups and published on the website. Thank you to Dixon Sookraj for his leadership and colleagues that offered their feedback. This is only the beginning of a process of implementation that we have to discuss how to implement in our association.

During these past six months, I've had skype meetings with Officers, Rashmi and Agnes and some Committee Chairs to enhance our activities.

I would also like to highlight my participation to many different initiatives:

### July

31<sup>st</sup> lecture for SOSNET (Finland) on International dimension of social work

23<sup>rd</sup> meeting in French on Global Agenda

### August

8<sup>th</sup> introduction at the 2nd conference Digital transformation and social work issues (scientific research- practice- education-training) Helwan University

10<sup>th</sup> lecture “Contribución de la educación en trabajo social para los Objetivos Desarrollo Sustentable” for Universidad de Concepción, Chile

12<sup>th</sup> speech at Youth Changemakers Conclave organised by Social Work Times and Changemakers Foundation on the UN International Youth Day



31<sup>st</sup> speech in opening social work course academic year for Universidad Catholica Valparaiso



## September

9<sup>th</sup> speech at Acto inaugural “El COVID 19 y la transformacion de las comunidades en el siglo XXI” - UNAM



20<sup>th</sup> video for website Nodo de Trabajo Social de Grupo and foreword for the book

25<sup>th</sup> speech “Social work education ed emergenza COVID: Cenni da una prospettiva internazionale” in SOCISS - Il servizio sociale in condizioni di distanziamento fisico

25<sup>th</sup> video for 75 years of Valparaiso Catholic University

25<sup>th</sup> video for CONETS (Consejo Nacional para la Educacion en Trabajo Social) assembly

28<sup>th</sup> meeting in Spanish on Global Agenda

29<sup>th</sup> IASSW presentation to AUETS (Asociación Universitaria Española de Trabajo Social)

## October

1<sup>st</sup> video for 35<sup>o</sup> year social work school Fundación Universitaria Monserrate- Unimonserrate,

5/6 meeting with Nordic RRC

16/17 speech “Dalla 1° conferenza internazionale di servizio sociale allo sviluppo della dimensione internazionale” in Le radici del welfare- Sostoss

30<sup>th</sup> seminar Modica University on Ethical principles of social work

## November

1<sup>st</sup> welcome CASWE (Chinese Association Social Work Educators) for Symposium COVID

19<sup>th</sup> speech “La garantía de Derechos digitales para la ciudadanía” at Trabajo Social Digital — Digital Social Work- UNED

## 20<sup>th</sup> Valedictory in “Growing Global Interdependence in International Social Work” Madras Christian College



**MADRAS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)**  
 Department of Social Work (Aided)  
 &  
 Centre for International Social Work, MCC  
 Organises a 2 Day International Webinar on  
**GROWING GLOBAL INTERDEPENDENCE  
 IN INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORK**  
**DAY 2 | 20TH NOV 2020 | 3:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. (IST)**  
**SPEAKERS ON BOARD**  
 **DR. VIMLA V. NADKARNI**  
 Senior Professor (Retd.)  
 Tata Institute of Social Sciences  
 Immediate Past President, IASSW  
 **DR. ROBIN EDWARD GEARING**  
 Professor,  
 University of Houston, Texas  
 Director, Center for Mental Health Research  
 & Innovation in Treatment Engagement and Service  
 **MRS. PHILOMENA HARRISON**  
 Senior Lecturer in  
 Social Work, Liverpool Hope  
 University, England  
**PANELISTS**  
 **DANIEL ISHAKU**  **LIRIS THOMAS & AMITHA PUNNOOSE**  **MARINA STERN GOLD**  **LUCY WOOD**  
**VALEDICTION**  
 **DR. ANNAMARIA CAMPANINI**  
 PRESIDENT,  
 International Association of Schools of  
 Social Work (IASSW)  
 For enquiries and concerns;  
 mcswd@mcc.edu.in  
 1901712091003@mcc.edu.in  
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20<sup>th</sup> in Estado de la cuestión sobre el TSG Internacional: Investigación, producción académica y práctica profesional  
 20<sup>th</sup> interview for UNED channel

## December

2<sup>nd</sup> lecture on “International dimension of social work” - University of Zagreb  
 2<sup>nd</sup> speech “El rol de la Asociación Internacional de las Escuelas de Trabajo Social ante la pandemia y la futura preparación de los trabajadores sociales” in the seminar Soledad, duelo, dolor y muerte en tiempos de pandemia. Una perspectiva desde la profesión -UNED.

## ASPECTOS CENTRALES POR LA EDUCACION EN TRABAJO SOCIAL

- *Atención al concepto de persona y su entorno*
- *Atención a la protección del medio ambiente natural*
- *Desarrollo sostenible*
- *Trabajo social verde (Dominelli)*
- *Contrastar burocratización y sostener un trabajo social transformador*

Ana Isabel Lima Fernán...

Francisco Lorenzo

Annamaria Campanini

Alfredo Hidaigo

3<sup>rd</sup> speech "Social work in time of crises" in University and society: building bridges- T@SK Tirana University

3<sup>rd</sup> speech "El rol del Trabajo Social ante la crisis y la futura preparación de los trabajadores sociales" in conference Nuevos paradigmas y desafíos de trabajo social ante realidades complejas: investigacion y modelos de intervencion sociales- Asociación Mexicana de Instituciones Educativas de Trabajo Social

4<sup>th</sup> IASSW Presentation in the meeting of the Red de Escuelas de Trabajo Social del Consejo de Rectores de Universidades Chilenas

10<sup>th</sup> meeting with Hugh Salmon, President of Global Social Service Workforce Alliance

I look forward to your feedback on my report and I wish you a healthy and peaceful 2021!

Respectfully submitted

Annamaria Campanini

Prof. Annamaria Campanini  
President, International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW)