

International Association of Schools of Social Work President's Report (January – June 2020)

Dear Colleagues,

This is the first report of my second term as President and although there is an improvement in pandemic conditions in some countries, COVID19 continues to circulate and claim a large number of victims in some parts of the world.

As long as there is no mass vaccination at the global level, there will be no escape from this tragic situation. That is why our association has joined the petition of Dr. Muhammad Yunus, Nobel Laureate for Peace (2006) to governments and business leaders to Make COVID 19 vaccines a common good. “We call on you to urgently ensure access to lifesaving Covid-19 vaccines, treatments and equipment for everyone in the world. Patents should be lifted, technological knowledge shared freely and openly, and no profiteering allowed during this pandemic. Governments, scientists and pharmaceutical companies must cooperate and combine resources to ensure no one is left behind. The pandemic will not be over, until it’s over everywhere. “

During the past six months, we have had many activities on line, including our virtual Board meeting in January. Thank you for your active participation!

World Social Work Day

The 2021 World Social Work Day was organized this year online, at the United Nations sites in New York, Geneva and Bangkok. A strong participation characterized all these initiatives and the IASSW presence was guaranteed by the President and other Board members. The different contributions centered around the main theme: Ubuntu-I’m because we are, chosen as a first pillar of the Global Agenda 2020/2030. We are now working to involve colleagues from Nairobi to develop a good connection with this UN Agency.

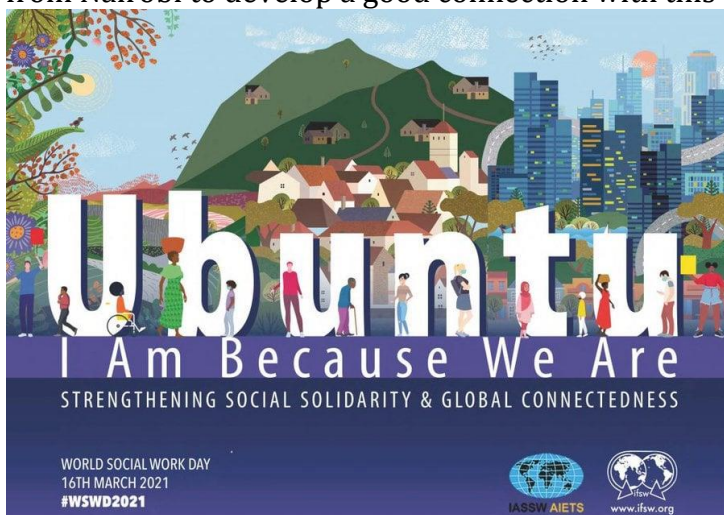


Figure 1: WSWD 2021 poster

Global Agenda

We are currently determining the next four pillars of the Agenda, with support in the task force from Abye Tasse (chair) and our representatives Antoinette Lombard and Angelina Yuen. I think it will be very important to activate at regional and local levels initiatives to increase the awareness of the topic involving academic, students and practitioners, but also initiating research on the realization of interventions around this topic. One specific focus of

the 2020-2030 agenda could be to measure the impact of the agenda in different area of the world. To have evidence from IASSW could enhance the visibility of our organization.

Global Standards

We are in the processes to translate Global Standard in different languages and we call for cooperation because this should really reach in original language every country. This is a very important document that is strictly connected with our mission and every vice-President and Board member should activate initiatives at regional and local level to discuss it and to bring IASSW visible also in the activities of capacity building and program consultations.

As of now we have updated Global Standards in English, Italian and Spanish on IASSW website: <https://tinyurl.com/xdfsfdkh>

Tripartite Committee

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

- After the decision to plan an online conference for 2022, there was a request from IFSW to add new partners on equal basis to the organization of the conference. IASSW requested information about the new partners (who they are, what will be their involvement and contributions) but very general answers were given by IFSW. We decided to send an email on 29th of April, with specific proposals. We propose that we develop a small committee (one representative from each organization of the Tripartite) to identify and engage additional partners. (We could consider calling this the Committee on Partnership Development.) Each partner would be asked to complete a Memorandum of Agreement that would articulate the following: visibility, conference contents, costs.
No answer until now. ICSW also sent a similar request for additional information.
- The Tripartite Memorandum of Agreement, although approved in our meeting in London in January 2020, was refused by the IFSW Executive Committee as they felt it was not needed.
- We continue to have a supportive and effective working relationship with ICSW with their new officers.

ISWESD

Together with ICSW we organized the online conference, a substitute of the Rimini conference, canceled due to the pandemic. It was an important initiative to present important contributions from different part of the world. During the conference, articulated in three different months (January, March, April), we were able accommodate different key note speeches, symposiums, workshops, oral contributions and posters.

On the YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCS0zCD6b1p9W0waQ-hCGf3g>

you can view the: The Eileen Younghusband Award lecture by Angelina Yuen, "Education For Hope And Transformation: Reflections On A Journey In Co-Constructing Local Social Work Education With Implications For International Social Work"; the Keynote speech by Walter Lorenz, "Social Workers Practicing Social Rights Against The Erosion Of Social Solidarity – Lessons From The Corona Crisis" ; The Katherine Kendall Memorial Award Lecture by Leila Patel, "Social Work and Social Development Responses to the Covid-19 Pandemic: Lessons from the Global South" and the Keynote speech by Sahar Al Makhamreh, "Shaping and Reshaping Social Work Education and Research in Bridging Human Relationships and Sustainable Development: A Perspective of Middle Eastern Social Work".

As the conference was very good quality, as a next step we intend to publish significant papers, organized under the various Axes along the conference theme: "Remaking Social Work for the Future". Prof Tan Ngoh Tiong and P.K. Shahjahan, conference co-chairs will coordinate this activity.

Please visit IASSW website for all information : <https://www.iassw-aiets.org/iswed-2021-online-conference/>

A big thank you to Prof Tan Ngoh Tiong and P.K. Shahjahan for the organization of the program, and also to Agnes Yuen, communications manager for all her work to make the conference possible, and Rashmi Pandey Executive Officer for her support.



Figure 2: A group photo of participants during ISWED keynote speech

Communication manager position

Agnes Yuen was appointed at February 2020 and she worked in developing communication strategies, in suggesting student's involvement in our association and also, she tried to reach some foundation and presents application to raise funds. She was asked to work on website together with Rashmi and Preshit but it could not achieve as she got busy with ISWED work this year. She developed ISWED page on IASSW website.

Her main task has been the organization of the ISWESD conference that took a lot of time and energies in a very short time. At the end of this period, in April, she asked to finish this part time job, due to the increasing demand of her full-time activities.

She was very good in communication and I think we have learned that it is impossible to give to the same person, in a part time job, both the task of fund raising and communication. These two activities required two different expertise and the fund raising one need to be done by people with a specific knowledge and international contact on this field.

So, we would like to have a call for a new person, with a more limited tasks, also if as it was stated in the two strategic reviews of the past, we should need a full-time person (as the IFSW secretary general) to be able to cover all the issues that are important in developing an active and "more assertive" communication and presence to make visible IASSW.

Statement for Palestine

There is ongoing discussion on issuing a statement regarding the Israel - Palestinian situation. I reminded the Board that in 2015 there was a decision not to respond to the individual situations but to create a general statement because we are not able to follow all that is happening in the world as violations of human rights and social justice. Additionally, it can be difficult to take a position without having significant information from inside. I support our current position, however reframing our "Message For Peaceful Engagement With Social Justice, Opposing And Condemning Racism, Discrimination And Violence" and emphasizing the position that we are committed to work for enhancing and defending human rights, to reinforce any pace keeping process, to support a dialogue between different positions, towards reciprocal respect, peace, social justice and sustainable development.

As officers we appointed a committee, with Barbara Shank chairing, to review our current statement. Members of the committee decided to draft a statement specific to Palestine, revise our current statement and develop a process for drafting and issuing statements in the future. The committee is collaborating with Janet Walker, chair of the Human Rights and Social Justice Committee. The committee will bring the statements and suggestion for a process to the Board meeting in June for discussion and approval.

At the end, I would also like to highlight my participation to many different initiatives during the past six months:

January

15th/16th January Kick off ISWESD and Board meeting



Figure 3: IASSW Board Meeting

18th Presentation Document on Principles of ethic in social work for Sicilia Regional Council of Social Work

20th Welcome Bangladesh 3rd Funding Anniversary of Community social work practice and Development Foundation and Community Talks International Newsletter Launching Ceremony

February

8th Meeting with Sage about international journal

9th Tripartite partnership meeting

18th Welcome for ARIISW conference

19th Presentation Document on Global Standard Liguria Regional Council of Social Work

22nd Meeting with Capacity Building Committee

We met online and discussed progress and updates. Chair of Committee- Dr Darla Spence Coffey from USA informed upcoming events. IASSW President- Annamaria Campanini welcomes Members of committee : Ute Straub from Germany, Zulkarnain A. Hatta from Malaysia, Felicia Tuggle from USA, Vimla Nadkarni from India, Karene Nathaniel-DeCaires from Trinidad and Tobago, In Young Han from Republic of Korea, Angie Yuen from Hong Kong, Janestic Twikirize from Uganda. Few members could not attend due to other meetings were Raymond Kloppenburg from Netherlands, Kathy Hogarth from Canada and Wassie Kebede from Ethiopia and Kgomotso Jongman from Botswana IASSW EO- Rashmi Pandey organized the meeting.



Figure 4: Meeting with Capacity Building Committee

March

9th Key note at conference of Iran "Social work, social observation social solidarity"

gave speech on the "Social work, social observation, social solidarity : a contribution of policy practice" during the 3rd International conference and 35th National social work day congress on "Social work, social observation, social solidarity" held online on March 9th, 2021

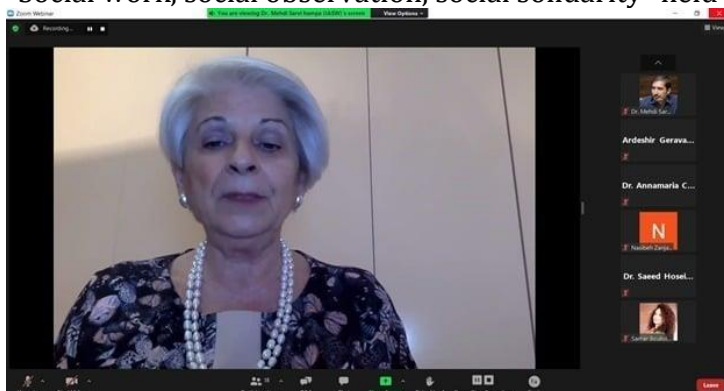


Figure 5: Annamaria Campanini as keynote speaker at conference of Iran "Social work, social observation social solidarity"

11th Arab social work conference- The case of Iraq



Figure 6: Annamaria Campanini as keynote speaker for Arab Social Work Conference

16th WSWD for Emilia Romagna Regional Council of Social Work
 16th WSWD Forum in ISWESD
 16th Welcome for WSWD UNAM- Mexico
 16th Conclusion of the WSWD UN/ New York



Figure 7: Annamaria Campanini presented summary of WSWD NY event held online

17th Welcome to the Silk Road workshop during the ISWED
 17th Global Agenda workshop ISWESD
 17th Global Standards workshop ISWESD
 18th Speech at WSWD Ginevra

April

19th Presentation Document on Global Standard Lazio Regional Council of Social Work

May

11th Meeting with ABEPSS (Brazil)

Thanks to the important commitment of Alexandra Mustafà, IASSW member at large, has been possible the 11 of May, to meet the new president of ABEPSS -Associação Brasileira de Ensino e Pesquisa de Serviço Social (Brazilian association of education and research in social work) Rodrigo José Teixeira and the coordinator of the international relations Ramiro Marcos Dulcich Piccolo. The meeting was fruitful and opened a new opportunity of cooperation between the two organisations



Figure 8: Annamaria Campanini meeting online with Colleagues from ABEPSS (Brazil)

22th Speech for conference on Women Violence in Azerbaijan
 25th Meeting with Christian Breuil to discuss our participation in UNESCO committee
 25th Speech on Social work education China between internationalisation and indigenisation
 for ISTISS Rome

June 1 - TRABAJO SOCIAL INTERNACIONAL

I was invited to participate in a round table discussion on the role of international organisations, which was held on June 1st in the University of La Rioja Spain. It was attended by ICSW Executive Director ANTONIO LÓPEZ PELÁEZ- Prof. UNED and BELÉN LORENTE MOLINA Prof. Universidad de Málaga



Figure 9: At University of La Rioja Spain

To conclude, I feel strongly that we need to discuss our future path, our strategies to commit ourselves in some specific goals, to be more attractive for schools to increase our membership. To achieve these incomes, I think we must develop a more active participation of the Vice Presidents, the members at large and all board members , involve more members in our committees. I would also like to encourage members who have served IASSW in the past to contribute to our work. For this reason, as officers, we decided to organize our second day of the Board meeting for this purpose.

I look forward to your feedback on my report and I hope that next time we can have a face to face meeting

Respectfully submitted

Annamaria Campanini

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