LAUNCH OF GLOBAL AGENDA THEME 4: “BUEN VIVIR: SHARED FUTURE FOR TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE

The International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) and the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) are delighted to launch the theme for the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development 2024: “Buen Vivir: Shared Future for Transformative Change“. The theme will also be presented at the 2024 World Conference on Social Work and Social Development in Panama.

This resonates with the contemporary challenges and aspirations of social work around the globe. Our world faces multifaceted crises, ranging from violent conflicts, environmental degradation, to persisting poverty and political disparities. Against this backdrop, social work must evolve and adopt innovative, transformative approaches that are community-led and steeped in indigenous wisdom. Central to this transformative change is the principle of “Buen Vivir”, emphasizing that true well-being is achievable when communities live harmoniously with nature, striving collectively for balanced development.

This indigenous philosophy underscores the significance of interconnectivity, reciprocity, correspondence, and complementarity in human relationships and our bond with nature. Our goal is to champion this principle, fostering an eco-social world that thrives on inclusion, respect, mutual understanding, and the upholding of human rights.

Read more on our website here.
Women Interest group and Human Rights & Social Justice Committee Appeal for Peace

IASSW is expressing a deep concern and condolences to all people who are suffering current armed conflicts in different parts of the world and who suffer displacement, deaths and disability.

IASSW condemns violence, whether perpetrated by states waging war on neighbours with total disregard for the civilians that become trapped in the crossfire of warring groups, by the so-called lone wolf or individual that goes on a murderous rampage, or by groups who claim to defend their people and commit atrocities in their name without ever consulting them.

Currently, there are 32 major armed conflicts disturbing the peace of the world. Key amongst these which are destroying the lives of ordinary civilians who simply want to raise their families in peace and security, are Russia’s Aggressive Assault Against Ukraine, the decades long cycle of vengeance and counter-vengeance perpetrated in Israel and in the occupied Palestine, and neighbouring countries dragged into what has become constant war, the Sudan in which war has opened up arenas for infectious diseases including cholera to spread. 100,000 people from Nagorni Karabah fled their homes in fear for their lives. Then there are internal civil wars in countries where civilians demand freedom and peace – Iran, Syria, Afghanistan. These a just a few of these peace-destroying situations. They must all stop, and they must stop now. The waste of lives, destruction of resources and betrayal of our beautiful planet that nurtures us all must stop now. People with disagreements and grudges against their neighbours must sit down at the peace table and dialogue.

IASSW has dedicated educators, communicators, and practitioners skilled in bringing people and communities together, mediating conflict and providing trauma support. Many would be more than willing to offer their services to get to advance peace making initiatives.

Read the full statement here.
The IASSW and Power Us series have completed the annual cycle with 11 sessions. These power-packed webinar sessions are a great resource for all social work students and practitioners. These webinars highlight the theme “Critical Perspectives on Service User Participation and Experiential Knowledge”. The full series can be viewed on our “resources”.

The previous two sessions highlighted:

- **Experiential Knowledge as a means to develop sustainable care from a service user perspective.**
  Speakers – Malin Widerlov & Mattias Widerlov, SocialKraft/School of social work, Lund University

- **The Challenges and Opportunities for Co-Producing the Social Work Curriculum.** Speakers – Ian and Sandra Atkinson, Helen Casey and Hameed Khand, The open University (UK) - In this session, the speakers will be talking about the importance of engaging people with lived experiences of social work support and services in social work education, the challenges and benefits.
Symposium of #TrabajoSocialClinico International: Analysis and Reflections from Global Contexts

Symposium of #TrabajoSocialClinico International: Analysis and Reflections from Global Contexts was celebrated. Mrs. Annamaria Campanini, President International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW); D. Rodrigo Raúl Ignacio Morales Jimenez, Lecturer at the Spanish Institute of Clinical Social Work; D. Alexis Soriano Bustos Villarroel, Social Worker, Narrative Therapist, Researcher and Trauma & Family Lecturer; D. Enrique Raya Lozano, Associate Researcher of SEPISE, Research Group on Social Work and Ms. Eva Marie Juan Toset, Dean of the Official College of Social Work of Granada conducted an approximation to International Social Work: Proposals and Challenges of the Profession.

People attended the symposium online and in-person. Special thanks to Mrs. Annamaria Campanini for an enriching day filled with reflections on social work on the international level.

IASSW partner presentation at the CSWE APM Atlanta

Shirley Gatenio-Gabel, Lynne Healy, and Barbara Shank presented on the Global Agenda, IASSW at the UN, Social Work Day at the UN, the World Congress Panama 2024, and the importance of IASSW-AIETS membership. A booth to disseminate information about IASSW was also set up, staffed by Carlotta Mozzone and Barbara Shank, IASSW Secretary.
The IASSW President was invited as a keynote to deliver a speech on "Inclusion Social: Perspectiva Desde Asociación de Escuelas de Trabajo social" at the II Congreso Internacional de Buenas Prácticas en Inclusión, organised by our member "Uned-Madrid". During the speech it was underlined the inclusive character of IASSW, in the composition of the board, in different activities (the politics of languages, the student membership, the publications, the international projects, the Global standards). A special emphasis was given to the agreement signed with Power Us and the organisation of webinar to present the importance of the service users inclusion in the education and research.

Iassw-aiets President Annamaria Campanini delivered a speech on 'Social emergency and humanitarian action: How IASSW can contribute?". It was also an important occasion to have a meeting with ICSW and IFSW presidents, to discuss the cooperation between the three sisters organisations (Iassw-aiets, IFSW International Federation of Social Workers & ICSW) and the future conferences.

On 24-25 November 2023 at Peking University, Beijing, China took place a Conference on Social Work Innovation: Theory and Practice in the New Development Stage. Prof. Annamaria Campanini (President, Iassw-aiets) presented a welcome speech and chaired one Plenary Session on Social Work and Innovation in Social Development and Technology and one parallel session on Innovation and social work education.
Season's Greetings!

The sunrise of the new year lights the path towards a future of peace, justice, and solidarity, enabling us to build together a better world for all.

L'aurore de la nouvelle année éclaire le chemin vers un avenir de paix, de justice et de solidarité, nous permettant de construire ensemble un monde meilleur pour tous.

El amanecer del nuevo año ilumina el camino hacia un futuro de paz, justicia y solidaridad, permitiéndonos construir juntos un mundo mejor para todos."