



President's Update

September 2026

This is the first monthly update by the President to keep IASSW members informed about IASSW matters.

I am delighted to share that work on the digital transformation of the IASSW website has officially begun. The project will run over the next 12 to 15 weeks. A key priority will be a dedicated landing page for a Knowledge and Resource Hub for Social Work Education and Research. The development and ongoing updating of the Resource Hub will be a collective global effort to make diverse materials and resources accessible to support high-quality academic programmes, teaching and research. Another significant addition to the website will be a dedicated landing page for Special Interest Groups (SIGs).

The invitation to IASSW members to express their interest in convening and leading Special Interest Groups (SIGs) was received with enthusiasm by twenty respondents, who now form the SIG Planning Group. More information on the nine SIG themes and how to get involved will be distributed by mid-October. SIGs will develop at different paces, moving from initial expressions of interest towards formal establishment.

Interest in the Global Standards for Social Work Education and Training (2020) e-learning programme has grown steadily. The number of requests received by IASSW for guidance on accessing the modules through Google Classroom increased from 4,010 in April 2026 to 4,736 in September 2026 across 148 countries and regions. To access the e-learning programme, register through the IASSW link: <https://tiny.cc/iassw>.

IASSW and IFSW, the joint custodians of the Global Standards, have prioritised the need to consider professional standards to guide the use of artificial intelligence and related digital technologies in social work education and practice. This includes considering their implications, how they intersect with the existing Global Standards and how they could be addressed in future revisions. A taskforce co-chaired by IASSW and IFSW will lead this process. A more comprehensive account of progress with the Global Standards will be published in the IASSW News section of the forthcoming issue of *International Social Work*.

A separate joint taskforce will review the Global Social Work Statement on Ethical Principles. Both taskforce processes will be informed by consultation at global, regional and national levels, including social work associations and schools.

The Centenary flame has been ignited by the recent invitation to the global social work education and research community to remember and reflect on the past 100 years and reimagine social work as we enter our second century. Our celebrations will unfold through a journey of activities and events leading to Paris, where we will come together at the World Conference on Social Work, Education, and Social Development, 4–7 July 2028, to celebrate this milestone.

Antoinette Lombard
President, IASSW