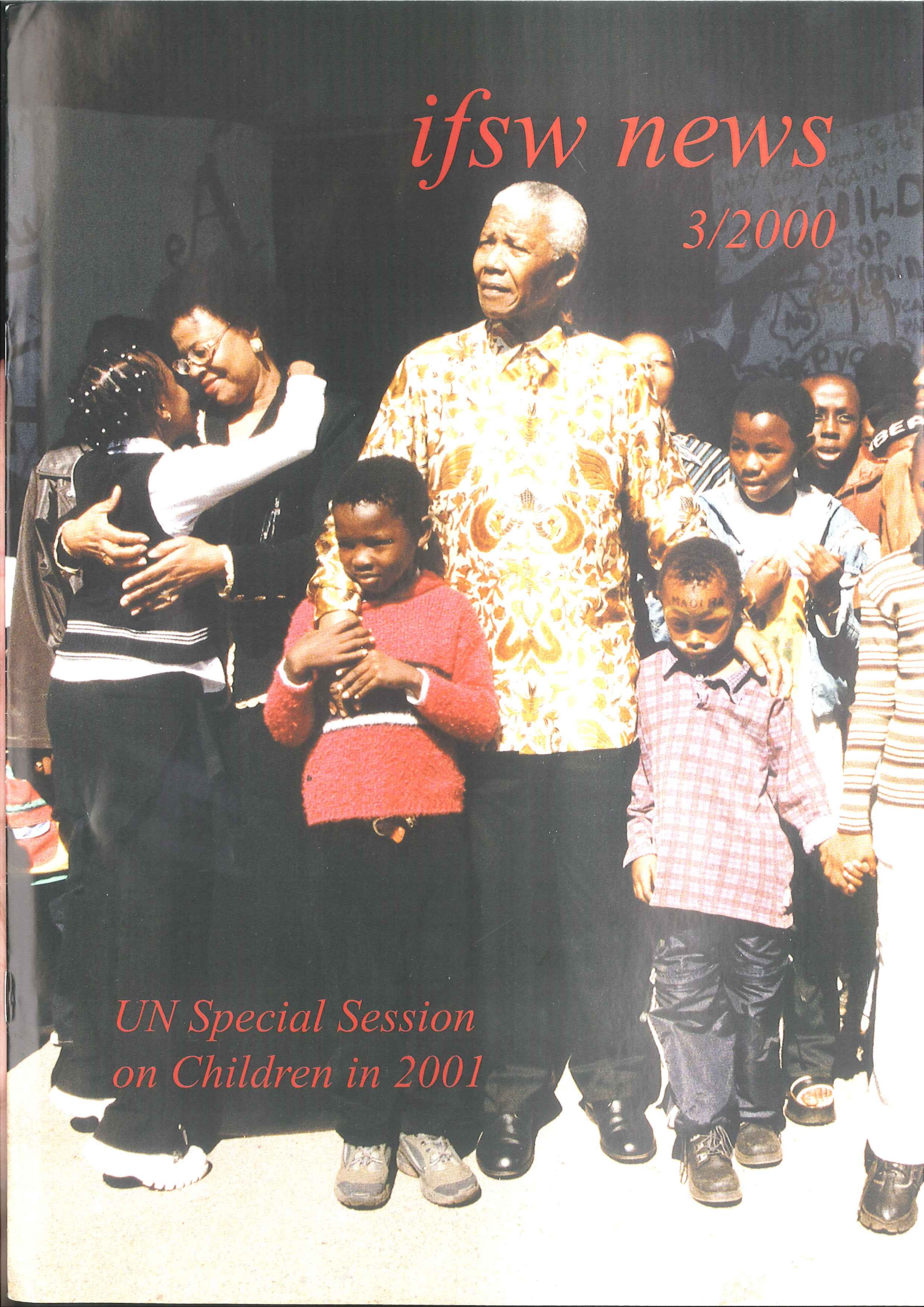


ifsw news

3/2000

*UN Special Session
on Children in 2001*



President's Message:

What happens in one country echoes in others

As we approach a New Year and reflect on the events of 2000 around the globe – have we cause for celebration and hope or do we gaze into the face of continued violence and global uncertainty. The answer is both.

Two years ago we joined together in Jerusalem to promote a world vision for peace and social justice. The events of the past months have shaken the peace process in the Middle East to the very core. No doubt our colleagues in both Israel and Palestine are challenged to deal with the multiple consequences of the recent violence.

As I write this column our colleagues in North America and the USA in particular await the outcome of the most extraordinarily close election for President. The result is of national and international importance given the role of the USA and the President in particular in international politics.

In Africa the challenges are immense. The AIDS pandemic continues to demand our urgent attention. The reappearance of Ebola in Uganda further complicates a health crisis that is compounded by levels of poverty and access to basic healthcare that are completely unacceptable.

The Latin America Caribbean region have witnessed both political turmoil and hope for greater co-operation, especially with the opening of relations with Cuba. While in Europe the move towards democracy in Serbia gives rise for hope while natural disaster takes its toll elsewhere.

In Asia & Pacific hope for reunification in Korea has been greatly strengthened. The Secretary-General and I were privileged to participate in the National Day of Social Work in Korea in September, which confirmed the vital role of social work in the Korean community. In my own country a remarkable woman called Cathy Freeman ran 800 metres in a way that also furthered the process of reconciliation with indigenous peoples. It is a race that needs to be run in many countries.

Human rights issues remain a concern in every region.

What is clear from this, the first year of the 21st century, is that the tasks for social work remain present and urgent. It is also clear that what happens in one country echoes in others. Our understanding of the local, national and international contexts remains as important as ever. The IFSW through the work of the Executive, its representatives and member organisations will continue to push for policies and practices that redress social exclusion and promote a humane and socially just world order.

Thank you for your support of IFSW and every good wish for 2001.

Imelda Dodds
Sydney, November 2000

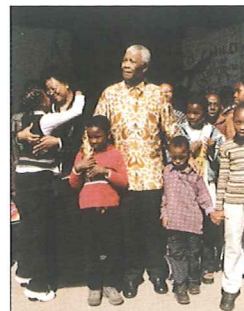
Deadlines for material to the ifsw news in 2001

March Edition - 15 February

July Edition - 15 June

November Edition - 15 October

Nelson Mandela and
Graca Machel launching
a new global partnership
for children in Johannes-
burg



Frontpage photo:
UNICEF/HQ00-0310/Giacomo Pirozzi

Korea Celebrates National Social Work Day

On September 6 in Seoul the Korean Association of Social Workers (KASW) celebrated the first national Social Work Day with an International Forum of Social Workers. The IFSW President and Secretary General together with colleagues from the United States and Japan, were pleased to join approximately 1,000 Korean social workers at a highly successful Conference.

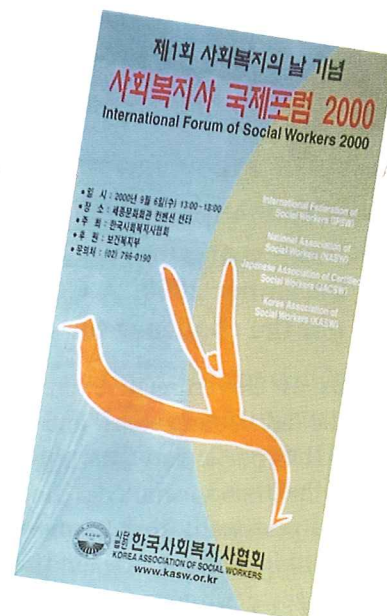
The Conference was officially opened by the Prime Minister of Korea and was attended by several senior Ministers and members of the Korean Parliament.

Strong development

Korean social work has a long history having been established in the 1920's. Its history is broadly divided into two periods, pre and post 1961. Occupation, war, and attainment of the republic and military unrest marked the first period. During this period social work continued to develop albeit in uncertain times. Since that time KASW notes the stronger development of Korean social work, culminating in 2000 with a new piece of legislation to govern the standards of social work education and practice.

Need to engage in the debate

The theme of the conference was the role of social work and social work Associations. To this end Imelda Dodds, President IFSW, Ruth Mayden, President



National Association of Social Workers (NASW), Sugimura Kazuko, President Japanese Association of Certified Social Workers (JACSOW) and Yoong Il-Kim, President KASW made presentations. Their papers addressed the development of social work associations and the key issues facing social work across the globe. The impact of globalisation, the continued march of poverty despite recent interventions, and the need for social work to engage in social and political debate were canvassed. Of particular importance to the Korean context was the recognition of social work as a profession with a key role to play in the development of a sustainable social service system for Korea.

An international panel including Tom Johansen IFSW, Yvonne Chase (NASW), Kamakura Katsuhide (JACSOW), Sung-Jae Choi and Jung-Ja Kim (KASW) responded to the main speakers.

IFSW elected to the CONGO Board

Reading the headline, you may think we have expanded our African operations. But besides being a country, CONGO is also the abbreviation of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations. At the General Assembly in Vienna in November, IFSW was represented by the Secretary General Tom Johansen and our Main UN Representative to the UN in Geneva, Ellen Mouravieff-Apostol. CONGO consists of close to 330 non-governmental organisations from around the world and was established in 1948 to preserve and enhance the relationship between civil society and the UN. This year, more than 50 new organisations have joined, more than half of them from the Southern World.

CONGO has set up a number of NGO Committees in Geneva, New York and Vienna to follow the work of a variety of UN bodies, including for instance Human Rights, Social Development, the Status of Women, Mental Health, Aging and Disarmament. The General Assembly in Vienna engaged especially in Poverty, Racism Issues and the UN/NGO relationship. The Assembly elected Renate Bloem, Chair of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women in Geneva and representative of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women as President. IFSW was elected as an organisational member of the Board for a three year period. We will cover the activities of CONGO and expand our information about the organisation in the time to come.



IFSW informs Commonwealth Leaders on HIV/AIDS



The Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work (COSW) and IFSW have been working together to contribute to a Commonwealth-wide conference on HIV-AIDS held in London on 7th December 2000. A COSW-paper, which draws heavily on IFSW policy and publications, sets out the challenge for communities and social work.

"Heads of Government expressed grave concern over the devastating social and economic impact of HIV/AIDS, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. They agreed that this constituted a Global Emergency, and pledged personally to lead the fight against HIV/AIDS within their countries and internationally. They urged all sectors in government, international agencies and the private sector to co-operate in increased efforts to tackle the problem,"

(Communiqué from Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, Durban, South Africa November 1999, para 55)

The objectives of the Conference are to motivate government, the private sector, non-government organisations and other actors in civil society to respond to the HIV/AIDS Global Emergency; promote strategic actions by the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Commonwealth Foundation and Commonwealth associations to deal with the HIV/AIDS crisis; promote and undertake advocacy to raise awareness and commitment to

tackling HIV/AIDS using an interdisciplinary approach; and forge effective partnerships across disciplines to sustain the commitment to fight HIV/AIDS.

COSW played a key role in drafting the submission to the Durban meeting and has been central in the conference planning group. The Commonwealth Health Professional Associations formed a working group (The Para55 Group) to promote and monitor implementation of the communiqué at pan-Commonwealth and national levels.

The next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Brisbane in October 2001 will receive an update on HIV/AIDS. The Australian Association of Social Workers will be co-ordinating the COSW presence in Brisbane, making sure that the social work voice on this and other key issues is clearly heard by the 54 Heads of Government.

More information can be found at "<http://www.para55.org>".

This is the Commonwealth and the COSW

The Commonwealth is an informal grouping of 54 equal nations which share a common heritage in language, culture, law and education. The Commonwealth has played leading roles in decolonialism, combating racism and promoting development.

COSW (Commonwealth Organisation of Social Work) is one of over 70 professional bodies recognised by the Commonwealth; its constitution includes close ties with IFSW and commits COSW to uphold the IFSW Code of Ethics.

More active IFSW Publication Policy: Web-Site and Book

With the establishment of a standing committee on Publications and an Information Officer in the IFSW Secretariat, the Federation is entering a period of more activity when it comes to publications. Users of the web-site will have seen during the last months that we are much more active in presenting material on the web, and that the site (www.ifsw.org) is updated far more frequently than before. Also core documents are made available on the site. For instance you now can find all the policy statements, the Minutes from the last General Meeting and the revised Constitution and By-Laws. Also the new Definition of Social Work is available, in French, English and Spanish.

The Publications Committee, convened by Dr. Tan Ngoh Tiong in Singapore, presented a book titled "*Social Work around the World*" at the World Conference in Montreal. The book, planned to be the first in a series, presents some of the major challenges for the social work profession as we enter a new millenium. It covers a variety of themes and countries, from HIV/AIDS in South Africa to Poverty in Australia, from Homelessness in Russia to Child Neglect in the USA.

At the presentation of the book in Montreal, 140 copies were sold in 20 minutes. The book is available for 10 US Dollars (+ postage) from the IFSW Secretariat.

UN Special Session on Children

Ten years after the World Summit for Children (1990), eleven years after the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) the United Nations General Assembly will convene a Special Session on Children in September 2001 in New York.

One of the main objectives of the Session will be to review achievements in the implementation and results of the World Declaration and Plan of Action of the World Summit. This will include a review of the progress made in the lives of children since the 1990 World Summit for Children and the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Session will also renew commitments and consider future action for children. World leaders will be asked to recommit to finding practical solutions to the problems facing children, and to develop a plan of action for the respect, fulfilment, promotion and protection of children's rights.

Background

The Special Session on Children will renew the world wide commitments made to children on 30 September 1990, at the World Summit for Children (WSC). On that day, 71 Heads of State or Government signed the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and adopted a Plan of Action, committing themselves to achieving an agreed set of time-bound goals and mobilising the human and economic resources to do so.

Subsequently, the World Declaration and the Plan of Action were endorsed by 181 countries, 155 of which prepared national plans of action for children. The Declaration and Plan of Action

set forth a vision of a "first call" for children by establishing 7 major and 20 supporting goals that were considered achievable by the year 2000.

In 1989, a year before the Summit, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) was adopted. It is now the most ratified human rights treaty in history (191 countries out of 193), which embodies the commitment of States parties and the international community to respect, fulfil, promote and protect children's rights.

Two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 25 May, 2000: *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict* and *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography*.

States must ratify the Protocols before they can be put into effect, following the same procedure as that for the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Governments are being encouraged to sign the documents as soon as possible.

Together, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Declaration and Plan of Action of the WSC set forth a vision of what has been called a "first call" for children.

Source: UNICEF

Training Opportunities available in USA, Europe, Africa and Asia through Council of International Programs (CIP)

The Council of International Programs USA in cooperation with affiliates throughout Europe and in parts of Africa and Asia is offering mid-career professionals training opportunities lasting from 10 days and up to 18 months.

Contact: Council of International Programs USA, 1700 E. 13th Street, Suite 4ME, Cleveland, Ohio 44114-3213, USA, tel (1) 216 566 1088, fax (1) 216 566 1490,
e-mail: cipusa@compuserve.com
web: www.cipusa.org

Social Worker Mobility and the European Union

Mobility of Social Workers within the European Union is regulated by EU Directives on Qualifications. Underlying these Directives are general principles of freedom of movement, prohibition of discrimination on grounds of nationality and right to establishment.

The first Directive which is the one applicable to Social Work (in addition to many other professions) is formally entitled "Council Directive of 21st December 1988 on a General System for the Recognition of Higher Education Diplomas Awarded on Completion of Professional Education and Training of at least three years duration 89/48/EEC".

Later Directives complement the first and regulate qualifications of shorter duration. Each EU country is required to establish national implementing legislation. European Economic Area (EEA) countries have incorporated the Directives.

A group of co-ordinators from ministries in EU countries monitor the functioning of the Directives and enable the Commission to produce its bi-annual reports. In addition national authorities are appointed in each country to implement the Directives and these are called "Competent Authorities".

In relation to Social Work most of the competent authorities are located in the relevant Ministry, though in Ireland the competent authority is The National Social Work Qualifications Board. In practice Ministries relate to the profession at national level for information and advice. Nevertheless the flow of information is noticeably thin to professional associations as commented by associations at European meetings.

The general system works on the principle that if one is fully qualified to practise the profession of social work in the home member state and one applies for recognition of one's qualifications in order to practise that same profession in the host member state, one's professional qualifi-

cation will be recognised as it stands. However before reaching a decision on the application the competent authority will compare the professional education and training which has been received in the home Member State with that required in the host Member State. Significant differences in either length or content of training can influence the outcome. The applicant may be required to complete an adaptation period or aptitude test. Decisions must be given to applicants within four months of submitting a complete application.

Differences in social work education and training in European countries have been the

subject of scrutiny by IFSW Europe for many years. More recently the IFSW Europe Network has been established which is principally concerned with the workings of the Directive and social work mobility in Europe. In taking an active and constructive approach to the spirit of the Directive the Network is also concerned to identify, protect and develop social work education and

training standards both at initial and post qualifying levels. It has begun the process of identifying core standards particularly in the area of practice training, an area which has received very little attention on a European wide basis.

The Network believes social work mobility must be built on solid information, agreement on standards and dialogue with the main parties involved at national and European level. It has begun all of these processes with the ultimate goal of developing a Euro-Social Work certificate which would have automatic acceptance throughout Europe and which could be the basis of a wider global acceptance. The Directive and the Network thus share similar goals.



Eilís Walsh from Ireland together with Network members Edda Samoy and Annalisa Spinaci from Italy.

Eilís Walsh

IFSW Europe Network on
Mutual Recognition of Diplomas

Social Work Conferences 2001-2002

Singapore, 31 July - 3 August 2001

IFSW Asia Pacific Seminar



Millenium Challenges and Action for Social Work Education and Practice

The Asia Pacific Conference of IFSW and APASWE (Asia and Pacific Association of Social Work Educators) will especially look at Social Work Across Borders, Information Technology and Social Work, Economic Imperatives and Social Work Practice, Socio-Cultural Transformation, Social Work and Peace, and New Partnerships, New Paradigms. Pre-Conference Training Workshops will take place 30-31 July.

Conference Secretariat:

Asia Pacific Social Work Conference 2001, Department of Social Work and Psychology, National University of Singapore, 10 Kent Ridge Crescent, SINGAPORE 119260, fax: (65) 778 1213. e-mail: swksec@nus.edu.sg

Vienna, Austria and Bratislava, Slovakia, 27-30 August 2001

IFSW European Seminar - The Danube-Conference

Managing Conflicts in Social Work - Dealing with Contradictions

The European Seminar, hosted by the Social workers' associations in Austria and Slovakia, takes place on the former border between two political systems. Today it outlines the border between the European Common Market and the still excluded countries of Eastern Europe. From the beginning, social work has been dealing with conflicts, differences and contradictions.

Participation in social and economic life versus social exclusion still is a core issue for social work. The European Seminar will look at these conflicts from the microcosm of the individual case study to the macrocosm of political and economic systems. The subject requires new theoretical viewpoints as well as learning from examples of good practice. Excursions to social agencies in Slovakia, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Austria are integrated in the seminar.

Conference Secretariat:

Austrian Association of Social Workers Mariahilferstrasse 81/1/14, A-1060 Vienna, AUSTRIA

Tel: (43) 1 587 4656, fax: (43) 1 587 465610, e-mail: oebds@ins.at

Website: www.sozialarbeit.at For on-line registration: https://trust.nextera.at/vb1/tak_danube.htm

Harare, Zimbabwe, 28 July - 2 August 2002

IFSW World Conference

Building Effective Strategies in Social Work Practice in a New Era



Hosted by the National Association of Social Workers, Zimbabwe, the IFSW World Conference 2002 will take place in Africa for the first time since 1974. Social work strategies should be designed to suit the realities on the ground, which build on and relate directly to the needs of the people we serve.

At the beginning of a new century we need to reflect on where we have come from and how our profession is able to meet new challenges.

The World Conference will present two pre-conference symposia on HIV/AIDS and Women as well as four key sub-themes: "Social Development & Indigenous Social Work Practise", Social Inclusion and Poverty Alleviation", "Human Rights, Social Justice and Conflict Resolution"; and "Health and Clinical Social Work Practice".

Conference Secretariat:

IFSW 2002 Conference Secretariat, Zimbabwe Convention Bureau (Pvt) Ltd., Mr. Satchmo Witness, PO Box BE 1080, Belvedere, Harare, ZIMBABWE,

Tel: (263) 4 702811, fax: (263) 4 724242, e-mail: zcb@harare.iafrica.com

Some important UN Days in 2001

2001 is proclaimed the International Year of Mobilization against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. At the same time 2001 is the International Year of Volunteers and the United Nations' Year of Dialogue among Civilizations. In addition the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World starts.

A number of International Days are also celebrated each year and some new days are added. For the first four months of 2001 we have the following days:

21 February	<i>International Mother Tongue Day</i>
8 March	<i>United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace</i>
21 March	<i>World Poetry Day</i>
21 March	<i>International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination</i>
21 March-	<i>Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling Against Racism and Racial Discrimination</i>
22 March	<i>World Day for Water</i>
23 March	<i>World Meteorological Day</i>
7 April	<i>World Health Day</i>
23 April	<i>World Book and Copyright Day</i>

More International Days will follow in the next issue of ifsw news.

Con nuestros mejores deseos para 2001
Nous vous formons nos meilleurs vœux pour 2001
With the best wishes for 2001



Imelda Dodds
IFSW President

Tom Johannesen
Secretary General

In earlier years we have sent individual New Year's cards to our Member Organisations, Friends, Representatives and Others. This year we have decided to present our greetings in the *ifsw news* and to give a contribution to UNICEF.



ifsw news



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