

1947

International Conference of Social Work
Invitation to National Committees of
European Countries to attend 5 day
Meeting to "discuss urgent
problems of devastated areas

Office of Assistant Secretary - General ,
1, t Koenstraat ,

The Hague & Holland .

To the NATIONAL COMMITTEES OF THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES .

The International Conference of Social Work is organizing a special delegates meeting at The Hague /Netherlands/ in September 1947. As Assistant-Secretary for Europe , I have the honour to invite your National Committee to send a delegation to this meeting. We should like to draw your attention to the fact , that the subjects to be treated indicate the special interest of delegates. We hope to have a strong and expert delegation of many European countries in order to discuss the urgent problems of the devastated areas from the various points of view ;

- 1/ Material assistance .
- 2/ Health .
- 3/ Housing problems.
- 4/ Psychological problems .

I enclose a program of the activities during the five days this meeting will last. The meeting has two targets: first , to create an opportunity to discuss fully and frankly the situation in the war-stricken areas with special regard to the end of the help from abroad and the self-reliance of the home authorities. In the second place , there will be a full discussion on the constitution of the I.C.S.W. and its future activities. ~~xxxxxxxx~~

We expect a balanced delegation from each country , composed of the leading people in the field of social work who are interested in international cooperation and who , especially with regard to the discussion on the constitution , may be regarded as representative of the opinions in each country.

As the accommodations available do not permit the receiving of more guests , we are forced to limit each delegation to ten persons.

To be able to prepare the introductory speeches and to send to each member of the conference the necessary papers , we expect from each national committee by the 15th of May, 1947, at the latest, a fully documented report as regards to :

- a/ the countries having received help from abroad - a view of the still existing needs, following the distinctions made in our program , with special paragraphs as to the manner in which the national and local authorities and private institutions can take over the social work
 - b/ countries sending relief abroad - a statement of the work done and the views as to the finishing of this work and the problems that arise from handing over the work to national bodies.
- /It is requested that these countries send representatives who have been in Germany and Austria and who are familiar with the conditions in those two countries as the national bodies of enemy countries will not be represented /.

~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Reading the program you will be aware that it is expected that speakers from as many countries as possible will give their views on the matters treated in the documents which will be sent to you beforehand . We hope that you will give due consideration to these circumstances in composing your delegation. The people attending will then be able to meet and hear the most competent experts from different parts of Europe and from abroad .

Dr. M. L. H. Sark ,
Asst Secretary - General for Europe.