International Federation of Social Workers

- Social workers commit to TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE
- Inclusive, socially just, sustainable communities
- IFSW supports all members to realise our vision
- IFSW works with partners at all levels to achieve our aims
How does change happen?

• Locally and nationally is where change can be achieved
• Aid/welfare does not create inclusive, sustainable, socially just communities
• Employment, belonging, being needed creates sustainable communities
• Successful leadership at all levels reduces the extremes and excesses of ‘boom and bust’
• The role of international cooperation is to work on borderless problems eg Climate change, migration, crime, tax evasion, trade etc

(Duncan Green, 2016)
International Federation of Social Workers

- Over 3 million social workers
- In 126 countries
- 5 regions
  - Africa
  - Asia/Pacific
  - Europe
  - Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)
  - North America
General Meeting
126 member countries representing over 3 million social workers
Meets every two years

IFSW Executive
Meets every year with frequent skype calls

Africa
Noel and Alice

Asia/Pacific
Mariko and Rose

Europe
Ana and Ana

LAC
Silvana and Larry

North America
Kathryn and Jan

President & Treasurer
Ruth and Dunja
### Executive Workplan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partnerships</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>Advocacy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expanding global partnerships.</td>
<td>Implementing The Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development</td>
<td>Developing policy that specifies the role of the practitioner and key partners in creating sustainable social outcomes, including people who use services</td>
<td>Bringing a social work voice to the United Nations and other international organisations</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Involving people who use services</td>
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<td>Expanding regional partnerships.</td>
<td>Increasing the visibility of social work at regional level through the media and political action</td>
<td>Developing policies based on the experience of people using services and the reality of providing services.</td>
<td>Engaging with Regional structures to listen to the voice of people who use services and social workers who provide them.</td>
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<td>Promoting national level partnerships.</td>
<td>Bringing international awareness, attention and support to national level social work action.</td>
<td>Developing policies from frontline skills, knowledge and expertise to meet the needs of the people and their communities.</td>
<td>Bringing forward the voice of the silenced.</td>
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Key work areas

• Internal
  • Constitutional Review also produced Manual for Executive Members and guidelines for Representatives
  • Development of Communication Strategy for IFSW to connect members
  • World Social Work Day (WSWD)
  • Development of Indigenous Committee
• Publications
• Fund raising
• Review of membership fees and conference fees
• Policy Development
  • Trade agreements; trade and social work
  • Assessments across national borders
Key work areas

- External
  - Involvement of people who use services
  - Global Agenda
  - WSWD
  - Guardian and other media partners
  - UN days and ongoing work
  - International Journal of Social Work
  - World Conferences
  - Policy Development – taking the message forward

Colleagues in Bangladesh

Social work in Zambia: 'Children have the right to love and security'
What IFSW does across the World
Africa
• Growing and welcoming many new members
• Creating a Regional Infrastructure - subregions
• Developing appropriate social work, moving from former colonial expectations to recognising the strength of indigenous knowledge
• Challenges of conflict, political instability, corruption, climate change, drought, famine, floods, pandemics of Ebola & HIV/AIDS, unparented children
• Regional Funding created fantastic conference contributing to
  • The Global Agenda, climate and environmental impact on communities
  • Intercountry assessment of children and their families
  • The African perspective on the Global Ethical Statement
Asia/Pacific

• Membership stretches from Palestine to Japan, Kirgizstan to new Zealand. It includes our two of our largest countries China and India. Prospective new members include Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia
  • 80 different languages
• The regional executive has developed key training in recovery from disasters and runs training events around the region
  • A strong body of evidence has grown showing the limitations of aid and the importance of employment
• The Regional conference will be in China in September 2017 this will include discussion on the Ethics Statement and a seminar bringing together evidence for the global agenda
• The regional funding, last year examined child labour to give substance to their regional work plan; this year intercountry assessment of children and families separated by national borders
Europe

• Membership increased with Slovakia, Netherlands
• The regional executive has supported continuing development with the EU
  • The Regional funding Project will be about the role of social work in implementing the Fundamental Rights but waiting for the detailed bid
• A very successful European regional Conference in Iceland included discussion on the Global Agenda and ethics
• Regional Funding Project, still waiting for the detail
• Complication with the planning for the 2019 Regional Conference bid
• Partnerships with EASSW and people who use services being developed.
Latin America and Caribbean

- Increasing membership – from Mexico, Panama, Cuba in the north to Argentina in the south
- Regional Executive actively developing social work throughout the region.
- The challenges include very difficult geography and climate change, extremes of wealth and poverty, political instability and corruption
- The positives include using indigenous knowledge, energy and motivation for change
  - Human rights and ethical practice support key to development
- Regional funding supporting the development of social work in the region, including help with the geographical challenges
North America

- CASW and NASW
- Executive members are the Presidents of both Associations
- The Global Agenda has brought them closer together
- They have very different political contexts
  - Social policies
  - Immigration
  - Local or global?
- Indigenous knowledge is an increasing part of social work education
- No regional funding
- Significant contribution to UN Team in New York and supporting developing membership of IFSW
- Potential 2020 World Conference
Steering Group

- President
- Treasurer
- Global Vice President (elected every two years by the Global Executive)
  - Making sure we have the means to put the IFSW vision into practice
Staff

- Secretary General
- Part time administrator

- Head office
  - 2 roomed apartment in Rheinfelden, Basel Land
Two Commissions

- Ethics
  - Chair Dawn Holby (USA)
    - Gabrielle and Jane from Europe

- Human Rights
  - Chair Nigel Hall (UK and Zimbabwe)
    - Ana from Europe
Nominations committee

- David
  - 5 Regional members
    - Europe - Nicolai
Representatives
http://ifsw.org/un-representation/

- UN
  - New York
  - Geneva
  - Vienna
  - Bangkok
  - Nairobi
  - Santiago
- Amnesty International – Terry Bamford
- IFSW Ambassador – Suzanne Dworak-Peck
International Partnership with ICSW & IASSW

  - How will we shape the vision post 2020?
- The Global Conferences Seoul 2016, Dublin 2018, 2020?
  - Fees need to be accessible for practitioners
  - Need to rotate the opportunity to attend throughout the five regions
- The International Journal of Social Work, published by Sage and owned by the three organisations
  - Research is key to credibility but who asks the research questions that inform practitioners about what works?
Our strength is in our members ........................
and their members!

The Global Team includes people from all the regions:

• From Europe
  • Executive - Ana & Ana
  • Ethics - Gabrielle & Jane
  • Human Rights – Ana
  • Global Agenda – Josefine
  • UN Geneva and Vienna - [http://ifsw.org/un-representation/](http://ifsw.org/un-representation/)
What unites us?

• Iceland is an island where if you cannot catch it, make it or grow it you import it
• If you are in Ethiopia or Sudan in a drought there is little to catch or grow

• We trade but this has to be done ethically and justly
• If we cannot trade we are forced to move

• Poverty, lack of security and safety force people to move across national boundaries, national boundaries change!

• Our task is helping create inclusive, socially just, sustainable communities
World Social Work Day

- We have created a global social movement!
- How do we build on that momentum?
The Future?

• No social democratic political party has the potential in advancing a social justice agenda across so many countries. An agenda that is born out of working with people in communities, with their realities, at the grass roots level. But as a worldwide profession we are only at the beginning of experiencing our potential and the capacity to influence the political world around us.

• As we look forward what do you think we should do with this potential?
Scotland
Link to a video on a community garden, submitted to celebrate WSWD