

**Board of Directors May 2022 – May 2023**

In line with the Constitution, paragraph 11 “The number of Directors shall not be less than seven (7) and unless and until determined by the Company in general meeting, not more than ten (10).”

**Directors who wish to continue on the Board.**

1. Vivian Geiran

**Nominees:** Sinead McGarry & Sarah Donnelly

2. Claire McGettrick

**Nominees:** Sinead McGarry & Kerry Cuskelly

3. Washington Marovatsanga

**Nominees:** Lulama Bikitsha & Nomathamsanqa Ncube

4. Colletta Dalikeni

**Nominees:** Kerry Cuskelly & Evelyn Oboh

5. Majella Hickey

**Nominees:** Sinead Twomey & Teresa Fuller

6. Gary Gartland

**Nominees:** Amanda Casey & Frank Browne

7. Rachel McCormack

**Nominees:** Joseph McCarthy & Pearl Doyle

8. Bridin Murphy

**Nominees:** Michael Higgins & Aoife Gavin

**Directors who wish to stand for election not currently on the Board.**

9. Sinead McGarry

**Nominees:** Amanda Casey, Kerry Cuskelly & Celine O'Connor

10. Fiachra Ó'Súilleabháin

**Nominees:** Kenneth Burns & Pearl Doyle

**Directors who wish to retire**

1. Aine McGuirk (completed a 6yr term)
2. Anette O'Callaghan (completed a 6yr term)
3. Hilda Loughran (completed a 6yr term)

**Directors who wish to stand for election for the role of Chair.**

1. Vivian Geiran

**Statement of Candidacy for position of Chair of the IASW**

Since joining the IASW Board two years ago, and particularly in my term as Chair, I have been more active than ever in Board and Association activities and initiatives. As well as overseeing good organisational governance, chairing Board and Council meetings, and formal and informal working group meetings, committees, and sub-committees, I have led on several specific IASW projects, including research and development initiatives, and inputting to CPD and other events. I have been to the fore in working with the Board, Council, wider Association, and others, in the development of the new (2022-2024) strategic plan. As Chair, I have been the public 'face' of the IASW, making several TV and radio appearances as IASW spokesperson and had several 'opinion' articles published in the *Irish Examiner* newspaper, on relevant topics. I have also represented the IASW at Oireachtas Committee hearings, as well as in contacts with Government departments and agencies, and at meetings with BASW-NI and IFSW (Europe). I believe I have proven myself to be well qualified for and effective in the role of Chair. If re-elected to the position, I will continue to use my relevant experience and skills to work towards advancing the strategic goals of the IASW, its members and the interests of the social work profession.

**Vivian Geiran**

**SW000319**

**VIVIAN GEIRAN****Position: Director of the Board**

An IASW Board member since 2020, I was previously the Director of the Irish Probation Service and have many years' experiences of senior leadership and practice development in criminal justice social work, nationally and internationally. I am now an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work and Social Policy at TCD. A longstanding member of IASW, I have contributed to the Association in various ways, including on the *Irish Social Worker* journal committee, and presenting at IASW conferences. Over the past year, I have filled the role of Chair of the Board and all that involves. I am a registered social worker and have championed the social work profession throughout my thirty-three years in Probation. This included introducing a requirement for new Probation Officers to be CORU-registered and leading on the Probation Service role as a key organisational sponsor of the World Social Work Conference 2018. If re-elected, I will continue to support the IASW's work in every way I can.

**DR. COLLETTA DALIKENI****Position: Director of the Board**

I have been a member of the IASW for the past 10 years and a Board member for the past 3 years. During my time as an IASW member I participated in the Migration and Research Special interest groups. I have also been a member of the Irish Social Worker editorial committee. In recent times I lead the development of the anti-racism strategy by the Antiracism Advisory group. Over the past 3 years which I have been on the IASW Board I have thoroughly enjoyed contributing to the development of the social work profession and hope I will be able to continue to do so. Given the changing demographic profile in Ireland and within the social work profession, I can contribute to development of intercultural and culturally sensitive social work which I believe is much needed within our profession. If re-elected I would like to dedicate my time to supporting the implementation of the Anti-Racism Strategy. This is an initiative which social work colleagues are very excited about given that it is the first time we are addressing issues pertaining to racism in the profession. I would also like to strengthen the IASW's network with the Irish Network Against Racism and other organisations working in the area of Racism and Interculturalism. I am also committed to

continuing as a member of the Social Work Journal committee and to supporting the implementation of the membership strategy.

**MAJELLA HICKEY****Position: Director of the Board**

My name is Majella Hickey and I qualified with an MSW in Social Work from UCC in 2008.

I have been a member of the board of Directors with IASW since May 2018. During that period, I have committed to promoting practitioner-based research in Ireland through my role as Chair of the Journal Committee. I am also involved in the marketing and membership strategy committee and a working group set up in response to the 'Mother and Baby Homes Commission of Investigation Report'.

My current role as an Occupational Social Worker with the Irish Defence Forces has afforded me the opportunity to join the newly created International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) Occupational Social Workers group in 2021. This group was established to share practice knowledge and experience with social workers from all over the world. In 2015 -2016 I was treasurer of the Social Workers in Probation Special Interest Group. The opportunity to work with a diverse range of committees and groups within IASW has helped to gain insight into practice and policy issues.

I am interested in continuing my position of director. I care about advancing the knowledge base of social work, the standards of our profession and in the power of advocacy. I would be honoured to continue serving as a director of the board of IASW and if re-elected, I will bring experience, passion, and knowledge to the role.

**GARY GARTLAND****Position: Commercial Director of the Board**

I am a retired Senior Military Officer with over 35 years of leadership and managerial experience within a large-scale organisation. I have a master's in leadership management and Defence Studies and was the Personnel Support Services (PSS) Coordinator for the Irish Air Corps for over 20 years. The PSS is a confidential information, education, support, and referral service designed to give Defence Forces personnel access to information and services. This provided me with first-hand knowledge and experience dealing with serving members and their families providing a range of services from psychosocial

support to practical advice and information on issues such as family and relationships, coping with deployments, health concerns including alcohol and mental health, work, and financial problems. I am currently working as the Procurement Manager for the Rehab group.

I am aware of the challenges that currently face the IASW and the need to engage with social workers and the government to address areas of concern. If elected, I will actively support the Board in the continued development of social workers and assist in raising the profile of the valuable role social workers make in promoting well-being of service users.

### **RACHEL MCCORMACK**

#### **Position: Director of the Board**

My name is Rachel McCormack. I qualified with an MSW from UCC in 2005. I have been a member of the IASW since 2005. I am founding member (2005) of the Southern Branch SIG which continues to date. I am also founding member of the National Child Protection Biannual Conference (SWCONFUCC), we have successfully organised and hosted 7 conferences to date, I continue to represent the IASW on this organising committee.

I was elected to the BOD in May 2019 and have completed my first year on the Board. I have represented the BOD on the Children's advisory committee to HIQA. I am also involved in other projects within the association and hope to continue the board for the year 2020-21.

I have been employed in Children Protection and Welfare Services (TUSLA) as a both Social Worker and Team leader from (2005- 2015 SW ) & (2016-2019 SWTL). From 2015-2016, I was employed part time in YK Area Based Childhood Programme and part-time in UCC as a tutor and assistant lecturer on the MSW course. I am currently employed by Tusla, within Workforce Development as a Training Development Officer.

I have special interest in the professional development of Social Work Practice and in the progression and protection of the profession. I believe in the need to advocate for the voice and the value of social work and social justice within the societal challenges and changes we face.

### **BRIDIN MURPHY**

#### **Position: Director of the Board**

My name is Bridin Murphy, and I am running for the board of Directors with IASW. I am due to graduate with a master's in social work from University College Dublin in June 2020.

I am an elected representative in Co. Wexford, this has given me direct exposure to how political decisions directly affect the provision of quality social work services. I am chair of the Co. Wexford mental health committee which brings the shareholders of all relevant mental health services together to discuss how these services can collaborate and support each other. I am also on the board of the Healthy Wexford Committee, which seeks to explore how the local authority can assist in creating a healthy county.

I am interested in the position of director as I am passionate about representing the interests of both student and newly qualified social workers. I would be honoured to serve as a director on the board and would bring enthusiasm, passion, and experience to the role.

### **CLAIRE MCGETTRICK**

#### **Position: Commercial Director of the Board**

I am an Irish Research Council postgraduate scholar at the School of Sociology at University College Dublin. I am also an adopted person and an advocate with two decades of experience campaigning in this area. My research interests focus on adoption, 'historical' abuses, and related injustices in twentieth-century Ireland. I am co-founder of JFM Research and Adoption Rights Alliance (ARA), and co-director of the multi-award winning Clann Project. As Ireland begins to address the legacy of closed, secret adoption and forced family separation, the IASW has an opportunity to show professional leadership in this area and actively support its members in challenging social injustices and upholding human rights. I warmly welcome the opportunity continue to use my personal and professional experience to advise and assist the IASW in its response to the issues arising from the publication of the Report of the Mother and Baby Homes Commission of Investigation.

**WASHINGTON MAROVATSANGA****Position: Director of the Board**

Since becoming an IASW member, I have influenced a considerable number of young ethnic minorities who want to see positive changes in Irish social work become members. This is on account that they know first-hand the seriousness with which I apply myself to any cause that I decide to commit to. My coming to the IASW board would signal to many sceptics that IASW is now serious about real transformative change beyond tokenism and perhaps willing to consider more radical alternatives to the status quo in navigating issues of Race Racism and cultural differences. I bring certain experiences and perspectives from three continents that may not be easily available to some of my colleagues but would add to authentic voices that command credibility in the wider society -on issues of racial justice --without which *social justice* is just cheap talk. If IASW is ready for that real change, then I am the candidate!

**SINEAD MCGARRY****Position: Director of the Board**

I am a social worker with experience in practice, research, and policy writing. I have delivered and managed medical social work services throughout my career.

I am an active member of the IASW. I was lead author on IASW model of practice 'The Liaison Social Work Role in Nursing Homes and Residential Settings, A Model for Practice' – included as one of five European projects in global report, The Aging Readiness & Competitiveness Report – Third Edition Driving Innovation in Healthcare and Wellness and co-author on IASW submission paper to Oireachtas Committee, Disability Matters, and co- Author on IASW Position Paper on Adult Safeguarding.

I have represented the IASW in meetings with TDs and member of Government and have co-led the development and delivery of webinars.

I have a strong interest in driving social work advocacy and sharing social work expertise and knowledge to influence change on a national platform with politicians, policymakers, and social media. I have written opinion pieces as an individual social worker and represented IASW in print and radio media.

I value the collective voice and expertise of the IASW. I am particularly interested in social workers linking with each other across our silos and areas of practice,

so that IASW can remain true to social work values and we as a profession can advocate for and with the people we work with around what matters most to them.

**FIACHRA Ó'SÚILLEABHÁIN****Position: Director of the Board**

Fiachra Ó Súilleabháin is a professionally qualified, CORU registered Social Worker since 2002 and currently works as a Lecturer in Social Work and Social Policy in University College Cork. He teaches across several modules at both undergraduate and postgraduate level within the school. He lectures on gender and sexualities, LGBT+ matters, social services and welfare practice, child sexual abuse, child protection and welfare, and professional practice. Fiachra works as part of the multidisciplinary Master of Social Work Team delivering a professionally accredited, two-year taught postgraduate (MSW/PGDSWS) programme to students who wish to become social workers. He is actively involved in research about the experiences of trans youth in Ireland; social work practice in the area of alleged sexual abuse and harmful sexual behaviour; activism in social work; and social work education. Fiachra has extensive practice experience. He was the manager of a regional multi-disciplinary child sexual abuse assessment unit within the Child and Family Agency (TUSLA) from 2009 to 2017. He also has professional knowledge of child protection and fostering social work practice. Fiachra is a member of several practice advisory boards and action learning groups for social work organisations, provides social work consultancy to practitioners and serves on Boards of Directors of several community-based organisations.