

2022 Annual General Meeting Minutes

<p>Date Wednesday 25th May 2022 Time 17:00 – 18:16 Venue Virtual AGM via Zoom Video Call In Attendance: As per registration list and registration book. Apologies: Terry Madden, Evelyn Oboh, Eileen Lauster, Hilda Loughran, Valerie O'Brien, Ruth Murray, and Anette O'Callaghan.</p>		
Agenda Item		Actioned By
	<p>Vivian Geiran, Chair of the IASW welcomed all the attendees to the AGM and thanked them for coming.</p> <p>Vivian thanked members for their commitment to the association and encouraged those who are not involved to get involved. Vivian asked members to recruit new members by taking part in our 'Refer & Win' scheme.</p> <p>Vivian asked the attendees to keep an eye on our social media and website for information our belated 50th Anniversary Celebrations and our in-person National Conference.</p> <p>Vivian gave a short presentation on behalf of the Board of Directors on the activities of the association over the last twelve months and the proposed workplan for the next year.</p> <p>Vivian read the technical instructions and meeting etiquette.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AGM will be recorded. • Everyone will be muted during the call. To speak use the 'raise hand function'. If given the opportunity to talk, the host will put you on spotlight and a sign will appear in your screen requesting you to unmute yourself. • If you experience any technical difficulties, please send a private chat message to Sarah (Host) or call her on 086 0241055. • Polls will be read by the Chair in advance of each vote/poll e.g., adoption of Standing Orders, adoption of Minutes, adoption of Annual Report, etc. • Motions will be read by the Motion Proposer in advance of each vote. <p>Vivian bestowed Honorary membership upon Aine McGuirk and Hilda Loughran, Aine & Hilda are long standing members of the association, who have made an outstanding contribution to the IASW. Aine and Hilda have worked tirelessly on the Board of Directors, both will retire at this year AGM, having completed a six-year term of office.</p>	
Adoption of Standing Orders	<p>The Standing Orders and the Appointment of the Procedurals Officer, Danielle McGoldrick were: Proposed by: Aine McGuirk Seconded by: Dancia Zagibová</p>	

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	48 in Favour - 0 abstentions – 1 against	
Adoption of Minutes 2021 AGM	<p>Minutes from the 2021 Annual General Meeting were circulated to all members and uploaded onto the website: the 2021 AGM minutes were.</p> <p>Proposed by: Coletta Dailkeni Seconded by: Fiachra Ó Súilleabháin</p> <p>41 in Favour - 0 abstentions – 5 against</p>	Danielle
Matters Arising	No matters arising.	
Adoption of the 2021 Annual Report and Financial Statements	<p>A copy of the 2021 Annual Report and Financial Statements incl. Auditors report were circulated to all members and where available to download from the IASW website. In the absence of Anette O’Callaghan, Treasurer, Majella Hickey Board member of the IASW spoke briefly about the statements and report, the Treasurers report can be found in the Annual Report.</p> <p>The 2021 Financial Statements and Auditors Report were: Proposed by: Gary Gartland Seconded by: Rachel McCormack</p> <p>46 in Favour - 3 abstention – 0 against</p>	
Appointment of Auditors 2022	<p>Anette O’Callaghan, Treasurer of the IASW recommended that the association appoint KSI Faulkner Orr has the 2022 Auditors, the office has an extremely positive experience dealing with the accountancy firm during this year’s audit process.</p> <p>KSI Faulkner Orr (KSIFO) to be appointed at the 2022 Auditors: Proposed by: Fiachra Ó Súilleabháin Seconded by: Anne Helferty</p> <p>46 in Favour - 3 abstentions – 0 against</p>	
Election of Directors of the Board 2022-2023	<p>Vivian informed the meeting participants that; "Zoom allows for a limited number of polls/votes to be conducted during a meeting. Due to these restrictions, we are unable to vote for each director individually. We must vote for all 11 nominees collectively."</p> <p>The association received nominations from:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Vivian Geiran (Chair & Director) 2) Coletta Dalikeni 3) Gary Gartland (Commercial Director) 4) Rachel McCormack 5) Majella Hickey 6) Bridin Murphy 7) Claire McGettrick (Commercial Director) 8) Washington Marovatsanga 9) Sinead McGarry 10) Fiachra Ó Súilleabháin 	

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	<p>All attendees voted in favour of electing the 10 nominees to the role of Director for the 2022 - 2023 term.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">51 in Favour - 1 abstentions – 2 against All Directors nomination were duly elected.</p> <p>Vivian Geiran was the only nominee for the position of Chair for the 2022 - 2023 term. The Chair nomination was.</p> <p>Proposed by: Sinead McGarry Seconded by: Sarah Donnelly</p> <p style="text-align: center;">55 Favour - 1 abstentions – 0 against Vivian Geiran was duly elected as the Chair.</p> <p>Question Sheila Gallagher raised a concern regarding good governance practice of electing the 10 directors collectively instead of individually.</p> <p>Answer The Chair confirmed the following; -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - there are limitations to the number of zoom polls that can be conducted during a meeting. - the office had received 10 nominations for 10 positions, which means the 10 directors would be duly elected once they received 51% of the votes. - to elect each of the 10 directors individually, during a virtual AGM would require the tellers i.e., Danielle & Sarah to count each of the 'raised hands' for the 10 individual elections. This would be an extremely time-consuming task - This collective election doesn't arise when we have an in-person meeting, as voting cards are used, and it is easier for tellers to count votes. - The virtual AGM affords members from outside of Dublin to attend - The move to virtual AGM's has seen a massive increase in attendance. - In the event of the office receiving over 10 nominations for the 10 positions, a ballot paper would be disseminated to all AGM attendees for their completion, in advance of the virtual AGM. - The Company Secretary will review the AGM procedures and good governance practice in advance of next years AGM. 	
<p>Motion(s) 1-3</p>	<p>The final motions (1-3) were circulated to all members and were available to download from the IASW website.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Motion 1 Proposed by: Kerry Cuskelly Seconded by: Paul McCarthy</p> <p>That this AGM affirms the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social work is a human-rights based profession, 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to Social Work” (IFSW, 2014),• “That society has an obligation to pursue justice, in all its forms, on behalf of every person including the assertion and protection of their human rights” (IASW, 2020),• “Social workers around the world have a long history of working for the achievement of human rights, including an explicit grounding of practice in human rights principles: human dignity, non-discrimination, participation, transparency, and accountability” (Mapp et al, 2019).• Social workers work to uphold human-rights in their every-day practice in practical and tangible ways.• The concept of human rights is interwoven into the very fabric, narrative and history of Social Work and the removal of any reference to human rights in CORU’s Code of Conduct and Ethics for Social Workers grievously alters the narrative and meaning of Social Work in Ireland. <p>Explanation: Further to the successful motion passed in the 2021 AGM, “That the IASW, in recognition of its centrality to Social Work Values, Ethics and Practice, initiate a campaign for the reinstatement of the term ‘Human Rights’ in the Social Workers Registration Board (CORU) Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics”, we wish to (re)affirm social workers explicit commitment to being a human rights-based profession at this AGM. We want to do this to ensure CORU and any other external organisations, bodies, or persons not familiar with the activity, skills, knowledge, and theory-base of social work, is clear that social work is a human-rights based profession. The #SWisHumanRights campaign continues to advocate for the reinsertion of references to human rights in the CORU Social Work code of conduct and ethics. This motion contributes to this advocacy.</p> <p>An Amendment was proposed to the Motion. Amended to read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social work is a human-rights based profession <u>and discipline.</u> <p>54 in Favour - 1 abstentions – 0 against Amended Motion was duly passed.</p> <p>Motion 2 Proposed by: Aine Davin Seconded by: Kerry Cuskelly</p> <p>That this AGM supports calls for the development of “Safe Harbour” legislation which would provide liability protection to social workers where, in situations of proven high case-loads, low resources, and excessive demands from management, workers would not find their professional registration coming into question, should they, due to the aforementioned constraints, not be able to work to reasonable safe standards.</p>	
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Explanation: An example of Safe Harbour legislation for in health care would be in in parts of America “Safe Harbour” is something a nurse can invoke to protect their licences if they find themselves in compromised practise situations where it is not in the best interest of patients for them to accept an assignment, e.g., accepting expanded patient assignments. This legislation is necessary for social workers in the current working environment.

46 in Favour - 9 abstentions – 0 against

Motion was duly passed.

Motion 3 – Emergency Motion

Proposed by: Vivian Geiran **Seconded by:** Majella Hickey

On behalf of the IASW Board of Directors.

That this AGM supports the decision to create a new category of membership.

Section 1: Membership Criteria

1.1. The membership of the Association shall consist of:

- a. Individuals who hold a social work qualification including the NQSW awarded by the National Social Work Qualification Board, the CQSW formerly awarded by CCETSW or who are recognised as social workers by the Social Work Registration Board of CORU.
- b. Overseas members need also be registered by a relevant registration board as outlined above.
- c. Individuals who hold membership of the British Association of Social Workers, Northern Ireland may be admitted to ‘Associate’ membership of the IASW. Associate members do not have voting rights at the Annual or Extraordinary General Meetings.
- d. Individuals who have retired, currently non-working (i.e., on sabbatical, students on recognised social work qualifications, working in a non-social work post), or are unemployed but who hold a social work qualification including the NQSW awarded by the National Social Work Qualification Board, the CQSW formerly awarded by CCETSW or who are registered as social workers with the Social Work Registration Board of CORU.
- e. Student members being persons undergoing a recognised undergraduate course of studies in Social Work or a recognised post graduate course under conditions prescribed by the Board of the Association
- f. On the invitation of the Chair, a Commercial Person who is not a Member of the Company may be co-opted to the Board either to fill a vacancy or as an additional Director provided that the appointment does not cause the number of Directors to exceed the maximum number of Directors. That person so co-opted shall remain a Member of the Board only until the next Annual General Meeting, when s/he shall retire and may stand for re-election at that AGM.

Explanation: BASW NI has a unique place as the only UK jurisdiction to share an international land border, that being with the Republic of Ireland. IASW and BASW NI have a close working relationship and

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	<p>regularly partner on specific projects, e.g., 1. SWSD 2018 Conference (Dublin) 2. Joint WSWD celebrations 2020, 2019 and 2017 3. Shaping Professional Identity: A all-Ireland study. 4. An Abuse of Power (conference on elder abuse 2021) 5. Joint statements on Brexit and joint letters to respective governments. Brexit has brought about a fracture in the seamlessness of cross-border activities on the island of Ireland and both parties recognise the potentially damaging impact of this, as such we think it is beneficial to have a clear and public relationship that strengthens our existing cooperation. Both organisations are keen to explore a more formal link and to explore the idea of Associate Membership. The idea has been signed off by the NSC of BASW NI and The Board of IASW. We would like to pilot an associate membership scheme which would, under agreed terms and conditions, enable members of one professional body, IASW, becoming associate members of 2022 AGM – Proposed Motions BASW NI. The scheme would also entitle members of BASW NI to become associate members of IASW. Associate membership of one body will be the gateway to joining the activities of the other body and building our respective professional organisational connections in areas of mutual interest and benefit. We will set clear terms and conditions of what an associate scheme will offer, North and South.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">55 in Favour - 1 abstentions – 0 against Motion was duly passed.</p>	
A.O.B	<p>Vivian thanked the staff team, Board, Council, representatives and members for their continued support, hard work on behalf of the profession and association.</p> <p>Meeting closed @ 18:16</p>	