



## A Note from our Chair, Vivian Geiran

Welcome back to you all as we return to full activity after the summertime, hopefully somewhat refreshed after an opportunity for some relaxation and holiday time.

That said, the Association had a busy summer. The issues on which we work on members' behalf continue all year round and our staff, Board, Committees, SIGs and other volunteers, continued to be active and busy in recent months, as always. Representations to relevant bodies on a range of issues, including child and family, disability and adult safeguarding, among others, were followed up and ongoing work continues on those, as well as the broad range of other issues relevant to IASW. That range of activities has included progressing actions arising from our Governance and Structures Review, specifically the reconstitution of our Board Committees and the various groups within the SIG Network. These and related developments will put the Association on an increasingly strong footing for the achievement of our strategic goals, through strong and coordinated collective action, and improved governance and structures. And the All Employers' Social Work Forum, collaborating closely with the universities and within which the IASW is a key partner, continues to work on issues impacting training, recruitment and retention of social workers nationally. More about all of this in due course.



Over the coming weeks and months, we will continue to work on building the IASW capacity to deliver on our strategic goals, as well as increasing membership numbers, especially through the efforts of our Membership Committee and staff team. We have also started to further develop the ways in which we communicate with our members, through different channels and news

bulletins, in addition to established channels such as this Newsletter. The recent industrial action in the HSE has been 'paused,' pending further negotiations between the parties. Given the impact of industrial action for all affected, it is imperative that the longstanding issues at the heart of the industrial action are addressed and resolved without delay. We will keep you informed of relevant developments through our various communications channels, in the weeks ahead.

A few weeks ago, as part of the IASW's ongoing engagement with universities' social work programmes, I spent an hour or so with MSW students in UCD, discussing the benefits of the IASW membership with that group. As the future of social work, it is so important to engage with students and early career social workers, and indeed all social workers, to support all of these groups in their particular phase of their career journey and highlight the value and mutual benefit of being part of our professional community. I also recently spent a day and a half with our Anti-Racism Advisory Group, working with the Group and two external facilitators on developing a second Anti-Racism Strategic Plan for the IASW. I personally found the workshop an energising and uplifting experience, prompting creative and collaborative thinking about how we can work to make the IASW and the wider social work profession, as well as the organisations within which our members work, more inclusive and reflective of our increasingly diverse society, as well as specifically addressing the ongoing problem of racism.

**Vivian Geiran**

**IASW Chair, SW00319**

## Upcoming CPD Events

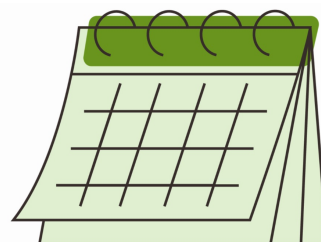


**Social Workers in Disability Conference - The Community of Caring: The Carer, The Social Worker and the Self**

- Wed, 11 Oct
- Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise

**If Nothing Changes, Then Nothing Changes: People Who Use & Deliver Safeguarding Services Speak Out**

## Important Calendar Dates



Important dates to save in the Social Worker's Diary:

### October

- Tues, 17 - International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
- Wed, 18 - World Menopause Day

- Fri, 10 Nov
- Online

#### Exploring Ecosocial Work

- Wed, 15 Nov
- Online

#### Protecting and Connecting: Restoring Social Work in Child Protection

- Wed, 24 Nov
- Carmelite Community Centre, Dublin 2

[Register Here](#)

#### November

- Fri, 10 - National Adult Safeguarding Day
- Sat, 25 - International Day for the elimination of Violence against Women

#### December

- Sun 3 - International Day Persons with Disabilities

## Congrats Grads



Big cheers to our 2023 Social Work Graduates!

You've done the hard yards — now it's time to dive into the incredible journey that is our heartwarming profession. Here's to new beginnings!

Share your graduation photos with us so we can celebrate with you!

[Share your Photo on Twitter](#)

## Update Your Account



We are getting ready to print and mail out

## IASW Volunteer Highlights



The amazing IASW Volunteers and staff team work tirelessly to further the mission of the IASW. Thanks to our members, like you, volunteering your time, ideas,

the much awaited Irish Social Worker Journal! Don't miss out on receiving your membership exclusive copy of The Irish Social Worker Journal from the IASW.

Confirm your correct mailing address in your account by:

1. Logging in
2. Select **Edit Personal Details**
3. Update your address
4. Click **Save**

Done!

Contact us with any questions or issues at [administrator@iasw.ie](mailto:administrator@iasw.ie)

[Login Here to Update](#)

knowledge, and care, the IASW is able to be in so many places at once providing the voice of social work.

To share in the successes and highlight the work of our volunteers, we are going to start a Friday Roundup, which serves to highlight and keep the membership up-to-date on the contributions from our colleagues and peers.

[See our Publications](#)

[See our Representations](#)

## IASW Member CPD Needs Survey 2023

Help us with CPD planning for 2024. Complete the short survey linked below. Your thoughts and the needs you identify will be used to support the professional development of IASW members. The survey also asks about the impact of your engagement with IASW CPD events.

This information helps build an understanding of the types of CPD that support the development of professional practice and improved experiences and outcomes for those we work with. **The survey will close on Tuesday, 26 September.**

[Complete Survey Here](#)

### IFSW EuropeFRA 2023 Report



FRA has provided the Fundamental

Rights Report of 2023 that focuses on the implications for the EU arising from the war in Ukraine.

### Child Care (Amendment) Bill 2023: Pre-Legislative Review

The Joint Committee



**Tithe an Oireachtais**  
Houses of the Oireachtas

on Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth conducted a Report on pre-legislative scrutiny of the General Scheme

Accompanying the report is a document outlining the FRA's opinions on the matter. It is accompanied by slides from the report's online presentation.

[Read the Report Here](#)

[See the Presentation Here](#)

of a Child Care (Amendment) Bill 2023.

The IASW contributed a submission to the report which is included in the Appendix section on page 90 under Submissions. Read the IASW's submission below.

[Read Joint Committee's Report](#)

[Read the IASW's Submission](#)

## Refer a Colleague - Be in with a chance to Win a €100 Press Up Voucher

For every member you recruit, the IASW will enter you into our monthly prize draw to win a €100 'One-4-All' Gift Voucher.

### Member Testimonial:

*"As a new starter into the profession of just one year, the IASW has been pivotal for me in terms of networking, keeping motivated in the profession with ongoing CPD training and being kept informed on such training. The role I am currently in was brought to my attention through the IASW. As a whole, being a member of the IASW has been paramount in shaping my outlook and networking with other members."*

- Amy O'Hara



[Refer a Member](#)

[Survey of Social Workers' Experience](#)

[National Adult Safeguarding Day - 10 Nov](#)

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November, IASW will mark National Adult Safeguarding Day with an online



In a recent survey of Social Workers' Experience of Supervision and Management in Children's Disability Network Teams, nearly all social work respondents (96%) received professional supervision prior to PDS amalgamation.

Since moving to their Children's Disability Network Team (CDNT), the numbers receiving professional social work supervision had dropped (to 84%), with some worrying comments from individuals.

[View the Survey Here](#)

event 'If Nothing Changes, Nothing Changes, People who use and deliver safeguarding services speak out,' from 12.30pm -2.30pm.

This event will hear mounting calls for change in our approach to adult safeguarding in Ireland from our friends and colleagues in both Inclusion Ireland and The Alzheimer Society of Ireland. People who use safeguarding services will share their expert experiences, reflections and solutions. IASW members will explore the ethical dilemmas social workers encounter every day in frontline safeguarding practice across agencies in disability, mental health, community and acute settings. The challenges social workers face as we support people to live lives free from abuse while working for organisations with a poor understanding of human rights, will be shared.

This event will end with a clear call to action, calling on Government to support legislative and culture change to deliver human rights safeguarding responses to all adults at risk.

[See IASW Events](#)

## IASW Representations

The IASW is invited to participate in many advisory, expert review and focus groups. We also receive invitations to a wide variety of events. In addition, we also meet with CORU, TULSA, Ministers, Government Departments and the media. Here is what we've been up to!

### List of Representations July to October 2023

1. Pre-Meeting Sector Dialogue with HSE
2. Sector Dialogue with Bernard Gloster, CEO, HSE
3. Sharing the Vision Youth Mental Health Transitions Specialist Group - stakeholder consultation event
4. United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and Me
5. Policing, Race and Rights in Ireland Webinar

6. CEO Forum
7. CH08 Mental Health in Social Work
8. Adult Safeguarding Stakeholder Event
9. WHO and UN: New guidance on mental health, human rights and legislation
10. Irish Foster Care Association Annual National Conference
11. National Clinical Programme for Eating Disorders – Oversight and Planning Group

See our Representations

## Gift a Student with IASW Student Membership



Calling all Practice Teachers! Consider gifting your students with an IASW student membership to our community, empowering them with networking opportunities, invaluable resources, and a supportive network. Together, let's inspire and equip our future professionals. Thank you for your generosity.

Gift Membership



Irish Association of Social Workers | 114-116 Pearse Street, St Andrews Resource Center,  
DUBLIN 2,  
Dublin, D02 PR44 Ireland

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