



A Note from our COO, Caroline Strong

Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2025!

There is plenty happening in the IASW already this year. Notably the Board of Directors have signed off on the new Strategic Plan 2025-2027. Thank you to the SIG chairs that I spoke to. You all gave me so much of your time and expertise to help inform the focus for the IASW in the coming years. Huge thank you to our volunteer Board of Directors who gave up a full day in November and read numerous drafts before we got it right!



Thankfully, I am surrounded by talent in the IASW team with Katie and Danielle assisting in formatting and design work to help make the plan come alive.

Clíona has outlined a year full of great CPD events including collaborations with government departments, other Health and Social Care professionals and of course our own SIG network. Please do consider attending an event this year that may not directly relate to your own area of work. You will get to meet new people, build your own understanding of other areas of social work, and I don't doubt find overlap whatever your area of employment is.

I intend this year to encourage SIG collaboration. Many of you are experiencing similar challenges in your workplaces as well as developing excellent solutions, policy drafting, submissions, opinions, expert analysis- the talent is all available within the IASW.

Please do remember that you are not automatically part of a SIG unless you contact the office and request to be included in the mailing list. You do not have to be employed in a certain area in order to join a SIG- you can join simply for information, to build your own capacity and to engage in CPD beyond your usual subject matter.

Many of you will be aware that the IASW have a voluntary Board of Directors and attached to that Board are a number of committees. Each committee must have a director from the Board on it, but committee members do not have to be directors.

There are some current vacancies on committees and all board committees and will require new volunteers after the AGM in May. Opportunities like this can provide an opportunity to develop a skillset you may not have exposure to in your workplace and can also prepare you for taking on a role as a Director on a Board. The beauty of a Board committee is that they have similar governance to the main board but a single focus. Committees of the board include 1. the Finance and Audit Committee 2. the Membership Committee 3. the Elections and Nominations and committee 4. the HR, Risk and Governance Committee , 5. the Continuous Professional Development Committee, 6. the International Affairs and 7. the Journal Committee. You must be a member of the IASW to join a committee unless you have a particular skill that is applicable to the committee (e.g. accountant, marketing, H.R.). If you or someone you know would be interested in becoming involved in a Committee we would love to hear from you!

Ongoing work being carried out by the volunteer members of the IASW include;

The Child and Family SIG are continuing to engage with TUSLA, DECDIY and CAHMS in relation to Special Emergency Arrangements and the Tusla Integrated Reform programme. The C&F SIG urgently needs a new chair or the SIG will close.

The Head Medical Social Workers will be hosting a Town Hall to explore the positives, opportunities and concerns in relation to advocacy posts in hospitals. The IASW also wrote to SAGE advocacy, The HSE CEO and CORU with concerns relating to a recent job description for advocacy posts.

The Adult Safeguarding team are continuing to liaise with the Department of Health to contribute to updating legislation and policy.

The ARAG committee are running a number of anti-racism events and exploring the possibility of carrying out research on racism in Ireland.

The IASW continues to represent it's members with statements and press releases for topical issues that emerge.

The IASW wrote to Minister Heather Humphries following the major weather events to explore the possibility of a specific fund to assist people directly affected by extreme weather. In conjunction with this a new working group has been established to explore eco-social work and the impact environmental change is having on society. If you are interested in joining this new working group please contact us in the office. It is in it's early stages but we are keen to explore environmental sustainability, the impact of climate change and climate justice on communities.

Please do get in touch with any ideas, suggestions or assistance you might need.

Caroline

Events and Dates for the Diary



World Social Work Day - Social Work Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity

- Tues, 18 Mar @ 1.00 - 2.00pm
- Online
- Free

CPD & the Requirements of Registration - an Update (April)

- Thurs, 3 Apr @ 12.30-2pm
- Online
- Free

Safeguarding Ethnic Minorities



March

Sat 8 Mar

International Women's Day

Tues 18 Mar

World Social Work Day
(more info below)

Fri 21 Mar

International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination Day

April

Against Racial Profiling and Targeting - ARAG Conference & AGM

- Fri, 4 Apr @8.30am
- Online
- €20 for Members

Childhood Domestic Violence & Abuse (CDVA) – What Children Say

- Wed, 7 May
- Online
- €40 for Members

Date for the Diary SWAMH Conference

- Fri, 16 May
- Carmelite Community Centre

[Learn more and register here](#)

Mon 7 Apr
World Health Day

Wed 9 Apr
National Health and Social Care Professions (HSCP) Day
(more info below)

May

Thurs 29 May
IASW Annual General Meeting
(more info below)

Save the Date - Annual General Meeting



Mark your calendars now for the IASW Annual General Meeting (AGM)!

The AGM will be held on Zoom, **Thursday, 29 May @ 4.30pm - 6.30pm**

Further information will be available in the coming weeks.

Find last year's minutes and annual reports on our site. Click the button below.

[IASW AGM Info](#)

[Register Here](#)

The Journal is Going Paperless

**We are going Paperless!
Less Time, Less Cost, Less Paper!**

IASW is very pleased to inform you that starting this year, we will no longer be sending out paper copies of the Irish Social Work journal. The journal will now be distributed to you via email.

We are really excited about this initiative, this positive change will allow us to publish more than one journal per year, save on time, reduce costs associated with printing & postage, and improve our carbon footprint.

If you would like to receive a hard copy of the journal, please email administrator@iasw.ie by 31 March 2025. Please use subject line: Please send me a hard copy of the journal.

Thank you for your continued support.
The IASW Staff Team



World Social Work Day - IASW Event

World Social Work Day - Social Work Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity
The IASW will hold a webinar to celebrate World Social Work Day 2025 with details of that event to follow. Speakers include:

- Valerie O'Brien on Kinship Care - Intergenerational Opportunities and Constraints - Are there Ethical, Practical and Theoretical Implications for Social Work?
- Sarah Donnelly & Dr Catherine Elliott O'Dare will present on Adding Life to Years - Building Intergenerational Solidarity Across the Lifecourse for

World Social Work Day takes place on 18 March 2025. This year's theme is 'Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity for Enduring Wellbeing', which emphasises the importance of caring and respecting across generations to build strong societies, sustain the environment, and share wisdom for a better future.

[Register Here](#)

Call for Abstracts for All Island Conference

IASW and BASW NI are inviting submissions for workshop presentations at our upcoming conference: Social Work & Migration: Promoting Social Justice, Sustainability & Human Rights.

Please complete the details required using the presentation proposal template and email to n.ireland@basw.co.uk by Monday, 7 April

[Learn more here.](#)

Social Work and Migration
Promoting Social
Justice, Sustainability
and Human Rights

All day conference
Thursday 20 November 2025
Fairways Hotel, Dundalk

CALL FOR WORKSHOP PROPOSALS

BASW
Northern Ireland
The professional association for
social work and social workers

IASW
Irish Association of
Social Workers

[Learn more and find Proposal template here](#)

**HSCP Day 9 April
2025**

Let us know how you celebrate and by sharing a photo and a few lines of your event to administrator@iasw.ie

Share your innovative projects, research findings, and success stories that embody this year's theme. Whether it's a telehealth initiative, social care innovation or an evidence-based practice that has improved patient care, your contributions are invaluable.



HSCP Day 9th April 2025

"Innovating Health and Social Care: Embracing Technology, Research, and Evidence"



We invite all Health and Social Care Professionals to participate in this special day. Share your innovative HSCP projects, research, and service user/patient care success stories.

For further information contact HSCP.NationalOffice@hse.ie

TCD Call for Practice Teachers

Practice teaching makes a really important contribution to the development of the profession of social work. TCD is actively seeking CORU registered Social Workers (2 years post qualification and at least 1 year in role) to facilitate student social work placements in September 2025 (Bachelor in Social Studies) and January 2026 (Master in Social Work).



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

Practice Teacher training workshops will be provided for those interested prior to the commencement of the placement. Student Placements are normally 14 weeks in duration.

We will be happy to provide any additional information and queries can be made to Jen at swpractice.ed@tcd.ie or you can register your interest by completing our [Pre Placement Agreement and Practice Teacher Register](#)

Our students can make an important contribution to social work practice and with your guidance and support they will develop core social work practice skills to complement their classroom teaching.

TCD pays a fee to our Practice Teachers and provide a range of resources and supports

Register your Interest here!

Refer a Colleague - Be in with a chance to Win a €100 National Book Token

For every member you recruit, the IASW will enter you into our monthly prize draw to win a €100 Gift Voucher of your choice!

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

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.



IASW's Special Interest Group

Membership of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) is open to members of the IASW. The SIGs highlight priority issues for social work, they identify learning and development requirements, and bring the IASW to life through activities, networking events, and knowledge dissemination. Learn more about SIG's and explore content relating to each group [here](#).



If you are interested in joining a SIG, please email administrator@iasw.ie

Our current Special Interest Groups:

Adult Mental Health (SWAMH)

Adult Safeguarding and Protection
(ASaP)

Aging (SIGA)

Anti-Racism Advisory Group (ARAG)

Child & Adolescent Mental
Health (CAMHS)

Children & Families (C&F)

Disability (SWID) With a PDS Sub-group

Foster Care (SWIFC)

Head Medical Social Workers (HMSW)

Primary Care (SWIPC)

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

**ADULT SAFEGUARDING &
PROTECTION (ASAP)**

**ADULT MENTAL HEALTH
(SWAMH)**

**ANTI-RACISM ADVISORY
GROUP (ARAG)**

CHILDREN & FAMILIES (C&F)

**CHILD AND ADOLESCENT
MENTAL HEALTH (CAMHS)**

DISABILITY (SWID & PDS)

FOSTER CARE (SWIFC)

**HEAD MEDICAL SOCIAL
WORKERS (HMSW)**

PRIMARY CARE (SWIPC)

**SOCIAL WORKERS IN AGING
(SIGA)**



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