

IASW NEWSLETTER

July 2020



Welcome to the Summer edition of **IASW Newsletter**,

I hope you are all well and wish you to know that we are thinking of all members that have been directly affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic, personally, within their family, or in their work. The social and psychological consequences of the Virus have affected us all, and we are still climbing a steep and difficult learning curve.

The IASW had to adapt quickly to the new situation for our staff and members. We quickly tried out new ways of working and connecting with the membership. There has been a constant flow of work arising from the Pandemic that the Board, Council, Associate Committees and staff have attended to, and this is all detailed on the website.

The AGM was scheduled to happen in May but that was not possible. We had a virtual AGM in July and using video conferencing we were able to attract a good attendance that evening. I thank that meeting for electing me for a third year as Chair of the IASW. This will be my last year in this position as good practice dictates, and I intend to keep working towards our strategic goals and maintain a healthy and vibrant organisation for the members.

There are very exciting and innovative events planned going forward and we look forward to meeting you there, if only in the virtual sense, for now. Stay well, stay home, and 'be the change you wish to see in the world' (Mahatma Gandhi).

Thank you for your continuing support. Please spread the good news that IASW is growing and seeking to grow further!

Aine McGuirk, Chair, SW004099



A resources section for social workers was created in March to respond to the information and support needs of social workers as they responded to the impact of the pandemic and to the challenges created by lockdown. Although collated by the CPD Officer, the resources were mostly sourced and shared by the membership, many of whom took on leadership roles and have shared their creative and innovative responses to emerging challenges and need. The aim of the page was to filter and share information and resources relevant to social workers in a succinct and timely way. Due to the volume of both information and requests at the time, IASW members received briefing emails when the section was updated and many of the resources, tools and information have been disseminated through the IASW membership to the wider social work community. Please visit the resources page on our website by clicking below:

COVID-19 Resources

AGM 2020 & Appointment of the IASW 2020-2021 Board of Directors

We want to thank very much all those members who participated in our 49th Annual General Meeting on July 1st. The AGM was a great success as 68 members participated in the meeting. A copy of the minutes and proposed motions from the 2020 AGM can be found clicking [here](#). 2020-2021 Board of Directors: the members of the AGM appointed **Aine McGuirk as the Chair of the IASW**, and successfully elected the following members to the role of Director:

- John Brennan
- Hilda Loughran
- Anette O'Callaghan
- Rachel McCormack
- Colletta Dalikeni
- Majella Hickey
- Gary Gartland
- Vivian Geiran
- Bridin Murphy

We would like to Congratulate the members on their appointments and wish them every success in their new duties. The **IASW is run by members for members**, without these volunteer Directors the IASW could not operate.

A copy of the **minutes from the 2020 AGM** can be found clicking [here](#). A variety of motions were proposed at the AGM and a copy of the **proposed motions** can be found clicking [here](#). We look forward to seeing you all at 50th Anniversary Celebrations in 2021!

AGM on the IASW Website

IASW Condemns Racism

In the aftermath of the recent brutal killing of George Floyd and other Black people at the hands of the police in the United States, the Irish Association of Social Workers condemns racism in its various manifestations throughout the world and stands in solidarity with the Black community, with the Black Lives Matter protests and with the National Association of Social Workers in the USA. On the 24th of June, the International Affairs Committee (Anna Deneher, John Brennan, Kerry Cuskelly and Aine McGuirk) with consultation with Dr Colletta Dalikeni (Board member) and Oluromade Olusa (Member), released a statement condemning racism. To read the full statement please visit the IASW web-page by clicking below:

IASW Condemns Racism



Important information



Help us keep your information up to date!

The IASW Office has been working for the past few months to update the database.



We can make the IASW grow together!

The IASW is run by

You might have been receiving emails asking to confirm information. We ask all members to reply to those email and we encourage all other members to login with your email and password and keep your information up to date.

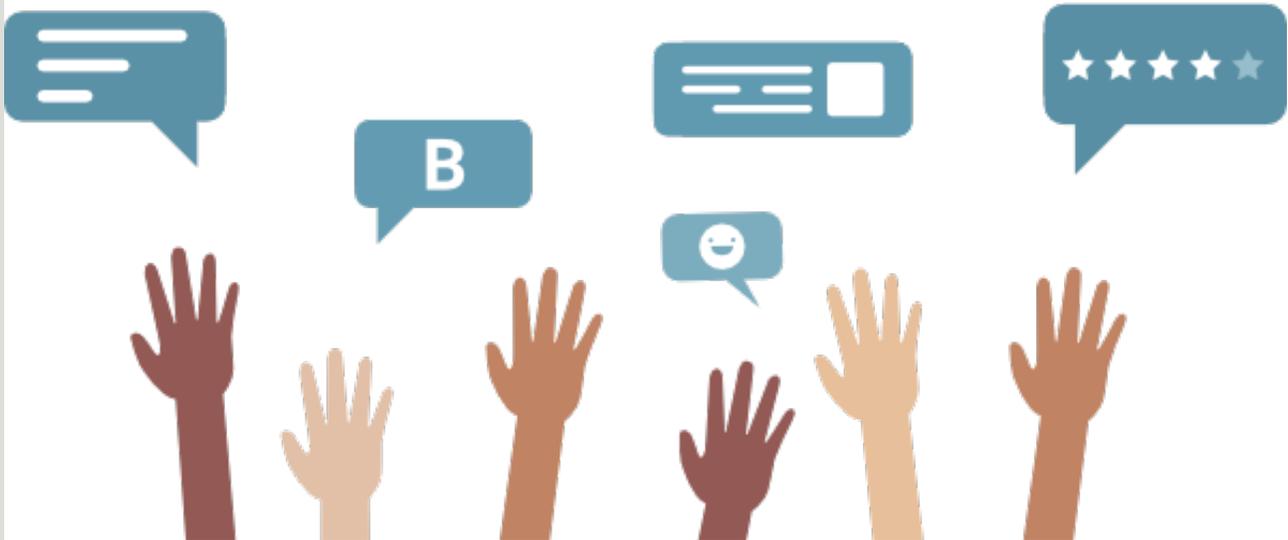
DON'T MISS OUT on important emails and on the next edition of the "The Irish Social Worker" 2020 on the post. Remember you can also update your **payment method** at any time.

If you can't log in or you need to change membership category, **contact the Office Administrator** and let us know.

Members Login

members for members, seeking to improve the standards and quality of professional social work practice. The more we are, the more work we can do. If **each member recruits one new member**, we would succeed in reaching our next goal of **2000 members**

IASW Social Work During Covid-19 Survey



Findings from the first data set, which was collected during lockdown, are available [here](#).

Some of the key messages so far are:

- The impact of lockdown restrictions on direct work emerged as the biggest challenge, highlighting the significance social workers place on building relationships through face to face contact.
- Workplace challenges were also high on the agenda as social workers dealt with the challenges associated with rapidly changing and new work practices (40%) and issues related to their employer response (30%).
- The biggest worry for social workers (one in three) during lockdown was the impact of lockdown restrictions and the closure of supports and services on the children, families, and individuals they worked with.
- A third of social workers worried about how best to provide a high-quality social work service safely during lockdown as well as worrying about how to meet the increased needs and demands when services resume.

Findings from the second data set collected during Phase 1 of Easing Lockdown (204 responses) will be available in the next few weeks. [Data collection has closed](#).

The IASW would like to thank the DCYA for the funding support received for this project and BASW for permission to replicate and adapt their survey. We would like to thank those of you who took part in the survey.

IASW Online Events and Training April - July 2020

IASW Past Events

Using an Attachment and Trauma Informed Perspective in Social Work with Children

This online training was delivered to IASW members via Zoom by Aoife Bairéad, who specialises in trauma and attachment. It comprised of two days and was offered on the 6th and 20th of April, 17th of April and 1st of May, and 8th and 22nd of May. This course incorporated practical skills for direct work with children. The learning goals were:

- To develop a basic understanding of how trauma impacts children's development.
- To recognise and respond to behaviours relating to developmental trauma in children.
- To explore how to incorporate trauma focused work into work with children.

Getting Started with Online Working

Aoife Bairéad kindly offered to share her knowledge about working online, to help some social workers who are starting to use this forum. She did a 45 minute tutorial aiming to those who provide supervision and/or to facilitate peer support. It was offered to IASW members on the 7th of April via Zoom. We thank Aoife for sharing what she knows as a way of supporting social workers to get started with online working.

Talktime Online

The CPD Coordinator, Cliona Muprhy and Board member, Hilda Loughran, have sought to share the IASW Zoom account more widely with IASW social work members. The aim has been to hear how they have been coping and adapting to the different ways of working at this time, supporting each other and sharing ideas and issues. It has taken place on the 16th, 22nd and 29th of April, 7th, 14th and 21st of May and 25th of June. On the 15th of July, a Talktime for Social Workers in Mental Health was facilitated by Linda Curran and Sinead McKenna, Chair and Vice-Chair of Social Workers in Adult Mental Health (SWAMH) Special Interest Group.

Building Professional Resilience - Finding Spaces

This three-day online course facilitated by Niamh Bruce is being offered through the 14th, 21st and 28th of July. Its purpose is to introduce social workers to mindfulness and meditation practices. Those practices can act as genuine supports in the art of building resilience, enhancing listening and communication skills and sustaining overall wellness, intertwining them into existing routines. The course includes discussion, theory, and experience of practice to nourish and replenish your body and mind.

50th ANNIVERSARY

In 2021 the IASW will have its **50th anniversary**. To celebrate this milestone, the IASW Board is planning some events to take place during that year. In the meantime, we are looking for any **photographs** of IASW social work events over the past 50 years. We would be very pleased if we could borrow them. We also welcome any stories that you would like to share, items and historical material of any kind. Please contact the office at: administrator@iasw.ie to arrange collection or you can send them via email if you have them in electronic format.

Thank you very much in anticipation.

John Brennan - Vice Chair of the IASW

New IASW Directories



In May, the IASW launched **two new services** included on the membership benefits, in the form of an 'Independent Social Workers Directory' and a 'Private Supervisors Directory'.

These services act as a great resource for members, the public and external organisations who are looking to avail of these expertise. The new Directories will facilitate the process of finding a specialist social worker by looking at location and type of work/specialism, as well as accessing further information and description on each professional.

If you are an Independent Social Worker or a Supervisor who is NOT currently on the Directories and would like to be included, please send an email to administrator@iasw.ie
We invite all of you to have a look at the new Directories by clicking below:

Submissions and Advocacy

Since March 2020, there have been a variety of submissions advocacy, and communications with the HSCPA, Law Reform Commission, Tusla, HSE and others.

To download all submissions, advocacy, and communications, please visit the following links:

Submissions

Advocacy

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, Tusla, Ministers, Government Departments and the media.

List of representations March - July 2020:

1. Optimising the Impact of HSCP in Representative Roles
2. Launch of HSE Explainer Video for Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act
3. Staying Connected Initiative
4. Expert Advisory Group (EAG) - National Steering Group for Psychosocial Response to Covid 19
5. H2020 project proposal 'Challenges of pandemic outbreak and social work solutions in the complex global settings' (SOCSOL)
6. The European Context: Impact of COVID19 on the Mental Health Sector
7. Diverse Leadership in our Sector: Experiences and Reflections (online workshop)
8. TUSLA Meeting re. proposed CASP documents
9. An Online discussion on children's rights in Europe in the aftermath of Covid-19
10. An Introduction to Pragmatic Evaluation
11. BASW 50th Anniversary Festival
12. Mental Health Reform's consultation on Ireland's new Mental Health Policy, 'Sharing the Vision'
13. IFSW General Meeting 2020
14. IFSW 2020 Online Conference
15. EAPN Ireland AGM
16. Coalition Conversations "The Social Context: Psychosocial and Educational Supports"
17. Mental Health Reform AGM
18. Caring & Coping with Dementia in COVID19
19. AGM Children's Rights Alliance
20. Health and Social Care Professions Education & Development Advisory Group

