



IASW NEWSLETTER

March 2021



Dear Danielle, Welcome to the Spring 2021 edition of the IASW Newsletter.

Looking over our newsletter from this time last year I am struck by how so much has changed in every aspect of our lives. I hope all of you are well and I extend our sympathies to any member that has experienced sickness, on going ill health, or bereavement within their immediate or extended family.

IASW has coped well thanks to our staff, Board and Council. We have genuinely tried to provide the best service possible despite home working and conversion to virtual platforms for all engagement.

Since the start of 2021 we have commenced working with Crowd Comms the platform that now hosts IASW conferences. Having experienced it both as a speaker and as a participant I can vouch that it is working well and provides a lot of reassurance to speakers on the day. What is not seen is all the background work that is done by the office and in particular Cliona prior to the event.

There have been a number of events in the first quarter of the year and many planned. We launched the IASW Anti-Racism strategy in February. Last week we celebrated World Social Work Day and this is indeed a time for us to come together in solidarity to promote the concerns and issues we encounter in our day-to-day work.

At the end of this month, we say good bye to Marina Tiribelli, who has worked in the office for the past 18 months with great commitment and expertise. She will be missed. I know that she has provided a great service to our members during that time. She has been an invaluable support to me specifically keeping an eye on my diary and managing my commitments. We

wish her well in her next adventure.

The pandemic is not over and holidays seem like a distant memory, but vaccination has commenced albeit with a stuttering start. I know that many social workers have been offered vaccination and in time I expect that all will be.

Thank you for your continuing support. Please bring your ideas and contributions forward, this is your association. Encourage your colleagues to join up. The larger the membership the greater the service we can provide for you the members.

Áine McGuirk, Chair, SW004099



***Life is simple
You get what you put in***



Five decades of the Irish Association of Social Workers (IASW) Moments from the Archives – the 1970s



The IASW was founded on the 6th March 1971 by the coming together of social workers who worked in hospitals and in psychiatry – the Irish Society of Medical and Psychiatric Social Workers. The late Maureen Murphy was the first President of the new association. The office of the IASW was at 18 Nicholas Street, Dublin 8.

An inaugural dinner was held on the 6th March in Dun Laoghaire at which Hugh Saunders, a member of the International Federation of Social Worker's (IFSW) Executive, addressed the group. Dr Paul McCarthy, Director of Child Psychiatry in the then Dublin Health Authority (later Eastern Health Board) also addressed the dinner party, as did Senator John Kelly.

A long article by Don Buckley was published in the Irish Times the day before the inauguration. The article mentioned Crumlin Social Services Centre, Dublin, where it said five social workers were employed – one working with young people, another with older people and the remaining three were organising a comprehensive family casework service. The Centre was a voluntary organisation that was independent of statutory control, but worked in cooperation with the Dublin Health Authority.

In January 1972, the subscription rate for IASW membership was £3 per annum for those earning up to £1,400 and £9 per annum for those earning £2,500 or over. There was a Salaries' Sub-committee of the Association to work in consultation with the trade union to investigate more equitable salaries and conditions for social workers.

*NB! Information taken from available original material and newspaper coverage
Read the full article by clicking the button below.*

[Read the Full Article](#)

Farewell to Marina, IASW Office Administrator

Marina Tiribelli will be leaving the IASW this Friday, March 26th. Over the last 18 months Marina has been an integral part of the team here. We are so grateful to Marina for her dedication and commitment to the IASW. Marina has always gone the extra mile for our members, and during one of the busiest years in the history of the IASW, Marina played a large part in the success and growth of the IASW. Marina, you will be sorely missed, may your new position with Engineers Ireland bring you much happiness and fulfilment. We wish you all the best for the future.

Sarah McDonnell has been working alongside Marina for the last number of weeks and has been working hard getting to grips with the work of the association. During this transition period, it may take us a little longer to get back to you, so please bear with us. If your matter requires urgent attention, please call the office on 086 0241055. To know more about our new member of staff, visit our webpage by clicking the link below.

[IASW Staff](#)

IASW Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2021



In its 50th Year the IASW is hosting its second virtual AGM on the 26 th of May. All documents pertaining to the AGM will be circulated to the members and uploaded to the website on the week of April 19th. Bookings are OPEN and we invite all IASW members to register by clicking on the link below.

[IASW 2021
AGM](#)

Launch of Anti-Racism Strategic Plan



The first ever Social Work Anti-Racism Strategic Plan was launched on 25th February 2021 by Senator Eileen Flynn. The plan is the product of a motion passed at the Irish Association of Social Workers AGM in July 2020 and subsequent meetings (talk time sessions) on the prevalence of racism in social work. The plan draws from the emancipatory and egalitarian values found in the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) definition of social work and it sets out tangible actions to dismantle racism in social work under three key areas: Education & Research (E&D), Continuing Professional Development & Practice, (CPD&P) Advocacy and Policy (A&P). These areas culminate into work streams that are led by social workers with not only relevant educational and professional experience but also the lived experience of racism. The leaders of the work streams are Dr. Washington Marovatsanga: (E&D), Evelyn Oboh & Diana Ihirwe (CPD&P), supported by Cliona Murphy CPD & P Coordinator - Nisag Nagwadia leads the (A & P) work stream. Within these three work streams, Social Work members from various practice domains will share and exchange ideas towards the implementation of the plan in consultation with other stakeholders. Dr. Colletta Dalikeni who is the overall coordinator of the anti-racism advisory group, and she will work closely with Dr. Hilda Loughran in managing the implementation of the plan by communicating the work of the 3 work streams to the IASW board and ensuring that the outcome measures are realised through the application of set metrics for deliverable targets.

The Anti-Racism Advisory Group welcomes new members into each of the three work streams outlined above on an ongoing basis.

Colletta Dalkeni
IASW Board Member

IASW Anti-Racism Strategy 2021-2023

IASW Updates



Easter Closing Dates

The IASW Office will be closed on **Friday April 2nd 2021** and **Monday April 5th 2021**.

Happy Easter from all of us here at the IASW



Due to the success of this campaign, we have decided to run a 'monthly' Member Get A Member draw, starting this month. To be in with a chance to win a €100 One-4-All Voucher, all you need to do is refer one colleague who would benefit from IASW membership. Click on the link below for more information on our monthly 'Member Get A Member' campaign.

[Member Get a Member Campaign](#)



A huge thanks to all the members who participated in the recent 'Member Get A Member' referral campaign. Over 40 of the 116 new members who joined during the campaign were referred by an IASW member. Congratulations to our 3 prize winners. Visit the IASW webpage on the link below to know more about the winners and the prizes given.

[Member Get A Member Campaign Winners](#)



In October 2021 the IASW carried out the member survey 'Getting to the Heart of What Matters'. The aim of the survey was to understand what members expect from the IASW and how we can continue to improve the services we provide. We had a great response from all members, with over 30% participation from our members. To see the full analysis and have a look at some of the main discoveries we obtained, visit our webpage on the link below.

[Membership Survey 2020](#)

DATA PROTECTION ISSUES IN COMPLAINTS TO CORU

Our solicitors Kent Carty have developed a really informative leaflet to help better inform, aid

and protect members in their day-to-day practice **and** during the CORU Fitness to Practice legal process.

During recent legal proceedings a number of issues have arisen in relation to; Covert Recordings by Service User without Consent of the Social Worker, Admissibility of Information Provided to CORU, the Use of CORU of Work Email Address, etc.

Please **share this important information** with your colleagues.

To find out more information please click on the link below

[Complaints Information Leaflet](#)

Fitness to Practice (FTP) Complaints & Data Protection Implications



Our solicitors Kent Carty have developed a really informative leaflet to help better inform, aid and protect members in their day-to-day practice and during the CORU Fitness to Practice legal process. During recent legal proceedings a number of issues have arisen in relation to:

- Covert Recordings by Service User without Consent of the Social Worker
- Admissibility of Information Provided to CORU
- Data Protection Concerns
- The Use of CORU of Work Email Address
- Employer Consent as Data Controller

To find out more please visit the 'downloads' section on the FTP page of our website.

[Fitness to Practice](#)

Important Information

Claiming Tax Relief on the CORU Annual Retention Fee

We would like to share with all IASW members news about tax relief. CORU-registered professionals may claim tax relief (at 20%) against the CORU annual retention fee where there is a statutory requirement for registration with CORU. Visit the link below to learn more and check if this applies to yourself and how to make the claim with Revenue.

COVID-19 and Working from Home

If you have been asked to work from home because of the COVID-19 emergency, you may be able to claim tax relief against the cost of home expenses. More information on the eligibility criteria is available here:

[Visit Coru's Website](#)

[Find out more](#)



World Social Work Day

Ubuntu: I am because we are: Strengthening Social Solidarity and Global Connectedness.

Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine

World Social Work Day is on the 16th March 2021. It is the key day in the year that social workers worldwide stand together to advance our common message globally. This year, the 2021 World Social Day highlights Ubuntu: I am Because We Are.

[Click here to watch the event](#)

IASW National Social Work Conference 2021

This year's conference will bring together a range of speakers on the topic of social justice, to inform and update and to support participants unpack the concept. Participants will be provided with the opportunity to consider what it means for social work practice on a day to day basis, on the individual level, the organisational and the collective. To assist us in this task, we have the support of speakers including Brid Featherstone (Professor of Social Work, University of Huddersfield) Caroline McGregor (Professor of Social Work, School of Political Science and Sociology, NUIG) and Judy Walsh (Head of Subject for Social Justice, School of Social Policy, Social Work & Social Justice, UCD).

[Book a place now](#)

Protecting Nursing Home Residents Rights to Family Life: Lessons for Ireland

Recently we held Webinar in conjunction with UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work

and Social Justice. The event explored the rights of nursing home residents and their family members to visitation within the context of Covid 19. **#residentshaverights**

Click here to watch the event

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 links below:

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 January to March 2021

1. National Safeguarding Advisory Committee (NSAC)
2. Sinn Féin roundtable discussion
3. Safeguarding Public Awareness Reference Group 2021
4. Members' Briefing with Special Rapporteur on Child Protection, Prof. Conor O'Mahony
5. From vulnerable child to vulnerable adult
6. Will the Covid-19 pandemic help us rethink loneliness and social isolation?
7. Plugged In Switched Off
8. National Clinical Programme for People with Disability (NCPPD) - HSCP Advisory Subcommittees of the Disability Advisory Group (DAG)
9. Age assessment – tools used by social workers in age determination of unaccompanied migrant children
10. Overarching National Standards for the Care and Support of Children using Health and Social Care Services
11. Changing Horizons in Gerontology: Continuum of Care and People with Dementia
12. HSCP COVID-19 rehabilitation and recovery planning National Working Group
13. Stakeholder Consultation on Ireland's first report to the UN under Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - Living Independently – including accessibility and personal mobility.
14. Stakeholder Consultation on Ireland's first report to the UN under Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - Transport
15. Stakeholder Consultation on Ireland's first report to the UN under Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - Work, Employment and Standard of Living
16. Mind the Gap: Research on barriers to the realisation of rights of children with disabilities in Ireland.
17. How to Tackle Hate Crime and Protect Our People

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