

Ct ARI/1352

São Paulo, 26th June, 2020.

Eva Holmberg-Herrström
International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW)

Dear Ms.,

Firstly, we hope you and your family are well in these difficult times we are all facing. The COVID-19 pandemic presents us with the deepening of a global crisis, affecting the various dimensions of social life.

In this context, one of the elements necessary for our reflection is the etymology of the word Pandemic, of Greek origin, used for the first time by Plato: PAN (all) + DEMOS (people), thus referring to the sense of unity, collectivity and solidarity.

Solidarity is one of the most noble and human acts, it is the feeling that best expresses respect for human dignity, it allows us to create movements that encourage mutual care and the construction of a more just and egalitarian world.

The current situation allows us to reflect that quarantine is selective, as for some social groups it is almost impossible to be carried out. In this sense, Sesc São Paulo belongs to a movement committed to the most forceful defense of human rights, with the principles of citizenship and social participation.

At this time, many initiatives are being developed by Sesc São Paulo to strengthen the social protection network and minimize the impacts caused by the pandemic.

Therefore, we have been doing a Herculean task since March 17, when we interrupted Sesc's on-site actions, to bring Sesc and well-being to those in need. Thus, Sesc, through the Mesa Brasil program, has already donated more than 11 tons of food; we put on more than 80 solo concerts online with several renowned artists and more than 30 plays, which became a distinct experiment, since the stage seems so far away from us. In our health area, we made 500 face shields on 3D printers and donated more than 500,000 masks, gloves, hospital-quality aprons to public health professionals in the state of São Paulo. In the field of sports, we

have a new practice channel at home with our physical educators, and we also have brainstorming sessions every day on topics ranging from ethnic diversity to the social inclusion of older adults, from freedom of expression to fake news. Anyway, we have been very pleased to continue our actions in order to study a new reach with digital media. It will be a pleasure to introduce everyone on the ICSW Board to our channels:

On Youtube: youtube.com/sescsp

On the website: sescsp.org.br

And on our recent platform, where so many collections have been available since April:
sescdigital.org.br

Considering the current scenario, we are grateful for the information shared by the ICSW, and we emphasize the importance of this dialogue to jointly overcome the challenges presented to humanity.

It is time to reinvent ourselves, an opportune moment to act in solidarity, fight for social equality and take care of our common home.

Best regards,



Danilo Santos de Miranda

Director

Sesc São Paulo