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International Council on Social Welfare

September 2019

Executive Column



**Tom Johannesen
- Executive
Director, ICSW.**

- ❖ There are no Jobs on a Dead Planet
- ❖ If not Us, Who? If not Now, When?
- ❖ No Nature, No Future
- ❖ Eco, not Ego
- ❖ The Climate is Changing. So Should We!
- ❖ Climate Now. Homework Later.
- ❖ Stop denying the Earth is dying
- ❖ Act Now, before it is too Late
- ❖ We have no Planet B



Simon Wilkes/ unsplash

These are only a few of the slogans young people around the world have used in their climate gatherings recently. *While the policy makers and the main influencers in society are born well before 1980 and the second half of this century seems largely hypothetical, for people born after 2000, like Greta Thunberg and 2.6 billion others, it seems like half their life*.*

We face - no, we are already in - a climate crisis. For us who are social policy influencers and actors, this means that we have to meet challenges and tasks almost nobody talked much about only a few years ago. The climate crisis will have consequences far beyond our present imagination in terms of changes in health, social security, conflict, movement of people and other areas.

We do not know what will happen and we will certainly be faced with situations we had not expected.

We need to quickly develop a deeper understanding about the Interconnection between environmental and social issues, to move into a complex agenda and develop new partnerships. We can not solve the problems the development will lead to, but we can - and need to - turn our orientation in new directions and do what we can to face new realities.

Let us start walking together now and let us start finding a role for ICSW in the years ahead. They will be demanding.

*Slightly changed quote from «The Economist» climate issue; September 21-27 2019

A Visit to Berlin and a Forum for Social Affairs since 1880



Meeting in Berlin

One of the first outreaches from ICSW's new Executive Director (ED) took place in the German capital in July through a visit to our member, the German Association for Public and Private Welfare (Deutscher Verein für öffentliche und private Fürsorge e.V.).

During the visit, hosted by Managing Director (Vorstand) Michael Löher and the Leader for International Affairs Cornelia Markowski, the ICSW ED Tom Johannesen was introduced to the wide variety of activities of the organisation, which is a joint forum of all actors in social work, social policy and social legislation in Germany.

The 2000 strong membership includes municipalities, social welfare organisations, federal states and

academia monitoring and shaping policy and legislation in a wide range of social policy in its many aspects.

The occasion also included a possibility to present expectations and initiatives from both sides in terms of the host's ICSW membership.

The German expectations to the European Union in terms of International and European Social Policy were presented.

Focus is on upwading social convergence, structural support to boost social cohesion, social goals as an overall strategy for policy coordination as well as participation and democracy in policy development.

deutscher-verein.de

Angola: Laying the first building block of an inclusive social protection

Social protection is a human right and a key commitment within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).



Seth Doyle/ unsplash

In Angola (population: 31 million) the Government has cooperated with UNICEF to design and implement the country's very first social transfer, a universal child benefit program for children under 5 years of age. It is expected to have significant impact on stunting, nutrition and income support.

Piloting in selected locations, the Government intend to scale up the program to national level and possibly increase both the age of eligibility and the value of the transfer. Other social benefit programs may follow, the 3 other traditional core benefits being for working age, disability and old age.

As many as 1.3 billion children (two thirds of all) worldwide are today not covered by any kind of social protection, and UNICEF supports more than 100 countries to strengthen their child protection schemes.

Source: Development Pathways, UK and UNICEF

Additions to the ICSW Family



We welcome the following 7 new members to ICSW, admitted in August and September 2019:

1. Bangladesh: Association for Realisation of Basic Needs (ARBAN)
2. Cameroon: Sweet Home for All Common Initiative Group
3. Gambia: Yve (Young Volunteers for the Environment) - The Gambia
4. Iran: Institute of Madadkari Ejtemai-e Hamyari-e Mehrparvar-e Ensan (Hapma)
5. Nigeria: Widows and Child Empowerment Foundation in Nigeria
6. Slovakia: Institute of Research of Social and Economical Resources
7. Mauritius: Development Practitioners in Network

ICSW Europe: Stop Sacrificing Social Goals in the Pursuit of Economic Gains

At a three-day gathering in the Finnish capital Helsinki September 16-18, key social influencers insisted on a structured dialogue between European Union institutions and civil society. The economy should put people and planet, not profit, at its core.



Public action in Helsinki downtown

Ronald Wiman, our Regional President for Europe and Chair of the Finnish ICSW Committee provided through his host body, the Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health (SOSTE), support in organising the Flagship Conference.

The conference was set up by Social Platform (socialplatform.org) consisting of 49 pan-European networks of NGO's, among them ICSW Europe. ICSW member

organisations from Finland, France, Germany and Norway took part, so did ICSW's Executive Director, Tom Johannesen.

Social Platform calls in a Press Release for European Policy makers to promote equality and fight poverty, based on the groundbreaking European Pillar of Social Rights.

It also calls for involvement of civil society in all stages of the EU decision-making process in order to base itself on experiences on the ground.

Thirdly, Social Platform calls for an annual Social Summit, bringing together Heads of State and Government, EU institutions, civil society organisations and other stakeholders to take stock of social developments and monitor the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

Rimini 2020: Call for Abstracts closes December 15



The Joint World Conference on Social Work Education and Social Development «Promoting Human Relationships: Bridging the Future» will take place in Rimini, Italy June 28 - July 1, 2020, and we hope to see as many as possible of you there. Please observe that the Call for Abstracts closes December 15, 2019.

More information on swesd2020.org

We welcome contributions to ICSW News



ICSW NEWS has changed its profile as of the last summer, and we now aim at shorter presentations on relevant topics from around the globe in each edition. We now publish ICSW NEWS 11 times per year, and you are invited to send contributions reflecting social policy and development anytime to the Editor at tjohannesen@icsw.org

If you have a more lengthy contribution, we would like summary and can link to the complete text. Questions can be directed to the same address. Please mark the email «ICSW NEWS».

We look forward to hear from you!

Core UN Days in the months to come



OCTOBER &
NOVEMBER 2019

October 17:

International day for the Eradication of Poverty - *Theme: "Acting together to empower children, their families and communities to end poverty". ...*
<https://www.un.org/development/desa/social/perspectiveondevelopment/international-day-for-the-eradication-of-poverty-homepage/2019-2.html>

October 24:

United Nations Day

October 31:

World Cities day
Theme: Changing the world: innovations and better life for future generations
<https://www.un.org/en/events/citiesday/>

November 6:

International day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in war and Armed Conflict
<https://www.un.org/en/events/environmentconflictday/index.shtml>

November 16:

International Day for Tolerance
<https://www.un.org/en/events/tolerance/day/>

November 20:

Universal Children's Day

<https://www.un.org/en/events/childrenday/>

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