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**International Council on Social Welfare**

December 2024

**Welcome letter of the ICSW  
Executive Director**



*Professor Antonio López Peláez, Executive Director of ICSW, Professor of Social Work and Social Services at the National University of Distance Education (UNED), Spain*

Dear ICSW members, friends, and interested readers,

Welcome to the December 2024 issue of our newsletter.

December is always a month to evaluate the work of the whole year. A month to be grateful for the company and work of those who accompany us on our life and professional journey. A month to reflect on the good practices we have observed in the field of social welfare at global, regional and local levels. And a month to take a break and start again, in January 2025, with renewed strength, our project as an organization, as ICSW: to contribute to the improvement of well-being in our complex societies.

So the first thing I want to do in this brief introduction to the December 2024 newsletter is to thank the entire ICSW family. To the past global presidents, and executive directors. And to all of you who, like your membership, make it possible since 1928 for us to be one of the most qualified voices in social welfare advocacy. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

From 2020 to 2024, Dr. Suh has served as ICSW's global president, and during his tenure we have made great achievements. We have stabilized the financial situation of ICSW, extraordinarily affected by the cancellation of the Rimini congress in 2020 due to COVID. Three new members have joined ICSW (Portugal, Ireland and Turkey), confirming the vitality of our organization. Relevant international conferences have been organized, such as the world congress in Seoul in 2022. Specific seminars have been organized to analyze strategic challenges for social welfare, such as digitalization, the food crisis, or the role of participation and co-design in social services, in different formats (parallel events at the UN Commission for Social Development, seminars at the University of Malaga with ICSW Europe, seminars in Seoul with colleagues from Asia, seminars in Africa, etc.). And books have been published in the most prestigious publishing houses, such as Routledge and Springer, giving a very relevant diffusion to the achievements.

Furthermore, moving from research and analysis to action in defense of well-being, in 2023 ICSW promoted the Declaration of Windhoek, Namibia, supported by the Namibian government and the African Union (<https://www.icsw.org/news/15-icsw/190-icsw-windhoek-declaration-on-social-policy-and-social-protection-in-africa>). A very relevant achievement, in which experts, students, institutional decision makers and international organizations participated. I believe it is necessary to highlight the great effort of consensus, the great work prior to the Declaration, and the intense work in the seminar in Windhoek where the Windhoek Declaration was approved. In all this process, Dr. Suh's leadership has been key, and we must highlight it in this month in which his term as ICSW

global president is coming to an end.

Along with this important Windhoek Declaration, also in 2023, the ICSW global office, under the leadership of Dr. Suh, organized a second Declaration, in Lisbon, facing one of the most pressing challenges in the third decade of the 21st century: humanitarian disasters (<https://www.icsw.org/index.php/news/189-lisbon-declaration-for-the-development-of-social-work-and-humanitarian-action-in-the-21st-century>). The Lisbon Declaration, endorsed by IASSW and IFSW with the presence of their two presidents at the signing of the Declaration, takes an innovative approach to the professional intervention of social workers in humanitarian disasters. This Declaration emphasizes the key role played by digital technologies in the diagnosis, monitoring and evaluation of professional interventions in contexts of humanitarian disasters. And it is interesting to highlight the key role given in this Declaration to participatory evaluation. In a society of citizens, based on human rights, we all have to participate in decision-making processes, and in evaluation processes. Participatory evaluation, through digital tools, allows for greater inclusion of all stakeholders, and improved decision making.

In 2024, under Dr. Suh's leadership, ICSW also started a co-design and co-diagnosis process to develop a new Statement on the importance of participation in local government and social services. We have had a first participatory debate seminar in Ronda in November 2024 (<https://www.icsw.org/news/15-icsw/258-citizen-participation-as-the-axis-of-social-protection-co-design-and-citizen-participation>), with the presence of relevant political actors, from former Ministers of Labor of Portugal or South Korea, to experts in co-design, and in April 2025 we hope to be able to present such a Declaration, as a relevant contribution to the debate on social welfare in view of the Global Summit in 2025.

Linking stakeholders, including political actors, and large global organizations such as IFSW and IASSW, in ICSW projects, shows the great capacity of ICSW as a privileged actor in the field of welfare, with presence in different environments (both achieving the support of the African Union and the Namibian government, in the Windhoek Declaration, and the support of organizations and universities in the

Lisbon Declaration, and the support of local and regional administrations in the Ronda Declaration). It is worthwhile to be a member of ICSW and to contribute to research, diagnosis, and mobilization in the field of social welfare.

In this newsletter we publish an article presenting the new theme of the Social Work Day in 2025 (with special thanks to Dr. Shajahan and Dr. Salonen for their relevant contribution to the global task force that has agreed on this theme, together with IFSW and IASSW). I encourage all ICSW members to organize events and promote the theme in your respective regions and countries for greater visibility and focus. In addition, we publish the report of President Dr. Suh, presented at the world congress in Panama last spring, a brief note about the expert seminar on "Mental Health - Human Rights and Participation" (ICSW Europe and ICSW Sweden, 29 November 2024), by Max Rubisch and an article by our president-elect, Dr. Zelenev.

In January 2025 Dr. Zelenev's term as ICSW Global President begins. After having contributed significantly as Executive Director, as Treasurer and as ICSW Special Representative to the UN, Dr. Zelenev now faces the highest responsibility in our organization. I am sure he will have the support of all of us in facing the challenges of the next four years. At this time of change, I would also like to thank Rene Schegg, who has been our special representative to the UN in Geneva from 2020 to 2024, and welcome as new ICSW special representative to the UN in Geneva Dr. Kirwan, a recognized global expert in Social Work in the field of research and education, and with a cv well suited to the position she will hold at ICSW in the coming years.

Finally, I ended this introduction to the December 2024 Newsletter as I began, by thanking all ICSW members for their support and collaboration. It is worthwhile to work for the common good. And in this collective task, I am always at your disposal.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2025!

Take care and stay healthy  
Antonio López Peláez  
ICSW Executive Director

## 2025 SWSD: Strengthening intergenerational solidarity for enduring wellbeing



### Strengthening intergenerational solidarity for enduring wellbeing

Intergenerational care and connections are essential to everybody's wellbeing as well as fostering functional economies and societies; yet they are too often overlooked or ignored by governments and policy makers. Through this theme, the social work profession recognises the need for societies to strengthen and more actively support respectful intergenerational solidarity for the enduring wellbeing of all.

This 2025 theme builds upon the previous recent World Social Work Day themes of Ubuntu and Buen Vivir by recognising the crucial interdependence of peoples, and expands on these bodies of knowledge by focusing on intergenerational caregiving. The theme highlights that care is everyone's responsibility and not just the domain of 'women's work' as some societies promote.

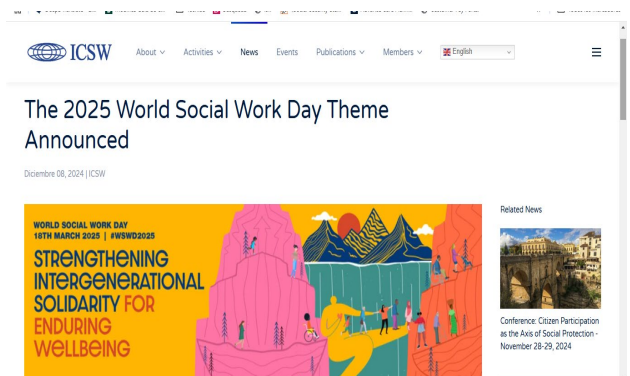
Intergenerational solidarity also speaks to the economic and environmental challenges we face, as each generation needs to act in relationship with the environments in which we live so that future generations can inherit healthy and sustainable economic and ecological environments. The theme recognises the importance of the transfer of knowledge across the generations and the value in acknowledging our elders and ancestors and the gifts of wisdom they have provided. It further acknowledges the role of younger generations in interpreting these wisdoms in new ways, to fit the

challenges of today and to find new solutions for the future.

Care between peoples is at the heart of this theme and as social workers we recognise our role in shining light on and supporting the diverse range of care arrangements.

In preparing the poster, the designer commented:

"The central figure represents the caregiver in all of us, helping all kinds of people across the waterfall. The figure is our mother/father/brother/sister/aunt/uncle/child/or chosen family. It has no gender or features because it represents everyone. Whether it's through support, a helping hand, finding an alternate path, or just being there. Compassion is the catalyst to helping families, friends, and neighbours. It's also showing that the caregiver is being re-energized and fortified through helping. The colours are bright and bold to show their resilience. The people come from all walks of life all around the globe and the landscape isn't meant to be any one place, but rather a symbol of the journey we all travel."



<https://www.icsw.org/es/news/15-icsw/259-the-2025-world-social-work-day-theme-announced>

## President's Report, ICSW Global Assembly, Panama 2024



*Dr. Sangmok Suh,  
ICSW Global  
President 2020-2024*

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT, ICSW GLOBAL ASSEMBLY, APRIL 2024, PANAMA**

First of all, I would like to express my deep gratitude for the support and cooperation that all ICSW members have shown to ICSW Global over the last three years. I started my term as the Global President of ICSW in November 2020 at the height of COVID-19. The world has suffered greatly from this terrible pandemic and the social welfare community in particular has been directly affected. Despite this unfortunate external environment, ICSW has taken the lead in discussing the strategies and ways forward for a post-pandemic society that social welfare sectors around the world will need to be prepared for.

Looking back, I feel fortunate that the ICSW has been active over the past three years despite the difficult external situation. Among various ICSW activities on the global and regional level, I would like to report to all ICSW members on the major activities at the ICSW Global level during the last three years.

#### **ICSW Global Activities in 2021**

After the cancellation of the 2020 Joint World Conference in Rimini due to the serious COVID-19 situation, ICSW and IASSW jointly planned an online conference "International Social Work and Development Online Conference (ISWED2021)" to

utilize the knowledge and abstracts collected for the Rimini Conference. I am very grateful to Professor P.K. Shajahan and Professor Tan Ngoh Tiong for co-chairing the conference entitled "Human Relationships: Keys to Remaking Social Work for the Future" from January to April 2021. Many social workers, social development organizations and social policy practitioners came together to focus on the lives of people and society amid the amazing changes brought about by the COVID-19. The outcome of this conference was published by Springer under the title 『Remaking Social Work for the New Global Era』. The book is divided into 4 sections: 'The New Era', 'Sustainable Approach for Social Intervention', 'Capacities of Social Work Education, Service and Research', 'Looking Forward: Global Challenges' with a total of 13 chapters.

It is important to note that ICSW Global also organized 3 international seminars on various social issues that arose before and during the COVID-19 pandemic in the field of social welfare and social development sector, and even to prepare for the post COVID-19 world. The first seminar was held on May 2021 on "The Role of ICTs for Social Inclusion and Social Welfare." The aim of this seminar was to discuss the issues and challenges such as the protection of civil rights, services, digital rights, digital intervention and digital technologies. The participants from Spain, USA, India, Singapore, Hong Kong, Zimbabwe, and Korea examined the role of ICT in achieving social inclusion and social welfare in their respective countries. The proceedings of the conference were summarized in a book 『Digital Transformation and Social Well-Being』, published by Routledge in 2023 and co-edited by Antonio Lopez Palaez, Sang-Mok Suh and Sergei Zelenev. The book consists of two parts, namely, "The Key Issues in the Role of Information and Communication Technologies for Social Inclusion and Social Welfare" and "Country Cases of Successful Information and Communication Technology Applications in the Field of Social Welfare" with 17 chapters. This book has played a pioneering role in the field of 'digital social welfare'.

In order to better understand the multidimensional nature of food security, the second

international seminar was held in September 2021 under the title "Addressing Food Security in Africa: Strategies for Ensuring Child-sensitive Social Protection". In cooperation with the various international organizations including IASSW, UNICEF, IFAD, the seminar highlighted the perspectives on the importance of the roles and interactions of key stakeholders. The seminar also covered the conceptual and general issues related to the food insecurity in Africa region, as well as the efforts of the various stakeholders to strengthen cooperation among them. The seminar has special significance as it was held at the time of the UN Food Summit.

The third international seminar was also held in November 2021 under the title "New Issues in Social Protection in the post COVID-19 Era". The COVID-19 pandemic and the 4th industrial revolution have created new demands in the need for a new type of service delivery and universal social protection, which requires not only the work and responsibility of governments, but also the role of the market and civil society in responding to the major changes caused by these two global phenomena. Following the keynote speech by Prof. Neil Gilbert, the 3-day conference addressed topics such as "Role of Gov't in Building Social Safety Net" on the first day, "Social Protection and the Corporate Social Responsibility" on the second day, and "Role of the Civil Society" on the third day.

### **ICSW Global Activities during 2022**

The most important event in 2022 was the Joint World Conference held in Seoul, Korea from 26 to 28 October. As Panama, the original host country for the 2022 Joint World Conference, was unable to hold the conference right after COVID-19, Korea suddenly became the host country for the 2022 Joint World Conference. In this regard, I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Korean conference organizers for planning and holding the Joint World Conference at such a short notice.

The 2022 Joint World Conference on "Social Work Education and Social Development" (SWESD 2022) was co-hosted by the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) and International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), and co-organized by the Korea National Council on Social Welfare, Seoul Welfare Foundation, Korea Council on Social Welfare Education and Korea Association of Social

Workers. And the Ministry of Health and Welfare, Korea Social Welfare Credit Union, the Hyundai Motors Chung Mong-Koo Foundation, the Community Chest of Korea, and the JoongAng Ilbo were also sponsors of the Conference. We had face-to-face events as well as online events, using the Korea National Council on Social Welfare's official YouTube channel and the conference's official website [www.swesd2022.com](http://www.swesd2022.com).

The first day of the Conference began with four keynote speakers. First, Gloria Kirwan, a senior lecturer at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, gave her first keynote speech on "Rhyming Hope with History: Leveraging the History of Social Welfare to Rally Hope in Difficult Times." Julia Watkins of the United States, the second keynote speaker and winner of the Katherine A. Kendall Memorial Award, gave a presentation on "Remembering Katherine A. Kendall" through the video.

Special presentations followed. ICSW President Suh Sang-Mok, the first special speaker, delivered a lecture on "How to Achieve Growth with Equity: Lessons from Korean Experience." The second special speaker was Neil Gilbert, a world-renowned professor of social welfare at the University of California, Berkeley, who spoke on "Challenges to the Scientific Practice of Social Work: Historical Tensions Between Cause and Function in the United States."

The third keynote speaker was Chaime Marcuello-Servós, professor at the University of Zaragoza, Spain, who spoke on "Digital Human Rights, Metaverse and Spaceship Earth: Rethinking Social Policies and Social Work Practice after COVID-19." As the last keynote speaker, Darja Završek, professor at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, presented on "Social work's work for a future: Imagining life beyond patches of war and peace."

On the second and last days of the conference, symposiums, workshops and oral presentations were held to address the six sub-themes of the conference, 'Groups in Vulnerable Situations: The Quest for Social Protection,' 'Social Work Education and Empowerment,' 'Social Work Practice in Times of Crisis,' 'Social Transformation Community Engagement and SDGs,' 'Digitalization and ICTs in Social Development and Social Work Education,' 'New Opportunities and Challenges in Post-COVID Period.'" Many social welfare experts from all around the world participated online and offline to gather wisdom and discuss social policy, social welfare

education and social welfare practice strategies to solve various social problems caused by COVID-19.

Meanwhile, on the 3rd day, the last day of the conference, the on-site participants visited Angels' Haven, a social welfare institution located in Eunpyeong-gu, Seoul, which helps the socially disadvantaged, such as children and the disabled, to live independently in society by protecting and caring for them in the institution. There are various facilities for children and young people, people with disabilities, the elderly as well home for single mothers and children, and a home for people released from prison. Participants had time to feel the level of social welfare in Korea by visiting the actual social welfare sites in Korea.

As the first hybrid conference held by ICSW, I believe the Seoul Joint World Conference was successful and it was a great opportunity to adapt to the new-normal by establishing the new way of organizing the Joint World Conference in the post COVID-19 era. The outcome of the 2022 Joint World Conference will also be published by Routledge in 2024, co-edited by Antonio Lopez Pelaez, Annaline Keet and Moo-Sung Chung.

In the December 2022, ICSW Global Office and ICSW Europe co-organized the International Congress on Social Policies together with the University of Malaga, Spain. The theme of the Congress was "The Challenge of Social Inclusion in Future Europe." The aim of the Congress was to provide innovative analysis and social policy solutions to emerging social development challenges, and to prepare a final paper that will guide ICSW and its partners towards greater impact on the UN Second Summit for Social Development scheduled for 2025. Many renowned experts from ICSW Europe and our Spanish colleagues addressed the main challenges for social inclusion in European welfare systems. Various good practices were also presented with a special focus on economic, social and digital inclusion, rural development and support to refugees and victims of humanitarian crises in different European countries. It was a great opportunity to explore the current and future social policy challenges especially in European region, and to get prepared for the second UN Summit for Social Development.

### **ICSW Global Activities since 2023**

In the early February 2023, as usual, ICSW

convened the virtual side-event at the 61st session of the Commission for Social Development under the theme "Addressing inequality predicament: trade-offs and the quest for decent employment, poverty reduction and social inclusion."

Although the forms and trends of inequality vary from country to country, we can see the importance of "growth with equity" in various national cases. In particular, if we look at several successful cases in the past, we can see that narrowing the income gap has played an important role in promoting economic growth and improving the lives of the poor. Through this seminar, we were able to discuss not only the employment policies, but also multidimensional policies and perspectives that address different social sectors, such as education, social isolation, environment, health, and discrimination, and discuss possible policy efforts to halt the trend of deepening inequality.

In September 2023, ICSW Global Office hosted a special event in Windhoek, Namibia. ICSW Seminar on "Social Policy and Social Protection in Africa" was organized jointly with the Namibian Ministry of Health and Social Services, and aimed to address the main challenges facing social policy in the African region with a particular focus on the role of social policy experts, social workers and humanitarian aid professionals in the different contexts of the African continent.

With the great help of the Ministry of Health and Social Services and our ICSW officers, the Deputy Minister Hon. Dr. E.Muinjangue and I signed the ICSW Windhoek Declaration on Social Policy and Social Protection in Africa. The key points of the declaration were that the 'Social protection is a right – not an act of charity,' 'Social policy and good governance are key tools to realize human rights for all,' 'Social policy is a necessary element in advancing sustainable development goals' and 'Social policies and social protection will help in reaching the African Union vision of silencing the guns by 2030 in the Region.' And we were also able to drive 10 action points including attentions to the smart welfare, slow emergencies, gender, well-being economy, children, corporate social responsibility and so on. I would particularly thank our Regional President Petronella Masabane for her help and efforts in organizing this event and linking the Namibian Government with ICSW.

ICSW Global Office had another extraordinary

performance and outcome in 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal. In mid-November, under the title "Social Emergency; Social Work and Humanitarian Action - The Role of Digital Tools to Support Complex Social Intervention in a Changing Society," the conference was coordinated by the University Institute of Lisbon (ISCTE) with our partners in Spain, Turkey, Portugal, Colombia and Brazil.

It was also very significant that the conference was a joint effort of the three sister organizations, namely International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) and ICSW. As a result of the conference, the three sister organizations and ISCTE, UNED have signed the Lisbon Declaration for the Development of Social Work and Humanitarian Action in the 21st Century."

This declaration includes the need to strengthen humanitarian assistance, to improve the skills and competencies of social workers, to develop new training programs, and to participate in and contribute to the strategies to promote social integration. I think it is particularly significant that the three organizations, IFSW, IASSW and ICSW, together with the partners have reached a consensus on social work in the field of humanitarian aid and have jointly developed and adopted a declaration. I would like to thank our member organizations, the University Institute of Lisbon and ICSW Executive Director, Antonio Lopez Pelaez, for their efforts.

Finally, in the early February 2024, we had another side event at the 62nd Session of Commission for Social Development. This year's theme was "Social policies to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda: Promoting civic engagement and community participation." Through this seminar, which started the discussion on the reality of the lacking social policies to achieve and deal with the Sustainable Development Goals, we were able to share and discuss the importance of the cultural perspective in the establishment of social policies and the participation of local communities, the need to include social justice and human rights as fundamental principles in the establishment of social policies, and the comprehensive and inclusive approach in the conceptualization of social policies.

This gave us an opportunity to build consensus on the need for more partnerships between government and civil society organizations, including those at the grassroots level; the need to

allow those affected by policies to participate in policy design, implementation and evaluation; and the importance of community engagement for broad public support for government efforts.

This year we will be holding the 2024 Joint World Conference in Panama City from 4 to 7 April, with the theme "Respecting Diversity Through Joint Social Action", highlighting the bottom-up change that is needed to co-build a new eco-social world. I am very pleased that the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) has now rejoined ICSW and IASSW (International Association of Schools of Social Work) in hosting the 2024 Joint World Conference in Panama. I look forward to participating in many fruitful presentations and discussions on current issues in social welfare and social development, as well as social exchanges with participants. On my way to Panama, I plan to meet several UN officials including Mr. Navid Hanif, Assistant Secretary General, along with Mr. Sergei Zelenev, the Global President-elect of ICSW, to discuss the ways to strengthen the existing close ties between ICSW and UN.

### **Closing Remarks**

During the last three years since the beginning of my term as the Global President, I am very pleased to note that ICSW has played a leading role in the social welfare and social development sector in preparation for the COVID-19 era, and is currently leading and will continue to lead in the future.

For the rest of my term, I will endeavor to contribute with active activities as well as to strengthen partnerships at the global level to restore and strengthen the reputation and status of ICSW, one of the leading international organizations in the social welfare and social development field with a 96-year history.

Together with ICSW Global Office, I hope that nine regional offices of ICSW will also contribute towards achieving this common goal by actively supporting and strengthening the link with the ICSW Global Office.

## Mental Health - Human Rights and Participation



*Dr. Max Rubish, ICSW Europe President*

ICSW Europe concluded the old year with an Expert Seminar and our annual General Assembly. On 29 November 2024, ICSW Europe together with ICSW Sweden held a Seminar in Stockholm on "Mental Health - Human Rights and Participation".

It was a very interesting seminar: first we heard Karl Lavo from GAMIAN (Brussels) speaking about the general situation of mental health in Europe and the initiatives of the European Commission. Kristian Wahlbeck from the Finnish organisation MIELI and Marten Jansson from NSPH, the Swedish Partnership for Mental Health, spoke about the societal issues surrounding mental health, especially the issues of participation and life quality. Loes Vollenbrock from Sweden and Jeroen de Haan-Rissmann from the Netherlands presented interesting projects of active participation. These are projects where persons with their own experience of mental health problems can help other people. Finally, Nicola Byrne and Gloria Kirwan from the Irish organisation SHINE - our new member organisation - reported on current developments in Ireland, especially on reducing stigma and the "Green Ribbon Campaign".

All in all, it was an excellent Seminar combining scientific presentations, speeches from persons representing NGO's active in this field and contributions of persons who spoke about their own experiences of mental health problems.

## New Year Greetings from the Incoming ICSW President



*Dr. Sergei Zelenev is the Special Representative of the International Council on Social Welfare to the United Nations in New York. Elected ICSW President (2024-2028)*

## New Year Greetings from the Incoming ICSW President

Dear Colleagues,

As one year ends and another begins, we naturally reflect on our achievements while setting our sights on the challenges and opportunities ahead. The International Council on Social Welfare has long been a gathering place for like-minded individuals from all corners of the globe—a community united by shared ideals and aspirations.

As we step into the New Year 2025, I am filled with hope that we will continue to honor our tradition of fostering genuine connections, striving for positive change, and embracing diverse perspectives. Progress, after all, is born from collaboration and a willingness to learn from one another.

The great German poet and thinker Johann Wolfgang von Goethe aptly observed, "Things that matter most must never be at the mercy of things that matter least." This timeless insight reminds us of the importance of setting our priorities with clarity and purpose.

Our organization was built on the visionary work of bold social thinkers and practitioners who championed the values of equity, solidarity, and human dignity. It is through their dedication—and the collective effort of our community—that ICSW has not only endured but thrived for nearly a century.

Looking ahead, we are committed to transforming ICSW into a vibrant knowledge hub—a platform for exchanging ideas, breaking down invisible barriers that separate social groups and individuals, and



inspiring collaborative action for building a more just and inclusive society. Even in uncertain times, our resolve to work together for the common good remains unwavering.

It is my pleasure and privilege to greet the ICSW community as we usher in this holiday season. Wishing each of you a happy, healthy, and fulfilling New Year. Let us move forward together with purpose and optimism.

Warm regards,  
Sergei Zelenev, Incoming President, ICSW

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### **Vœux pour la nouvelle année de la part du nouveau président de la CIAS**

Chers collègues,

Alors qu'une année se termine et qu'une autre commence, nous réfléchissons naturellement à nos réalisations tout en fixant nos objectifs sur les défis et les opportunités à venir. Le Conseil International d'Action Sociale est depuis longtemps un lieu de rassemblement pour des personnes partageant les mêmes idées et venant des quatre coins du monde, une communauté unie par des idéaux et des aspirations partagés.

Alors que nous entrons dans la nouvelle année 2025, j'ai bon espoir que nous continuerons à honorer notre tradition de favoriser des liens authentiques, de nous efforcer d'apporter des changements positifs et d'embrasser des perspectives diverses. Après tout, le progrès naît de la collaboration et de la volonté d'apprendre les uns des autres.

Le grand poète et penseur allemand Johann Wolfgang von Goethe a fait remarquer avec justesse que « les choses qui comptent le plus ne doivent jamais être à la merci des choses qui comptent le moins ». Cette idée intemporelle nous rappelle qu'il est important de fixer nos priorités avec clarté et détermination.

Notre organisation s'est construite sur le travail visionnaire de penseurs et de praticiens sociaux audacieux qui ont défendu les valeurs d'équité, de solidarité et de dignité humaine. C'est grâce à leur dévouement - et à l'effort collectif de notre communauté - que le CIAS a non seulement perduré mais prospéré pendant près d'un siècle.

Pour l'avenir, nous nous engageons à transformer le CIAS en un centre de connaissances dynamique, une plateforme pour échanger des idées, briser les barrières invisibles qui séparent les groupes sociaux et

les individus, et inspirer des actions de collaboration pour construire une société plus juste et plus inclusive. Même en période d'incertitude, notre détermination à travailler ensemble pour le bien commun reste inébranlable.

J'ai le plaisir et le privilège de saluer la communauté de le CIAS à l'aube de ces fêtes de fin d'année. Je souhaite à chacun d'entre vous une nouvelle année heureuse, saine et épanouissante. Allons de l'avant ensemble avec détermination et optimisme.

Chaleureuses salutations,  
Sergei Zelenev,  
Président entrant de le CIAS

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### **Saludos de Año Nuevo del Presidente entrante del CIBS**

Estimados colegas,

Cuando termina un año y comienza otro, naturalmente reflexionamos sobre nuestros logros al tiempo que fijamos nuestra mirada en los retos y oportunidades que tenemos por delante. El Consejo Internacional del Bienestar Social ha sido durante mucho tiempo un lugar de encuentro para personas con ideas afines de todos los rincones del mundo, una comunidad unida por ideales y aspiraciones comunes.

A medida que nos adentramos en el nuevo año 2025, tengo la esperanza de que seguiremos honrando nuestra tradición de fomentar conexiones genuinas, luchar por un cambio positivo y aceptar perspectivas diversas. Al fin y al cabo, el progreso nace de la colaboración y de la voluntad de aprender unos de otros.

El gran poeta y pensador alemán Johann Wolfgang von Goethe observó acertadamente: «Las cosas que más importan nunca deben estar a merced de las cosas que menos importan». Esta visión atemporal nos recuerda la importancia de establecer nuestras prioridades con claridad y determinación.

Nuestra organización se construyó sobre el trabajo visionario de audaces pensadores y profesionales sociales que defendieron los valores de la equidad, la solidaridad y la dignidad humana. Gracias a su dedicación, y al esfuerzo colectivo de nuestra comunidad, el CIBS no sólo ha perdurado, sino que ha prosperado durante casi un siglo.

De cara al futuro, nos comprometemos a transformar el CIBS en un vibrante centro de

conocimiento, una plataforma para intercambiar ideas, derribar las barreras invisibles que separan a los grupos sociales y a las personas, e inspirar la acción colaborativa para construir una sociedad más justa e inclusiva. Incluso en tiempos de incertidumbre, nuestra determinación de trabajar juntos por el bien común se mantiene inquebrantable.

Es para mí un placer y un privilegio saludar a la comunidad del CIBS en estas fiestas. Les deseo a cada uno de ustedes un feliz, saludable y satisfactorio Año Nuevo. Avancemos juntos con determinación y optimismo.

Saludos cordiales,  
Sergei Zelenev,  
Presidente entrante del CIBS

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**Contributions to the newsletter are welcome!**