



N E ICSW S

International Council on Social Welfare

January 2020

President's Message

Moving into the 2020's



Eva Holmberg Herrström, President, ICSW

We are in 2020 and a new decade has arrived. This is more than shifting to a new year, ten years of the 3rd millennium are behind us.

But I will look forward. The start causes concern with the crisis in the Middle East and devastating fires in Australia. But there is hope. A strong movement to save the climate is growing, initiated by a Swedish teenager and spreading from country to country. The youth have entered the driving seat when we adults fail.

Fighting against overconsumption and profit orientation will be hard but necessary to have a sustainable future and social security. As ICSW, we must give this priority, nationally, regionally and globally.

2020 will be an active year for us. We have a World Conference in Italy in little more than 5 months. Let us gather there. Ahead of that we have our elections where we will elect a

new President and 9 Regional Presidents, of which 3 can not stand again.

The group has served us well, but we face a gender challenge with only 3 women and 9 men out of 12 if we include the Management Committee. A better balance is needed, and I urge you to take this seriously.

On another note I had in October the opportunity to visit our longstanding and active member organisation in Taiwan, celebrating its 50th anniversary. The visit formed part of an annual series of conferences and workshops on social welfare issues, this time on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, celebrating 30 years in existence. Despite not being able to ratify the Convention as non-UN member, it is actively implemented.



Joyce Young and Eva Holmberg Herrström

Also active ageing and regional cooperation are core areas for the National Council of Social Welfare Taiwan. I had the opportunity to discuss both with their President

Professor Joyce Young and other members. This interaction across the globe on social welfare and development is just what we as an organisation stand for. Small, but global, as we are. Let us unite our efforts in this fresh decade to continue and expand our work for human rights and social security in a sustainable world.

All the best to you all for 2020 and beyond.

United Nations at 75: Global reality check



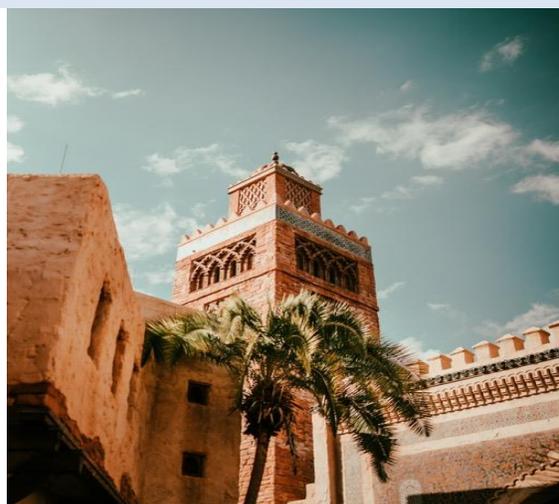
The United Nations celebrates its 75th anniversary this year and has launched a UN75 dialogue open for all. The intention is to have a «global reality check» by building a repository of crowd-sourced solutions to major global challenges.

A debate on national and international policies will be stimulated by a «One-minute Survey» (www.un.org/UN75), in addition to opinion polls in 50 countries and an analysis based on both traditional and social media in 70 countries.

The UN Secretary-General António Guterres stated when he called for participation that «No country, no community, is able to solve the complex problems of our world alone. We need to come together, not only to talk, but to listen».

Source: UN Press Release

Middle East and North Africa (MENA): Ongoing uprisings evidence of the need for discussion on social policy



unsplash/ Benjamin Suter

The MENA social policy network met in Cairo at the end of October for a conference focused on making sense of the social protection agenda in the region. A discussion on inequality, fairness, social mobility and social services are a must for both the stability and development. These topics are often neglected by academia involved in the Middle East.

A reshaping of a political situation based on sectarian identity to a concentration on issues of development and poverty alleviation is seen as a way forward. Social policy change must be managed in a time of social transformation, and social protection can be key to this path.

Source: MENA Social Policy Newsletter December 2019

Homelessness topic for the 58th Session of the UN Commission for Social Development



unsplash/CMDR Shane

With the priority theme «Affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness» the Commission is meeting in New York February 10-19.

ICSW will deliver a statement as always through our Representative to the UN in New York Sergei Zelenev. The ICSW statement http://www.icsw.org/images/docs/UN/2020/E_C_N5_2020_NGO_2_E.pdf describes homelessness as one of the most visible signs of human deprivation and social exclusion, affecting both well-being and human dignity.

The human rights dimensions of housing conditions should not be overlooked. The failure of both States and the international community to manage the interaction between financial actors and housing systems is a signal that the relationship must be transformed and bridges developed between the worlds of finance, housing and human rights. This work will be facilitated when social policy is comprehensive and conceived as an integral socio-economic mechanism.

Germany: What we expect of the German EU Council Presidency 2020



unsplash/ Ricardo Gomez Angel

ICSW member The German Association for Public and Private Welfare (Deutscher Verein für öffentliche und private Fürsorge e.V.) has released a position in advance of the German presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU) on July 1, 2020.

The position expresses the expectation that Germany will use its role to advocate for a social Europe and strengthen EU's social dimension by fully implementing the «European Pillar of Social Rights», develop a new EU gender equality strategy and initiate extension of the anti-discrimination rules.

The German association also calls for the national, regional and local interests as well as those of civil society to be broadly incorporated in the European policy making. This is seen as key to strengthen the acceptance of the European project among citizens in the future.

Latin America and Caribbean: Well-being and Sustainable Development



unsplash/ Michael Barón

OECD (The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) together with local partners, EU and the UN gathered for a conference in Colombia in October to look at measurements for the policy of well-being and sustainable development.

One of the messages from the conference is that there is a need to recognise that indicators of people's perceptions such as life satisfaction, trust, fears of crime and perceived discrimination are important information. We need to understand citizens' lived experiences to understand the recent protests and social unrest in the region.

With one of the highest informal employment rates in the world, the region sees how this impacts workers' economic security and quality of life. Also inequality aspects are especially important, including both gender and indigenous, minority and territorial status.

Source: OECD

Core UN Days in February



February 4: World Cancer Day

https://www.who.int/health-topics/cancer#tab=tab_1

February 6: International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Manipulation

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/female-genital-mutilation-day>

February 20: World Day of Social Justice

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



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 remember that the early registration deadline with the best prices is March 9.

More information on swesd2020.org

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Contributions to the newsletter
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