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## A Note From the Chair

I hope you all had a chance to have a break over the summer, as we face into the Autumn/Winter season ahead. That season will present many intense challenges, to social workers and for those with whom we work. Our national social work conference, on 21 October, will reflect on some of these key issues, specifically in the context of addressing inequalities and incorporating anti-poverty practice in our work. Given the range of practical and other difficulties that citizens face in our current local, national and global context, social work has never been more relevant in our world. I also want to highlight a number of other specific IASW actions in the pipeline. We will soon be launching our new Position Paper on Adult Safeguarding, which we will use as a basis for supporting social workers in their work and contributing our perspective to evolving legislation, policy and practice. The ongoing review of IASW's structure and governance will be completed in the coming weeks and the Board will be responding to any findings and recommendations arising from that review. Building on work undertaken earlier this year, we will continue to press for more positive and effective government action on social work and the issues we face. The IASW Advocacy Strategy, similarly informing our work in this respect, will also be available on our website.



Our 50th Anniversary celebration takes place on Thursday 20 October, the day before the national conference. As we look to the future, while reflecting on the past, I want to extend a warm IASW welcome to Lynsey Willis, who recently joined our staff team and is working (part-time) primarily on CPD event administration. Some of you may have already been in contact with Lynsey. If not, you most probably will, over the coming weeks and months. A warm welcome is also extended to Dr. Gloria Kirwan, who is taking over the role of editor of the *Irish Social Worker* journal. Gloria has a long history of IASW involvement and brings a wealth of practice knowledge, experience and scholarship to the journal role. And in welcoming Gloria, we also express our deep appreciation to Majella Hickey who steps down as Editor and Chair of the Irish Social Worker journal committee. In her years as Editor, Majella has given sterling service, working with the Journal Committee, external reviewers and of course contributors, to produce the journal annually, something which is very much appreciated by the IASW membership and indeed everyone concerned with the practice and study of social work in Ireland. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in person, at our events on 20 and 21 October, when we reflect as a profession on how best to refocus our energies, individually and collectively, and how to transform that reflection into action.



### **50th Anniversary Celebrations**

The Irish Association of Social Workers invites you to join in a celebration of our 50 years representing and supporting social workers, as we remember the past and look forward to the future. The celebrations will include: Speeches, Light refreshments and Catch Up's.

**Thursday, Oct 20, 2022**

**5:30-8:00pm.**

**The Ashling Hotel, Parkgate Street, Dublin 8**

**Share your IASW story by posting a tale on our Facebook or Twitter page.  
First 25 to post a story will receive a prize that will be distributed at our  
anniversary celebration.**

[\*\*Book your ticket\*\*](#)



### **IASW National Social Work Conference - October 21st**

As a profession that works across health, mental health, social care, child protection, criminal justice, local government sectors and across civil society as a whole, we witness every day the impact of policy and legislative decisions on the most vulnerable, disadvantaged and excluded. Without access to the most basic supports and services, many are denied the right to fully participate in society and to enjoy the protection and vindication of their human rights. Macro issues such as rapidly increasing energy prices, food insecurity, the climate crisis and the dearth of affordable, secure housing further

exacerbate these inequalities and push families, communities and individuals into poverty and exclusion.

**Visit the IASW twitter to find out how you can win two places to the conference!**

**Book your ticket**

## **Introducing our new Irish Social Worker Editor**

*Dr. Gloria Kirwan*

Gloria Kirwan is a longstanding member of the IASW and a former Treasurer of the Association. She is currently Senior Lecturer in the Graduate School of Healthcare Management at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI). For many years, Gloria worked in mental health services, community work, child and family services, and staff welfare services. She has also worked as a social work educator for over 20 years, mainly in Trinity College Dublin, with a shorter period in Maynooth University before her move to RCSI, where she now contributes to multidisciplinary healthcare education and research. Gloria has published on a range of topics, many of which address issues related to social justice and inclusion. She is also interested in the impact of technology on social work and is co-editor of the Routledge Handbook of Digital Social Work due for release in late 2022. Her experience includes the editorship of the Journal of Social Work Practice (Routledge), and Groupwork (Taylor & Francis). She has guest edited other journals also, including a special issue of the Irish Social Worker on Research and Analysis. Gloria believes the Irish Social Worker has a unique role in the social work landscape in Ireland where it provides a window into the practices and innovations that social workers across Ireland carry out every day. Gloria hopes to continue in the footsteps of previous editors of the journal in supporting social workers to share their work, and disseminate innovations and research in the field.



## **Call for Abstracts**



**THE IRISH SOCIAL WORKER JOURNAL** welcomes articles on all topics related to social work practice and research.

If you wish to propose an article please email a short Abstract to the Editor for consideration. Please submit your Abstract in a word document of 1 A4 page containing the following information:

1. Suggested title
2. Abstract (max 300 words) – outlining the topic and proposed focus of your article
3. Name of all authors with affiliations
4. Email address of corresponding author

Please send your Abstract via email to [journaleditor@iasw.ie](mailto:journaleditor@iasw.ie) and state 'Article Abstract' as your subject line.

For the possibility of inclusion in the Spring 2023 Issue, Abstracts must be received by **12 December 2022** and full articles by **31 January 2023**. Informal inquiries are welcome – if you wish to discuss



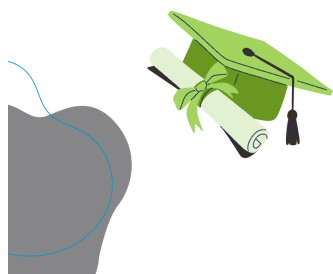
## Meet IASW's newest staff member

Lynsey Willis is our new Event Administrator, having worked at Brightwater Recruitment and Sandymount Hotel, Lynsey is no stranger to operating in a fast paced work environment. Lynsey will bring extensive experience in digital marketing and administration.

We're super excited to have Lynsey on board, she will have a hand in almost everything event related at IASW.



Congratulations  
to our  
2022 graduates



Congratulations to our Social Work Graduates of 2022, your hard work is over (for the moment 😊) but your journey in our wonderful profession is starting anew.

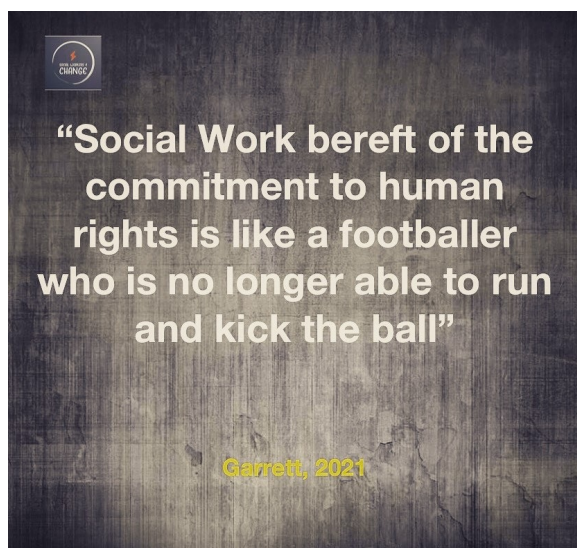
Tag us in your graduation photos on twitter for a chance to win a small prize.

Unfortunately this year we won't be putting out a 2022 journal. In lieu of this we will be sending all members a small gift close to Christmas.

Please make sure your **postal** address is up to date on your account.

[IASW Twitter](#)

[Log In](#)



## SWisHumanRights Campaign

On World Social Work Day #WSWD2022 (March 15th) we launched the #SWisHumanRights Campaign to have "Human Rights", a fundamental principle of Social Work, reinstated to the legally binding professional Code of Ethics and Conduct which governs our profession.

CORU Ireland removed all references to "Human Rights" from the updated Social Work Code in 2019. CORU gave no indication in the 2019 review consultation process that references to #HumanRights were to be removed from the code, nor has any explanation been given for its removal.

The forward to CORU's original 2011 code states "Social Work is a profession based on principles of Human-Rights and Social Justice" There are 6 further separate references to 'Human-Rights' in the 2011

Code, highlighting its fundamental nature to the profession of Social Work.

Social Work is based on the values & principles of #HumanRights & #SocialJustice. The IFSW Global Definition of Social Work, echoed by IASW notes "Principles of social justice, human rights, collective

responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work”.

In a global landscape of increasing inequality, worsening climate crisis, conflict & Covid19 the Irish Human Rights & Equality Commission maintain “it is more important than ever that we adhere to clear human rights and equality values in our deliberations and decision-making”.

The removal of ‘Human Rights’ from CORU’s Social Work Code has implications for how we, as Social Workers, individually and collectively, understand, frame and practice our profession, which we understand, at its heart, encompasses a fundamental commitment to ‘Human Rights’.

As Social Workers we aim to work democratically, in partnership and co-operatively, facilitating, advocating, and challenging. We now have a duty to challenge the removal of ‘Human Rights’ from the Code governing our profession, and a responsibility to ensure it is reinstated.

We ask all Social Workers and our allies to please support this campaign. CORU Ireland needs to heed the collective concern we feel about this “Social Work bereft of the commitment to human rights is like a footballer who is no longer able to run and kick the ball”(Garrett, 2021).

Our first ask of you is to please sign this petition linked below

Our second ask is to please make some noise! Tweet about the campaign using the hashtag #SWisHumanRights. Write to CORU Ireland at [info@coru.ie](mailto:info@coru.ie) asking that references to #HumanRights from the 2011 code be reinstated. Opposition to its removal is an important stance for social workers to take.

Our third (and final for now!) ask of you is to sign up to our mailing list for updates on the campaign and to get involved. Let us know if you have any suggestions for campaign actions. Just email [SWs4Change@gmail.com](mailto:SWs4Change@gmail.com) Follow our Twitter and Instagram accounts @SWs4Change too and say hello!

[Sign the Petition](#)

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## Have You Considered Practice Teaching?

Practice teaching is a dynamic learning experience and a great way to accrue CPD. It will enable you to keep up to date with the latest practice developments and further enhance your Supervision experience. Social work students bring many skills and new perspectives, and are ready to make a positive contribution to social work practice with your guidance. Practice placements are an integral part of social work education.

We would love to hear from CORU registered social workers nationally, 2 years post qualification, if you are interested in practice teaching in 2022/23.

Contact details of HEI'S:

- ATU Sligo: [Feeney.brenda@itsligo.ie](mailto:Feeney.brenda@itsligo.ie)
- Maynooth University: [Breda.odriscoll@mu.ie](mailto:Breda.odriscoll@mu.ie), [Brian.Melaugh@mu.ie](mailto:Brian.Melaugh@mu.ie)
- University of Galway: [Eleanor.kelly@nuigalway.ie](mailto:Eleanor.kelly@nuigalway.ie)
- Trinity College Dublin: [erna.oconnor@tcd.ie](mailto:erna.oconnor@tcd.ie), [swhiting@tcd.ie](mailto:swhiting@tcd.ie)
- University College Cork: [joanne.rose@ucc.ie](mailto:joanne.rose@ucc.ie)
- University College Dublin: [paula.slavin@ucd.ie](mailto:paula.slavin@ucd.ie)





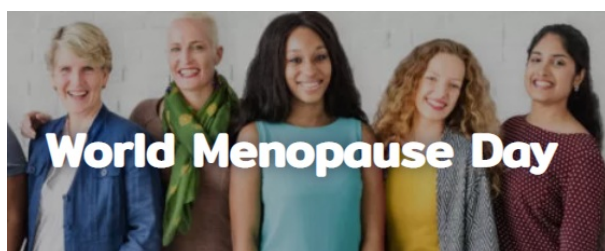
The IASW were invited to take part in the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth on the issues in Foster Care on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September. The Association were represented by IASW members, Dr. Valerie O'Brien, Chair of the IASW Special Interest Group on Foster Care and Aine McGuirk, Fostering Social Worker.

A copy of our opening statement is available to download below.

The Board of Directors would like to thank IASW members Dr. Valerie O'Brien, Aine McGuirk and Vivian Geiran for all of their hard work on this important presentation.

[Watch back here](#)

[Opening statement](#)



World Menopause Day is held every year on the 18th October. The day was designated by the International Menopause Society (IMS) to raise awareness of the menopause and to support options to improve health and well-being for women in mid-life and beyond. We encourage professionals and women to participate in this global awareness raising campaign by printing and sharing materials, organising events to engage their communities, and sharing World Menopause Day social media posts.

The White Paper will be published in the October 2022 issue of Climacteric with permanent free access:

**[Read More Here!](#)**

Click below to download the complimentary World Menopause Day e-book

[Download Here](#)



SVP offer assistance including food and fuel vouchers. They may be able to give some help towards the cost of essential household items, such as food, clothing, heating or other household bills either once off or for a short period of time. They could help towards the costs of education. They can offer information or advice on other services or entitlements which can provide on-going or longer term assistance. Find out more information below

[Visit SVP](#)



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