



# IASW Newsletter December 2022



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## A Note From the Chair

In this, our final newsletter of 2022, I wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year and hope you get to spend time with loved ones over the upcoming holiday period. The past twelve months, as always, have been very busy and productive for the Association. Our membership numbers have continued to grow steadily, which is great, and as we come to the year's end, I extend a warm welcome to all our new members in particular. I also want to thank our Board, Council, SIGs, Committees, and members of various groups, as well as our fantastic staff team, for all their dedicated work in 2022. Since our previous newsletter, a range of events have been held as part of our ongoing and extensive CPD programme. Our 50th anniversary celebration and national social work conference, on 20 and 21 October respectively, gave us an opportunity to reflect on some of the key issues facing social work, past, present and future. We launched our new Position Paper on Adult Safeguarding at our IASW event on National Adult Safeguarding Day, Friday 11 November, which was a great success, including as it did a really positive input from Minister of State Anne Rabbitte TD, along with the other excellent inputs. On 25 November, we launched the Position Paper on Adult Mental Health and Housing, prepared under the auspices of our SWAMH Special Interest Group, at the SWAMH annual conference, again with a range of high-quality inputs.



The review of IASW's structure and governance is currently being completed with the IASW Board due to consider the review findings and recommendations at a special Board meeting this month. I look forward to receiving the review report and to actioning its findings in cooperation with the Board, staff team, our SIGs, committees and associate groups. Also this month, we will launch a campaign to press for a greater strategic focus by government on the serious issues facing social work, and specifically to address the challenges of attracting more people to the profession, as well as addressing the recruitment and retention problems in the sector. It is great to be finishing the current year on a high in terms of energy and activity, and looking forward to continuing our work as the strong, ethical and independent voice of social work and social workers in Ireland. That voice is further strengthened by our connections with colleagues in other jurisdictions. I had the honour and privilege recently of meeting the President of the fledgling Ukrainian National Association of Social Workers – Yana Melnychuk –and learning directly about the challenges she and her colleagues face. Early in the New Year, we will be announcing details of an exciting new and reciprocal associate membership scheme with our BASW-NI colleagues. Additionally, in the past few weeks we have launched our IASW LinkedIn page, which will be another IASW presence on social media and way of connecting with

members, colleagues and other partners. I encourage you to connect with us through LinkedIn and our other social media channels. As 2022 draws to a close, I look forward to working with you all, in the days, weeks and months ahead, to represent the social work profession and social workers – stronger together for social change.

**Vivian Geiran, IASW Chair, SW00319**

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## Accelerating Inequalities, Impossible Choices: Exploring Anti-Poverty Practice in Social Work



This year's IASW National Social Work Conference 2022 Accelerating Inequalities, Impossible Choices: Exploring Anti-Poverty Practice in Social Work put the focus firmly on poverty. Poverty has recently been described as the wallpaper of practice, "too big to tackle and too familiar to notice" (Morris et al 2018) and in the context of the growing cost of living crisis, it's crucial that our social work practice sees and names poverty and its impacts on those we work with. Activists from ATD Ireland set the tone for the day, providing insight and reflections on their experiences of living in poverty as well as sharing learning with conference participants. See below for an article by ATD on the conference as well as their campaign to have socio-economic discrimination recognised as the 10<sup>th</sup> ground of discrimination in Irish equality legislation. As the first in person IASW conference since 2019, there was great energy as members, guests and invited speakers gathered to listen, share and reflect on ways of embedding anti-poverty practice into the work we do. You can find copies of the conference presentations on the event page below.

[ATD Article](#)

[Past Event Page](#)



# 50 Years Tells A Story... IASW Celebrates 50 Years

The celebration of 50 years of IASW on October 20th in the Ashling Hotel provided a welcome opportunity for social workers to gather, reminisce and reflect on the important role social work has played in Irish society. Many retired colleagues attended, while there was strong representation from the current generation of social work practitioners and leaders. It was especially positive to see the presence of many student social workers, the future leaders and guardians of our profession, at the event.

Retired social worker Augusta McCabe, a hugely influential figure in the formation and development of IASW spoke, sharing her rich experience of the impact of Irish social workers at national and international level. She reminded attendees that the same values which drove the foundation of IASW remain as important and relevant today. Chair of the IASW Vivian Geiran spoke of the positive work and clear vision of the Association as it faces contemporary challenges, while Sinéad McGarry reflected on the importance of a strong national social work voice now and in the future. Speeches were followed by a welcome opportunity for social workers to connect. Many thanks to our wonderful IASW staff and volunteer team who delivered such a wonderful event.



**BASW**  
Northern Ireland  
The professional association for  
social work and social workers

 **IASW**  
Irish Association of  
Social Workers

**BASW NI Associate Membership  
Scheme**

**Deadline for  
Articles**

**Irish Social Worker Journal  
2023**

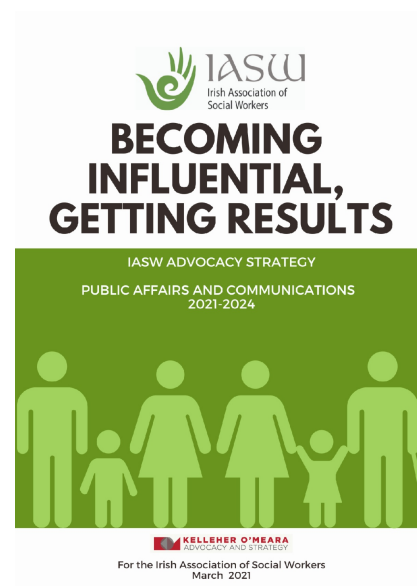
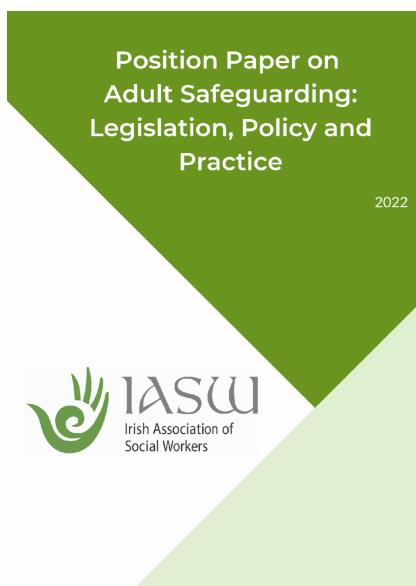
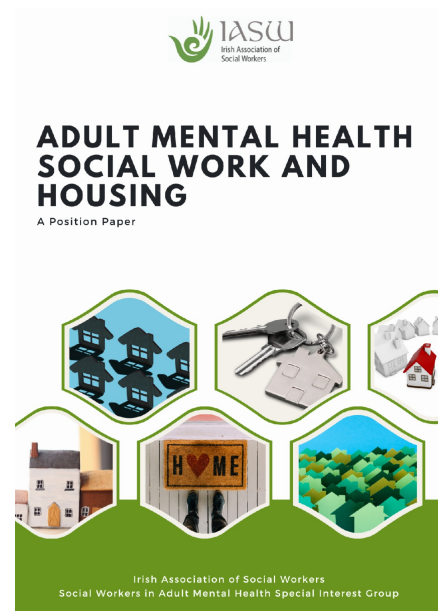
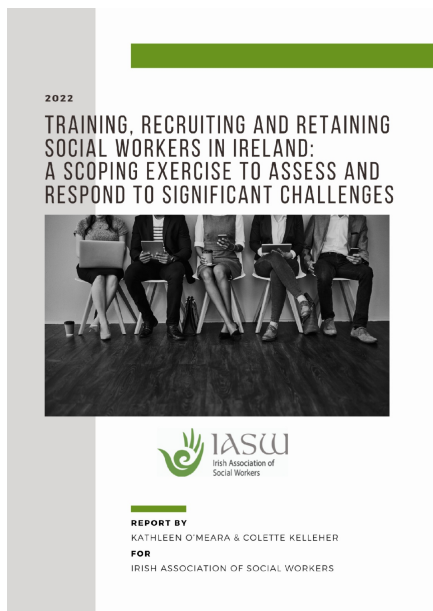
Keep an eye out for more information coming soon on our BASW NI Associate Membership Scheme which is due to launch in early 2023. In the meantime you can listen back to the conversation that IASW Chair Vivian Geiran had with BASW NI's Andy McClenaghan in November discussing the challenges and opportunities facing the profession in Ireland.

**Let's Talk Social Work**

Gentle reminder that the deadline for article submission for the 2023 journal is January 31st 2023. We are hoping to put out our journal in late Spring. Please ensure that your addresses are up to date on your member profile to ensure that you receive your copy.

**Author Guidelines**

## Click on the images below to download our recent publications





You will be happy to know that IASW membership fees have not increased for 2023. Please see membership rates below and contact the office if your membership type needs to be adjusted.

[Renewals](#)



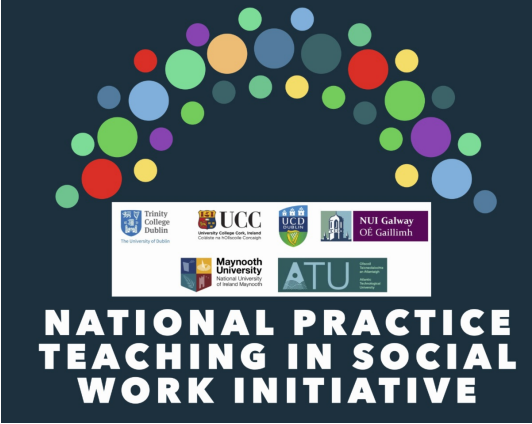
The IASW staff and office team will be taking a break over the winter holidays. The office will be closed from Friday December 23rd until Tuesday January 3rd.



We have recently set up our LinkedIn Profile. We would encourage our members to connect with us on this channel. Follow the link below

[LinkedIn](#)

The NPTSWI is a collaboration of HEIs providing social work education in Ireland funded by the DCEDIY. We are pleased to announce the creation of a bespoke website for practice teachers. [Here](#)  
On 02/03/23 we are hosting an in-person conference in UCC "**Educating together for practice teaching in social work in the 21st Century**".  
This conference is a culmination of a series of CPD events hosted by The National Practice Teaching in Social Work Initiative (NPTSWI) in collaboration with the IASW. Register early as this conference is filling up fast! [NPTSWI Conference registration](#)



[NPTSWI Conference registration](#)

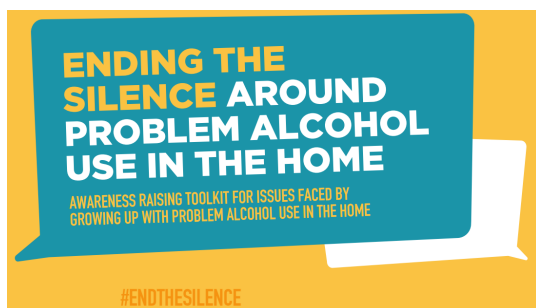
HAVE A WONDERFUL  
**CHRISTMAS**

Wishing you and yours a  
wonderful Christmas and a  
Happy New Year.

In lieu of a gift we  
made a donation to

**The Irish Association  
of Social Workers**

**SVP**  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul



Alcohol Action Ireland has produced an interactive resource toolkit for children, adults and professionals dealing with problem alcohol use in the home. Please pass along to anyone you might think is interested or would find it useful. There's a huge amount of resources contained within it as we know that different people find different approaches useful when it comes to understanding this issue or indeed dealing with it themselves.

[Resource Toolkit](#)



Reinstate 'Human Rights' into the CORU Social Work Code of Professional Conduct & Ethics. CORU is the regulatory body for Social Work in Ireland, to which all Social Workers in Ireland are required to be registered.

Sign the petition below!  
**@SWs4Change**

[Sign Here](#)

The Insolvency Service of Ireland (ISI) is the independent statutory body set up to help tackle personal debt problems. The ISI has a range of debt solutions for every situation, and a regulated network of qualified professionals to provide people with debt advice and to work with creditors on their behalf to work out a solution.

Insolvency Service of Ireland

# Tackling problem debt, together

It is an unfortunate reality that, as a Social Worker, you are likely to be approached by people with unmanageable levels of debt asking for your advice and assistance. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to provide you a summary of the solutions the ISI offers and testimonials from some of the customers we have helped to date.

All of the debt solutions overseen by the ISI are designed to get a person back on track financially, keeping them in their home where possible. At the end of the process, the person will be solvent again and can start planning their future.

The ISI operates an information line at 01 764 4200. We also have a facility whereby a person can free text GETHELP to 50015 and a staff member will call them back to discuss the solutions we offer. Information is also available on our debtor-focused website [www.backontrack.ie](http://www.backontrack.ie).

If you would like to receive copies of our series of booklets, you can email [outreach@isi.gov.ie](mailto:outreach@isi.gov.ie) or contact our information line and we will gladly arrange to send them to you.

## Solutions and Testimonials

In November the IFSW announced the theme for World Social Work Day 2023. The theme, 'Respecting diversity through joint social action' follows on from our work in co-developing the **People's Charter for a New Eco Social World** which recognises that change happens locally through diverse leaderful communities. #WSWD2023 provides an opportunity to acknowledge how communities can make powerful actions that lead to inclusive social transformation and the social work role in working with communities in this journey. We will be holding an event on the day more details below

[Date for Your Diary](#)

CORU are currently contacting professional bodies across the UK and Ireland as CORU would like to invite applications from suitably qualified individuals interested in becoming a member of the Panel of Assessors. They are seeking professional practitioners and educators.

[Read More](#)



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