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## A Note From the Chair

Dear colleagues and friends, the current year to date has been busy for IASW and the remainder of 2023 looks like being as busy and productive as ever. Since receiving the report of the IASW Governance and Structures Review in January, much energy and effort from our staff team, Board and others, has gone into taking forward the actions arising from the Review. One significant step was the EGM held on 22 March, which resulted in approval by our membership to implement constitutional and other changes that will result in IASW being even better-placed to achieve the highest governance standards. I want to pay tribute again to Senan Turnbull, independent consultant, and all the members of our 'in-house' working group, who partnered with Senan and worked so hard to produce the Governance Review Report. That report, and how well we follow up on its recommendations, will stand to us as an organisation for the future. I also thank all those involved to date in actioning the Report's recommendations, as well as those who will be involved in elements of that implementation in the weeks and months ahead. Our upcoming AGM for 2023, scheduled to be held online at 5:00pm on Wednesday 31 May, as always, will be a significant point in our annual calendar of events and I encourage as many of you as possible to attend the AGM.



As always, the IASW Board, Council Groups and staff team are focused on following up and progressing on our various strategic priorities, including advocacy issues and campaigns impacting social work and those with whom we work, as well as delivering our important services to members. At the end of last year, we published our Report on Training, Recruitment and Retention of Social Workers in Ireland. Since then, we have been following up on the report's findings and have been making good progress on a number of relevant issues. One critical – and even 'existential' – issue for social work is that we are not producing nearly enough social work graduates to even 'stand still' in terms of recruitment needs and workforce planning in Ireland. There are also many other associated challenges that need to be addressed, with no single body having all the solutions. The only way forward is through coming together to address issues collaboratively; and IASW has a vital role in this. With senior leaders in key organisations employing social workers, I have been working as part of a Social Work Employers Forum. More recently, that Forum has met and had very positive engagement with representatives of the Social Work Education and Practice Teaching (SWEPT) group, with key representatives of all six universities running social work programmes. We plan to continue to work together to find practical solutions to the needs and problems identified, and will keep you informed

of developments.

Finally, for now, I want to welcome our new associate members from BASW-NI. The Associate Membership scheme was launched earlier this year and allows members of both IASW and BASW-NI to join their sister associations as associate members, opening the door to a range of additional benefits, resources and opportunities for both groups. If you have not done so already, I would encourage you to consider the Associate Membership Scheme.

**Vivian Geiran, IASW Chair, SW00319**


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## IASW EGM

The IASW held a virtual Extraordinary General Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> of March to alter the current Rules & Byelaws and the Constitution of the Company. Both resolutions put forward by the Board of the Directors were successfully adopted by the members at the EGM.

Following approval of the Constitution by the Companies Registration Office (CRO), the new Constitution will be available to download via the link below within the next fortnight:

The Rules & Byelaws will be replaced by a series of policy and bye-law document(s), these will be adopted at the single item agenda Board meeting in the next month, some of these documents will also be available to download from the website over the coming weeks.



IRISH ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS  
**EXTRAORDINARY  
GENERAL  
MEETING  
22ND MARCH 2023**

[EGM Documents](#)

### IASW & BASW NI Associate Membership



IASW members can now join BASW NI as associate members to be part of an all-island social work profession



#### BASW NI Associate Membership

In February we launched our Associate Membership with BASW NI. We've had a great response so far. You can read more about the benefits of joining BASW below.

**We are stronger together to deliver social change!**

[Join BASW NI now](#)



#### Date for the Diary

IASW Annual General Meeting  
31<sup>st</sup> May @ 5pm via Zoom

Further information will be available in the coming weeks:

[IASW AGM](#)

# JOIN AN IASW SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP



## Reasons to Join

- Membership of this group will help you meet the daily challenges facing Social Workers
- Personal Benefits: Looks good on your CV, provides networking opportunities, interact with fellow social workers who have similar interests, etc.
- Gives you the opportunity to represent the voice of Social Work in Ireland on behalf of the IASW at events, working groups, committee meetings & more.
- Provides an opportunity to earn CPD credits
- Allows you to stay up to date with the latest news and developments in the profession
- Provides you with an opportunity to get essential advice and guidance to support you and your clients



## Special Interest Groups

- Primary Care
- Aging
- Child & Family
- Adult Mental Health
- Disability
- Adult Safeguarding
- Head Medical Social Work
- Southern Region
- Foster Care

## Member Testimonial

I have always been attracted to new areas of practice in social work. From starting in primary care in the early days of its inception in Ireland to SW in integrated care, I have found the support, guidance, growth and learning experienced through IASW special interest group membership invaluable. Being an IASW member makes you feel part of something bigger. As a SW, I have felt less alone in my work. I have felt connected to a community of support

-Patrice Reilly

**For more information and to join a group email: [administrator@iasw.ie](mailto:administrator@iasw.ie)**



Regulating Health +  
Social Care Professionals

## Reminder

Under section 5 social workers are obliged to comply with obligations regarding registration. Specifically, we would like to remind social workers that they must:

- Practise in the name(s) under which you are registered and always use your CORU registration number when representing yourself as a registered Social Worker
- Include your CORU registration number in all certificates, reports or other formal documents for which you are responsible, and in any information that you publish about your practice or services
- If you change your name, address or employment, notify the Registration Board concerned, as soon as is practicable.

### SWRB Code

## Tax Relief

CORU-registered professionals may claim tax relief (at 20%) against the CORU annual retention fee where there is a statutory requirement for registration with CORU. This does not apply when a register is still open for grandparenting and whilst the relevant title is not protected.

### Tax Relief



View new resources and recording of "Educating together for practice teaching in social work in the 21<sup>st</sup> century" conference on the NPTSWI website □ <https://www.ucc.ie/en/nptswi/> . The National Practice Teaching in Social Work Initiative (NPTSWI) is a collaboration of the six social work education providers in Ireland (University College Cork, University of Galway, Trinity College Dublin, University College Dublin, Maynooth University & Atlantic Technological University). It is supported by the Irish Association of Social Workers and funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration, and Youth (DCEDIY).

Visit our Website



**National Office for Human  
Rights and Equality Policy**

Did you know that the **HSE National Office for Human Rights and Equality Policy Team** created a web page that aims to present information and resources relevant to the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015 to help healthcare workers implement the Act in their work. By following the links below you can access the webpage and also join the ADM mailing list.



Every child has the right to grow up in a family and a community. That is why the IASW have endorsed the Put Children First: End Orphanage Care campaign's call for family and community-based care for every child. Institutional care is harmful to children and orphanage volunteering increases this harm. Please support #EndOrphanageCare and sign the pledge not to visit or volunteer in orphanages

[Sign the Pledge](#)

### Good oral habits are an important part of everyone's day

Oral Health is an essential part of our overall health and wellbeing from birth into old age, and is linked to diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and obesity.

It allows us to speak, smile, touch, chew, laugh, taste, and swallow and increases our self-esteem and confidence.

Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease affecting children, it is about five times more common than asthma. Children are at risk of tooth decay as soon as their first tooth appears.

It is diet-related and caused by sugar reacting with bacteria in dental plaque to produce acid which damages the tooth. This may result in pain, infection (abscess), and tooth loss and may affect a person's quality of life, nutrition, growth, school/daily life and socialising.

The important thing to be aware of is that tooth decay is preventable. The Dental Health Foundation empowers the public and profession through evidence-informed advice. We design and develop oral health resources for all age groups, which are free to order from our website.

[Visit the Website](#)



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