



## A Note from our COO, Caroline Strong

With 2024 drawing to a close I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and prosperous New year. It is an opportune time to highlight the work that has taken place and is on going within the IASW in 2024 and on into 2025.



The IASW membership continues to grow and we will continue to encourage new membership and growth in 2025. Engagements in 2024 involving both member referrals and non-members attendance at events have certainly helped to increase the membership. The IASW team are consistently looking for ways to advertise and promote membership. The more people who join the stronger the voice of the association.

All members received their copy of this year's IASW Open Access Practice and Research Journal in recent days. Thank you to all contributors to this. It is a wonderful way to share ideas, ask questions, seek action and encourage further enquiry. A huge thank you to Katie in the office for her coordination in the production and packing of the 1,800 copies that went off in the post!

Following the governance review carried out in 2022, policy refinement, development of new policies, terms of reference and board guidelines have all been reviewed. The IASW Board have completed and implemented the recommendations of that review. A significant body of work was carried out by the Secretary of the Board Danielle McGoldrick. The IASW continues to adapt and improve the inner workings of the Association.

Work and collaboration continues through the IASW Special Interest Group Network. The input of the SIG network cannot be underestimated, nor can I thank them enough for their selfless volunteering. They are an essential cog in the workings of the IASW. Notably, in October this year, a series of Town Hall meetings were held online to hear

the views of IASW member and non-member Social Workers on their concerns and suggestions in relation to the Tusla Integrated Reform Programme. The IASW have requested a meeting with Tusla to discuss the themes emerging and present suggestions coming from the Town Halls.

The IASW also supported a submission to the Department of the Taoiseach on the Crisis in Family and Residential Care Placements resulting in meetings with the DECDIY, the HSE (Youth Mental Health and the Chief Social Worker on behalf of Bernard Gloucester) and in the coming weeks. These engagements and meetings are core to the ongoing representation the IASW carries out on behalf of members. We aim to work with the policy makers and government agencies for positive changes to how we work and ultimately for positive outcomes for those accessing Social Work services.

In October the IASW published a *Competency Framework for Social Work in Acquired Brain Injury. Working with Adults with Acquired Brain injury Including Stroke*. This can be found on [our website](#) and is an invaluable resource for any Social Worker working with adults they may have concerns about.

CPD planning for 2025 is ongoing and many of the SIG chairs will have met with and spoken to Cliona Murphy about their plans for the coming year. It is an essential part of the work of the IASW to keep abreast of emerging trends and themes in Social Work to support the member to learn and develop at a pace appropriate to themselves. The SIG Network will meet in December to plan their main aims and focus for 2025.

Those who attended the National Conference in Portlaoise in November will appreciate the great programme put together. The feedback was resoundingly positive and those that attended left feeling enriched and uplifted, and most importantly as one participant said- reminded of why they chose Social Work in the first place!

Finally, on a personal note, I would like to thank the team in the IASW, The Board of Directors the many SIG members, wider members and stakeholders that I have met in the last three months. I have received such a warm and positive welcome to the IASW and I look forward to building relationships and continuing to build on the fantastic work already under way.

Merry Christmas,

**Caroline Strong**  
Chief Operations Officer

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## Membership Fee Changes for 2025

We're so grateful to have you as part of our community. Thank you for your ongoing support and trust in us—it truly means the world.

We want to let you know about a small change to three of our membership rates this year. To help cover an increase in our Fitness to Practise insurance coverage premium, the rates for **Full, Part-Time, and First-Year Post Qualify Memberships will increase by €5.**

Last year, we absorbed the entire premium increase to shield our members from the added cost. This year, we're making this modest adjustment while ensuring that all other membership rates remain the same.

We know changes like this aren't always easy, and we deeply appreciate your understanding. Your membership makes all that we do possible, and we remain committed to providing you with the best experience every step of the way.

If you have any questions, we're here to help. Thank you again for being such an important part of our community.

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## IASW CPD Update

This autumn brought many sold out CPD courses and skills workshops to IASW members and the social work profession. CPD opportunities address members' CPD needs informed by the SIGs, the 2023 CPD survey and analysis of the wider legislative, policy and professional practice contexts. A number of events were interdisciplinary and co-hosted with professional development co-ordinators in the HSCPs.

The highlight of the season was undoubtedly the National Social Work Conference **Human Rights, Social Work Responsibilities: Challenging Inequality, Injustice and Discrimination**. We heard keynote addresses from Jung Rin Kim of the UN OHCHR, Kathleen Lynch of IHREC and UCD and Caoimhe Gleeson, General Manager for the National Office for Human Rights and Equality Policy in the HSE. Workshops on the day provided the opportunity for participants to share learning on how social work is developing professional practice and knowledge across a range of areas, consolidating our skills and knowledge as well as highlighting next steps. It was a unique opportunity to focus on the professional qualities we bring to our work and to reflect together on the values underpinning our profession. Of course, there was plenty of chat and networking as new connections were made and old ones refreshed. A huge thank you to all the members that took part in shaping the day and who so generously provided their time, expertise and critical thinking to the development of our profession and Association.

The new year will start with a number of webinars on CPD and the Requirements of Registration to support your engagement in professional development and to update you on CORU's shift to an online audit system. A new CPD Committee has formed and will be working with me to provide you with additional supports and resources in the member only CPD section at [www.iasw.ie](http://www.iasw.ie) in 2025. And of course, I will continue to support our SIGs to develop responses to our members CPD needs throughout the year.

**Clíona Murphy**  
Professional Development Coordinator



From the IASW National Social Conference, on the Right (left to right) is Jung Rin Kim of the UN OHCHR, Kathleen Lynch of IHREC & Vivian Geiran Chair of the IASW.

## 2025 Irish Social Worker Abstract & Book Review Call

With the 2024 journal having landed in your post boxes, the Journal Committee invites submissions for publication in the Irish Social Worker journal, 2025! We are looking for original research papers, literature reviews, practice innovations, practice tools, book reviews, critical commentaries, policy analysis, updates on legislation, just to name a few!



Have an idea? **Contact us!** Please submit the following by 31 January 2025:

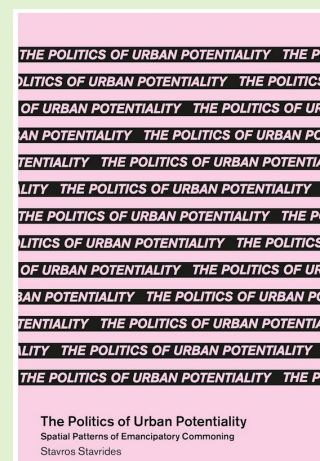
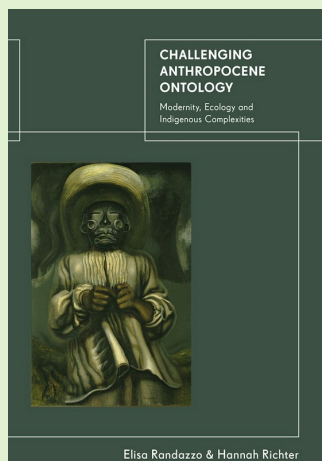
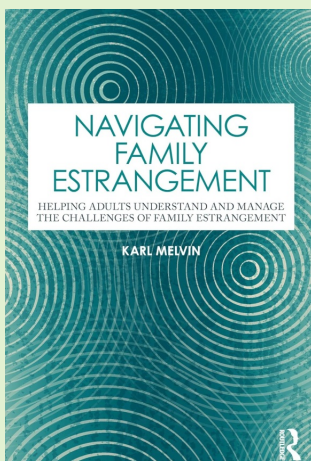
- 300-word abstract
- list of authors & affiliations
- Short bio for each author

Please send your submissions to [journaleditor@iasw.ie](mailto:journaleditor@iasw.ie) & [administrator@iasw.ie](mailto:administrator@iasw.ie)

The Irish Social Worker Journal is currently accepting book reviews of popular, trendy, non-fiction books published recently. The Irish Social Worker journal provides a venue for academics, and practitioners to publish current and significant research as well as other publication activities, such as book reviews.

As an added bonus, reading professional publications relevant to your work is also a way to accrue CPD credits.

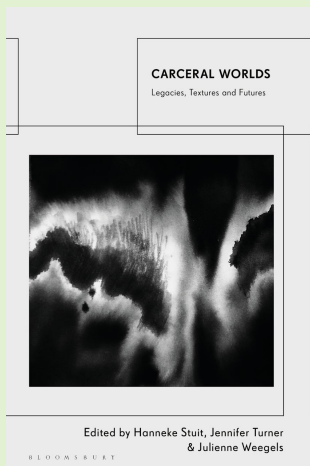
The following books are available for review on a first come, first served basis:



***Navigating Family Estrangement: Helping Adults Understand and Manage the Challenges of Family Estrangement***

By Karl Melvin

This practical guide looks at how to effectively help estranged adults achieve better outcomes from a variety of perspectives. The author explores the difficulties of working with estrangement, including professional roadblocks such as the six biases that prevent connecting with a client's experience. Combining research from a range of different fields with the author's decade of clinical experience, the book is supplemented with five comprehensive case studies to demonstrate the practical strategies that address estrangement challenges.



***Carceral Worlds: Legacies, Textures and Futures***

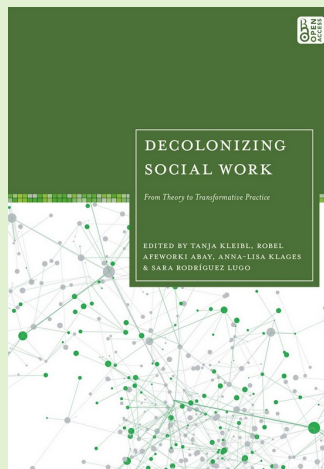
Edited by Hanneke Stuit, Jennifer Turner & Julienne Weegels

Focuses on carceral practices, experiences and imaginaries that reach far beyond traditional spaces

***Challenging Anthropocene Ontology: Modernity, Ecology and Indigenous Complexities***

By Elisa Randazzo & Hannah Richter

This book problematises the depoliticising character of Western Anthropocene discourses in relation to indigenous ecologies. Drawing on Critical Indigenous Studies, the authors reveal how the anti-colonial struggles of Indigenous communities, the unequal distribution of responsibilities for and suffering from ecological change and the continuation of political and economic power structures from the Holocene, are concealed and devalued in Western discourses of the Anthropocene.



***Decolonizing Social Work From Theory to Transformative Practice***

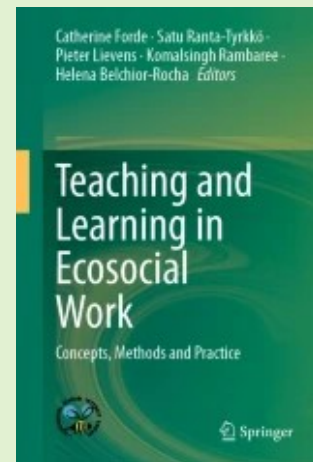
Edited by Tanja Kleibl, Robel Afeworki Abay, Anna-Lisa Klages & Sara Rodríguez Lugo

This collection offers a geographically diverse

***The Politics of Urban Potentiality: Spatial Patterns of Emancipatory Commoning***

By Stavros Stavrides

Leading social theorist Stavros Stavrides builds on a wide range of classic and historical thought on the urban question and social transformation. Drawing from research on Latin American urban movements, from activist participation in urban struggles in Greece, and from citizen initiatives developed in Europe, the book expands the discussion on the potentialities of urban commoning to demonstrate how an emancipatory urban future may be achieved.



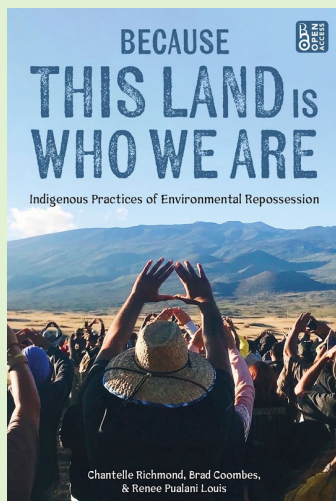
***Teaching and Learning in Ecosocial Work Concepts, Methods and Practice***

Edited by Catherine Forde, Satu Ranta-Tyrkkö, Pieter Lievens, Komalsingh Rambaree, Helena Belchior-Rocha

of confinement. It shows the lasting effects of colonial carceral heritage, the influence of prison systems on city management, and the entrapping nature of digital infrastructures. It also discusses new urbanized forms of migrant detention, the relation between prisons and homelessness, the use of carceral metaphors in the everyday, and the carceral implications of the uneven distribution of climate risk across the globe.

array ambitious and insightful theoretical, conceptual, and practical discussions of how social work can perpetuate the afterlives of colonialism and of how this can be reversed. In so doing, this book not only provides in-depth, empirically grounded critiques of and antidotes to various policies for managing people at the margins of society, it also makes a compelling case for always keeping the complexity of colonial continuity in conversation with neoliberal systems of governance.

This book aims to champion teaching and learning of ecosocial work in educational institutions which offer social work and related programmes. It is the first book to focus specifically on teaching and learning in ecosocial work and one of the first to incorporate student perspectives on and initiatives in ecosocial work teaching, learning and practice. Ecosocial work is an evolving framework to learn about and practice social work from the premise that humans are part of the web of life on Earth.



***Because This Land is Who We Are:  
Indigenous Practices of Environmental  
Repossession***

By Chantelle Richmond, Brad  
Coombes & Renee Pualani Louis

An exploration of environmental repossession, told through a collaborative case study approach, and engaging with Indigenous communities in Canada (Anishinaabe), Hawai'i (Kanaka Maoli) and Aotearoa (Maori).



Have a book in mind you've been waiting to read?

Just finished a book that you'd like to review?

Let us know!

Contact [administrator@iasw.ie](mailto:administrator@iasw.ie)

IASW Special Interest group of Social Workers working in Disability (SWID) welcomes Ireland's recent accession to the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). This is a significant development with several implications for people with disabilities and the role of social workers working with persons with disabilities.

### Benefits for People with Disabilities:

- **Enhanced Accountability:** The Optional Protocol allows individuals or groups to bring complaints about rights violations to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, after exhausting domestic remedies. This adds an extra layer of accountability and ensures that rights are more stringently upheld.
- **Systemic Change:** The Committee can conduct inquiries into grave or systemic violations, leading to recommendations for systemic improvements. This can drive broader changes in policies and practices affecting people with disabilities.
- **International Oversight:** The involvement of an international body of experts provides an additional safeguard for the rights of people with disabilities, ensuring that Ireland's commitments under the UNCRPD are met

### Role of Social Workers:

- **Advocacy:** Social workers can play a crucial role in advocating for the rights of people with disabilities, both individually and systemically, utilising the mechanisms provided by the Optional Protocol.
- **Support:** They can assist individuals in navigating the complaints process, ensuring that they have access to the necessary information and resources to bring forward their cases.
- **Education:** Social workers can educate people with disabilities about their rights under the UNCRPD and the Optional Protocol, empowering them to advocate for themselves.
- **Policy Influence:** By identifying patterns in rights violations, social workers can contribute to policy discussions and development, aiming to prevent future violations and improve services and supports.

Overall, SWID believes the accession to the Optional Protocol strengthens the framework for protecting the rights of people with disabilities in Ireland. Social Workers have a pivotal role in supporting and advocating for these rights.

On this International Day of Persons with Disabilities we recognise the right of all people to live in an inclusive and fair society where everyone is valued equally

Richie Wallace & Catherine Rafter  
Social Workers in Disability (SWID) Special Interest Group

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## Update from ARAG - Anti-Racism Opportunities

ARAG is delighted to announce its Annual General Meeting (AGM) and conference on 24th of Jan 2025. The theme of the ARAG AGM will be 'Safeguarding Ethnic Minorities Against Racial Profiling and Targeting'. An amazing lineup of speakers are invited to address the conference. [Learn more and register here.](#)

ARAG is offering six **TalkTime Sessions** to all the IASW members. These monthly sessions provide an opportunity for all the members a safe space to reflect on their lived experiences of racism as well as for those who are witnessing racism in practice.

The ARAG is committed to promoting anti-racist practices within social work. Our group aims to work with other IASW SIGs and community organisations in promoting anti-racism. ARAG have a number of CPD and conferences planned for 2025 keep watching the ARAG mailshot and IASW events page for more details on the upcoming events.

Join ARAG SIG to get involved in the fight against racism and for human rights, social justice and inclusion!

Nisarg Nagwadia & Marta Correia  
Anti-Racism Advisory Group (ARAG) Special Interest Group



#### CPD & the Requirements of Registration - an Update

- Wed, 15 Jan
- Online
- Free

#### Safeguarding Ethnic Minorities Against Racial Profiling and Targeting - ARAG Conference & AGM

- Fri, 24 Jan @ 9.00am - 1.00pm
- Ashling Hotel, Parkgate Street, Dublin 8
- €20 IASW members

[Register for events here](#)



#### February

- Sat 3 - Anniversary of IASW Anti-Racism Strategy
- Fri 16 - World Care Day

#### March

- Fri 8 - Int'l Women's Day
- Tues 19 - World Social Work Day
- Thurs 21 - Int'l Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

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## Update Your Personal Information

Have you changed your email, address, received your CORU registration or gotten a new credit card? Please update your account so you don't miss out on your member exclusive benefits like:

- Fitness to Practise Insurance
- The Irish Social Worker Journal
- CPD discounts
- Important updates like this newsletter



Update your details by logging in or contacting the office:

1. Logging in
2. Select Edit Personal Details
3. Update the new info
4. Click Save

[Login here](#)

## Who's interested in getting, On Board?

IASW is built upon the efforts of volunteers, who give freely of their time and skills to the IASW in the spirit of cooperation. Those providing vital support to the IASW Board of Directors include a number of Board Committees. All Committee members are volunteers which enables us to function proactively and positively for the members we serve.

We are seeking additional members for the below Board Committees and invite expressions of interest from the membership.

Board Committees Vacancies	Chair

Elections, Nominations & Motions	Vivian Geiran
Finance & Audit	Siobhan Nunn
HR, Governance & Risk	Una Burgess, Independent Director
Memberships	Majella Hickey

If interested, please review the Committee Terms of Reference [here](#) and submit your expression of interest no later than **10 January** to [officemanager@iasw.ie](mailto:officemanager@iasw.ie)

## Updates from Board Committees

### Journal Committee

**Date of report:** 2 December 2024

#### 2024 Journal Edition

In 2024, the journal committee successfully published another edition of the *Irish Social Worker* (ISSN 0332-4583) this autumn. IASW members received the physical copy in the post in the last fortnight. The edition includes ten articles, five book reviews, five obituaries, and one editorial from Gloria Kirwan. To quote from Gloria's editorial:

The contents of this edition provide a unique insight into the high calibre of social work practice and research delivered by social workers across Ireland in many different fields and contexts. All of the contributions in this issue illustrate how social workers are concerned with a wide range of issues in society. Social workers based in a variety of settings will find the articles here address issues they encounter regularly in their work with individuals, families, groups and communities (p.4).

The journal committee, with the printers (Doggett group), changed the presentation format of the journal to resemble more typically presented academic journals. This coheres with the strategic objective of the committee to produce academically robust, peer-reviewed editions.

#### Ongoing Work of the Committee

We continue to value practitioner-led and user-oriented articles and welcome submissions from student-researchers, from practitioners as well as authors who have engaged in participatory and engaged research. We also continue we invite a broad range of submissions for publication in the *Irish Social Worker* including:

original research papers,

- literature reviews,
- practice innovations,
- practice tools,
- book reviews,
- critical commentaries,
- policy analysis,
- updates on legislation and;
- reflective practice pieces.

Articles are double blind-reviewed and we continue to receive a volume of submissions which is very positive for a 2025 'general edition'.

Prof. Stephanie Holt continues to guest edit a special issue on domestic violence. This is due to be published in spring 2025.

The committee has welcomed new members in recent months, and we would benefit even more from more volunteers to act as peer-reviewers.

### **A note of thanks**

Finally, the committee would like to express gratitude for the steadfast support from the IASW office - Danielle McGoldrick & Katie Mulligan – without whom the publication of the journal would not be possible!

Fiachra Ó Súilleabháin  
Chair of the Journal Committee

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## **International Affairs Committee**

**Date of report:** 6 December 2024

Members: Aine McGuirk, Kate Gillen, John Brennan, Vivian Guerin, Anna Deneher (Chair).

### **Dates of meetings held since last SIG Meeting**

18th September 2024  
30th September 2024  
10th October 2024

### **Next meeting**

9 December 2024

### **Activities since last meeting:**

- Attendance in person (AMcG & VG) and online (AD) at IFSW-Europe Delegate's Meeting 25th-27th October held in Lisbon
- Joint motion at IFSW delegates meeting by IASW and General Council for Social Work, Spain on the implementation of the European Pact on Migration and Asylum in ways that are capable of providing a coordinated response, that guarantees the human rights of all people who arrive in our territories, avoiding return processes at the border that violate the fundamental rights of people, including independent human rights monitoring mechanisms, from arrival to possible return, in line with the European Charter of Fundamental Rights and issues raised already by the Fundamental Rights Agency.
- Participation in Eurochild Convention in Malta in July 2024 (AD). Presentation by Valerie Philpott, IASW on Ending Orphanage Volunteering and the institutionalization of children

### **Ongoing activities**

- Ongoing liaison with IFSW
- Ongoing participation in European Pillar of Social Rights (JB)
- Ongoing participation in Eurochild (AD)

### **Upcoming activities**

Planning of event for World Social Work Day 2025

Anna Deneher  
Chair of the International Affairs Committee

## Groups

Membership of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) is open to members of the IASW. The SIGs highlight priority issues for social work, they identify learning and development requirements, and bring the IASW to life through activities, networking events, and knowledge dissemination. Learn more about SIG's and explore content relating to each group [here.](#)



If you are interested in joining a SIG, please email [administrator@iasw.ie](mailto:administrator@iasw.ie)

### Our current Special Interest Groups:

Adult Mental Health (SWAMH)  
Adult Safeguarding and Protection  
(ASaP)  
Anti-Racism Advisory Group (ARAG)  
Child & Adolescent Mental  
Health(CAMHS)

Children & Families (C&F)  
Disability (SWID)  
With a PDS Sub-group  
Foster Care (SWIFC)  
Head Medical Social Workers (HMSW)  
Primary Care (SWIPC)

## 12 Draws of Christmas - Be in with a chance to Win up to €120

For every member you refer in December, you're entered for a chance to win up to **€120 gift token!** Draw starts on 1 December and ends 19 December.

Your name is entered for **every** referral you make! Entrants remain in the draw until their name is selected to win, or the giveaway ends.

[Refer a member here](#)

# 12 DRAWS OF CHRISTMAS!

Join and refer for your chance to  
win up to a €120 voucher!



## Gift a Student with IASW Student Membership

Calling all Practice Teachers! Consider gifting your students with an IASW student membership to our community, empowering them with networking opportunities, invaluable resources, and a supportive network. Together, let's inspire and equip our future professionals. Thank you for your generosity.

Gift membership  
here



## IASW's Fitness to Practise Insurance Coverage



## DID YOU KNOW?

- Fitness to Practise **is not** provided by your employer
- Fitness to Practise is needed even if you aren't practising
- 76% of CORU complaints are against social workers\*

Fitness to Practise Insurance is included with IASW's working membership types: Full, Part-Time, and First Year Post Qualify

\*cited in a presentation  
by CORU in Sept. 2022



## UP TO €250,000 COVERAGE

Fitness to Practise complaints are expensive and time consuming. Representation can cost up to €5k for a preliminary hearing. IASW insurers have extensive knowledge and experience in this area both here in Ireland and in the UK.

The IASW policy is per member on an individual basis. Each member has a ring fenced legal expenses limit of €250,000 that is unique to them and is not being provided on a discretionary basis.

## WE GOT YOU COVERED!

Our insurance policy ensures you are covered for the legal expenses incurred as a result of Fitness to Practise complaint. As per your CORU Code of Professional Conduct you must maintain adequate professional indemnity cover.



## CORU REGISTRATION OBLIGATIONS

- You must practise in the name(s) under which you are registered.
- Always use your CORU registration when representing yourself as a registered Social Worker and identify yourself to service users before you provide any professional service to them.
- You must include your CORU registration number in all certificates, reports or other formal documents.
- If you change your name, address or employment, notify the Social Work Registration Board, as soon as is practicable.

## Advertising with Us!

Need to Get the Word Out? We've Got You Covered. If you or an organization you know are looking to advertise a social work job opening, course, or event, let us help you reach the right audience!

With our advertising service, you can connect directly with our membership and website visitors at a highly competitive rate. It's the perfect way to share your message and make an impact.

Don't wait—take advantage of this opportunity today! Learn more and get in touch with your advertisement now.



## Call For Abstracts - IFSW European SW Conference 2025

**Bridging Communities: Building Sustainable Futures**  
Welcome to the European Social Work Conference 2025  
in Oslo, Norway!

Save the dates: October 6th-8th 2025.

Social workers operate at the intersection of individuals, families, societies, cultures, and nature. One of the greatest challenges of our time is the impact of climate change on both individuals and societies. Simultaneously, the deadline for achieving the UN's sustainability goals is rapidly approaching. Where do we stand, and what remains to be done? How can social workers contribute? What is the hope for the future? What can we as social workers learn from indigenous perspectives? How can we build a sustainable future together?

The main theme of the conference is green social work/eco-social work, climate change, the UN's sustainability goals, and indigenous perspectives. Norway has a large indigenous population – what can we learn from them and other indigenous peoples around the world about living in harmony with the earth?

If you would like to contribute to the conference with a presentation, we invite you to submit an abstract that thematically revolves around at least one of these main themes:

- Green social work
- Climate change
- UN's sustainability goals
- Indigenous peoples' perspectives

**Abstract submissions are now open.** [Learn more and submit here.](#)



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