

**Statement of Candidacy for position of Chair of the IASW**

I am applying for the position of Chair of the IASW as the position becomes vacant this year. I have been a member of the Board of Directors for the past two years and during that time I have been active as Treasurer.

In this role I have supported the office and instigated a number of changes that have helped to streamline office operations. Investment in Accounting software and training, and the development of the new website were the principal activities undertaken and these contribute significantly to a more efficient office for the IASW.

I took a major role in the examination and evaluation of the Fitness to Practice Insurance policy and led the IASW negotiations with Brokers and Insurance providers to achieve a better deal for our members.

Over the past two years I have represented the IASW at many conferences, launches and meetings (Health and Social Care Professionals Group; NIASW; PSI; Tusla; etc).

My aim is to help the IASW become a more effective organisation representing Social Work and Social Workers in Ireland. If elected as Chair I plan to lead the Board in the following priority areas:

1. Development of a membership strategy
2. Activation of the agreed Communication strategy
3. Investigation of further funding streams to develop the activities of the IASW

I seek your support as members to be elected.

**Statement of Candidacy for position as Director of the IASW**

I am applying to remain as a Director of the IASW for the coming year. I have been a member of the Board of Directors for the past two years and during that time I have been active as Treasurer. I have a good record of attendance at meetings and assist the office in any way that I can.

In this role I have supported the office and instigated a number of changes that have helped to streamline office operations. Investment in Accounting software and training, and the development of the new website were the principal activities undertaken and these contribute significantly to a more efficient office for the IASW.

I took a major role in the examination and evaluation of the Fitness to Practice Insurance policy and led the IASW negotiations with Brokers and Insurance providers to achieve a better deal for our members.

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**JOHN BRENNAN****Position: Director of the Board**

In 2013, I took early retirement from my post as Manager of Social Work in the Mater Hospital, Dublin. This has given me more time to work on the social work issues that I strongly believe in. As a member of the Board, I would aim to continue to use the experiences that I have to good effect in furthering the IASW's goals. As a member of the IASW since 1990, I have wide experience of the Association through my membership of the various IASW Committees and Interest Groups and I represent the IASW on many committees both in Ireland and in Europe.

**ANETTE O'CALLAGHAN****Position: Director of the Board**

I have been a member of SIGA for a number of years. I have represented SIGA at IASW Board Meeting in 2008 – 2009.

I qualified in Denmark in 2004. Since then I have worked in Ireland in a medical setting in a variety of roles. I have a particular interest in older people and the ethical challenges involved with their care. Advocacy is another aspect of the social work role which I am passionate about. I also feel strongly about the importance about good governance. I have been an active member of SIGA for many years. I re-elected, I intend to be an active member of the Board supporting the Board in working towards improving the system in which social workers work, to the benefit of both social workers and their clients I believe the IASW needs to act as the collective voice of its members to the best of its abilities.

**HILDA LOUGHRAN****Position: Director of the Board**

I was on the Journal editorial board for many years. Last year I was a judge on the social work awards. I've run a number of workshops for the IASW on topics such as MI. and SFT. I have a long-standing membership of IASW and see the organisation as having an important role in supporting professional development for social workers. With the implementation of Social Work registration, it is an excellent time to revisit what is needed to continue

building professional networks that reach beyond registration to supporting a sustainable profession. I think I have the experience and enthusiasm to contribute to that mission.

**RUTH MURRAY****Position: Director of the Board**

I am the Fieldwork Coordinator with the School of Applied Social Studies in UCC for the last 15 years. This entails accessing, maintaining and securing quality placements for all social work students on the MSW and BSW courses. I am also a member of the Practice Advisory Board in our Department. I previously worked as a social worker in the area of adoption mainly.

I currently am Director of the Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Fieldwork Practice and Supervision (Social Work) at the School of Applied Social Studies. I also tutor on this course. This is one of only two post qualifying courses at level 9 for social workers in this country.

I organise a number of workshops each year, in the area of preparation for practice teaching for social workers, and in the area of theories and models of supervision for social workers in practice at many levels. I teach on year 3 of the BSW programme (BSW is the four-year programme for mature student access to the social work qualification) and teach other classes in relation to adoption and to social work practice. I still have a particular interest in adoption.

I have been an active member of the IASW in the past and am delighted to be back actively involved in same again, having been a member for a long time. I have been a member of the Southern SIG Branch since its inception. Social work practice and social work education is a big interest of mine. I attend workshops that relate to social work practice whenever possible. I believe the IASW has a huge function and role in advocating for the social work profession in Ireland and would very much like to continue as one of the Directors on the Board. I am almost two years on the current Board of the IASW.

**MARIA MCGLOUGHLIN****Position: Director of the Board**

My vision for social work is as a profession, highly respected, and valued that promotes a society that protects the most vulnerable and encourages active social participation and inclusion by all. The IASW is uniquely positioned to take this role in providing a platform for the voices of vulnerable people. I believe I have the skills and experience to continue to amplify the voices of the people who come into contact with social work services through my participation in the board of the IASW. Through the SIG for Children and Families I have made liaised with senior management in TUSLA, participated in policy development with the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, I also have experience in engaging with media to promote social work as a profession. I currently work as a Team Leader with TUSLA giving me good insight into the issues currently facing social workers working with Children and Families.

**DR. COLLETTA DALIKENI****Position: Director of the Board**

I have local and international social work experience in the areas of teaching, practice, research, human services management, as well as compassionate activism spanning over 25 years. Within Ireland, I have been an active member of the Irish Association of Social Workers (IASW) since 2004. During the same time, I have held several positions as Board Member in an advisory capacity with numerous Non-Governmental Organisations. I believe I have acquired sufficient experience to enable me to meaningfully contribute to the IASW mission. I believe my joining the Board at this moment is timely given the profound changes taking place in the local practice context occasioned by recent large scale diverse migration.

**CONOR BOKSBERGER****Position: Director of the Board**

Conor Boksberger is a CORU registered social worker since 2011, working initially in the homeless sector, and for the past 4 years has been working in the youth mental health sector. Conor employed as a Clinical Coordinator with Jigsaw Dublin City since 2016, providing clinical leadership and supervision to a transdisciplinary team of mental health professionals.

Conor has been an active member of the IASW since 2011, supporting the establishment of the New Social Workers SIG, and serving as Vice Chair and Chair with this SIG.

Conor was elected to the Board of Directors of the IASW in 2017 and has been an active member of the Board since. Conor has played a central role in the development of a communications strategy and has supported the quality assurance of CPD events through his involvement with the CPD subgroup of the Board.

Conor is standing for re-election because he believes in the collective ability of the IASW to promote change for social work and the most marginalised in society.

If re-elected Conor would like to continue supporting the IASW to provide a strong voice for change, and to continue to support the development of social workers across Ireland.

**MAJELLA HICKEY****Position: Director of the Board**

My name is Majella Hickey and I am running for the board of Directors with IASW. I have a Master in Social Work and a Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Fieldwork Practice and Supervision from University College Cork. I have a diverse range of experience working over fifteen years with involuntary and voluntary clients in homelessness, addiction and criminal justice settings. My experience has enhanced my confidence in the areas of addiction, mental health, relationships, stress and trauma. My current role as occupational social worker with the Irish Defence Forces has afforded me the opportunity to work therapeutically with adults and families within a military setting.

In 2014, I contributed to an RTE documentary and media interviews on the work of the Probation Service. I was a finalist in the Practice Teacher of the Year at the IASW Awards in 2015. I presented at the 11<sup>th</sup> International Practice Teaching and Field Education Conference in Belfast and at the Irish Foster Care Association Conference in 2016.

In recent years, I have played an active role in the IASW where I have gained first-hand knowledge of the specific issues that affect and inform social work practice. In 2015, I joined the editorial committee of the 'Irish Social Worker' where I am passionate about

advancing practitioner-based research. In 2015 -2016 I was treasurer of the Social Workers in Probation Special Interest Group. The opportunity to work in both of these positions within IASW has enabled me to gain insight into practice issues, changing legislation and policy issues that are important to our members.

I am interested in the position of director as I care about advancing the knowledge base of social work, the standards of our profession and in the power of advocacy. My goal would be to use my networking skills to work closely with the committees of IASW and to provide education on the value and benefits of being a member. I would be honoured to serve as a director of the board and would bring experience, passion and knowledge to the role.

**RACHEL MCCORMACK****Position: Director of the Board**

I have been nominated by Joe McCarthy and Catherine Crowley. I have been employed in Children and Families, (TUSLA) as a social worker from 2005-2015 and from 2016-present as a SWTL. I have experience of working in NGO's, voluntary sector, and as part of the MSW team in UCC.

I believe I have the vision, skills and expertise necessary to be part of the Board of the IASW. I have been a member of the IASW since 2004 and have been very active the southern region. I have a special interest in practice and professional development of the social work role. I am one of the founding members of the local sig (2005), and continue to be involved in the group, I have since 2005 to present, represented the IASW, on the Committee of the National Child Protection and Welfare Conference (Bi-annual conference in UCC, a partnership between the IASW, TUSLA and UCC).

With my skill set and professional experience I will be committed to the IASW vision and aims and will endeavour to support the ongoing development of the association at local and national level.