

2022 AGM – Proposed Motions

Motion 1:

That this AGM affirms the following:

- Social work is a human-rights based profession,
- “Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to Social Work” (IFSW, 2014),
- “That society has an obligation to pursue justice, in all its forms, on behalf of every person including the assertion and protection of their human rights” (IASW, 2020),
- “Social workers around the world have a long history of working for the achievement of human rights, including an explicit grounding of practice in human rights principles: human dignity, non-discrimination, participation, transparency, and accountability” (Mapp et al, 2019).
- Social workers work to uphold human-rights in their every-day practice in practical and tangible ways.
- The concept of human rights is interwoven into the very fabric, narrative and history of Social Work and the removal of any reference to human rights in CORU’s Code of Conduct and Ethics for Social Workers grievously alters the narrative and meaning of Social Work in Ireland.

Explanation: -

Further to the successful motion passed in the 2021 AGM, “That the IASW, in recognition of its centrality to Social Work Values, Ethics and Practice, initiate a campaign for the reinstatement of the term ‘Human Rights’ in the Social Workers Registration Board (CORU) Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics”, we wish to (re)affirm social workers explicit commitment to being a human rights-based profession at this AGM. We want to do this to ensure CORU and any other external organisations, bodies, or persons not familiar with the activity, skills, knowledge, and theory-base of social work, is clear that social work is a human-rights based profession. The #SWisHumanRights campaign continues to advocate for the reinsertion of references to human rights in the CORU Social Work code of conduct and ethics. This motion contributes to this advocacy.

Proposed by: Kerry Cuskelly

Seconded by: Paul McCarthy

Motion 2:

That this AGM supports calls for the development of “Safe Harbour” legislation which would provide liability protection to social workers where, in situations of proven high case-loads, low resources, and excessive demands from management, workers would not find their professional registration coming into question, should they, due to the aforementioned constraints, not be able to work to reasonable safe standards.

Explanation:-

An example of Safe Harbour legislation for in health care would be in in parts of America “Safe Harbour” is something a nurse can invoke to protect their licences if they find themselves in compromised practise situations where it is not in the best interest of patients for them to accept an assignment, e.g., accepting expanded patient assignments. This legislation is necessary for social workers in the current working environment.

Proposed by: Aine Davin

Seconded by: Kerry Cuskelly

2022 AGM – Proposed Motions

Motion 3 ‘Emergency Motion’:

That this AGM supports the decision to create a new category of membership.

Section 1: Membership

Criteria

- 1.1. The membership of the Association shall consist of:
 - a. Individuals who hold a social work qualification including the NQSW awarded by the National Social Work Qualification Board, the CQSW formerly awarded by CCETSW or who are recognised as social workers by the Social Work Registration Board of CORU.
 - b. Overseas members need also be registered by a relevant registration board as outlined above.
 - c. Individuals who hold membership of the British Association of Social Workers, Northern Ireland may be admitted to ‘Associate’ membership of the IASW. Associate members do not have voting rights at the Annual or Extraordinary General Meetings.
 - d. Individuals who have retired, currently non-working (i.e. on sabbatical, students on recognised social work qualifications, working in a non-social work post), or are unemployed but who hold a social work qualification including the NQSW awarded by the National Social Work Qualification Board, the CQSW formerly awarded by CCETSW or who are registered as social workers with the Social Work Registration Board of CORU.
 - e. Student members being persons undergoing a recognised undergraduate course of studies in Social Work or a recognised post graduate course under conditions prescribed by the Board of the Association
 - f. On the invitation of the Chair, a Commercial Person who is not a Member of the Company may be co-opted to the Board either to fill a vacancy or as an additional Director provided that the appointment does not cause the number of Directors to exceed the maximum number of Directors. That person so co-opted shall remain a Member of the Board only until the next Annual General Meeting, when s/he shall retire and may stand for re-election at that AGM.

Explanation: -

BASW NI has a unique place as the only UK jurisdiction to share an international land border, that being with the Republic of Ireland. IASW and BASW NI have a close working relationship and regularly partner on specific projects, e.g.

1. SWSD 2018 Conference (Dublin)
2. Joint WSWD celebrations 2020, 2019 and 2017
3. Shaping Professional Identity: A all-Ireland study.
4. An Abuse of Power (conference on elder abuse 2021)
5. Joint statements on Brexit and join letters to respective governments.

Brexit has brought about a fracture in the seamlessness of cross-border activities on the island of Ireland and both parties recognise the potentially damaging impact of this, as such we think it is beneficial to have a clear and public relationship that strengthens our existing cooperation.

Both organisations are keen to explore a more formal link and to explore the idea of Associate Membership. The idea has been signed off by the NSC of BASW NI and The Board of IASW.

We would like to pilot an associate membership scheme which would, under agreed terms and conditions, enable members of one professional body, IASW, becoming associate members of

2022 AGM – Proposed Motions

BASW NI. The scheme would also entitle members of BASW NI to become associate members of IASW. Associate membership of one body will be the gateway to joining the activities of the other body and building our respective professional organisational connections in areas of mutual interest and benefit. We will set clear terms and conditions of what an associate scheme will offer, North and South.

Proposed by: Vivian Geiran

Seconded by: Aine McGuirk