

**Directors & Rotation of Directors in accordance with the Constitution**

43. “The number of Directors shall not be less than seven (7) and unless and until determined by the Company in general meeting, not more than ten (10).”

49. “Directors shall be elected to serve for a term of three years. All voting members will be eligible for election and the nomination and electoral processes shall be as set out in bylaws by the Board from time to time.”

50. “A maximum of seven directors shall be elected at AGMs of the Company and the Board shall have the power to appoint up to three non-members of the Company to be Independent Directors because of the skills and experience they would add to the Board’s capacity to carry out its functions. Independent Directors may be appointed by the elected directors to serve a maximum of two three-year terms and shall become members of the Association on accepting their appointment as Director.”

51. “A retiring elected Director shall be eligible for re-election for a maximum of two further three-year terms either consecutively or cumulatively in their lifetime.”

56. “The position of Chair shall be filled from among individuals who are members of the Board. This election will happen at the AGM immediately after any vacancies on the Board have been filled. If this position is not filled at the AGM, the members of the Board may elect a Chair from amongst themselves. A person may serve as Chair for a maximum of two three-year terms either consecutively or cumulatively in their lifetime.”

- **4 Director Vacancies – 8 nominations received**
- **1 Independent Directory Vacancy – 2 nominations received. The Board of Directors appointed Grainne Maguire to the role of Independent Director.**

<b>Directors who wish to continue on the Board</b>	
1.	Fiachra Ó'Súilleabháin
2.	Monica Hynds O'Flanagan
3.	Oby Enekwechi-Ibebugwu
4.	Claire McGettrick – Independent Director
5.	Denise Kirwan – Independent Director
<b>Directors who wish to stand for election not currently on the Board</b>	
<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Proposer &amp; Seconder</b>
1. Brian Fitzpatrick	Nisarg Nagwadia & Aisling Coffey
2. Danica Zagibova	Leonda Ryan & Donal O'Malley
3. Dearbhla Ni Riordan	Katie Lynch & Geraldine Farren
4. Evelyn Oboh	Hilda Loughran & Nisarg Nagwadia
5. Jacqueline Fyne	Majella Hickey & Sarah Donnelly
6. Kevin Hutton	Caroline Boyd & Michael Quinn
7. Laura Nolan	Lisa de Klerk & Sarah McGreal
8. Susan Doherty	Grace Durnin & Linda Grimes

**Directors who wish to retire**

1. Siobhan Nunn (completed a 1yr term)
2. Sinead McGarry (completed a 1yr term)
3. Una Burgess (completed a 1yr term)
4. Rachel McCormack (completed a 6yr term)

**Directors who wish to stand for election for the role of Chair**

No applications received (*see rule 56 of the constitution on the opposite page*)

**Biographies for those Directors who wish to stand for election**

**1: LAURA NOLAN**

**Position: Director of the Board**

I am a Social Work Team Leader in the Waterford area, currently based on a Children in Care team. My passion lies in supporting families to work with the support structures in place to ensure that children can return to their families of origin at the earliest opportunity. Upholding the rights of the family unit is something I hold at the front of my mind daily, whilst also managing identified risks and concurrently planning for alternative care.

I have previously worked as a Social Work Team Leader on a Child in Care Review team where my focus was on adhering to the legislative standards and timeframes, scheduling and chairing care plans, and recording and monitoring stats. The most important aspect of that role for me was considering creative ways to include the voices of children in their care planning process. I believe that nationally we have a long way to go in this area to ensure that every child, regardless of age or ability, has practicable access to their care planning meetings.

I have been eager to participate in various opportunities that have arisen in practice since my MSW qualification in 2017 including participation in a radio interview for National Fostering Week, participation in the Signs of Safety learning resource, and completion of the EPPI programme.

This is my first time to seek involvement with the IASW. I feel that this is a good time for me to be able to share my frontline experiences, passions and values with the national professional body. Social Work is a profession that I am proud of, and I have a deep-rooted commitment to bettering the service we offer to all service users going forth.

**2: KEVIN HUTTON**

**Position: Director of the Board**

I bring a wealth of practical knowledge and unwavering commitment to child welfare. My professional journey spans youth work, residential care, social work practice, senior practitioner role, and team leadership. I've maintained a consistent focus on ensuring children's voices are heard and their best interests are protected. My extensive court experience has honed my ability to communicate effectively in formal settings.

As a CORU, NISCC, IASW and NAGALRO registered professional with a BSc Honours Social Work & Social Policy with Sociology, combining academic understanding with frontline experience. I value anti-oppressive practice, integrity, and empathy in all professional interactions.

If elected to the Board, I commit to bringing child-centred perspective to governance meetings, advocating for policies that support practitioners and benefit children and families. My experience navigating complex systems while maintaining focus on individual wellbeing would be valuable to the Board's important work

**3: DANICA Z ZAGIBOVA****Position: Director of the Board**

I am a member of IASW for many years. I believe in continuous personal and professional development and prize my social work qualifications. During my college years, I co-founded a Volunteer Centre in my hometown. I worked in the areas of human resources, assisted employment and victim support, prior becoming a Probation Officer in 2004. I am a registered social worker and an experienced practice teacher for social work students. I have further qualifications in law and management. I note the ever-evolving nature of social work practice, supported by empiric evidence, and embrace the continuous development of our profession. I would like to contribute to the future shaping, development and promotion of social work.

**4: JACQUELINE FYNE****Position: Director of the Board**

I am an experienced Social Work Team Leader with over 15 years of practice across child protection, fostering, adoption, and residential care. I currently lead a team within Tusla and also work independently as a fostering assessor. I am pursuing an Executive MBA at Dublin City University, equipping me with advanced skills in leadership, governance, and policy development. I am passionate about social justice, inclusive leadership, and ensuring that social workers have a strong voice in shaping services and national policy. I believe the Irish Association of Social Workers plays a vital role in promoting the values and visibility of our profession. If elected to the Board, I will bring a collaborative, strategic, and reflective approach—grounded in frontline experience—to support the IASW’s mission and represent the diverse voices within our field.

**5: EVELYN OBOH****Position: Director of the Board**

I have social work experience in the area of child protection and welfare, Fostering and Children in care work. As well as international voluntary social work around working with individuals and their families in poverty situation, advocacy work for better and improved services in their communities that would promote safety and wellbeing of families and their children.

In Ireland I have been a member of IASW since I was a social work student, I have been part of Child and family interest group, African social worker’s group, African advocacy network etc. I am also a member of ARAG- Antiracism Advisory Board (IASW) which I played a significant role with others to make sure that the group was enacted and did a lot of meaningful work during COVID-19-to date to support ethnic minority social workers and others to discuss and find solutions around social justice issues that impact on their practice and that of their client in practice.

I currently hold a supervisory position in Tusla-child and family agency, where I provide supervision to social work and social care staffs, planning and managing their caseloads, comply with statutory requirements and overseeing governance of outstanding requirements. Managing a team and keeping an eye on quality and improved compliance and ensuring that statutory functions are met. I am also a Student Placement Coordinator in DSWKWW Tusla area. My role is to place social work and social care student needing a statutory placement with Tusla- Child and Family Agency.

I believe I have acquired sufficient experience to enable me to meaningful contribute to the IASW mission. I believe my joining the board at this time is timely given the changes taking place in practice context and society at large in a multicultural Ireland.

**6: BRIAN FITZPATRICK****Position: Director of the Board**

I am a Children in Care Social Worker in Child Protection, with a strong commitment to advocating for vulnerable children and families. This is my first time seeking involvement with the IASW, and I am excited by the potential opportunity to contribute to the profession at a national level. Alongside my core practice in child protection, I have a deep interest in mental health and advocacy, and I believe in promoting a holistic, rights-based approach to social work. I currently serve as a mentor on Tusla's new apprenticeship program, supporting the development of future social workers, and bring governance experience from my role on the Board of Management for Cobh Ramblers Football Club. I hope to bring a fresh, grounded perspective to the Board—one rooted in frontline practice, collaboration, and a passion for shaping the future of our profession.

**7: DEARBHLA NI RIORDAIN****Position: Director of the Board**

Being a member of the IASW has been an important part of my Social Work identity as a professionally qualified Social Worker. A profession and an organisation I am still proud to part of. If I am elected, I will work collaboratively with the Chair, the Board and members to ensure that the association continues to work for the best interest of our members and the Social Work profession promoting our values and ethics.

My career in Social Work has been shaped by my interest in people, my respect for their dignity and belief that with the right support often individuals and families had the strength and capacity to reach their potential from within. This was emphasised from my early days as an undergraduate working as a Samaritan volunteer to my current role as the Senior Lead for Assisted Decision Making in the HSE Southwest. Throughout my career I always maintained and practiced strong rights-based values particularly in the area of people being able to make their own decisions and my current post enables me to be part of a journey in that being embedded by the enactment of the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act, 1995.

During my career I also worked as a Child Protection Social Worker, I felt it was important to deepen my understanding of the legal system which I was interacting with on a regular basis. I studied for my Bachelor of Common Law, and this deepened my commitment to a human rights practice base.

I spent a considerable amount of my career working in Medical Social Work. I have worked in both Maternity and Medical Social Work and ultimately as Head Medical Social Worker in Cork University Hospital.

I hope that with over 25 years of experience I can now offer something to Social Work as a Profession and in turn to the IASW. I would like to contribute to the position Social Work holds in society and think the IASW provides strong representation for the profession in this regard and would appreciate membership support to achieve this by voting for me. Go raibh maith agat.

**8: SUSAN DOHERTY****Position: Director of the Board**

My name is Susan Doherty, I am applying for a member of the board of the IASW. I would really be excited to bring my experience as a Primary Care Social Worker and my highly developed sense of humour. I was a mature student Trinity College Dublin and currently manage a team of 7 social workers.

I was a joint director of a company for over 16 years. I was listening Volunteer with Samaritans for ten years and was Recruitment Director for 6 of those and understand the inner workings of boards and committees.

I hope to contribute with live experience of working within the HSE as a PCSW and hope my insights knowledge and enthusiasm for the role will add to the board members breadth and knowledge.

I understand the challenges that Social Workers face and hope to influence, and contribute creative, positive views.