

2025 Annual General Meeting

Minutes



Date: Thursday 29th May 2025

Time: 16:35 – 18:30

Venue: Virtual AGM via Zoom Video Call

In Attendance: As per registration list and registration book.

Apologies: Ruth Murray, Sorcha Griffith, Mary Kennedy, & Sheila McCrory

Proxy Vote: none

Vivian Geiran, Chair of the IASW welcomed all the attendees to the AGM and thanked them for coming.

Vivian read the technical instructions and meeting etiquette.

- The AGM will be recorded.
- Everyone will be muted during the call. To speak use the 'raise hand function'. If given the opportunity to talk, the host will put you on spotlight and a sign will appear in your screen requesting you to unmute yourself.
- If you experience any technical difficulties, please send a private chat message to Katie (Host) or call her on 086 0241055.
- Polls will be read by the Chair in advance of each vote/poll e.g., adoption of Standing Orders, adoption of Minutes, adoption of Annual Report, etc.
- Motions will be read by the Motion Proposer in advance of each vote.

Caroline Strong, Chief Operations Officer gave a short presentation on behalf of the Board of Directors and staff team on the activities of the association over the last twelve months and the proposed workplan for the next year.

[AGM Speech – Chief Operations Officer, IASW](#)

It's a pleasure to be here today to present the Chief Operations Officer Report for the Irish Association of Social Workers for the year ended 31 December 2024.

This past year has been one of growth, resilience, and renewed purpose for the IASW. I want to take a few minutes to reflect on our progress, acknowledge the challenges, and share our vision for the future.

[Membership Growth and Engagement](#)

The IASW began 2024 with 1,716 members. By November, that number had grown to 1,824. That's not just a statistic—it is a testament to the hard work of the team, Danielle, Katie and Cliona, who all go above and beyond to retain and attract members.

Student membership saw a healthy increase, with 74 new student members joining in 2024. This is encouraging, as early-career engagement is vital to the future of our profession.

However, we know that sustaining this growth requires more than goodwill. We need dedicated marketing resources and continued outreach to ensure every social worker in Ireland knows the value of being part of the IASW.

[Communications and Public Voice](#)

Our communications strategy, while still developing, has made a real impact. Weekly bulletins, event mailers, and SIG updates have kept members informed and engaged.

Importantly, the IASW has become a trusted voice in national media. From radio to television to print, we've spoken out on issues that matter to social workers and the communities we serve. In 2025, we plan to build on this momentum by engaging in media training for Board and active SIG members, ensuring our message is clear, consistent, and confident.

[Continuing Professional Development](#)

CPD remains one of our most valued member benefits. Our part-time CPD coordinator has worked tirelessly with SIGs, state agencies, and other professional bodies to deliver timely, relevant

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training. This year, we've focused on aligning our CPD offerings with policy changes, CORU updates, and emerging practice needs. Looking ahead, we aim to strengthen multidisciplinary and interagency collaboration through our CPD programme.

Strengthening Representation and Governance

A major milestone in 2024 was the appointment of a Chief Operations Officer—myself—in September. This has allowed the Board to focus more on strategic direction, while I manage day-to-day operations.

We've also completed a comprehensive governance review, updating policies and procedures to ensure best practice across all levels of the organisation. Our structure is now clearer, more accountable, and better aligned with our strategic goals.

Policy Influence and Advocacy

The IASW has been active and vocal in shaping policy. In 2024, we made submissions on a wide range of issues—from adult mental health and disability reform to online safety and clinical governance.

We've also responded to member concerns with timely press releases, letters to the editor, and public statements—on everything from the war in Gaza to the recruitment embargo in the HSE. These actions often begin with a simple question from a member: “Can anything be done?” The answer, increasingly, is yes.

International Partnerships and Eco Social Work

Our international work continues to thrive. We've collaborated with IFSW and BASW-NI, and we're proud to support proposals regarding the European Pact on Migration and Asylum.

In 2025, our CPD coordinator will present at the IFSW conference in Norway on eco social work—an emerging area that connects environmental justice with social work practice.

Looking Ahead

Our new strategic plan for 2025–2027 is ambitious. We aim to grow our membership, expand our CPD offerings, and deepen our advocacy. We want to be more visible, more vocal, and more available to our members.

As part of this work the IASW team will be dedicating time to update the IASW website in collaboration with our Membership Committee, our hope is to have a more engaging site with additional accessible resources for members. Our Journal Committee are working on the annual Journal- which for the first time will be digital.

But none of this is possible without you—our members. Your time, your expertise, your passion—this is what powers the IASW.

So, whether you're a long-time member or newly joined, I encourage you to get involved. Join a SIG, serve on a committee, or consider a role on the Board. Your voice matters, and you all have something to contribute.

Closing

In closing, I want to thank each of you for your continued support. I particularly want to thank our dedicated and hard-working volunteer Board members. Since starting in the IASW in September I have been able to lift the phone to any one of them for advice and guidance. A special thank you to Vivian our chair who is stepping down today, to Una, Sinead Rachel and Siobhan all of whom have contributed so much to the IASW in the last number of years. Together, we are building a stronger, more responsive, and more impactful IASW.

Thank you.

Adoption of Standing Orders

The Standing Orders and the Appointment of the Procedurals Officer, Danielle McGoldrick were:
Proposed by: Monica Hynds O'Flanagan

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	<p>Seconded by: Geraldine Farren</p> <p>Poll Results: the standing orders and apt of the procedurals officer has been passed with.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 % for • 0 against • 0 abstentions
<p>Adoption of Minutes 2024 AGM</p>	<p>Minutes from the 2024 Annual General Meeting were circulated to all members and uploaded onto the website: the 2023 AGM minutes were.</p> <p>Proposed by: Fiachra O’Suilleabhain Seconded by: Celine O’Conor</p> <p>Poll Results: the adoption of the AGM minutes has been passed with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 % for • 0% against • 0% abstentions
<p>Matters Arising</p>	<p>No matters arising.</p>
<p>Adoption of the 2024 Annual Report and Financial Statements</p>	<p>In the absence of our Treasurer, Vivian gave a short presentation on the association finances.</p> <p>The IASW Finance Committee’s opinion, in respect of the Irish Association of Social Work’s position as a viable going concern and reiterated the need to continue to focus on revenue generation and a careful financial approach to costs and expenditure in the coming year. There continues to be a need to significantly expand IASW membership which will have a positive knock-on effect financially, and which will lead to the strengthening of IASW resources. Other Financial considerations will be the financial viability and capacity to increase the directly employed workforce in IASW, and this will be kept under review by the COO and the Finance & Audit Committee.</p> <p><i>Funding:</i> The IASW is funded by a combination of Membership Fees, HSE HSCP National Office, Tusla – The Child & Family Agency and Probation Service. The IASW also generates income from two other sources: advertising services and CPD event participant fees.</p> <p>The IASW would like to pay tribute to the generosity of our funders and to the members for their continued support in the work of the IASW, the funds go a long way in helping the IASW deliver valuable services to the social work profession.</p> <p><i>Expenditure:</i> The total expenditure for the year amounted to €419,006. Staff costs make up the largest part of the expenditure totalling €155,030 for the year, with operation costs of €263,976 being the other area of major expenditure.</p>

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	<p>Further details on income and expenditure amounts are contained within the financial statements, which can be found at the end of the Annual Report.</p> <p><i>Policy for holding reserves:</i> The IASW has a set of reserves in place to ensure that the organisations core activities could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty. This takes account of the cost of making the staff redundant in an emergency situation and association’s contractual and legal commitments. The IASW must carry three months operating costs in a readily realisable form. The reserve is held in a deposit account.</p> <p><i>Audit Opinions:</i> The auditors KSI Faulkner Orr have audited the financial statements of the IASW which comprise of the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Cashflows, and related notes. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). The audit opinion is laid out in full and signed by KSI Faulkner Orr and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the IASW. All filings are up to date with Revenue and copies of the filed accounts and current Management Accounts have been shared with all members of the Board.</p> <p><i>Conclusion:</i> We would like to thank Emma Delaney, Mauro Guzman and all the team at KSI Faulkner Orr for their assistance with the audit, the provision of payroll services and for their advice throughout the year.</p> <p>A copy of the 2024 Annual Report and Financial Statements incl. Auditors report were circulated to all members and where available to download from the IASW website.</p> <p>The 2024 Annual Report and Financial Statements were: Proposed by: Lisa Daly Seconded by: Ashley Gore</p> <p>Poll Results: the adoption of the 2025 Annual Report and Financial Statements has passed with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 98 % for • 0% against • 2% abstentions
<p>Appointment of Auditors 2025</p>	<p>Vivian Geiran Chair of the Board of the IASW recommended that the association appoint KSI Faulkner Orr as the Auditors for 2025, the office has an extremely positive experience dealing with the accountancy firm during this year’s audit process.</p> <p>KSI Faulkner Orr (KSIFO) to be appointed as the auditors for 2025: Proposed by: Danica Zagibová Seconded by: Denise Kirwan</p> <p>Poll Results: the appointment of KSIFO as the auditors has passed with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 98% for • 0% against

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2% abstentions
Motion(s)	There was one emergency motion circulated to all members and available to download from the IASW website.
	Motion 1 – Emergency Motion Proposed by: Miriam Mooney Seconded by: Karima Abbas
	<p>That IASW uses its influence with IFSW to request that IFSW speaks and acts in solidarity with Palestinian Social Workers and Health Care Workers who are being abducted, imprisoned and killed by Israel.</p> <p>Explanatory Note: (In no more than 200 words you should explain the intention/reason for your motion/give background information so that there is no uncertainty as to what your motion is trying to address). Ample evidence from UN; WHO and independent Media reports that Israel is targeting Social Workers, Health care workers as well as children and civilians in Palestine. The IFSW has a moral obligation to support Social Workers when their rights are being so eroded and violated. The IASW also has this obligation thus the IASW should press IFSW to act.</p> <p>Poll Results: the emergency motion has passed with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 93% for • 0% against • 7% abstentions
Election of Directors of the Board 2024 - 2025	<p>The Board of Directors will be elected/appointed for a three-year term; a max of 7 Directors would be elected at the AGM and 3 'independent directors' elected by the Board.</p> <p>Directors who wish to stay on the Board;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fiachra O’Suilleabhain 2. Monica Hynds O’Flanagan 3. Oby Enekwechi-Ibebugwu 4. Claire McGettrick – Independent Director 5. Denise Kirwan – Independent Director <p>Directors who wish to retire;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Siobhan Nunn 2. Sinead McGarry 3. Una Burgess 4. Rachel McCormack 5. Vivian Geiran <p>The association received nominations from:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brian Fitzgerald 2. Danica Zagibová 3. Dearbhla Ni Riordan

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	<p>4. Evelyn Oboh 5. Jacqueline Fyne 6. Kevin Hutton 7. Laura Nolan 8. Susan Doherty</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="416 472 1027 831"> <thead> <tr> <th>Election Results</th> <th>For Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Brian Fitzgerald</td> <td>60%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Danica Zagibová</td> <td>46%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Dearbhla Ni Riordan</td> <td>48%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. Evelyn Oboh</td> <td>64%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5. Jacqueline Fyne</td> <td>51%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6. Kevin Hutton</td> <td>40%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7. Laura Nolan</td> <td>45%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8. Susan Doherty</td> <td>36%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Evelyn Oboh, Brian Fitzgerald, Jacqueline Fyne & Dearbhla Ni Riordan were duly elected.</p> <p>There were no nominations received for the position of Chair for the 2025-2028 term. In accordance with rule 56 of the constitution</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>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."</i></p> <p>The board will meet on June 16th and will elect a Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer at this meeting.</p>	Election Results	For Total	1. Brian Fitzgerald	60%	2. Danica Zagibová	46%	3. Dearbhla Ni Riordan	48%	4. Evelyn Oboh	64%	5. Jacqueline Fyne	51%	6. Kevin Hutton	40%	7. Laura Nolan	45%	8. Susan Doherty	36%
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A.O.B	<p>Honorary membership was bestowed by Sinead McGarry to Vivian Geiran for his outstanding contribution to the IASW.</p> <p>Vivian thanked the staff team, Board, Council, representatives and members for their continued support and hard work on behalf of the profession and association.</p> <p>Winners for 5 x 100euros gift tokens for their choice:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aine McGuirk 2. Caroline Boyd 3. Hilda Loughran 4. Aine Barrett 5. Abimbola Sanyaolu <p>Meeting closed @ 17:50</p>																		