



A Note from COO, Caroline Strong

IASW Update

Following our AGM on the 29th of May we say a fond farewell and thank you to our outgoing Chairperson Vivian Geiran. Vivian has given so much to the IASW in the last number of years and has increased awareness of the IASW. Since I started in September, many members have commented on the transformation of the IASW in recent years. We also thank Rachel McCormack, Una Burgess and Sinead McGarry all of whom have contributed so much in recent years to the IASW and are stepping off the Board. I am sure our paths will cross again and we look forward to continuing our relationship informally but no less valuable!



We welcome onto our Board of Directors- Evelyn Oboh, Brian Fitzpatrick, Jacqueline Fyne, Grainne Maguire (independent Director) and Dearbhla Ni Riordan, all of whom expressed an interest in joining the IASW Board and will provide a variety of experience and guidance to the next stage of the IASW journey as we navigate international conflict, reforms in the major agencies and new Social Work education pathways.

IASW Engagement, Representation and Advocacy

Clóna and I spent some time in late May travelling around and engaging with Social workers in Sligo and Donegal. We received a warm welcome and it was great to hear the specific issues and challenges our colleagues are experiencing. We hope for future engagement and we heard loud and clear that an in-person event in the North West would be welcome.

The IASW continues it's advocacy, engagements and representation on behalf of its members.

Notably the Adult Safeguarding Advisory panel have been engaging with the

department of health and various TD's to ensure the legislation on Adult Safeguarding has a strong Social Work voice throughout. This group is happy to hear from new members. Please get in touch if you would like to hear more on what the group are focusing on and progress made to date- which is significant.

Our Head Medical Social Work group are exploring the collaboration and challenges of working with independent advocates- the survey for this is ongoing if you wish to participate, please do contact the office. I will be meeting with Sage advocacy in the coming weeks to explore how best to clarify the role of the advocate and the responsibilities of the Social Workers in hospital settings. Sage are keen to have a collaborative approach with Social Work colleagues.

Our Children & Family SIG continue their work engaging with Tusla on a number of matters, namely the Integrated reform programme, special emergency arrangements the Special Care review and advocating for the social work role within the agency.

They also attended the Department of Health review of the 1991 Child care Act. There is plenty to get involved with in the Children & Family SIG! Monica Hynds kindly stood in as an interim chair but we do need a new chair. The main role of the chair is to guide the focus of the group work, gather information from members and feedback to the office. There are guides and governance documents available, but on a day to day, there is plenty of support from the team in the IASW and myself. Please do consider getting involved as there is a lot of interesting projects ongoing and evolving.

Our Social Workers in Disability Group also require a chair, similar to the Child and family SIG- you will receive support and there are some really interesting projects and advocacy work underway. Respite and residential placements, the autism protocols and progressive disability services for example, all require Social work advocacy and input to ensure the best possible outcomes for the people we work with. Please do join the SIG and if you are already a member- consider taking on the chair role. You will have support and guidance from the office.

In terms of representation, notably the IASW received a request from a number of members to issue an updated statement on the war in Gaza which you can see on our website here: https://www.iasw.ie/IASW_Statement_Gaza

Following the release of the statement we contacted the Social Work representative bodies in the co-signatories of the Taoiseach's statement to request they join the IASW in co-signing our statement. Our intention is to use this to send to the International Federation for Social Work and ask them to release a similar statement- calling for a ceasefire and the release of urgent humanitarian aid into Gaza. We have had a positive response from some countries and will hopefully have a full update in the near future.

Remaining with the crisis in Gaza, the IASW wrote to Duncan Smith (Labour TD) in support of his motion calling on the Government to move for a UN General Assembly Resolution to override Security Council inaction. This email was cc'd to the co

signatories of this in the Green Party, the Social Democrats, Independent TD Catherine Conolly and Sinn Fein.

At the AGM in late May an emergency motion was brought requesting that the *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*. This resolution was passed and the IASW will be progressing this in the coming days.

We will watch closely the progress of the Occupied Territories Bill as we have been contacted by members to support this legislation.

We will continue to advocate for human rights, the release of urgent humanitarian Aid and Peace in Palestine.

There are a number of events and CPD opportunities coming up in the next few months. The CPD and requirements of registration webinars were very well attended and Cliona is working on a follow up piece for planning your own CPD needs.

As always, please do contact the office with matters of Social Work interest and importance. We will be happy to assist.

Caroline Strong
IASW Chief Operations Officer

A Note from the New Chair, Fiachra Ó'Súilleabháin

It is with optimism and deep humility that I step into the role of Chairperson of the Irish Association of Social Workers (IASW). I am honoured to take on this responsibility at a time when our profession is rising to meet some of the most pressing social challenges of our time—both here in Ireland and globally.

Social workers have long been champions of social justice, and I am continually inspired by the dedication of our members who, through their daily practice, research and advocacy, are working to build a fairer, more inclusive society.



At the heart of the IASW's strength lies the incredible work carried out by our Special Interest Groups (SIGs), Working Groups, and Committees. The expertise, research and practice wisdom from these groups actively shape the positions we take and the

actions we pursue as an organisation. Their work not only informs IASW policy and advocacy but also contributes meaningfully to national and international conversations around social justice, human rights, and ethical practice.

I want to take this moment to express sincere gratitude to our outgoing Chairperson, Vivian Geiran, whose steady and visionary leadership guided us through a successful governance review and the important milestone of recruiting a Chief Operations Officer for the IASW. These achievements have laid a strong foundation for the future of our organisation.

A heartfelt thank you also goes to the outgoing Board members Vivian Geiran, Sinead McGarry, Una Burgess, Siobhan Nunn and Rachel McCormack for their dedication, time, and service, and to our incoming Board members Brian Fitzgerald, Grainne Maguire, Jacqueline Fyne, Dearbhla Ní Ríordaín & Evelyn Oboh - your willingness to step into leadership gives me great confidence in what lies ahead. The office team are the glue that holds us together - Caroline, Danielle, Clíona and Katie – many thanks to you for your dedication to furthering the work of the IASW.

We are an organisation rooted in values of care, justice, equality and collaboration, and I am excited about the ambitious goals set out in our strategic plan. Realising these goals will take collective commitment, bold thinking and the energy that comes from working together in solidarity.

I look forward to continued IASW growth, where we can harness the expertise of our members to build stronger communities, positively influence policy, and continue to elevate the voice of the social work profession. Together, I know we can achieve transformative change. I look forward to the journey ahead and to all we will accomplish as a united, courageous and forward-looking professional community.

Fiachra Ó'Súilleabháin
IASW Chairperson

2025 - 2026 Board of Directors

At the AGM, the members of the IASW voted in the 2025 - 2026 Board of Directors!

This year, the IASW did not receive any nominations from the members for the role Chair, in accordance with the associations Constitution, the Chair is then elected from among the Directors. The Board also appoint our Independent Director(s), Vice-Chair and Treasurer, at the first meeting of the new Board, which

took place on June 16, the board elected a new Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer.

- Fiachra Ó'Súilleabháin - Chair
- Dearbhla Ní Ríordain – Vice Chair
- Monica Hynds O'Flanagan – Treasurer and Chair of the Finance & Audit Committee
- Grainne Maguire* – Independent Director, Marketing Brand Manager
**appointed by the Board in May*

Directors who wished to remain on the Board were; Denise Kirwan (independent), Claire McGettrick (independent), Monica Hynds O'Flanagan, Fiachra Ó'Súilleabháin & Oby Enekwechi-Ibebugwu.

We would like to thank our directors for their hard work, tireless efforts, and dedication to the IASW over the last 12 months and look forward to your continued engagement with the IASW. We couldn't do all that we do, without the tremendous support we receive from our voluntary Board of Directors.

We said goodbye to:

- Vivian Geiran (5yr term)
- Rachel McCormack (6yr term)
- Una Burgess (1yr term)
- Sinead McGarry (1yr term)
- Siobhan Nunn (1yr term)

Thank you all for your years of service for the Association, your dedication to the IASW did not go un-noticed. Thank you for your outstanding contribution to the IASW, we could not have done it without you!

Our newly appointed

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Fiachra Ó'Súilleabháin
Chair

Dearbhla Ní Ríordain
newly elected, Vice Chair

Monica Hynds O'Flanagan
Treasurer

Oby Enekwechi-Ibebugwu
Director

Brian Fitzgerald
newly elected

Jacqueline Fyne
newly elected

Denise Kirwan
independent Director

Grainne Maguire
newly elected independent Director

Dr. Claire McGettrick
independent Director

Evelyn Oboh
newly elected

Annual General Meeting

Thank you so much to all of our members who participated in the 2025 virtual Annual General meeting. We exceeded quorum and had over 70 members in attendance.

A copy of the minutes (to be approved at 2025 AGM) and motions, can be found [here](#).

A big thank you to all those who attended! And a big congrats to the 5 winners of the AGM draw:

2024 Annual Report & Financial Statements

In May we released our Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 2024.

Year on year we are consistently improving the standard of the Annual Report, offering readers a real insight into the business of the IASW, using it as an opportunity for the IASW to tell its story, vividly, honestly and in its own

- Aine McGuirk
- Caroline Boyd
- Hilda Loughran
- Aine Barrett
- Abimbola Sanyaolu

unique way.

You can download a copy online now by clicking [here](#).

Enjoy your €100 vouchers!

Supporting Your Continuing Professional Development

The member only CPD with the IASW section on www.iasw.ie has recently been updated with the addition of some new resources to support your CPD. The first resource provides a rationale for CPD in social work and has been developed in response to requests from members for information to support their cases to employers for leave/support/funding for CPD opportunities, particularly those that take place in person. The second resource is a video of Clíona Murphy, Professional Development Coordinator talking about the importance of CPD to social work, and to those who use social work services. We also have a video to share with you on how to upload your CPD for audit on the new Thentia registrant system at CORU. You can find that video and the slides from the CPD & the Requirements of Registration presentation [here](#). A total of 330 social workers attended the monthly CPD & Requirements of Registration webinars in the first half of 2025, showing a high level of interest and engagement with the topic.

The Board CPD Committee is working on additional for resources to support the professional development of our members while the Special Interest Groups continue to plan and deliver a range of CPD events and opportunities informed by their practice knowledge and experience.

CPD events for the autumn (7 in Sept alone!) and winter can be found on www.iasw.ie so do remember to book and secure your place at any event you're interested in. And in the meantime, wishing you the best of the summer sun,

Clíona Murphy
Professional Development Coordinator
CORU Registered Social Worker SW003994

Protect Palestine is a grass-roots initiative

This initiative is rooted in international humanitarian principles and a shared responsibility to act in the face of grave injustice. By supporting and spreading the

word about this campaign, we can help raise global awareness and urge decision-makers to take concrete action to protect innocent lives.

Your voice matters, this message to justice and human dignity.

Learn more about [Protect Palestine here](#).

Sign the Petition: [Urgent International Military Protection for Palestinians here](#).



IASW Events and SIGs



[Navigating the Labyrinth: Supporting Adults with Complex Health & Psychosocial Needs](#)

- Fri, 12 Sept | 9am-4pm
- Dublin
- €40

This Primary Care Social Work National Conference will explore the evolving role of social work in Primary Care and the practice implications of the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015.



Confirmed speakers include: **Amanda Casey (right)**, Chief Social Worker, HSE; and **Caoimhe Gleeson (left)**, General Manager, National Office for Human Rights and Equality Policy, HSE.



IASW's Special Interest Groups (SIG) 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](#).

To join email administrator@iasw.ie

Mindfulness-Based Social Work and Self-Care Programme

- Tue, 16 Sept @ 6pm-7.30pm
- Online
- €100

[Learn more and register here!](#)

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

ADULT SAFEGUARDING & PROTECTION (ASAP)

ADULT MENTAL HEALTH (SWAMH)

ANTI-RACISM ADVISORY GROUP (ARAG)

CHILDREN & FAMILIES (C&F)

CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH (CAMHS)

DISABILITY (SWID & PDS)

FOSTER CARE (SWIFC)

HEAD MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKERS (HMSW)

PRIMARY CARE (SWIPC)

SOCIAL WORKERS IN AGING (SIGA)

Call for Practice Teachers!



Maynooth University
National University of Ireland Maynooth

Interested in becoming a Social Work Practice Teacher for a Masters in Social Work Student?

Maynooth University is seeking practice teachers for 3rd February-8th May 2026!

[Express your interest here!](#)



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

We are currently seeking placements for September 2025 and would love to hear from you!

Placement cycles are: September - December 2025 January - April 2026

Contact Eleanor Kelly, Practice Learning Coordinator at eleanor.kelly@universityofgalway.ie to express your interest

Practice Teaching a Social Work
Student @Maynooth University
agreement



Scoil na hEolaisíochta Polaitiúla
agus na Socheolaíochta
SCHOOL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
and Sociology

*Interested in joining the Social Work
Practice Teaching Community at
University of Galway?*

We are currently seeking placements for September 2025 and would love to hear from you!

Placement cycles are:

September - December 2025
January - April 2026

Contact Eleanor Kelly, Practice Learning Coordinator at
eleanor.kelly@universityofgalway.ie to express your interest



UCC

University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

Practice Teaching is a dynamic CPD learning experience providing opportunities for social workers to develop their supervision skills and students the opportunity to make a valuable contribution in service hours to frontline practice while they learn. Social Workers who engage in practice teaching have continually informed us of the benefits in terms of their own continuing professional development.

UCC would like to hear from CORU registered social workers who are interested in supervising our students on placement during 2025/2026 – our placement cycles are usually from September – December and January – April. A placement fee is paid.

For further information please contact swfieldwork@ucc.ie or please [register your interest here!](#)



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

Practice teaching makes a really important contribution to the development of the profession of social work. Trinity College Dublin is actively seeking CORU registered Social Workers (2 years post qualification and at least 1 year in role) to facilitate student social work placements in September 2025 (Bachelor in Social Studies) and January 2026 (Master in Social Work).

Practice Teacher Training workshops will be provided for those interested prior to the commencement of the placement. Student Placements are normally 14 weeks in duration.

We will be happy to provide any additional information and queries can be made to Jen at swpractice.ed@tcd.ie or you can register your interest by completing our [Pre Placement Agreement and Practice Teacher Register](#)

Our students can make an important contribution to social work practice and with your guidance and support they will

develop core social work practice skills to complement their classroom teaching.

TCD pays a fee to our Practice Teachers and provide a range of resources and supports

HSEland.ie eLearning

Stay up-to-date eLearning via HSEland.ie. Here you can find essential guidance and training to support your role. Whether you're a new staff member or looking to refresh your knowledge, the eLearning is designed to be clear, accessible, and practical.

Simply log in or register with hseland.ie, navigate to the "Hubs & Resources" section, and select the relevant course to get started. It is free and open to anyone.

[Register or login here!](#)

The screenshot shows the HSEland.ie website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo 'hseland.ie' and menu items: Home, About, **Hubs & Resources**, Courses, Certificates, Support, and Profile. Below the navigation bar is the main heading 'Hubs & Resources' followed by a sub-heading: 'The HSeLanD Hubs are designed to support the rollout of local and national initiatives, allowing you to find out what's happening, access relevant documentation, and collaborate and learn together online.'

The main content area is titled 'Learning Hubs' and features six hub cards arranged in a 2x3 grid:

- Change & Innovation Hub**: This hub is a contemporary and dynamic space where people can find up to date information and resources on people and ...
[View the hub →](#)
- HSCP Hub**: The Health and Social Care Professions hub is a central repository and communication channel for Health and Social Car...
[View the hub →](#)
- Nursing & Midwifery Hub**: Welcome to the Nursing & Midwifery Hub - This hub is designed to support registered nurses and midwives by prov...
[View the hub →](#)
- National NCHD Training Hub**: Welcome to the National NCHD Training Hub where healthcare professionals can access materials that are important when star...
[View the hub →](#)
- i-START Hub**: This i-START Hub has been developed to support the induction (on-boarding) of all employees on appointment to their n...
[View the hub →](#)
- Mental Health Hub**: The Mental Health Services Hub is a core resource for learning, information and communications related to the applica...
[View the hub →](#)

**Refer a Member - Be in with a chance to Win a €100
voucher**

For every member you recruit, the IASW will enter you into our monthly prize draw to **win a €100 Gift Voucher of your choice!**

Member Testimonial:

"As a new starter into the profession of just one year, the IASW has been pivotal for me in terms of networking, keeping motivated in the profession with ongoing CPD training and being kept informed on such training. The role I am currently in was brought to my attention through the IASW. As a whole, being a member of the IASW has been paramount in shaping my outlook and networking with other members."

- Amy O'Hara



[Refer a Member](#)

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](#)



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