

Update from the IASW Office

MEMBERSHIP

We need YOUR help!!! The IASW is run by members for members, and, we would ask that **each member recruit one new member**, if each of members did this, we would succeed in reaching our goal of **2000 members by May 2020**.



REGISTRATION & FITNESS TO PRACTICE INSURANCE

CORU registration is due for renewal before May 31st, with that in mind, IASW would like to remind members about two important items:

- 1) Please print your 'Certificate of Retention & Registration' and your Receipt, reason being registered CORU professionals may **claim tax relief** (at 20%) against the CORU annual retention fee where there is a statutory requirement for registration with CORU. Please [click here](#) to view further details on how to do this.
- 2) **We PROTECT You!** Our membership package includes Fitness to Practise Legal Expenses cover. Further information on this package can be found here: <https://www.iasw.ie/Fitness-to-Practise-Legal-Expense-Cover>. Over the last six months the IASW received several calls from **non-members** who have received a letter of complaint from CORU but have **not obtained** Fitness to Practise insurance coverage via the IASW. These Social Workers have had to **personally incur** the legally costs, approx. €5-7K to the Preliminary Proceedings Stage. Please talk to your social work colleagues to ensure that they have obtained this vitally important insurance coverage.

SUBMISSIONS

The IASW received invitation from the Oireachtas to attend a meeting of the Joint Committee on Children and Youth Affairs (JYCCA) **on March 27th**. The association were invited to give a short presentation and to discuss issues pertaining to the recruitment and retention of social workers in Tusla. Aine McGuirk, Chair of the IASW and Joe McCarthy, IASW member and former Director of the IASW represented the IASW at this meeting. A **copy of our submission** can be download from the IASW website: <https://www.iasw.ie/page/382>

On the 6th December, the IASW and BASW, Northern Ireland wrote a letter to the Tánaiste re. Brexit Implications

December 3rd and again on May 21st, the IASW and the Council of Irish Adoption Agencies wrote to Minister Zappone re. Adoption (Information & Tracing Bill) 2016 & GDPR

These letters/submissions can be found here: <https://www.iasw.ie/Submissions-and-Representations>

REPRESENTING THE IASW

The IASW is invited to participate in many advisory, expert review and focus groups. We also receive invitations to a wide variety of events. In addition, we also meet with CORU, Tusla, Ministers, Government Departments and the media. Over the last three months the IASW has attended the following events and meetings:

15Feb – EPIC's Care Day

26Feb – Launch of the Children's Rights Alliance Report Card 2019

19Mar – World Social Work Day Celebrations
27Mar – Presentation to the Joint Committee on Children and Youth Affairs
03Apr - HSCP Representation Pathway - Review with Professional Bodies
12Apr - Slaintecare workshop on integrated community services
29Apr - Advisory Committee (Talking Therapies)

01May - Networking Event for Health and Social Care Professionals (HSCP) in Representative Roles
13May - Open Policy Debate on the Potential Introduction of Open or Semi-Open Adoption in Ireland
20May - Visit from UNH (US) SW Students

COMMUNICATIONS AND PR

There is one vacancy on our current Board of Directors, attendees at our most recent AGM asked the Board to consider recruiting another 'Commercial Director' to the Board with experience in Communications and PR, Danielle is to contact Boardmatch Ireland about this recruitment process.

THE IRISH SOCIAL WORKER JOURNAL

Preparations for the Summer edition of the Irish Social Worker Journal are well under way. The Journal Committee are still accepting articles. The deadline is June 30th for the Summer Edition of the journal, the committee hope to publish the journal in July, in time for a holiday read!

Articles are always welcome and should be emailed for the attention of the editor, email officemanager@iasw.ie for a copy of the Guidelines for Writing an article.

INCREASING OUR RESOURCES

The Board of Directors have drafted a business case for Government Departments seeking seed funding for a National Director post. The proposal has been sent to expertise in this area and they have provided valuable feedback. The funding proposal will be sent to the relevant departments within the next two months.

CPD EVENTS

There are three events remaining on this year's training calendar, the IASW are particularly excited about hosting our first 'All Ireland Social Work Research' Conference on June 14th. We are delighted to report that we received a high volume of abstracts, and it's shaping up to be an unmissable event! This is a **FREE** event, but places are booking quickly, so **book NOW** so avoid missing out!

Please keep an eye on our event emails and the website for information on our upcoming events <https://www.iasw.ie/events/upcoming>

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The IASW recently held its AGM on May 9th, 29 members of the IASW attended. The following information; a copy of the meeting minutes (incl motions carried & election of Directors), the Annual Report 2018-2019 and the 2018 Financial Statements can be found on the website, via this link <https://www.iasw.ie/AGM-IASW>

A Good Read! The Annual Report provides information on the activities of the association over the last 12 months, membership statistics, financial performance, CPD Events, and a glimpse at the wheelbarrow of work being done by our volunteers!

YOUR FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT TO US

The Board are always looking for feedback from members regarding way in which we can improve our services and membership benefits, they would very much welcome any suggestions you may have. Feedback can be sent to officemanager@iasw.ie and FYI the Board of Directors will meet on the following dates in the second half of 2019: June 10th, July 22nd, September 23rd and November 11th.