
Board of Directors July 2020 – July 2021

In line with the Constitution, paragraph 11 “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).”

Directors who wish to continue on the Board

1. Aine McGuirk
2. John Brennan
3. Anette O’Callaghan
4. Hilda Loughran
5. Colletta Dalikeni
6. Majella Hickey
7. Gary Gartland
8. Rachel McCormack

Directors who will retire

None

Directors to be Elected

1. Vivian Geiran
2. Bridin Murphy

No further nominations have been received.

Statement of Candidacy for position of Chair of the IASW

I have been a member of the Board of the IASW for four full years now. Having been elected to the position for Chair at the 2018 AGM I would like to continue in this position for the next year and therefore I am seeking election again today. My aim had been to provide three full years as Chair.

Over the past 2 years I have worked very hard to raise the profile of Social Work and the IASW in Ireland.

As Chair I have represented the IASW at many conferences, launches and meetings (Forsa; The Health and Social Care Professionals Association; The Health and Social Care Professionals Office; BASW Northern Ireland; Tusla; National Safeguarding Committee; CORU; etc).

It has been my pleasure to support our three staff and I have been hugely assisted by them. The office of Chair and the Board cannot function without good office support.

I was honoured represent the IASW in Vienna at the International Federation European meetings and present a joint statement with our colleagues in BASW on the consequences of Brexit for Social Workers and their client groups. This has helped raise the profile of the association nationally and internationally.

My appearance before a meeting of a Joint Oireachtas Committee representing the associations views on recruitment and retention issues in Child and Family social work continues to attract positive media attention that will raise awareness of social work in Ireland.

If elected again as Chair I plan to lead the Board in the following priority area:

- Expand IASW influence further
- Lead the Board in fulfilling their respective roles

I seek your support as members to be elected.



Aine McGuirk

SW004099

JOHN BRENNAN**Position: Director of the Board**

As a member of the IASW Board for the past number of years I have had a platform to work on the social work issues that I strongly believe in. I have also been able to support the development of the Association and the profession generally. As a Board member for this coming year, I would aim to continue to use the experiences that I have to good effect in furthering the IASW's goals.

As a member of the IASW since 1990, I have wide experience of the Association through my membership of the various IASW Committees and Interest Groups and I represent and have represented the IASW on many committees both in Ireland and in Europe. Since 2019, I have had the honour of being the Vice-President of the International Federation of Social Workers' European Region.

ANETTE O'CALLAGHAN**Position: Director of the Board**

I have been a member of the IASW since 2004. I have been a member of SIGA for a number of years. I have represented SIGA at IASW Board Meetings in 2008 – 2009.

I qualified in Denmark in 2004. Since then I have worked in Ireland in a medical setting in a variety of roles. I have a particular interest in older people and the ethical challenges involved with their care. Advocacy is another aspect of the social work role which I am passionate about. I also feel strongly about the importance about good transparent governance.

If re-elected, I intend to be an active member of the Board supporting the Board in working towards improving the systems in which social workers work, to the benefit of both social workers and their clients. I believe the IASW needs to act as the collective voice of its members to the best of its abilities.

HILDA LOUGHRAN**Position: Director of the Board**

I am a long-standing membership of IASW and see the organisation as having an important role in supporting professional development for social workers. I have served as a Board member for the past 4 years. My specific area of responsibility on the Board is working as part of the Continuing Professional Development subcommittee. The IASW plays an important role in representing the profession and working towards

supporting the highest standards of practice, helping to build professional networks, and supporting a sustainable profession. I think I have the experience and enthusiasm to contribute to that mission.

DR. COLLETTA DALIKENI**Position: Director of the Board**

I have local and international social work teaching and practice experience in child protection/welfare work, and intellectual disability. My practice and research interests generally center on issues relating to culturally competent social work practice with ethnic minorities, immigrants, asylum seekers, refugees and the intersecting discourse of race, racism, culture, and social citizenship. I have been an active member of the Irish Association of Social Workers (IASW) since 2004. During the same time, I have held several positions as Board Member on an advisory capacity with numerous Non-Governmental Organisations. I have a strong interest, and commitment to activist and emancipatory social work. Consequently, Under the EU Erasmus + funding initiatives I have been involved in several community projects including social inclusion and diversity projects aimed at raising awareness about the role of social work in a multicultural society like Ireland. Over the past 30 years in both social work/social care education and practice, I have acquired sufficient experience to enable me to meaningfully contribute to the IASW mission. As a Black African migrant social worker, I believe my membership on the Board at this moment is timely given the profound changes taking place in the local practice context occasioned by recent large-scale diverse migration and the need to re-evaluate the role of social work in light of such changes. I am enthused to have the opportunity to be part of an organisation which I believe is capable of bringing about meaningful change to the social work profession.

MAJELLA HICKEY**Position: Director of the Board**

My name is Majella Hickey and I am running for the board of Directors with IASW. I have a master's in social work and a Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Fieldwork Practice and Supervision from University College Cork. I have a diverse range of experience working over fifteen years with involuntary and voluntary clients in homelessness, addiction, and criminal justice settings. My experience has enhanced my confidence in the areas of addiction, mental health, relationships, stress, and trauma. My current role as occupational social worker with the Irish Defence Forces

has afforded me the opportunity to work therapeutically with adults and families within a military setting.

In 2014, I contributed to an RTE documentary and media interviews on the work of the Probation Service. I was a finalist in the Practice Teacher of the Year at the IASW Awards in 2015. I presented at the 11th International Practice Teaching and Field Education Conference in Belfast and at the Irish Foster Care Association Conference in 2016.

In recent years, I have played an active role in the IASW where I have gained first-hand knowledge of the specific issues that affect and inform social work practice. In 2015, I joined the editorial committee of the 'Irish Social Worker' where I am passionate about advancing practitioner-based research. In 2015 -2016 I was treasurer of the Social Workers in Probation Special Interest Group. The opportunity to work in both of these positions within IASW has enabled me to gain insight into practice issues, changing legislation and policy issues that are important to our members.

I am interested in the position of director as I care about advancing the knowledge base of social work, the standards of our profession and in the power of advocacy. My goal would be to use my networking skills to work closely with the committees of IASW and to provide education on the value and benefits of being a member. I would be honoured to serve as a director of the board and would bring experience, passion, and knowledge to the role.

GARY GARTLAND

Position: Commercial Director of the Board

I am a retired Senior Military Officer with over 35 years of leadership and managerial experience within a large-scale organisation. I have a master's in leadership management and Defence Studies and was the Personnel Support Services (PSS) Coordinator for the Irish Air Corps for over 20 years. The PSS is a confidential information, education, support, and referral service designed to give Defence Forces personnel access to information and services. This provided me with first-hand knowledge and experience dealing with serving members and their families providing a range of services from psycho-social support to practical advice and information on issues such as family and relationships, coping with deployments, health concerns including alcohol and mental health, work and financial problems.

I am aware of the challenges that currently face the IASW and the need to engage with social workers and the government to address areas of concern. If elected, I will actively support the Board in the continued

development of social workers and assist in raising the profile of the valuable role social workers make in promoting well-being of service users.

RACHEL MCCORMACK

Position: Director of the Board

My name is Rachel McCormack. I qualified with an MSW from UCC in 2005. I have been a member of the IASW since 2005. I am founding member (2005) of the Southern Branch SIG which continues to date. I am also founding member of the National Child Protection Biannual Conference (SWCONFUCC), we have successfully organised and hosted 7 conferences to date, I continue to represent the IASW on this organising committee.

I was elected to the BOD in May 2019 and have completed my first year on the Board. I have represented the BOD on the Children's advisory committee to HIQA. I am also involved in other projects within the association and hope to continue on the board for the year 2020-21.

I have been employed in Children Protection and Welfare Services (TUSLA) as a both Social Worker and Team leader from (2005- 2015 SW) & (2016-2019 SWTL). From 2015-2016, I was employed part time in YK Area Based Childhood Programme and part-time in UCC as a tutor and assistant lecturer on the MSW course. I am currently employed by Tusla, within Workforce Development as a Training Development Officer.

I have special interest in the professional development of Social Work Practice and in the progression and protection of the profession. I believe in the need to advocate for the voice and the value of social work and social justice within the societal challenges and changes we face.

VIVIAN GEIRAN

Position: Director of the Board

I retired as Irish Probation Service Director at the end of 2019 and have many years' experience of senior leadership and practice development in the field of criminal justice social work, nationally and internationally. A longstanding member of IASW, I have contributed to the Association in various ways, including as a member of the *Irish Social Worker* journal committee for several years, and contributing as a presenter to several IASW conferences. More recently, I have worked on the IASW's 'Social Work During COVID-19' survey. I am also a registered social worker and have championed the social work

profession throughout my thirty-three years in Probation. This included introducing a requirement for new Probation Officers to be CORU-registered and leading on the Probation Service role as a key organisational sponsor of the World Social Work Conference 2018. If elected, I will continue to support the IASW's work in whatever ways I can.

BRIDIN MURPHY

Position: Director of the Board

My name is Bridin Murphy, and I am running for the board of Directors with IASW. I am due to graduate with a Masters in Social Work from University College Dublin in June 2020.

I am an elected representative in Co. Wexford, this has given me direct exposure to how political decisions directly affect the provision of quality social work services. I am chair of the Co. Wexford mental health committee which brings the shareholders of all relevant mental health services together to discuss how these services can collaborate and support each other. I am also on the board of the Healthy Wexford Committee, which seeks to explore how the local authority can assist in creating a healthy county.

I am interested in the position of director as I am passionate about representing the interests of both student and newly qualified social workers. I would be honoured to serve as a director on the board and would bring enthusiasm, passion, and experience to the role.