



Annual Report 2019

Introduction

This report covers the period 1st January to 31st December 2019. ICSW activities for 2019 are reported under the following six priority areas:

- Promoting social development, social welfare and social justice,
- Networking and policy innovations in our work,
- Communicating with our stakeholders,
- On-going global advocacy and socially responsible global governance,
- Regional level cooperation,
- Knowledge-building, policy dialogue and capacity-development.

Highlights of 2019

- Co-creating the next decade's vision on social work and social welfare : The development of the next chapter of the "Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development 2020-2030," a major strategic collaboration with the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) and the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW).
- High-level UN engagement: Active participation in the 57th UN Commission for Social Development (CSocD), where ICSW co-organized a key side event on accountability and social protection with partners like UNESCO, IASSW, and the African Platform for Social Protection.
- Strengthening global coalitions: A prominent feature on and active participation in the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors, reinforcing ICSW's commitment to achieving universal social protection.
- Connecting social policy to global issues: The newsletters linked social welfare to broader global agendas by featuring the International Labour Organization's (ILO) research on job creation through the Paris Agreement and highlighting the climate action work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.
- Strong regional advocacy: ICSW Global supported a notable call to action from ICSW Europe urging policymakers to "Stop Sacrificing Social Goals in the Pursuit of Economic Gains," demonstrating the organization's influence on regional policy debates.

- New leadership: The appointment of Tom Johannesen as the new Executive Director in July 2019, signaling a new phase of leadership and direction for the organization.

OUTCOMES

1. Promoting social justice and, social welfare

- Gender equality: The March newsletter focused on "Social Protection for All Women and Girls," advocating for a life-course perspective that addresses systemic inequalities.
- Advocating for human-centered policy: ICSW Global made an effort to amplify a call from ICSW Europe to "Stop Sacrificing Social Goals in the Pursuit of Economic Gains," pushing back against purely market-driven policies and advocating for development models that prioritize societal wellbeing.
- Rethinking progress: Acting in cooperation with ICSW Europe the Global Office moved to look beyond GDP when addressing "Societal Wellbeing," attempting a more holistic and just measure of national progress.

2. Networking and policy innovations in our work

- Co-creating a decade of action: A landmark achievement was a continuation of the project "Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development 2020-2030." and elaboration of the new priority theme. This represents an unprecedented level of networking, developed in close partnership with the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) and the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) to create a unified vision.
- Multi-stakeholder dialogue: At the 57th UN Commission for Social Development, we partnered with SOSTE (Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health), IASSW, UNESCO, and the African Platform for Social Protection (APSP) to co-organize side events, creating a unique space for networking between civil society, academia, and UN bodies.
- ICSW actively participated in the Civil Society Forum organized by the NGO Committee in New York in the context of the 57th session of the Commission for Social Development.

3. Communicating with Our Stakeholders

- Disseminating key information: Throughout 2019, the newsletters provided timely updates on global policy debates, shared expert analysis, and highlighted the work of

our members in the regions.

- Sharing global perspectives: The newsletters featured articles from international thought leaders, such as Professor Manohar Pawar, President of the International Consortium for Social Development, ensuring our stakeholders were informed by diverse expert views.

4. On-going global advocacy and socially responsible global governance

- Influencing UN policy: Our active participation at the 57th UN Commission for Social Development (CSocD) was a cornerstone of our advocacy, allowing us to bring civil society perspectives directly into global social policy-making. ICSW submitted a written statement to the above session of the Commission on its priority theme: “Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies”.
- Championing universal social protection: ICSW supported activities of the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors (featured in the May newsletter), advocating for this critical mechanism for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Linking social policy to global agendas: ICSW demonstrated thought leadership by connecting social welfare to the climate crisis

5. Regional level cooperation

- Amplifying regional voices: We provided a global platform for ICSW Europe's strong advocacy message, demonstrating how regional bodies can lead on critical policy debates.
- Sharing regional challenges and solutions: The September newsletter featured a case study on Angola's efforts to build an inclusive social protection system, fostering inter-regional learning by sharing a national experience with global relevance.

6. Knowledge-building, policy dialogue and capacity-development

- Expert analysis: ICSW -sponsored newsletters provided deep dives into key topics, including a feature article on integrating social and economic development (January) and a comprehensive look at social protection from a gendered, life-course perspective (March).
- Promoting educational exchange: We featured an article on "Expanding learning opportunities and building social responsibility through field school participation,"

highlighting innovative methods for capacity-development.

- Fostering global dialogue: By sharing case studies from Angola to Europe and expert opinions from around the world, we built the capacity of our members to engage in evidence-based policy dialogue.