President’s Message

Eva Holmberg Herrström - President, ICSW.

This edition of the ICSW Newsletter has a different look and contents than in the last years. There are two reasons for this change.

Sergei Zelenev has ended his time as Executive Director in ICSW. With great engagement he has had the position for seven years and done a lot of work for the organisation. ICSW is very grateful for his involvement and intense work efforts and wish him good luck for the future. He will not end completely performing tasks for ICSW as he for a while still will be our Representative to the United Nations, New York.

ICSW’s new Executive Director is Tom Johannesen from Norway. Tom has a long and sterling NGO background, including 17 years as Secretary General in our sister organisation - International Federation of Social Workers. ICSW is happy that he has engaged himself in an international context again to work with us, and look very much forward to the cooperation.

The other reason is a change in our information strategy. We will focus on uplifting the social policy work done by our national members, but also enlighten relevant global and regional activities in our area. This means that we will engage in an active cooperation with membership.

Another change is that the Newsletter now simply is called ICSW News and that we will move from 12 to 11 annual editions.

The change in information strategy will also be reflected in increased publication on our web site. A new planned feature is to present articles on social policy and invite to
debate. We will also be more active on Facebook and Twitter.

What will happen in ICSW in the year to come? In June 2020 we arrange our World Conference in Rimini, Italy. We hope to see many of you there and that many of you also will take the opportunity to present abstracts describing your work.

But ahead of Rimini ICSW will continue to be an active player in the ongoing discussion about social policy. We should all engage, nationally, regionally and globally. Through responsible and knowledgable action in this core area we take part in the development and well-being of both people and their environment.

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Executive Column

Tom Johannesen – Executive Director, ICSW.

It is with a sense of pride and commitment I now engage in ICSW. It will be a privilege to serve this organisation with its long history and varied membership around the world. I am already struck by the sincerity I see in involvement in society and what an important role we as a global but also local entity can play in developing a social policy that both encourages, assists and empowers people.

We need to position ourselves in a world where social security is under pressure and where there are rapid changes, sometimes to the better and sometimes to the worse.

ICSW should maintain and expand our role as a strong actor in social policy. To do that, we need to improve our ability to turn knowledge into capacity. We also need to better understand the interaction between social and environmental issues, and to move into this agenda with both humility - because it is so complex - and a sense of ownership, since we possess considerable experience in social matters.

We also need to understand that identity-matters play an increasing and changing role in the public domain. And that this influences political development in many ways, sometimes leading to concern and sometimes to more
liveable societies.

Change is not a matter of management. But we should not see it as fate. We need to take charge of change.

To bring this column back to the tasks we face in the secretariat, it will be crucial to continue providing services to members and to expand membership, maybe by looking at a wider opening to connect to ICSW and to strengthen and possibly expand our cooperation with other NGO groups in related fields.

As the President writes in her message, we also need to find new ways of communicating with our stakeholders, policymakers and society in general, in other words increase our visibility. Our finances can also be expanded through developmental projects in different areas in cooperation with membership.

There is no lack of things do, and I believe we are at the brink of stepping more forward in many ways. Let us take those steps together.

I look forward to working with you.

ICSW Europe: Focus on priorities for social policy

The ICSW European Regional President Ronald Wiman is in his Message in the spring edition of the ICSW Europe Newsletter focusing on how comprehensive social policies as the core of ICSW can be instruments to make social and human rights real for all people.

Based upon what is generally accepted as the three core Pan-European values Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law he goes on formulating the need to put people first and economy in a servant position.

Climate change has turned into the very heart of policies based on social values. And “a sustainable future report” should have four main chapters: First ethical sustainability,
then the social, then the environmental and last (but not insignificant) the economic. This order would certainly result in a different report than those that start with the economy».

Read more in the Spring 2019 IFSW Europe Newsletter on icsw.org

ILO: 18 million more jobs with the Paris Agreement

In its World Employment and Social Outlook report covering trends 2019, ILO (International Labour Organization) estimates that 18 million more jobs will result from achieving the 2% goal of the Paris Agreement. While 6 million jobs will be lost, 24 million jobs will be created.

By moving away from a “buy, use and throw away” economy towards “recycle, reuse, remanufacture and repair” 6 million jobs can be created.

As much as 1.2 billion jobs in agriculture, fishing and forestry - but also tourism and pharmaceuticals - depend on a stable and healthy environment.

The report shows that even if the global unemployment rate has gone down, more than 170 million people are still unemployed. One in five young people (ages 15-24) are not in employment, education or training, reducing future chances for neets (Neet = Not in employment, education or training) to enter employment.

ilo.org/weso

Latin America with focus on inequality

Latin America: fran hogan/unsplash
There are high levels of inequality in Latin America, and ICSW Latin America and partners therefore decided to have this as their focus in a preparatory for the upcoming World Conference in Rimini 2020.

A conference in Sao Paulo, Brazil at the end of June is aiming at presenting recommendations from Latin America in this crucial area for future sustainable development. It is the ambition that the recommendations can be directed both to the Global Agenda process of ICSW and partners, and to the UN Global Agenda 2030. The ICSW Regional President Nelsida Marmelojos and President Eva Holmberg-Herrström both took part.

We will return with more from this conference when we have the recommendations.

**ICSW meetings in Sweden**

The small fishing village Gislövs Läge in southern Sweden turned into a global village when the ICSW Board and Management Committee met there at the end of May for the annual meeting, summarising the year passed since Dublin 2018 and planning for the year ahead of Rimini 2020.

Among the subjects in focus were finances, membership development and strategic plans for the future. The finances need to be strengthened and membership to be expanded, and key elements to achieve these goals were discussed and developed.

The strategic work ahead should be based on ICSW’s longstanding knowledge of advocacy for social security and social policy, and at the same time expand into social finances on a broader basis and how environmental development interacts with social concerns. While the weakening of social security in many parts of the world is of serious concern, it at the same time calls for new approaches.
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ICSW is in position to be a core NGO contributor in the processes that are ahead of us.

The outgoing Executive Director Sergei Zelenev was thanked for his many years of work and the incoming Tom Johannesen welcomed.

Which Country will host the 2022 Conference?

The sister organisations IASSW, ICSW and IFSW call for Expressions of Interest to host the 2022 Joint International Conference on Social Work and Social Development (SWSD2022).

Since 2010 venues have been Hong Kong, China 2010, Stockholm, Sweden 2012, Melbourne, Australia 2014, Seoul, Republic of Korea 2016 and Dublin, Ireland 2018. In 2020 IASSW and ICSW will go to Rimini, Italy, while IFSW have the conference in Calgary, Canada.

Due to the fact that Europe and North America recently will have had conferences, applications from Africa, Asia and Pacific, Latin America and Caribbean or the Middle East will be given priority.

Deadline for calls is September 1, 2019.

Please send preliminary inquiries and questions to jointworldconference2022@gmail.com

Find much more information on icsw.org

UN Days in July and August 2019

JULY 2019

6 July (first Saturday in July)
International Day of Cooperatives (A/RES/47/90)

11 July
July 2019

World Population Day (UNDP decision 89/46 15, A/RES/45/216)

15 July
World Youth Skills Day (A/RES/69/145)

18 July
Nelson Mandela International Day (A/RES/64/13)

28 July
World Hepatitis Day [WHO]

30 July
International Day of Friendship (A/RES/65/275)

30 July
World Day against Trafficking in Persons (A/RES/68/192)

AUGUST 2019

9 August
International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples (A/RES/49/214)

12 August
International Youth Day (A/RES/54/120)

19 August
World Humanitarian Day (A/RES/63/139)

21 August
International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism (A/RES/72/165)

22 August
International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief (A/RES/73/296)

23 August
International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition [UNESCO] (29 C/Resolution 40)

29 August
International Day against Nuclear Tests (A/RES/64/35)

30 August
International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances (A/RES/65/209)

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