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International Council on Social Welfare

November 2019

**Global Agenda for Social Work
and Social Development 2020-
2030
ICSW Vision Statement**



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and Tom Johannesen, Executive
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Walking into a Different Decade

As we approach the 2020's the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development can celebrate 10 years of influence since 2010. As we now want to set an agenda for 2020-2030 we have to realise that the world looks quite different than it did only 10 years ago.

**Planet and People in the driving
seat**

The *climate* crisis is here as a result of setting profit instead of planet

and people in the driving seat for a very long time. As social policy influencers we will meet challenges and tasks unheard of until now.

The consequences of the climate crisis will go beyond our present imagination. There will be changes in health, social security, conflict, movement of people and a number of other areas.

We need to quickly and with vigour develop a deeper understanding of the interconnection between environmental and social issues. And move into a complex agenda with humility. But also with the confidence that we can deliver with our joint and vast experience in social matters. Deliver, not manage. Because this change will go beyond management. The best we can do is to take charge of change.



Louis Reed/unsplash

We can not do it alone

We can not do this alone as a sector. We have to develop partnerships beyond those we have nurtured for a long time. We should do that with environmentalists, with whom we have to develop cross-professional strategies. And we should also seek ways to interact better with the governmental and corporate sectors to see if there are common ground to be found in the crisis we face. We have to be present. Some have said that if you are not at the table, you are on the menu. We need to ensure that social protection and people's well-being is nurtured, not shrunk. The alternative to putting people first is anarchy and social unrest.

Identity as political force

Another major concern as we move into a new decade has to do with *identity*. Matters linked to this play an increasing and changing role in the public domain. It is sometimes and more and more often leading to nationalistic policy-making, moving away from international cooperation and following narrower paths.

Roads are closed instead of paved, fences are built instead of bridges. We need to counteract this and work on expanding the definition of *we* instead of clinging to a definition of *us*. Throughout the history and also contemporary practice of social policy solidarity has

been the main project. This is our road, and we should continue widening it.

Develop national umbrellas

As global organisations in social work and social development we have a special responsibility to do what we can to encourage the development of national umbrella bodies in social well-being. And to support them in developing capacity building and resource provision.

Let us walk together. It will be demanding.

Kenya: Universal Social Pension



Adams Korir/unsplash

The Government of Kenya introduced and fully financed in 2018 an universal social pension to all persons aged 70 and above. It forms a significant step forward in the realisation of the right to social security. The British publication

«Development Pathways» has just released a report on the program, which reaches out to more than 800 000 older persons and entitles recipients to a cash payment of 2,000 Kenyan Schillings (around 20 US Dollars) a month.

Traditional care and support systems had experienced a breakdown due to a number of factors, including high levels of poverty and unemployment, HIV/AIDS, and migration. The decline in informal support systems also led to a change to the worse in older persons' status and social roles.

The report shows that the pension program has restored a sense of dignity, and that more independence of family and community networks has resulted in a feeling of being less of a burden and more of a resource.

Kenya has since 2005 had other programs in action for orphans and vulnerable children, for households threatened by hunger, for poor old people and for people with disabilities. But the new scheme is the first universal program and can serve as a model for other countries.

The program is called Inua Jamii, which is Swahili for Uplift the Community.

Europe: More than GDP - Societal Wellbeing



Photo: EU

The new President (and the first female) of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, stated recently that EU from 2020 will present a «wellbeing

budget» to focus on the impact of their policies on the quality of people's lives. «We need to address the societal wellbeing, not only the economic wellbeing».

Each Commissioner shall report how spending proposals in the field will benefit people and work to ensure that they have a positive long-term impact. As the economy changes, politics should be more altruistic to address the challenges we are grappling with, she stated.

She also argues for identifying long-term cycles and to see politics through a lens of «kindness, empathy and wellbeing».

A Living Standards Framework is to be set up and reports made against a broader set of indicators. Another sign of change is that the former Jobs Commissioner now also has Social Rights in the portfolio.

Source: Social Platform

Red Cross and Red Crescent: Making Climate Action Top Priority



Ralph Sadaka/unsplash

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), made up of 192 national societies and focusing on humanitarian action, has released a 2030 strategy to put climate at the front of all programs.

4 global challenges have been identified for the coming decade together with Climate change: Migration and identity - Health - Values, power and inclusion - and Crises and disasters. But climate change is on the top, described as an «existential threat that already is completely altering the work we do and the lives of people we support, IFRC President Fransesco Rocca declared at the General Assembly in Geneva. As many as 200 million people can need humanitarian assistance per year as a result of climate change when we come to 2050.

Decision making should shift to a more local level by strenghtening national societies so they can respond better.

Source: Devex

Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors (GCSPF):

Commitments towards Achieving Universal, Residence and Human Rights-based Social Protection Systems and Floors



The Core Group in GCSPF, of which ICSW is a member, met in Geneva late November in connection with the ILO Global Social Protection Week and defined the central issues that are building blocks to achieve social protection for all:

Non, unsplash

The issues include:

1. Robust monitoring of the implementation of the four social security guarantees expressed in ILO recommendation 202: Access to goods and services constituting essential health care, Basic income security for children including nutrition, education and care, Basic income security for people in active age who are not able to earn sufficient income, especially in cases of sickness, unemployment, maternity and disability, and Basic income security for older persons.

2. National and international financing mechanisms for social protection.
3. Participation in the design, promotion and monitoring of the implementation of social protection systems and floors.
4. National and international action required to ensure delivery of social protection systems and floors including universal access to essential health care.
5. The importance of gender equality and rights-based care policies.

**Rimini 2020: Call for
Abstracts closes December
15**



The Joint World Conference on Social Work Education and Social Development «Promoting Human Relationships: Bridging the Future» will take place in Rimini, Italy June 28 - July 1, 2020, and we hope to see as many as possible of you there.

Please observe that the Call for Abstracts closes December 15, 2019.

More information on swesd2020.org

We welcome contributions to ICSW News



**Florian
Klaner/unsplash**

ICSW NEWS has changed its profile as of the last summer, and we now aim at shorter presentations on relevant topics from around the world in each edition. You are invited to send contributions reflecting social policy and development anytime to the Editor at

tjohannesen@icsw.org

If you have a more lengthy contribution, we would appreciate a summary and can make a link to the complete text. Please mark the email «ICSW NEWS».

We look forward to hear from you.

**Core UN Days in the months
to come**



**DECEMBER
2019 AND
JANUARY
2020**

**December 18: International Migrants
Day**

<https://www.un.org/en/events/migrantsday/>

**December 20: International Human
Solidarity Day**

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/human-solidarity-day>

**January 24: International Day of
Education**

<https://www.un.org/en/events/educationday/background.shtml>

**January 27: International Day of
Commemoration in Memory of the
Victims of the Holocaust**

<https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/uk/commemoration-of-holocaust-victims>

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