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Social Work: Making a World of Difference

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March 27 is World Social Work Day



International Federation of Social Workers

Social Work: Making a World of Difference

Social Workers around the world celebrate the first World Social Work Day March 27th 2007

Social Workers from every part of the world celebrate the first ever World Social Work Day on March 27th 2007. Social Work: Making a World of Difference is the theme, highlighting that social workers help people to make positive changes in their lives. The theme mirrors the IFSW 50th jubilee logo.

Social workers are involved with some of the most distressed and vulnerable people in our communities. They require not only compassion and dedication to help those in need but also intellectual and analytical skills and personal commitment. These are demanding qualities in special people.

Social work practice is always challenging and can be dangerous. In many situations the safety of social workers is at risk and there have been recent examples of social workers suffering serious injury and death.

Social workers recognise that the voice of vulnerable and marginalised individuals and groups (such as those living in poverty, people who are homeless, children and older people and people with physical or learning disabilities) is often not heard. Social workers aim to enable people to voice their concerns and to work jointly with service users to improve national and international social policies. Social workers respond not only to individual needs, but also larger social issues such as poverty, domestic violence, homelessness and health care. Social work aims to promote human rights and social justice.

David N Jones, President of the International Federation of Social Workers said: 'IFSW applauds the achievements of social workers: they 'make a world of difference' in the lives of so many people around the world. I call on national governments, non-governmental organisations and international institutions to recognise this essential contribution to the life and social stability of national and global communities, to support continuing training for social workers and to respect human rights and humanitarian values which are the foundation of social work.'

NOTES FOR EDITORS

IFSW is a global federation with member organisations in 84 countries including almost half a million members. IFSW has formal consultative status with the United Nations and many other global and regional organisations.

IFSW was formed at an international conference in Munich in 1956. It succeeded the International Permanent Secretariat of Social Workers, which was founded in Paris in 1928. IFSW is in partnership with The International Association of Schools of Social Work and the International Council on Social Welfare, both of which were also founded in 1928.

The Constitution of the IFSW provides that the aims shall be:

- to promote social work as a profession through international co-operation, especially regarding professional values, standards, ethics, human rights, recognition, training and working conditions;
- to promote the establishment of national organisations of social workers or professional unions for social workers and when needed national co-ordinating bodies (collectively "Social Work Organisations") where they do not exist;

workers in social planning and the formulation of social policies, nationally and internationally, the recognition of social work, the enhancement of social work training and the values and professional standards of social work.

IFSW resolved in 2004 to celebrate a World Social Work Day. IFSW aims to get United Nations recognition for the day and to work in partnership with other global organisations to ensure proper recognition of social work.

Read more about Social Work Day at the United Nations:
bluehawk.monmouth.edu/swork/UN/

The IFSW President David N Jones has sent the following message to the Social Work Day at the UN:

[Social Work Day at the UN](#)
[Women and Development: Best Practices](#)

24th Social Work Day at the United Nations linked to the 1st World Social Work Day

Greeting from David N Jones
President of the International Federation of Social Workers

Social Workers from every part of the world celebrate the first ever World Social Work Day on March 27th 2007. Social Work: Making a World of Difference is the theme, highlighting that social workers help people to make positive changes in their lives.

The timing of the annual World Social Work Day has been deliberately chosen to ensure a close link with the annual UN social work day. IFSW aims to work with our partner organisations to achieve United Nations recognition for World Social Work Day and to work in partnership with other global organisations to ensure proper recognition of social work.

Social workers are involved with some of the most distressed and vulnerable people in our communities. They require not only compassion and dedication to help those in need but also intellectual and analytical skills and personal commitment. These are demanding qualities in special people.

Social workers recognise that the voices of vulnerable and marginalised individuals and groups (such as those living in poverty, people who are homeless, children and older people and people with physical or learning disabilities) is often not heard. The voice of women is so often marginalised. Social workers aim to enable people to voice their concerns and to work jointly with them to improve national and international social policies. Social workers respond not only to individual needs, but also to larger social issues such as poverty, domestic violence, homelessness and health care. Social work aims to promote human rights and social justice. IFSW has been working closely with UN Habitat in East Africa and with UNICEF in Geneva to promote a more people centred approach to development. Not only do social workers so often support and encourage women but of course our profession is overwhelmingly a movement of women. It is therefore fitting that social workers today are celebrating the achievements and best practices of women.

I send my best wishes to the IFSW/IASSW team and all involved in UN Social Work Day. Today's theme not only highlights examples of best practices but also demonstrates that development, social and economic, can only happen when women are fully respected and engaged. Social work so often leads the way in supporting and encouraging women, helping them to make a real difference in their own lives and communities.

IFSW applauds the achievements of social workers: they 'make a world of difference' in the lives of so many people around the world, an achievement which is so often unrecognised and unacknowledged. I call on national governments, non-governmental organisations and international institutions to recognise this essential contribution to the life and social stability of national and global communities, to support continuing training for social workers and to respect human rights and humanitarian values which are the foundation of social work.'

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