

EDITORIAL

THE MONTH OF MARCH: RECOGNISING WOMEN, RECOGNISING SOCIAL WORK

Jacob Mugumbate, Editor

MARCH 2015 marks two very important events. These are International Women's Day on 8 March and World Social Work Day on 17 March. This newsletter carries information on both events.

The struggle for equal opportunities for women and the eradication of violence against them are important issues for social workers in Zimbabwe and throughout the world. The IFSW has since issued a statement that stresses the need for social justice and I encourage NASWZ to do the same. Recalling that social justice is the basis for our profession, I encourage you to use the women's day to advance the equalisation of opportunities and to eradicate gender based violence in our society.

Social work day will focus on the theme 'Promoting the Dignity and Worth of Peoples'. This theme relates to the second pillar of the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development. As we celebrate this day, let us bring in perspective the dignity of women as people and aim to achieve just that.

Inside this newsletter, you will also find messages from the President and the Office. You will also find information about opportunities, including events to look forward to in 2015. The last page carries the Social Work day poster for 2015 which I hope NASWZ will be able to translate to local languages. Before I sign off, let me encourage readers to make contributions to this newsletter. **I wish you success in your work or studies in 2015.**

HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

8 MARCH 2015

STATEMENT FROM IFSW



The International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) salutes women worldwide on this day marking "International Women's Day", where we commemorate and reclaim the historical struggle of women to achieve equal opportunities, better working conditions, to eradicate violence against women, along with other very significant aspects in the quest for Social Justice and in defence of Women's Rights. **Full statement on page 2 and 4**

President's New Year Message

Fellow Social Workers, The year 2015 promises to be an exciting year for the profession and the Association. Zimbabwe will join the Social Work global community in celebrating the 2015 World Social Work Day. While the Day is celebrated on 17 March, we will have our festivities from the 25 to 28 March. This year's celebrations will be graced by Professor Mupedziswa. This promises to be an exciting event based on his presentations and lectures. Your Association is arranging for lectures and a dinner. My word to members is not to miss the man. In April the Association will have an elective AGM in Mutare. The current NEC will hand over the Association to in-coming members whom I have faith will take us to the next level. To this end, I call upon all social workers to support and participate in the selection processes.

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MESSAGE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) salutes women worldwide on this day marking "International Women's Day", where we commemorate and reclaim the historical struggle of women to achieve equal opportunities, better working conditions, to eradicate violence against women, along with other very significant aspects in the quest for Social Justice and in defense of Women's Rights.

We agree with the Declaration of Beijing which maintains that "the empowerment of women and their full participation, with equal conditions, in all spheres of society, which include participation in decision-making processes and access to power, are fundamental in the achievement of equality, development and peace" and that "Equal rights, opportunities and access to resources, equal distribution of family responsibilities between men and women and a harmonious partnership between them, are indispensable for her well being and the well being of her family, as well as for strengthening democracy".

Social workers have a fundamental role in the contribution to the democratization of social relations between men and women, to build citizenship from the perspective of gender, to implement strategies to avoid violence against women and children, to generate opportunities for access to health, education and decent housing, to eradicate poverty and promote women's rights.



Statement issued by Dr Silvana Martinez

Countless, are the contributions of social workers to achieve better gender equality in all areas in which women are unfolding. They've conducted research and published books, they participate in local and global campaigns in defense of women's rights and they have denounced the situations of violence and oppression that millions of women have suffered. They have formed NGOs to work with the victims of human trafficking and gender violence, to provide job-training, to campaign for reduction in illiteracy rates, among so many other efforts.

While progress in legislation and public policy has been made in several countries, we also know that many times laws are not complied with, that poverty has the face of a woman, that men earn higher wages than women for doing the same job, that the seats of power and decision-making are mostly occupied by men, that women are raped and subjected to verbal abuse, that there hasn't been a decrease in the cases of female murder, that women still don't have the right to make decisions about their own bodies and to enjoy their sexuality.

Therefore, we call for a reflection and summon all stakeholders in our society, all governments and their officials, and all national and international organizations to intensify efforts and to



WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY (WSWD) CELEBRATIONS IN ZIMBABWE

Compiled by Nancy Mangate, NASWZ Student Intern

BACKGROUND

The World Social Work Day (WSWD) is the annual opportunity to advocate a social work perspective in political systems that effect the wellbeing of people and to celebrate the social work contribution to societies. WSWD is celebrated internationally by the International Federation of Social Work (IFSW) and the International association of School of Social Work (IASSW) on the third Tuesday of March. In Zimbabwe it was first celebrated by Bindura University of Science Education in 2012. This initiative was highly praised by the social work community and it was deliberated a national event. In 2013 and 2014 the event was celebrated and hosted by the two major bodies of Social Work which are the Council of Social Workers Zimbabwe and the National Association of Social Workers Zimbabwe in conjunction with the schools of social work.

OUTCOMES OF THE CELEBRATIONS

Celebrating Social Work is important since the profession has a critical role in the promotion of social and economic equalities and in striving for social justice and people focused development. Several outcomes of the celebrations have been noted and they include:

- ◆ Improved coordination of social workers as evidenced by increased membership of NASWZ
- ◆ Increased discourse on social protection
- ◆ Promotion of the identity of the profession and increased knowledge on the role of social workers
- ◆ Comprehensive action points on tackling the current challenges faced by the profession
- ◆ Increased knowledge on the current trends of social work regionally and internationally
- ◆ A cultivated spirit of camaraderie amongst social workers
- ◆ Effective reflection on the history of the profession in Zimbabwe, its challenges and milestones
- ◆ Creation of strong and long lasting strategic relationships with the various stakeholders who work hand in hand with the profession to promote social, economic and gender equality in Zimbabwe.

2015 CELEBRATIONS

This year's celebrations will include a radio presentation on the profession in the country and celebrations in Bindura on the 26th of March 2015, a day which is the most feasible date for Zimbabwe. There will also be a Social Workers Dinner on the 28th of March 2015 at Crown Plaza, starting 1800 hours at a fee of \$35 per individual and Professor Mupedziswa has been invited as the Guest of Honour for the celebrations under the theme **"Promoting the Dignity of People"** The celebrations will be held with the aim of creating and strengthening partnerships between social workers and corresponding professionals and organisations as well as providing a platform for networking opportunities for social workers, stakeholders and the other professionals they work with.

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Vision: An active and vibrant association that promotes the interests and welfare of its members

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[http://
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WOMEN'S DAY, IFSW MESSAGE ...continued from page 2

make a firm commitment to improve and revert these situations of domination and oppression that millions of women suffer around the world.

From the International Federation of Social Workers we want to thank you and congratulate each and every social worker who, day to day, contribute with their daily work to the construction of a more just and humane world and who raise the flags of social justice and the unrestricted defense of human rights way up high.

To the women of the world, we'd like to say you are not alone and that together we can continue achieving equality, justice, peace and respect for all women. Because, as long as there are situations that threaten and infringe upon the rights of women, we shall continue to raise our voices and we will be heard around the world.

Statement issued by Dr Silvana Martinez, IFSW Regional President Latin America and Caribbean on behalf of IFSW Global. 5th March 2015

Here and There

- ◇ Social Work Day 2015 activities will be held in Bindura and Harare from 25 to 28 March. These include lectures and dinner with Professor Rodreck Mupedziswa.
- ◇ NASWZ AGM in Mutare last Wednesday of April 2015
- ◇ CSW Winter School and Conference in April 2015. Further details on page 5

World Social Work Day 2015

World Social Work Day 2015 (WSWD) is on March 17th. The theme '**Promoting the Dignity and Worth of Peoples**' relates to the second pillar of the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development. The theme focuses the joint work of The International Federation of Social Workers, The International Association of Schools of Social Work and The International Council on Social Welfare. The three organisations are committed to working together to influence international, regional and local policies, government actions and to highlight the value and contributions that social workers make everyday throughout the world. All social work partners and members are welcome to co-brand the WSWD poster by adding their logo alongside the IFSW logo. We also invite member organisations to translate the poster into their own language. Last years poster was translated into 33 languages highlighting global professional unity and agreement to stand together and act on the theme. IFSW will add your translated poster on our website so that it can be shared with the world. We hope that most organisations will be able to edit the poster for translation themselves, but if this is not possible, send us a word document with your translation written beside the English version and we can translate the poster for you. Please note that the IFSW relevant member organisation must approve the translation which may take a few days.

Thank you to all – it is a significant professional step forward that world-wide social workers promote the dignity and worth of peoples!

From IFSW

see poster on page 6

Conferences

Annual Social Workers Conference & Winter School

23rd-24th of April 2015 in Manicaland. Submission of abstracts closed 10th of December 2014. Theme: Fostering regulation, commitment, innovation and opportunities in the fields of social work practice in Zimbabwe . For more information, please contact: 04 497478 or 0779 271 626. or Visit Council of Social Workers at their new premises, 129 Rhodesville Avenue, Highlands, Harare.

<http://www.cswzim.org>

SW & SD 2015

First Call for Papers

East London International Convention Centre
East London, South Africa
4 – 7 October 2015



Theme: Social Work and Developmental Social Welfare:
Local Realities and Global Transformation

Abstract Deadline: 29 May 2015

SW&SD 2015 is jointly hosted by ASSWA, IFSW and ASASWEI



World Social Work and Social Development Conference, 2016, Seoul, Korea

Abstract Submission Deadline: September 30, 2015

SWSD2016 Scientific Program Committee invites all individuals to submit abstract for oral or poster presentation containing the title of the presentation, the name(s) and affiliation(s) of author(s). An abstract must be written clearly in English with less than 300 words. SWSD2016 particularly welcomes practical case studies to encourage practitioners in the fields of social work and social development to participate, as well as original research. Individual applicants are recommended to describe the objectives and results of the research or case studies in the abstract so that the SWSD2016 Scientific Program Committee can evaluate the quality, originality, and completeness of the abstract. It is suggested to organize the abstract according to four sections, identified by the following headers: Background, Methods(Design/Planning of Program, Implementation and Assessment), Results, and Implications for Social Work and Social Development practice. <http://www.swsd2016.org>

World Social Work Day

17 March 2015

Promoting the Dignity and Worth of Peoples



Upholding
Human
Rights
4 All

Respectful
Communities
=
Sustainable
Futures

FREEING
SILENCED
VOICES

RESPECTING
VOICES
~
VALUING
DIVERSITY

Social Workers
For Human
DIGNITY



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