



IASSW AIETS

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF PROMOTING SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION, HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN WELL-BEING: IASSW 1928-2018

Selected Highlights

In 1928, several thousand social workers, educators and others involved in social welfare gathered at the First International Conference of Social Work in Paris. A significant part of the conference focused on social work education, generating over 200 pages of proceedings. Led by Alice Salomon, an important outcome of the gathering was a call to establish an international association of schools of social work. A year later, in June 1929 in Berlin, the constitution of the International Committee of Schools of Social Work was adopted. For 90 years, the association has pursued enduring purposes:

- To advance and promote quality social work education around the world
- To represent social work education in global bodies and promote social work values
- To facilitate the exchange of research and ideas among educators

Milestones:

1930s:

- Established a documentation center on social work education with the International Labour Organization
- Alice Salomon, President, publishes global survey of social work education (1937)
- Held summer seminars and meetings at 2nd world conference (Berlin) and 3rd world conference (London) in spite of the worldwide depression
- Board holds firm in face of Nazi demands to remove Salomon from Presidency

1940s:

- War disrupts most communication in early 1940s; Elinor Black of England, Secretary, struggles to maintain contacts
- An informal board meeting is held in 1946 as founding leaders regroup to revitalize the organization
- Rene Sand assumes leadership in 1946 and discussions to revive larger meetings are held
- 1947 IASSW granted consultative status with the United Nations, one of the earliest organizations to gain this recognition with the new world body
- First post-war conference held in Atlantic City in the United States in 1948

1950s:

- IASSW and ICSW return to Paris for a major world conference in 1950. Katherine Kendall presents on her First World Survey of Social Work Education published by the UN in 1950
- IASSW leadership becomes more global with board members from Latin America and Asia and holds conferences outside the west.
- UN adopts a resolution that social work is a professional occupation requiring specialized education
- Establishes the journal *International Social Work* with ICSW (soon joined by IFSW)
- Name of the organization officially changed to the International Association of Schools of Social Work
- First IASSW Congress held in Asia in Tokyo in 1958 (although a meeting on social work education was held in Madras in 1952)

1960s:

- First IASSW Congress held in Latin America (Brazil, 1962)
- Newly independent countries in Africa and Asia initiate social work training and join IASSW
- IASSW representative participates in the Conference of Ministers Responsible for Social Welfare (1968)
- Regional association established in Latin America (ALAETS, 1967)



IASSW ICSW panel at UN 2018



Informal Board Meeting
after World War II,
Geneva Switzerland- April, 1946



E. Younghusband and K. Kendall,
1962 Belo Horizonte, Brazil



Board meeting, Manila 1970

1970s:

- 20-country project on social work in family planning education supported by large grants from national and international organizations
- Publications expand with volumes on family welfare in Africa and Asia
- Congress held in Africa for the first time (Nairobi 1974)
- Regional associations formed in Africa (ASWEA, 1971) and Asia-Pacific (APASWE, 1974)

1980s

- **World Guide to Social Work Education** (1984) published, an in-depth look at social work education
- Women's Caucus initiated
- Seminars and consultations held for Eastern European countries now re-establishing social work education
- Younghusband memorial lecture at biennial congresses initiated (1984)

1990s

- Published **Human Rights and Social Work** jointly with the United Nations and IFSW
- World Census of Social Work Education identifies 1600 programs
- Katherine Kendall Award for Contributions to International Education launched (1992)
- Efforts to assist China to establish social work programs begin
- Women's Interest Group becomes official with board representation
- IASSW sponsors a workshop at the United Nations Conference on Women in Beijing



1992 Congress, Washington, D.C.

2000s:

- Publication of **Social Dialogue** begun
- Assists ACSWE to establish **Caribbean Journal of Social Work**
- Initiation of Small Grants program for collaborative efforts to enhance social work education
- Adoption of revised Definition of Social Work and Statement of Ethical Principles (with IFSW)
- Adoption of first ever Global Standards for Social Work Education with IFSW (2004)
- Adoption of the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development (2012)
- Team of Representatives at the UN in New York sponsors numerous workshops at the Commissions on Social Development and on the Status of Women and at the High Level Political Forum
- Joint project with UNAIDS results in Geneva seminar and publication of a comprehensive volume on social work and HIV/AIDS 2016-2017
- Election of first Presidents from Africa and Asia (2004, 2008, 2012)
- IASSW voted unanimously to remain an independent association



Closing Hong Kong 2010

Celebrating 90 Years and Moving Forward toward our 100th:

“Social work educators come together in international organizations and at international meetings because there is a common heritage and purpose that is important to us. We wish to join our strengths and overcome our weaknesses. We hope to share interests, problems, and achievements, and to learn from one another...Bound by shared values and by methods that are still being forged and tested, we work toward common goals of human betterment and social justice.” IASSW, now and moving forward, “can make internationalism work for the improvement of social work education and practice, and contribute to a better future for the generations that succeed us.” (words written by Katherine Kendall for the 70th anniversary of the founding of IASSW).