

Commission for Social Development, 63rd Session

Online Side-Event:

Fostering Inclusive Communities: Addressing Barriers to Social Participation

Co-sponsored by *International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW)*, and *International Association of the Schools of Social Work (IASSW)*

Date: February 12th, 2025

Time: 10:00 – 11:15 AM EST

Background and objective

This side-event will explore how inclusive participation can serve as a cornerstone of vibrant, equitable, and cohesive communities. Through participatory processes, communities can develop more accurate diagnoses of social needs, co-design welfare systems, and evaluate their impact. The transformative potential of participation, the role of local administration and strategies for addressing barriers to participation will be discussed.

Key topics for discussion include:

- Building resilient communities through inclusive decision-making frameworks.
- Leveraging technology and partnerships to break down barriers to community engagement
- Co-designing public initiatives: Effective partnerships between administrations, civil society, and private sectors



Speakers:

- **Prof. Lynne Healy:** Main Representative of IASSW to the UN
- **Maria de La Paz Fernandez Lobato:** Mayor of Ronda, Spain and **Prof. Dr. Antonio López Peláez:** UNED, Spain
- **Kathleen Wabrowetz:** Deutscher Verein für öffentliche und private Fürsorge, Germany and **Nicola Byrne:** CEO, SHINE, Ireland
- **Prof. P.K. Shajahan:** Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India
- **Dr. Sergei Zelenev:** President of ICSW

Moderator: Prof. Gloria Kirwan: Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland

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Registration Information:

This event is free and open to the public. To register, use the registration link for the event: <https://forms.gle/wTCr7acQwnekepAH9>

