

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

1. Aims and Objectives

- 1.1 To promote social work as an international profession whose core values and commitment to human rights, social justice and the well-being of all citizens transcends geographical and cultural boundaries. BASW members are bound by the international definition of social work and common statement on ethics. The Committee will reflect this collective global identity in its membership and activities.
- 1.2 To raise awareness of, and respond through BASW policy and publications, to the increasingly global context of social work, in which social workers practicing in the UK and the people they serve have international connections.
- 1.3 To provide a forum for discussion between social workers within and outside the UK, taking on different ideas and different models for the social professions thereby enhancing our work in the UK.
- 1.4 To co-ordinate the Association's engagement with, and contribution to IFSW and other European and global networks on behalf of BASW Council/Ethics and Human Rights Policy Committee. This includes our ongoing contribution to IFSW Europe projects and work streams.
- 1.5 To inform the Association of developments at EU and Council of Europe which have an impact on social work through our engagement with IFSW Europe and its affiliation to the Social Platform.
- 1.6 To support IFSW and its fellow members at European and global level, and in particular network for the benefit of social work association in countries with fewer resources.
- 1.7 To comment, campaign, respond and raise awareness of international issues, in particular those concerning human rights and social justice and consider these in terms of their impact on social work practice and ethical issues of concern to social workers and those they serve.
- 1.8 To promote BASW policy and publications internationally.

2. Membership

- 2.1 The Committee will consist of a maximum of 12 ordinary members drawn from members of the Association. The membership will reflect BASW membership across the UK and include at least one internationally qualified member. The applicants must demonstrate that they have sufficient knowledge and understanding of international issues, and/or skills and experience of international social work gained in the UK and/or overseas.
- 2.2 All Committee vacancies will be advertised in Professional Social Work and BASW website. The appointments will conform to BASW policies.
- 2.3 The Committee will have the power to co-opt up to three members to meet specific requirements for representation from user and other groups, including persons not eligible for Association membership.
- 2.4 Members holding positions in IFSW will be notified of Committee meetings and receive the agenda and other papers. They may attend Committee meetings and participate in the proceedings in an ex-officio capacity.
- 2.5 Membership of the Committee will be for a two year period which can be renewed for two further two-year periods.
- 2.6 BASW Council/Policy Ethics and Human Rights Committee will confirm the appointment of the Chair of the Committee following Committee's recommendation regarding which of its members is best suited to hold the position.
- 2.7 The Chair will serve in this capacity for a period of two years and may be re-appointed to serve for a further two year period of office.
- 2.8 A second member will be appointed by the Committee to act as Deputy Chair.
- 2.9 Members occupying these positions may do so in addition to terms served as ordinary members of the Committee.
- 2.10 The Chief Executive, the Development Manager and the Ethics, Human Rights and International Policy Officer may attend any meeting of the Committee.
- 2.11 The Chair of the Policy Ethics and Human Rights Committee, the Chair and Treasurer of the BASW UK Council may attend any meeting of the Committee.
- 2.12 Any member of BASW may attend meetings as an observer having given prior notice of their intention to do so.

2.13 The Chief Executive will be the Association's official delegate to IFSW.

3. Meetings and activities

- 3.1 The Committee will meet six times a year preceding the Policy Ethics and Human Rights Committee meetings. Meetings may take place by teleconference, and at locations other than the Association's Headquarters in such a way that promotes accessibility for all members.
- 3.2 The Committee may organise seminars and events across the UK to promote international social work. Members will maintain links with their national committees and attend meetings.
- 3.3 Administrative support will be provided by the Association in terms of distribution of minutes and other information and co-ordination of meetings.
- 3.4 Members will be expected to declare conflicts of interest at the start of any meeting.
- 3.5 Failure to attend two meetings in succession without advising the Chair of the meeting of the absence will be deemed as a resignation from the Committee.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

- 4.1 The International Committee will function as a sub-committee of the Policy Ethics and Human Rights Policy Committee receiving direction from it and as well as contributing to its work.
- 4.2 The Committee will work closely with the Ethics, Human Rights and International Policy Officer, who will provide support, including minute taking of meetings.
- 4.3 The Committee will ensure that matters affecting policy or procedures are drawn to the attention of BASW Council/Policy Ethics and Human Rights Committee.
- 4.4 The Committee shall maintain records of its proceedings and prepare a report for the Policy Ethics and Human Rights Committee, Professional Social Work and the BASW website on its activities. A summary of achievements and plans for future work will form part of the Committee's Annual Report to the Policy Ethics and Human Rights Committee and BASW UK AGM.
- 4.5 The Chair and the Vice Chair will have the responsibility for reporting to the Policy Ethics and Human Rights Committee.

- 4.6 At each meeting an equal opportunities monitor and PSW reporter will be appointed.
- 4.7 The Committee will carry out or commission research, produce press releases, reports and statements, and respond to consultations as appropriate.
- 4.8 The Committee will pass information to and receive information from and work with other BASW and external groups to ensure there is no duplication of work.
- 4.9 The Committee will act as a point of reference between internationally qualified social workers coming to the UK to practice as well as UK trained social workers wishing to practice abroad.
- 4.10 It is expected that Committee members will be able to accept delegated areas of work in accordance with its objectives.
- 4.11 Members will attend such conferences and other events as the Committee think useful.