



## PRESS RELEASE



### THE IFSW COORDINATING BODY FOR AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND: TANGATA WHENUA SOCIAL WORKERS ASSOCIATION AND THE AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS.

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#### INDIGENOUS COMMISSION ENDORSED

The Coordinating Body of Aotearoa New Zealand is delighted to announce that its motion to establish an IFSW Indigenous Commission was supported by the international membership of IFSW at the 2020 IFSW General Meeting.

The intent of the Commission is to instil indigenous values and principles in the development and implementation of IFSW Policy, Education, Advocacy, Ethics and Practice as initiated in the IFSW adoption of a Policy on Indigenous Peoples in 2004.

The endorsement has been the culmination of a sixteen-year journey by the Tangata Whenua Social Workers Association (TWSWA), supported by the Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Social Workers (ANZASW) that included the establishment of a Coordinating Body in order to introduce an Indigenous Association into the IFSW. The International Indigenous Voices in Social Work forum has also been instrumental in this development.

One of the purposes of the Indigenous Commission is to encourage and promote the establishment and maintenance of Indigenous Social Work Associations within IFSW member countries. We hope the Commission will encourage Indigenous social workers in their respective countries to consider this possibility, with the support of professional social worker associations.

#### Why a Commission?

- A Commission (unlike a committee that can come and go) is a permanent forum of the IFSW.
- A Commissioner is elected by the members of the Commission and that person, on behalf of the Commission, attends Executive meetings of IFSW.
- Each IFSW region is entitled to two Representatives on the Commission. Nominations will be called by the IFSW Executive sometime in the near future.
- A work plan will then be developed by the Commissioners including:
  - working with the Education Commission to include indigenous knowledges in all social work curricula, in keeping with the IFSW Global Definition and
  - supporting the establishment of indigenous Associations. Currently TWSWA is the only one recognised by IFSW.

Aotearoa New Zealand wishes to thank all those who have supported the process of this endeavour through previous IFSW General Meetings culminating in this motion and hopes that the member Associations of IFSW support the ongoing development and membership of the Commission, and its work into the future.

**A te wa, ma te wa, kua taemai te ra, kia tutangata tatou i roto te mana o tou rangatiratanga”**

“Now and in time, in this day we stand together in our rangatiratanga”

#### For Further information contact:

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