



Notes from the field...

New IASSW Interns



My name is Kristen Kimmel, one of the new IASSW interns at the United Nations. I am currently working on my MSW at Fordham University. This is my first time focusing on macro practice, and so far I am really enjoying attending committee meetings and events at the UN. I plan to be involved with the NGO committee on the Status of Women, Migration, Social Development, and the Working Group on Girls. I am hoping that interning with IASSW will help prepare me for a career in international social work.



My name is Zozan Antar, one of the new IASSW interns at the United Nations. I am an MSW student at the University of Connecticut School of Social Work. I am Kurdish from Syria, and I have always been interested in international human rights. This internship has given me the opportunity to be a part of the community that works to advance human rights across the globe, and to become a part of the social work community within the IASSW. I plan to be involved with the NGO committee on Social Development, Working Group on Girls, Migration, and the Status of Women. I also work with other NGOs and IASSW representatives to plan events at the UN.

The International Day of the Girl

The International Day of the Girl took place on October 11th 2018. The UN held a summit on this day to celebrate the rights of young girls around the world. This event promotes girls' empowerment by having young girls on a panel to share their stories and experiences. Many girls around the world are told that they can't do certain things, simply because they are a girl. The event also featured performances by a group of girls throughout the event. They touched on many different issues, such as not having the same rights as males, sexual harassment, and rights to education.



International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

On Wednesday, October 17th, the UN held an event for the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. United Nations Secretary General, Mr. António Guterres made opening remarks, adding to the importance of the event.

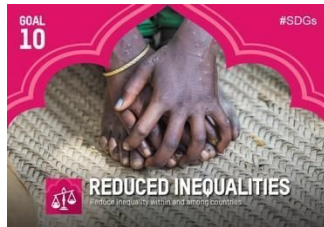


The ambassadors from France and Burkina Faso spoke as co-sponsors of the day. Several of the guest speakers were people living in poverty; they shared their own stories of being homeless and how they have dealt with that challenge. The main organizing NGO, ATD 4th World, often engages people living in poverty at the UN. The event ended in the UN gardens with a reading from the text of the commemorative stone as well as performances by the UN orchestra and Mala & Dancers.



Goal 10 Meeting

“Reduce Inequality Within and Among Countries”.



Goal 10 is one of the most important commitments of the Sustainable Development Goals over the Millennium Development Goals.

Ahead of the 2019 High Level Political Forum (HLPF) where Goal 10 will be reviewed, a number of concerned Civil Society Organizations, and IASSW representatives, came together to answer certain vital questions about Goal 10. The issues addressed during the meeting focused on lived experiences of inequalities, structural, social, and political barriers to progress being made on Goal 10, policies, programs, and campaigns that incorporate different types of inequalities, and actions needed to advance its aims and concerns at the UN. A representative for Association of Correction and Social Reclamation (ACSR) started the meeting providing a brief summary as to why we should be paying attention to Goal 10, and the urgency for mobilization and pressure on Goal 10 before 2019 HLPF. She stated:

“Goal 10 is woefully neglected by most States and other powerful stakeholders, including the UN. Has had very little attention in VNRs. Contradiction between attention Leave No One Behind is getting and attention Goal 10 is getting. Issues getting especially little attention- Inequalities between countries – except for G77. A lot of work is being done in civil societies and academic community but much of it is fragmented, and we’re not necessarily all aware of each other’s work.”

The group emphasised the importance of paying attention to the work being done on a grassroots level, in an effort to major the effectiveness of their work, and to use similar ideas in different places. To help scope out what might be helpful for the inequality work, two examples of the work being done by the civil society and the academic community were given.

Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP): Ingo Ritz, and Society for International Development (SID): Stefano Prato.

GCAP campaign includes the topic of inequality political participation, policy advocacy, incorporation of social, political, and economic inequality in their work and campaign.

On the other hand, SID work focuses on research, looking into the relation between poverty, and prosperity. Prato believes that the fundamental issue is to change the overall framing of inequality discourse away from an exclusive focus on inclusion to address fundamental issues of equity and justice that can only be addressed in a context of socio-economic transformation.

Having listened to the brief description of the work being done, the moderator opened the floor for discussions. Most participants expressed their concerns, and the urgent need to unite the efforts. Zakir from Bangladesh expressed that inequality should not be a stand-alone goal any more.

Sesheeni Joud from ActionAid stated that we incorporate different dimensions of inequalities. They have joined the Leave No One Behind coalition, had a meeting in Bangladesh, and now are in 5 countries.



The discussion continued focusing on the necessary steps. The facilitator summarized the three main action points which includes: Vision: How inequality touches on everything, Data/resource/note: what is working or not working? and Advocacy: spread the data on many levels. Dan, the facilitator, ended the meeting saying:

“There is quite a lot of interest in the issue. We see advancement from other civil society processes. The four of us who took the initiative, Sylvia, Kate, Ingo, Dan, will see the notes and the outcome and come back to the group.”

The group also decided to meet again, treating this step as a beginning to more work to come, and built a strong coalition to help bring attention to Goal 10.



Committee on the Status of Women



Social Protection, an issue of great importance for social work, is a major theme for the work of the 2019 Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Presentations and discussions at the October meeting of the NGO-CSW committee emphasized

“Social Protection Programs: What Exists and What is Needed.” One of the guest speakers, Doctor Roona Ray, is a physician and a board member of Physicians for a National Health Program. She spoke about the benefits of the New York Health Act. The New York Health Act is healthcare that covers everyone and all medically necessary procedures. This is significant because many people are struggling with their current health care expenses today. With the New York Health Act, vision and dental care, reproductive health, and LGBTQ needs would all be covered.

Visit nyhcampaign.org to learn more about the New York Health Act.

Ms. Ibrahim-Leathers finished off the meeting with a presentation on widowhood, and the struggles that widows go through. They must deal with issues such as being disinherited, losing rights to their homes, and inability to access basic services. Ninety-seven countries are currently offering some form of pension, however over 90% of widows don’t know how to access these pensions. It is important to make ourselves aware of an issue that is not widely covered.

<https://www.ngocsw.org/ngo-csw-forum>

Working Group on Girls



The Working Group on Girls advocates for girls' rights through the UN.

As IASSW

interns, we are both participating in this committee this year. The October meeting was on best practices to be effective advocates. Beth Blissman, Representative to the United Nations, Loretto Community, led a discussion on advocacy practices. Shannon O'Shea: Agenda 2030 partnership manager (UNICEF) emphasized coalitions:

"The best way to advocate effectively is to work as a part of a coalition, we also have to agree on what is a priority and start from there."

A number of committee agenda items were discussed. The Global Migration Compact was summarized and the committee will be exploring its implications for girls. Next year (2019) is the 30th anniversary of the Convention the Rights of the Child, UNICEF will be partnering with child focused NGOs. The group was reminded that social protection will be the theme of March meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women. The committee staff had a game for the members to participate in, the goal was to introduce the new members to the acronyms used at the UN community. The group that was able to recognize the most acronyms received a gift, which they eventually shared with everyone else. The member committee received an update from the task forces: girls' participation, girls against violence, mission advocacy, communication, research and writing, and agenda 2030. Most sub-committees were

working on the upcoming event that was held on October 11, the Girls Speak Out Day. The Working Group on Girls took a big part of the overall event planning. The committee also focused on the upcoming memorial event which was held October 5th in the memory of Beth Adamson, the former WGG chair.

<http://girlsrights.org/wp/about-us>



Committee on Migration

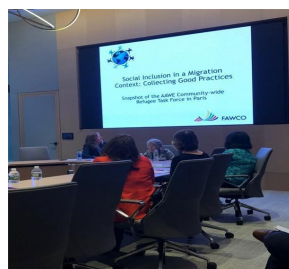
Collecting Good Practices was the focus of the October meeting. Amal Alliance is an example of some of the existing good practices. It provides education to children in emergencies. Their recent focus is on refugees, providing kids with tools to help them adapt to refugee camp life, gain education, and participate in games and activities. There were several other guest speakers who talked about their work efforts in implementing social inclusion within their field: Colleen Thouez, Open Society Foundation, Josephine Tan, Lakehead University, Ontario, Canada, Ann Birot-Salsbury, Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas (FAWCO), Liora Danan, NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs. Eva Richter: Committee on Migration Executive Committee, started the meeting talking about the



Global Compact on Refugees and Migrants, which will be held in December 2018 in Marrakech. After the Global Compact meeting Civil Society and state members can move forward from the implementation phase.

Guest speakers presented other examples of good practices: Thouez described the Open Society Foundation work in trying to bring social, and economic inclusion in the communities where they are placed, also they notice the need for more education and housing in most cities. Dr. Tan has recently conducted a research on the Syrian Refugees in Canada, specifically in Thunder Bay. Her focus was on their experiences of resettlement. The research indicated that refugees were not very satisfied with the services received, and no information on clinical diagnosis were found. Birot-Salsbury's organization helps engage refugees in the French society by providing language classes, cultural education, and events that help bring the communities together. Danan, the office on the Mayor tries to make sure that immigrants have access to justice, and inclusion. They provide citizenship programs, projects against deportation, and pro-migrant agenda.

The different examples of practices presented are a very small percentage of the work being done on the ground. The next committee meeting will focus on good practices and policies that involve multi stakeholders.



<https://ngo-migration.org/about/>
<https://www.amalalliance.org/about-us/>
<https://www.fawco.org>
<https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org>

Committee on the Rights Indigenous Peoples

This month's Indigenous Peoples Meeting was titled "Health and Indigenous Peoples: Good Practices

Addressing Health Challenges of Indigenous Peoples". Dr.

Josephine Tan, a professor at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Canada, discussed the different groups of indigenous

peoples in the area and the issues that they are facing today. The three main groups in this area are the First Nations, the Métis, and the Inuit. Indigenous peoples are struggling with numerous issues such as chronic illness, drug use, suicide, interpersonal violence, incarceration, food safety, unemployment, and discrimination. The government has been heavily involved with indigenous peoples, which has caused many indigenous people to lose their culture and forced them to resettle elsewhere. When it comes to health the indigenous population has a holistic approach and they are wellness-based. There should be a healthy balance between the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual parts of the individual. They have a strong connection to nature, land, and culture. It is important that we recognize the struggles that this population is dealing with and the steps being taken to allow them to stay connected to their culture.





The Committee on Social Development



Social

Protections and Inequality Emphasized by Social Development

Social protection and fair wage policy will be explored as key strategies for addressing inequalities and social exclusion at the 57th meeting of the UN Commission on Social Development in February 2019. IASSW Main Representative Lynne Healy and interns Zozan Antar and Kristen Kimmel are participating in the NGO Committee for Social Development and working on preparations for the upcoming Commission session. Social protection has been on the committee's agenda since the adoption in 2012 of Resolution 202 on social protection floors by the International Labour Organization. IASSW teamed with the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) to present a side event on social protection at the 2018 Commission; plans to collaborate again for the 2019 session are underway. The focus on social protection has been amplified by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The goals present opportunities to further advocate for social protection; targets on poverty eradication (Goal 1); health (Goal 3); gender equality (Goal 5); decent work (Goal 8); and inequality (Goal 10) all include social protection.

For many years, our IASSW representatives have been particularly active in the Grassroots task force of the Social Development Committee. This group regularly conducts surveys and outreach to local projects to gather grassroots opinions and data to feed into UN deliberations. This year, the group will be exploring social protection and inequalities. Watch for surveys and share your input. We need social workers' ideas and stories about best practices.

For more information on the upcoming Commission for Social Development, go to:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csocd-social-policy-and-development-division/csocd57.html>

<https://ngosocdev.org>





www.iassw-aiets.org

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Prepared by:

Zozan Antar

MSW Candidate 2020

IASSW Intern Representative to United Nations

University of Connecticut School of Social

Work Email: zozan.antar@uconn.edu

Kristen Kimmel

MSW Candidate 2019

IASSW Intern Representative to United Nations

Fordham University Social Work

Email: kkimmel@fordham.edu

