

IASSW UN Newsletter- February 2020



UN COMMISSION ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FOCUSES ON HOMELESSNESS

The 58th Session of the United Nations Commission for Social Development took place from February 10-19, 2020. The priority theme of the session was “Affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness” with the major discussion focused on the problem of homelessness as experience throughout the world. This was the first time the UN has focused on homelessness. At first, some commented that it was surprising to select such a “narrow” and specific theme for a UN meeting. However, deliberations revealed that homelessness is complex in both its causes and consequences and is intertwined with many of the Sustainable Development Goals. A secondary theme was revisiting the 1995 Copenhagen Summit for Social Development in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the landmark conference. The preparations for the session and deliberations during it yielded a number of useful research studies and presentations that will be of interest to social work educators.

Access the research papers from the preparatory meeting here:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/2019-meetings/homelessness.html>

Watch sessions of the Commission and/or show them to your students here by going to UN Webtv at www.webtv.un.org Search for UN Commission for Social Development from February 10-February 19, 2020.

Civil society participation at the Commission is coordinated by the NGO Committee for Social Development. Lynne Healy represents IASSW on the NGO Committee. Each year, the NGO group coordinates a Civil Society Statement that is delivered at the opening session of the Commission. Through deliberations at its meetings and opportunities for on-line input, the statement represents the thinking of numerous NGOs. Click here to access the statement: www.ngosocdev.org

IASSW ACTIVE IN SIDE EVENTS at SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION



FIGURE 1 : FROM LEFT: DR. SUH SANG MOK, LAURA ADDATI, AMSON SIBANDA, LYNNE HEALY, SERGEI ZELENEV, DANIEL ZAVALA PORRAS

IASSW co-sponsored two side events at the Commission meeting. In addition, IASSW team members participated in two additional events.

Overcoming Inequality and Exclusion in Access to Housing

ICSW and IASSW were the lead co-sponsors of a panel titled “Overcoming Inequality and Exclusion in Access to Housing: The Quest for Policy Solutions” on February 10. Speakers included Sergei Zelenev of ICSW, Dr. Suh Sang-Mok, President, Korea National Council on Social Welfare (Republic of Korea) Daniel Zavala Porras, Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations, Laura Addati, Policy Specialist, International Labour Organization, and Lynne Healy, Main Representative for IASSW to the UN. Dr. Amson Sibanda, Chief, National Strategies and Capacity Building Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA, moderated the panel. Dr. Healy's lead off presentation labeled homelessness as a stark example of inequality. She emphasized the complexity of the problem of homelessness, with multiple causes and diverse populations experiencing homelessness. These realities indicate that policy solutions must also be multifaceted and include preventive as well as remedial policies.



FIGURE 2 : FROM LEFT: CECILIE GOLDEN, JØN CHRISTIAN MOLLER, LYNNE HEALY, PAUL LADD

Homeless and Inequality the Focus of a UN Side Event

IASSW joined the Permanent Mission of Madagascar to the UN, the NGO Committee on Social Development, and other NGO participants in the Grassroots Task Force to present “The Links between Inequalities, Inadequate Housing and Homelessness” on February 11. Lynne Healy moderated a panel that featured the Deputy Permanent Representative from Madagascar and a presentation of results of the Grassroots Survey on Inequalities. Several members of IASSW were among the survey respondents. Madagascar is particularly concerned about homelessness caused by increasingly intense natural disasters and climate change. Data from the inequality survey showed that homeless and inadequate housing were among the most frequently cited examples of inequality. This was particularly true for the wealthier countries in Europe and North America. The majority of respondents indicated that homelessness has

gotten worse since adoption of the SDGs in 2015. Other speakers were from UN Habitat and DePaul charities.

In addition to the co-sponsored side events, IASSW representative Shirley Gatenio Gabel was a speaker on a panel on Strategies for Mitigating Trauma and the Challenges for Children and Families Living in Temporary Housing. IASSW representative Martha Bragin helped to organize the panel.

Lynne Healy was invited to moderate a February 12 panel organized by UNESCO on “Evidence-based Policies to Respond to Emerging Social Challenges.” It featured a panel of UN agencies, including UNESCO, the UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), United Nations Development Program, the ILO (International Labour Organization) and UNDESA (See Photo Above).

IASSW was very busy at the 58th Session of the UN Commission for Social Development!

UPCOMING UN COMMISSION ON WOMEN IN MARCH

From March 9-20, the UN Commission on the Status of Women will meet. This event is the largest annual event held at the UN, drawing participants from all over the world. 2020 marks 25 years since the historic Beijing Women's conference. Progress since then will be reviewed. Shirley Gatenio-Gabel is leading IASSW's efforts with the Commission. She has planned an IASSW-sponsored parallel event that will be held on March 12. It will focus on "Stereotypes across Cultures Fostering Violence Against Women."

For more information on the Commission meeting, theme and materials, go to:

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw64-2020>

For information on NGO participation, see: www.ngocsw.org

SOCIAL WORK DAY AT THE UN March 23 2020

The annual Social Work Day at the UN in New York will be held on Monday, March 23. Registration is scheduled for Monday, March 2 at 1:00 pm New York time. Although the conference room is big, the event fills very quickly, so it is important to get on line immediately to register. A related event for students will be on Sunday, March 22 in the afternoon. Registration is separate and will take place on Tuesday, March 3 at 1:00 pm. Social Work Day is co-sponsored by IASSW, ICSW and IFSW. Shirley Gatenio-Gabel and Rebecca Davis represent IASSW on the planning committee.

SOCIAL WORK DAY AT THE UN WILL BE LIVE-STREAMED ON UNWEBTV, MAKING IT ACCESSIBLE AROUND THE WORLD.

Also on Sunday March 22, IASSW and the U.S. Council for Social Work Education will co-sponsor a panel and roundtable discussion for faculty members. A panel of IASSW's UN representatives will present on "Bringing the UN into your Social Work Classroom."

NEW UN RESOURCES FOR EDUCATORS

In addition to the reparatory papers on homelessness mentioned above, here are new publications for educators and researchers from the UN.

Two new reports focus on global inequality:

New Human Development Report from UNDP. *Human Development Report 2019: Beyond income, beyond averages, beyond today: Inequalities in human development in the 21st century.*

<http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/hdr2019.pdf>

UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) (2020). *World Social Report 2020: Inequality in a Rapidly Changing World.* <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2020/02/World-Social-Report2020-FullReport.pdf>

UN Women (2019). *Progress of the World's Women 2019-2020: Families in a changing world.*

<https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2019/progress-of-the-worlds-women-2019-2020-en.pdf?la=en&vs=3512>

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