

# NEWSLETTER



3rd March 2022

3rd Issue

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## LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND - THE PEOPLE'S GLOBAL SUMMIT

Social Workers and people from many different sectors across the globe are preparing and registering to participate in The People's Global Summit under the theme of Co-building a New Eco-Social World: Leaving No One Behind which will take place from the 29th June to 2nd July 2022 online. The summit provides a unique opportunity for the social work profession to lead a worldwide movement and share the vision of the world we want after the pandemic, a #newecosocialworld. The summit will also offer space for Social Workers to present the work they develop in different fields.

The People's Global Summit is for everyone and will bring together individuals and communities, people of lived experiences, along with global organisations to co-build a combined global conversation on the creation of globally shared values for a new eco-social world that leaves no one behind. Individuals and community representatives, people with lived experience, ...



### We Stand Firmly Against Acts of Aggression

The Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work joins other national and international social work bodies in calling for an end to wars in Ukraine and elsewhere in the world and respect for international order and multi-lateral institutions. COSW supports the statement on Ukraine issued by the Commonwealth Secretariat.

*'The Commonwealth was built on the bedrock of an international order which recognised the vital importance of peaceful co-existence based on the shared values of democracy, peace, security, justice, respect for international law, the advancement of the rule of law and the protection, respect, and fulfilment of human rights of all people. These principles run through our Charter and bind our family. However, they are not limited to the Commonwealth; they are universal values that apply to everyone, everywhere. The acts of aggression unfolding in Ukraine are an egregious assault on our fundamental principles and our shared beliefs. They threaten the very core of the integrity of our multilateral architecture.'* Right Honourable Patricia Scotland, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth of Nations

'Social work recognises that human conflict is a reality in relationships between individuals and groups', said COSW Chair Sylvia Daisy Romanus. 'Dialogue is essential to develop mutual respect and trust in order to reduce conflict and tension. COSW recognises that there are many conflicts around the world. Each one has consequences for individuals and families which are as unacceptable as those facing the people of Ukraine. We applaud the work of the United Nations and other institutions around the world which are working for peace, respect for human rights and support for refugees.

'COSW calls on all national leaders to respect the rights of all peoples, to facilitate respectful dialogue and to promote peaceful co-existence', Sylvia Romanus concluded.

SEE ALSO:

The Commonwealth stands firmly against acts of aggression, Military Aggression in Ukraine – IFSW statement, IASSW Statement on the Ukraine

... global organisations, students, health, social, education and economic professions, environmental campaigners, trade unions, policymakers, civil rights champions, spiritual and religious networks, and government leaders will share and advance ideas and contributions that will shape the Global Values Declaration for a new eco-social world to be delivered at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum in July 2022 thus creating a catalyst to further global action.

The vision of the People's Global Summit emerged from the pandemic, climate crisis, and the need to co-build a new eco-social world based on values that shape policies and practices to ensure sustainability and good quality life-cycles – not only for each human being but for each part of our eco-systems on which we all depend, leaving no one behind. According to António Guterres, UN Secretary-General “COVID-19 is a human

tragedy. But it has also created a generational opportunity. An opportunity to build back a more equal and sustainable world... A New Global Deal, based on a fair globalization, on the rights and dignity of every human being, on living in balance with nature, on taking account of the rights of future generations, and on success measured in human rather than economic terms, is the best way to change this. “

Lola Casal-Sanchez International Relationship Manager IFSW noted that “As in any Global event, it is important for IFSW that all members participate and present how their activities contribute to co-building a new eco-social world.” The deadline for submissions is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 through <https://newecosocialworld.com/> in which link more details of the summit can be found.



## CHOGM Confirmed For June 2022

The week of 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022 has been agreed with member countries as the new date for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Kigali – Rwanda. The government of Rwanda through His Excellency Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, and the Commonwealth Secretariat through the Rt. Hon. Patricia Scotland Commonwealth Secretary-General, made the announcement on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022. CHOGM 2022 will be held under the theme 'Delivering a Common Future: Connecting, Innovating, Transforming.' which will guide Leaders discussions on how to deliver the things which were discussed at CHOGM 2018 in London, which was on the theme 'Towards a Common Future'.

The meeting that was supposed to have taken place in 2020 was postponed twice (2020 and 2021) following the increase of the global pandemic Covid19 cases. The Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work (COSW) has unwaveringly been participating in the CHOGM preparational meetings through the Independent Forum of Commonwealth Organizations (IFCO); we are contributing to a number of policy documents to be discussed during the meeting. COSW will further participate in parallel women, youth, and civil society fora on which platforms we shall share issues that affect members. We shall also be representing Social Work perspectives in building the Commonwealth community fit for all members.

### Welcome to our third Newsletter



*I am pleased to welcome you to our third newsletter. Since the second newsletter in August Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work has continued to network with the partner organizations. In this newsletter you find short articles relating to the IFSW People's Summit, Leaving no one behind, the International NGOs campaign of Vaccine equity, the COSW Board meeting, CHPA meeting, the upcoming webinar on Comparative Histories of Social Work in the Commonwealth, Commonwealth Games and so on. Staying connected and learning from the experience of social workers are needed more now than the pre-pandemic period as these are times of uncertainty. I wish you enjoy your reading. Sending best wishes to your success.*

**Dr. A. Sylvia Daisy, Chair, Commonwealth Organization for Social Work**

## Commonwealth Day 2022



#CommonwealthDay is an annual celebration observed by people all over the Commonwealth in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Americas, the Pacific and Europe. Commonwealth Day 2022 will be celebrated on Monday 14 March 2022 with the theme centered around the forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting – ‘*Delivering a Common Future*’ – which highlights how the 54 member countries in the Commonwealth family are ‘innovating, connecting and transforming’ to help achieve goals like fighting climate change, promoting good governance and boosting trade.

Given that 2022 is Jubilee Year of Queen Elizabeth, there will also be a special focus this year on the role service plays in the lives of people and communities across the Commonwealth.

COSW Main Representative to the Commonwealth Institutions in London, Dr David N Jones, will represent COSW at the annual multi-faith service held at Westminster Abbey in London (subject to Covid restrictions). There will be a schedule of events in person and virtual in most Commonwealth countries.

The Queen as Head of the Commonwealth gives an annual message. The 2021 message resonated with the concerns of social workers, focussing on the importance of positive community relationships ‘in delivering a common future which is sustainable and more secure so that the nations and neighbourhoods ... become healthier and happier places for us all’. The Secretary General highlighted the key role of the Commonwealth in promoting the role of women as global leaders and community servants. The 2021 videos can be found [online](#).

### Queen's Platinum Jubilee As the Head of Commonwealth



This year marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth. COSW recognises the service of The Queen to the Commonwealth over more than 70 years. The event will be celebrated in many ways over the year throughout the Commonwealth in events which recognise the many different forms of public service which is a theme of the year.

### Contribution of IFCO to CHOGM (Trade, Right, Health) – Confirm themes. - David

The Independent Forum of Commonwealth Organisations (IFCO) helps to coordinate the contribution of Commonwealth Organisations (COs) to meetings of Commonwealth Heads of Government (Presidents and Prime Ministers). COs have the right to make written submissions to CHOGMs aiming to influence the final communiqué and the work programme of the Commonwealth. The Secretariat facilitated a process in 2018 which resulted in a joint CO submission on the themes of the CHOGM; COSW played a key role in drafting the submission on ‘*A Fairer Future*’. In planning for the subsequently postponed 2020 CHOGM, drafting groups were convened under the IFCO umbrella; COSW played key roles in drafting submissions on ‘*Health and Wellbeing*’ and on ‘*Technology and Innovation*’ and contributed to the paper on human rights and the rule of law. Now that the revised dates for the Rwanda CHOGM in 2022 have been announced, the IFCO framework will again facilitate drafting of submissions on each of the CHOGM themes.



## World Social Workday 2022



The 2022 World Social Workday will be held on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022 under the theme of "Co-Building a New Eco-Social World: Leaving No One Behind" which coincides with the People's Summit that will be taking place from the 29<sup>th</sup> June to 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2022. The International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) found it worthy to use this year's World Social Workday platform to advance the activities to the People's summit starting with the theme.

Social Workers mark this day in their respective National Associations of Social Workers to celebrate World Social Work Day through activities that build unity among the social work workforce in advancing the social work agenda at their different levels of influence, with several activities which include national general assemblies for social work association members, visiting of charities through cooperate social responsibilities, conferences for practicing and student social workers among others. As COSW members, we will also be joining our respective associations in the different countries we belong.

The poster has been translated into over 30 national languages: the posters below are translations in Hindi and Kiyanrwanda.



### **SPEAKING OUT FOR SOCIAL WORK IN THE COMMONWEALTH 2019 – 2021**



December 2021

## COSW Activity report 2019-2021

The report details the range of activities undertaken by COSW before and during the pandemic, including development of a Commonwealth young carers charter; launching a new statement on respect and human rights for all; joint work with the Commonwealth institutions, the Independent Forum of Commonwealth Organisations (IFCO), other Commonwealth organisations, national associations, universities and others; online webinars; active publicity and information sharing through launch of the new COSW Website and new format newsletter and the promotion of Commonwealth and COSW activities through Twitter and Facebook; partnership with the Institute of Commonwealth Studies on a major research project on the history of social work; support for social workers during the pandemic and involvement in a global campaign for vaccine equity; participation in a global survey of the working environment for social workers and participation in planning the Global People's Eco-Social Summit for 2022.

## COSW Welcomes New Board Member

The COSW Board has formal online meetings that take place on a quarterly basis in addition to which are informal discussions aimed towards ensuring that the activities of COSW are sustained and effective.

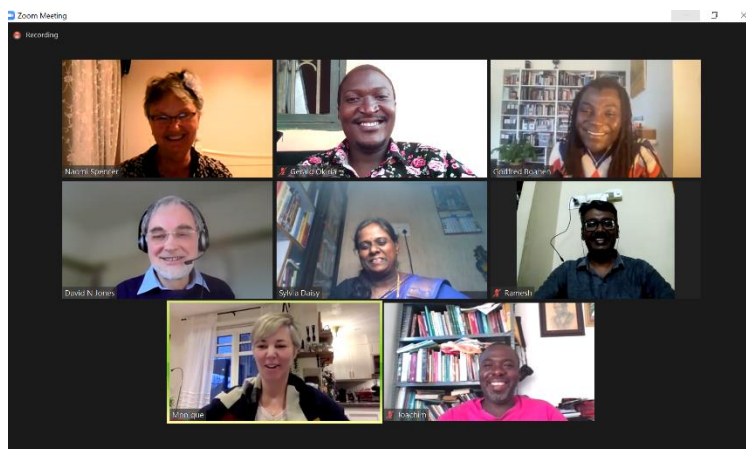
The COSW Board met online on Saturday 27th November 2021 (see the report on the [website](#)). Sharon-Rose Gittens (Barbados) was welcomed to her first meeting, replacing Juliana Daniel who had stood down due to pressure of work and her commitments as President of the Barbados Association. The Board endorsed plans for a webinar series on regulation of social work during 2022, received an update on the plans for a webinar on the histories of social work across the Commonwealth being held in March 2022, discussed COSW governance and membership structures and approved contributions to the Global People's Eco-Social Summit for 2022 with IFSW and UNRISD along with several partners. Joint work with several Commonwealth organisations were discussed.

Many of these items are reported separately elsewhere in this newsletter.

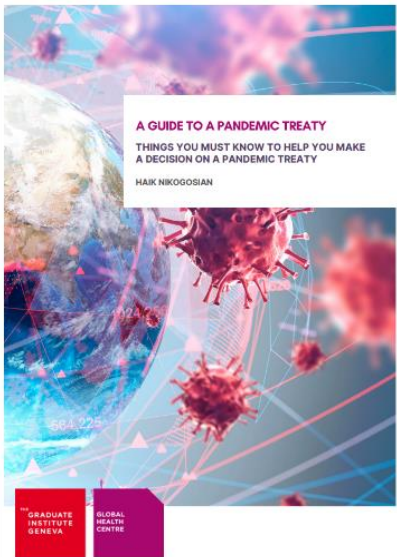
In attendance were David N Jones, Teoh Ai Hua, Naomi Conway, Ramesh H.S., Jan Christianson-Wood, Sharon-Rose Gittens, Sylvia Daisy Romanus (Chair), Gerald Okiria (Editor), Joachim Mumba.

Missing from the screen shot of the Board meeting (photo left) Monique Auffrey, Godfred Boahen, Charles Mbugua.

The Board met on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February (photo right) to review progress on these issues and supported work on other matters reported in this newsletter. News updates from Board meetings are placed on the website. The Board made progress on the review of governance and will be consulting other organisations and taking pro bono legal advice as formal proposals are developed for consultation.



## Vaccine Equity – Update Coalition with WHO – David – Did we have any representative?



COSW is an active member of the International NGOs for Covid-19 Vaccination Equity coalition which has been campaigning to ensure equitable global access to vaccines against COVID-19 and to persuade governments to adopt a Pandemic Treaty that improves global preparedness and response to health emergencies. The coalition calls on governments and international bodies to recognise that COVID-19 is more than a pandemic and is best characterised

as a syndemic (i.e. a synergy of COVID-19 and other diseases with economic, political, and environmental macro-processes).

The World Health Assembly Special Session (WHASS) took place on 29 November to 1 December 2021. This special session happened for only the second time in the history of the World Health Organization. The World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) attended this session with a [strong statement](#) calling on the WHASS and participants to declare full support for a new [Pandemic Treaty](#).

The World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) also attended the online 150th session of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Executive Board which took place on 24 – 29 January 2022. WFPHA submitted a [‘constituency call’](#) on behalf of several non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in official relations with WHO and supported by NGOs not in official relations with WHO (including COSW), calling for urgent action on these themes.



## Commonwealth Organisations form Children's Cluster

On 28<sup>th</sup> February a meeting of Commonwealth Organisations, chaired by COSW Board member, David N Jones, agreed to launch an informal Children's Cluster to focus on the rights and needs of Commonwealth children. Others involved included COSW Treasurer Godfred Boahen with representatives of International Social Service, Commonwealth Consortium for Education and the Commonwealth Business Women's Network.

The Independent Forum of Commonwealth Organisations (IFCO) includes a small number of 'clusters' of organisations who have a shared interest in a specific subject – such as health, urbanisation and education. The Commonwealth Secretariat also has work streams in areas such as women, youth, trade, the blue economy and human rights. The pressure in recent years to give more attention to the needs of older people has opened up policy debates and promises of new action. However, despite the reality that most of the Commonwealth population is aged

under-18, there is no unifying policy statement or declaration or convention in the Commonwealth to consider the interests, needs, protection and care of children, and to protect the many children of Commonwealth families who cross these international borders. The newly formed Children's Cluster intends to fill this gap, supported by a secretariat hosted by [CFAB](#).

COSW has played a key role in bringing this new grouping together in partnership with International Social Service (Children & Families Across Borders), CCfE and CBWN. The IFCO Steering Group has approved the idea in principle. The next step is to convene a virtual meeting to identify priorities and develop a work programme. Areas to be discussed include migration and families divided across borders (including migration due to work, historical experiences, refugee status and other reasons), the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the obligations of signatories to implement this treaty, the Hague Convention 1996 and the benefits to signing up, given that a majority of

Commonwealth countries are not yet signatories; safeguarding children both within countries and, across borders and in the donor community; and child labour. The COSW facilitated Commonwealth Young Carer Charter will be one immediate focus.



## Commonwealth History Webinar – 31st March 2022



project to document the history and development of social work across the Commonwealth, in partnership with The University of Edinburgh and King's College London. We hope to develop a bid for a programme of funded research on this theme, in preparation for which, an online conference will be held on 31 March and 1 April 2022. This will enable us to identify key themes and potential collaborators for the bid.

This major study of the diverse histories of social work across the Commonwealth will involve a partnership of Commonwealth universities alongside COSW and ICwS. This webinar therefore sets the scene for this bigger project, which comes at a significant moment in social work education, as the work on 'decolonising' the social work curriculum gathers momentum.

The Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work (COSW) and the London University Institute of Commonwealth Studies (ICwS) are launching a global

Speakers include the Commonwealth Secretary-General, the Commonwealth Foundation Director-General, the Vice Chancellor of the University of London (a former Professor of Social Work) and the Chair of COSW. Keynote addresses will be given by Prof Philip Murphy (Institute of Commonwealth Studies) on day 1 (UCT morning) and Dr George Palattiyil (Edinburgh University and India) on day 2 (UCT afternoon). Brief presentations will review the history of social work in, among others, Africa, Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia, Caribbean, Canada, India and Malaysia. Other members of the Steering Group will take part in the panel discussion at the end of each day – Charles Mbugua (Kenya), Sharon-Rose Gittens (Barbados), Prof Jill Manthorpe (Kings College London Health and Social Care Workforce Research Unit) and David N Jones (COSW). All times in the formal programme are British Summer Time (UCT+1).

For more information and registration (no charge) visit the [Institute website](#).

## **BASW International Development Fund: COVID19 Initiative - Supporting Projects and Social Work**

Eight organisations in Africa, India and the Middle East were successful in receiving funding from the British Association of Social Workers (BASW) to support social work projects which have a focus on direct responses to Covid.

Two projects were funded in India. The Myrtle Social Welfare Network and Kerala Initiative of Development Services (KIDS) used the funding for practical support to people and communities. The Myrtle Social Network targeted marginalised communities, creating awareness programmes on COVID19 through puppets and providing psycho-social support to reach communities coping with vulnerabilities. They also provided nutritional food for the children as, with schools closed, they were unable to benefit from a midday meal. KIDS has extended support to women to develop self-help groups.

Four projects have been funded in Africa. The Project managed by the Kenyan National Association of Social Workers (KNASW) has been raising awareness of Covid and ways to mitigate its spread, developing strategies that are culturally sensitive and targeted. They have been able to distribute food and non-food items to target 250 families where lockdown has led to the loss of jobs. In addition, they were able to provide support and counselling. The Mulelewaka Foundation in Malawi through its work with 'Children's' Corners' (community spaces for both in and out of school children aged 6 to 18 years), has raised public awareness of safety and the efficacy of Covid vaccination in the district of Dedza in the central region of Malawi. They trained Children's' Corner Facilitators to support children in mitigating the psychological and social issues the children are facing. This has assisted the provision of quality social services to improve outcomes for children and their families. The Kitega Community Centre, Twone Project in Uganda has used the monies to support i) the Child Protection Programme which has offered support to 50 children who have been subject to abuse; ii) a webinar/conference of Women Leaders (Nabakyala) to train parents on Child Protection Policies; iii) counselling to victims of abuse; iv) relief items to children in need; and v) referrals of abused/ homeless children to safe homes in Uganda. They have also been able to train 7 paralegals to support the centre's lawyers in cases of abuse and domestic violence. The IFSW Africa Social Work Conversation Virtual Forum has used the funding to support the development of infrastructure and purchase of equipment to support a monthly Virtual Forum for social workers and others across Africa and more widely to learn, share and document their practice stories to contribute to the narrative on global social work practice. This has raised the profile of the social work profession in Africa and enriched the global social work narratives.

Other projects include: the Community Relief Palestine Project, which provided PPIE packs and food parcels to youth detained in the Military Detention System and PPE, food parcels and educational materials for families in need in the West Bank communities of Palestine; and WellFound in Guinea Bissau has used the monies to support two health workers to train local volunteers in the community to work with the communities on Covid awareness programmes; helping the communities to

construct 121 individual hand washing stations and installing six public hand washing stations and supplying masks and instructing on their proper use.

All the projects have reported on the direct benefit and positive impact that funding has had in supported responses to marginalised communities and people with added vulnerabilities due to the impact of the pandemic.

Janet Walker (BASW)

## **World Public Health Week – 4 – 8 April 2022**



**GLOBAL PUBLIC  
HEALTH WEEK  
2022  
APRIL 4-8**

Global Public Health Week (GPHW) is an initiative of the World Federation of Public Health Associations that aims at bringing together institutions, communities, and public health actors from around the world to recognise the contributions of public health and its workforce, and to discuss the challenges of building a healthier and equitable world. The Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work (COSW) is proud to associate with this global event and will be participating at different levels to highlight the links between social work and public health.

Public health has been the “invisible guardian” of our health for decades. The COVID-19 pandemic has made the public health field more apparent and appreciated. However, the risk of regression post-pandemic is high. We cannot lose this momentum; we need to join hands and act now to prevent the next pandemic. Making public health visible and understood is a key step for emergency preparedness. Facilitating sharing of the knowledge, resources and barriers faced by public health professionals globally, and developing effective joint working with social workers and other groups working to promote individual and community wellbeing, is key to improving public health in all contexts.

The events that will take place in the Global Public Health week from 4-8 April 2022 will be based on the theme “Public Health Matters: Building the New Future” with each day having its unique subtheme, combining face-to-face and digital gatherings worldwide.

- Monday, 4 April: Building COVID-19 Resilience
- Tuesday, 5 April: Reversing Climate Disaster
- Wednesday, 6 April: Achieving Health Equity
- Thursday, 7 April: Strengthening Public Health Associations and Communities
- Friday, 8 April: Preventing the Next Pandemic

COSW is organising an online webinar (no charge) during GPHW which will focus on health inequalities and the significance of public health strategies to social wellbeing and social work. The event will be hosted by IFSW Africa. Watch social media and the COSW website for details. We may be physically distant from each other, but we are united for the health of the publics.

## Book Review

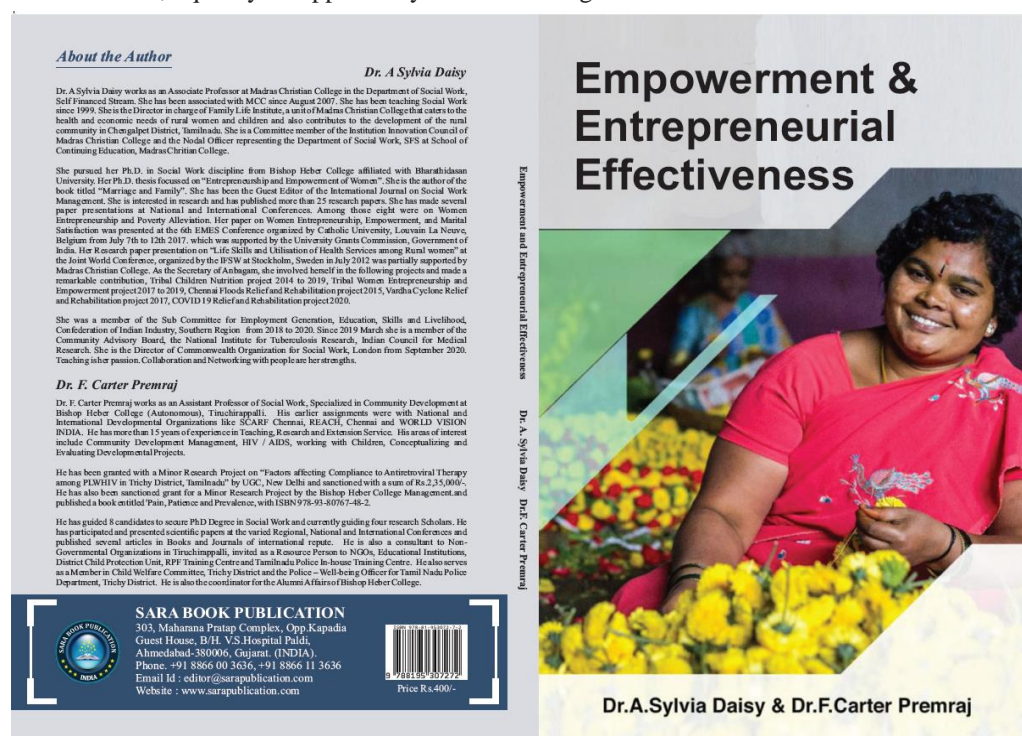
**Reviewer : K. Tony Bharath, Doctorate in Theology, University of Innsbrook, Austria**

“Empowerment and Entrepreneurial Effectiveness” written by Dr. A. Sylvia Daisy and Dr. F. Carter Premraj is a research book for about 144 pages published by Sara publication, Gujarat, India in September 2021. The authors start from a statement of Dr. Sharma, “Employment of women increases power as she earns and keeps control over it. It gives her more confidence. She becomes more assertive. Employment changes the attitude of women towards society. Increased income raises the standard of living by acquiring assets of the worldly comforts”, whether the situation is really true to Indian women entrepreneurs was the problem statement of this research.

The authors deal with less privileged women which is being very important in the local Swaraj oriented economy, a self-rule localized economy, Swadeshi oriented economy. This book reflects the thoughts of the theory of “Justice as Fairness”, by John Rawls which recommends equal basic liberties, equality of opportunity and facilitating the maximum benefit to the least advantaged members of society. Less wages to just

wages, participation to engaging in decision making, uplifting their families to equitable development, reflect very specifically the ideas of Amartya Sen, the capability approach. The book contains information on women, women empowerment, women entrepreneurship, entrepreneurial qualities, and entrepreneurial effectiveness.

The book has five chapters, it follows a quantitative method with statistical data and a review of literature which gives the core chronological view of development of women empowerment. There is a model which runs through the whole book. There are questions pertinent to women empowerment concerning social, economic, political and cultural dimensions and women entrepreneurship. The respondents were interviewed, and their answers were interpreted, and the findings were framed as a theory of Entrepreneurship.



## Commonwealth Health Professions Partners. by Naomi and Ramesh

The Commonwealth Health Professions and Partners Alliance (CHPA) host a policy forum each year in conjunction with the Commonwealth Health Ministers' meeting. The CHPA has a commitment to optimise civil society interaction with Commonwealth Health Ministers and see this as an important forum for influencing health policy and practice on behalf of the practitioners they represent and for citizens across the Commonwealth. Ramesh and Naomi have been representing COSW in meetings. Plans are moving ahead for the next civil society forum on 10 May 2022. It will be broadcast from Geneva.

The social determinants of health are the circumstances in which people are born, grow up, live, work and age, and the systems put in place to deal with illness. These circumstances are in turn shaped by a wider set of forces: economics, social policies, politics, and the commercial determinants of health. Social determinants of health matter because addressing them not only helps prevent illness, but also promotes healthy lives and societal equity.

Commercial determinants of health are the conditions, actions and omissions by corporate actors that affect health. Commercial determinants arise in the context of the provision of goods or services for payment and include commercial activities, as well as the environment in which commerce takes place. They can have beneficial or detrimental impacts on health.

### *Companies shape our physical and social environments*

Corporate activities shape the physical and social environments in which people live, work, play, learn and love – both positively and negatively.

<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/commercial-determinants-of-health>

### *Key facts*

- Commercial determinants of health are the private sector activities that affect people's health positively or negatively.



- The private sector influences the social, physical and cultural environments through business actions and societal engagements; for example, supply chains, labour conditions, product design and packaging, research funding, lobbying, preference shaping and others.
- Commercial determinants of health impact a wide range of health outcomes including obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular health, cancer, road traffic injuries, mental health and malaria.
- Commercial determinants of health affect everyone, but young people are especially at risk, and unhealthy commodities worsen pre-existing economic, social and racial inequities. Certain countries and regions, such as small island states and

low- and middle-income countries, face greater pressure from multinational actors.

- There are effective public health actions to respond to these determinants, which are key to building back better after COVID-19.

The Commonwealth Health Professions & Partners Alliance joins with the World Health Organisation (WHO), in concern to enable best health practice, cost effectively and equitably for all peoples internationally.

This is a short snippet from the correspondence regarding the meetings which Ramesh and Naomi are honoured to attend as representatives of COSW.

### Outstanding activities in 2021 Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW).

The Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) is the major membership body for professionally qualified social workers in Australia with a membership of over 13,000 members out of the estimated over 32,000 professionally qualified social workers in the country. In Australia a qualified social worker has an AASW accredited, 4-year minimum bachelor or master's qualification in Social Work; or overseas equivalent as assessed by the AASW. The social worker title is not legally protected in Australia. Unqualified workers often use the term to describe themselves, or the term is used by other, such as media, to generically describe people employed in social and community services. The AASW self regulates the profession by setting the educational, practice and ethical standards as well as managing its own complaints process.

It sets the benchmarks for professional education and practice in social work. The association also stands out as a strong voice on matters of social justice, human rights and issues that impact upon the quality of life of all Australians.

In Australia the Covid pandemic has prompted changes in service delivery and governance arrangements for the AASW. There has been a shift from state-based offices to a centralised national administrative entity. Meetings, education, and most service delivery organisations have moved to internet/ teleconference only.

Social work students have not been on campus for the past two years. Placements have been conducted from students' homes. Among the membership are those who insist that the AASW be a strong advocate. Others prefer a non-partisan view, given that constituents come from a range of backgrounds and viewpoints.

Australia hosted the Asia Pacific IFSW biannual Conference in Brisbane in November online.

The Association has been lobbying for the professional registration of social work for more than 50 years. Australia is the only comparable jurisdiction internationally without registration. Now that professional registration has been achieved in South Australia, the AASW will monitor its implementation, with a view to achieving registration of the profession across Australia.

This article was submitted by Naomi Spencer, a long-standing NSW Branch Committee member, former National Board Member, Vice Present and AASW Representative.



1st Issue of COSW  
News Letters.pdf















2nd Issue of COSW  
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### Editors Message.

*The Editorial team, thanks you for supporting the Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work (COSW) from March 2021 till this our 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition which has been released in this month of March 2022, making this our first birthday.*

*We are committed to strengthen our relationship with our partners, social workers, and audience through timely sharing Newsletter thrice a year (June, August, and March).*

Commonwealth Organisation For Social Work (COSW) Executive Board			
Sylvia Daisy Romanus (India) – Chair	Monique Auffrey (Canada) – Honorary Secretary	Godfred Boahen (UK) – Honorary Treasurer	David N Jones (UK) – Main Representative to the Commonwealth Institutions
			
Charles Mbugua (Kenya)	Jan Christianson-Wood (Canada)	Sharon-Rose Gittens (Barbados)	Joachim Cuthbert Mumba (Zambia)
			
K. S. Ramesh (India)	Naomi Spencer (Australia)	Teoh Ai Hua (Malaysia)	Okiria Gerald – Uganda – Chief Newsletter Editor
			

For details visit our  
website

[www.cosw.info](http://www.cosw.info)

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<https://twitter.com/CwlthSocWk>



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTadGT4rwaUsTQdYiyqFgAQ>