



HONOURED COMMONWEALTH SOCIAL WORKER AWARDS

22 October 2022

**Awards are given to social workers
who have made a significant contribution to social work
in the Commonwealth,
working with COSW**

Anthony Tan



The award to Anthony Tan is given posthumously. Anthony died in 2013, following a short illness.

Anthony graduated from the National University of Singapore with a degree in social work in 1974. He contributed towards the development of Montfort Boys' Town in Singapore and in Malaysia (a residential home for boys and young men) until he moved on into the business and corporate world. He served two terms as President of the Malaysian Association of Social Workers in 1987-1989 and 1997-1999 and MASW on the IFSW Asia Pacific committee. He received a Commonwealth Foundation Friendship Award in 1992, the first social worker to win the award. The following year, he inspired a series of meetings, working with David N Jones and BASW, resulting in the formation of the Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work, which he chaired for a few years.

COSW would not exist without Anthony's enthusiasm, commitment and drive. It is sad that he did not live to see the flourishing of his creation and we remember him with gratitude.



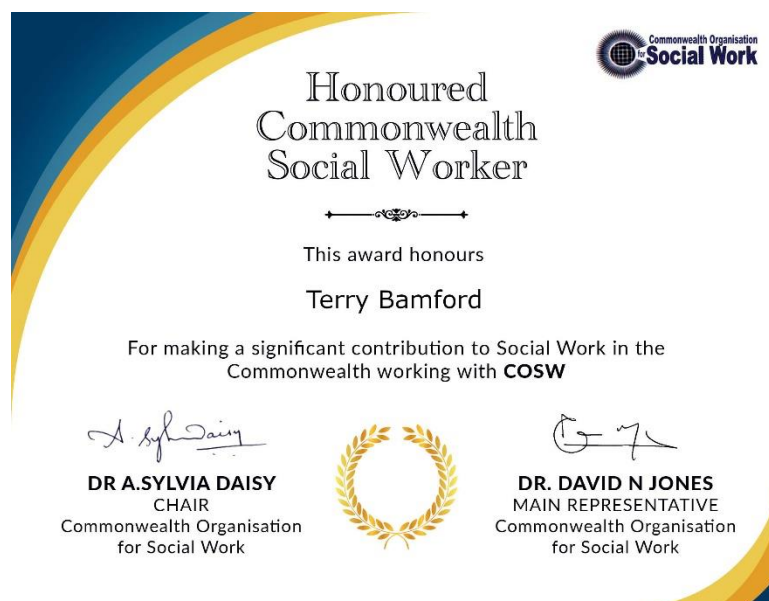
Terry Bamford



The award to Terry Bamford is given posthumously. He was a founding Board Member of COSW, IFSW Parliamentarian for many years and was awarded the IFSW Andrew Mouravieff-Apostol Medal in 2008. Terry died following a fall in 2020 and his many contributions to social work were celebrated in many obituaries and tributes at that time.

Terry was a passionate advocate of social justice, international social work and human rights. His contribution to COSW as a founding Board Member, leader, mentor and friend will always be valued. He made a significant contribution to the International Federation of Social Workers as Parliamentarian in General Meetings and on human rights. He served as trusted guide and mentor to many IFSW Presidents and COSW leaders, helping to shape many global policies. He was a former Chair of the British Association and had many significant roles throughout his career. Terry has left an enduring legacy and is greatly missed by all who knew him.

Terry made a huge personal contribution to international social work over more than 45 years. We still miss his calm and wise advice and are pleased to make this posthumous award today.



Fiona Robertson



Fiona served for many years as Board Member and Honorary Treasurer of COSW. She was elected as Honorary Treasurer of the International Federation of Social Workers, awarded the IFSW Andrew Mouravieff-Apostol Medal in 2014 and is currently the IFSW Honorary Archivist. She was honoured with life membership for her work in Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Social Workers.

Fiona was a witness to the signing of the first COSW constitutional documents in 2000 and played a crucial role in COSW from that time until her retirement as Treasurer in 2020. She was involved in the NGO Sector of the Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meetings and attended several Commonwealth meetings and events. She contributed to inaugural and ongoing COSW policy work. Fiona is the walking archive of knowledge about international social work including the activities of COSW. She helped keep COSW focused through challenging times.

Fiona is both well qualified in financial management and also passionate about social work, interested in the wide range of social policy, human rights and human dignity. She is especially committed to recognising the rights of women rights and of indigenous peoples in her home country and around the world.

COSW owes a great debt to Fiona for her vision and financial skills; she is a most worthy recipient of this award.



Nigel Hall



Nigel grew up in Zimbabwe. He trained in social work in the UK, returning after Independence to teach at the School of Social Work in Harare, and later at Kingston University in the UK.

Nigel helped develop the National Association in Zimbabwe supporting the professional development of many Zimbabwean social workers. Nigel was IFSW President for Africa and later global Human Rights Commissioner. He continues to support IFSW activity working with Fiona Robertson on the IFSW Archives. Nigel participated at the launch of COSW in Sri Lanka in 1994 and remained an active Board member and editor of the Newsletter over many years. He was one of the first social work academics in Africa to focus on the HIV/AIDS pandemic and played a crucial role in COSW, with BASW member Serge Paul, in the Commonwealth's Para 55 organisation promoting medical and social policy responses to HIV/AIDS.

Nigel has helped sustain COSW and the development of social work in Africa and in the Commonwealth and it is fitting that we honour him today.



Ngoh Tiong Tan



Ngoh Tiong TAN qualified in social work in Singapore and was Co-Chair of COSW for several years following the retirement of Antony Tan, working closely with Charles Mbugua.

Tiong has held many positions in social work in Singapore and the USA and has a passionate commitment to social justice, inspired by his Christian faith. Tiong launched the Families and Survivors of Tsunami (FAST) project in 2006 following the Asian Pacific tsunamis, blazing a new trail with others to highlight the role of social work in disaster response, an interest which continues. He is Chair of the Global Institute of Social Work, which he founded, was Treasurer of IASSW 2018-2022 and active in the International Consortium for Social Development and other international organisations.

Tiong was a witness to the signing of the original COSW constitution in 2000 and remains an active supporter. His contribution to international social work is self-evident and we are pleased to be able to recognise this today.

