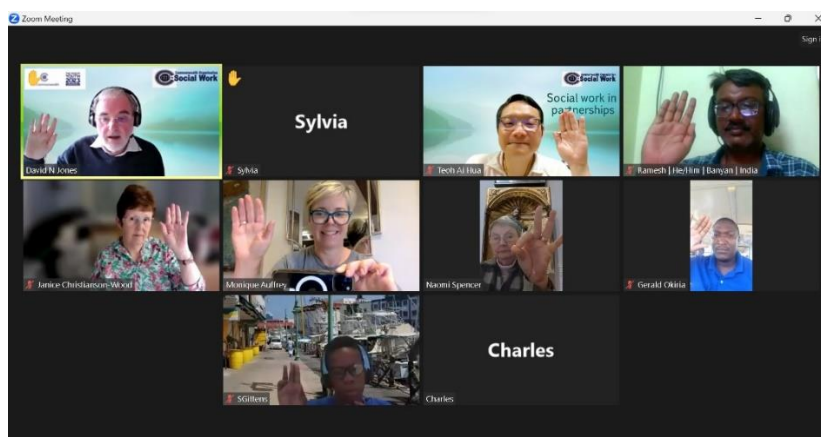


**PRESS RELEASE**  
**1 September 2023**



## **COSW MEMBERS TAKE HISTORIC DECISION TO APPROVE NEW CONSTITUTION AND RADICALLY RESHAPE THE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE**

COSW members today unanimously approved a new constitution and structure for the organisation which opens up the organisation and increases participation of national representatives and others supporting social work across the Commonwealth.



**COSW members voting unanimously to adopt the new constitution**

Welcoming the changes, COSW Chair, Sylvia Daisy Romanus, said “this historic decision lays the foundation for the continued development of COSW and its growing influence. The new structures are designed to ensure that COSW is directly connected to every Commonwealth country and able to build on an understanding of the wide diversity of Commonwealth communities. We will be working with individuals and organisations to ensure that all 56 Commonwealth countries have a representative on the new COSW Commonwealth Council.”

From October 2024 the organisation will be led by a Board appointed by and accountable to the Council, consisting of representatives from each Commonwealth country. An Appointment Committee of highly respected social workers with substantial international experience will oversee the appointment of the Board and the national selection processes.

The new structure will be explained in the annual Policy Forum being held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October with two sessions timed to enable participation of all Commonwealth regions.

**NOTE FOR EDITORS:** COSW is an organisation for citizens of the Commonwealth who are interested in supporting social work and social development. It is supported by social work associations in the Commonwealth. It aims to promote and support communication and collaboration between social workers and social work associations of Commonwealth countries, and to uphold and promote the code of ethics of the International Federation of Social Workers. This statement can be found on the COSW website

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

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