

RESERVE THE DATE – 21st OCTOBER 2023

06.00 - 07.30 or 16.00 – 17.30 (UTC)

Join the second annual COSW Policy Forum online

The contribution of the Commonwealth to Global Social Policy



Calling all social workers and students in the Commonwealth, national associations, universities and anybody else who wishes to know more about social work in the Commonwealth.

On Saturday 21st October 2023, two parallel open meetings enable people from all time zones to participate – 06.00 and 16.00 (UTC). Both will have a similar programme with the same speakers.

Eminent Commonwealth speakers will discuss '*The contribution of the Commonwealth to Global Social Policy*':

Matthew Neuhaus (Australia) - former Commonwealth Secretariat senior official

Joachim Mumba (Zambia) - IFSW President

Janneth Mghamba (Tanzania) - Commonwealth Secretariat Health Adviser

Mario Gerada (Malta) – Commonwealth Foundation Civil Society Advisory Governor



***COSW at the
Commonwealth Youth
Ministers Meeting
September 2023***

The Policy Forum will also hear about the new COSW constitution, approved on 1st September 2023. The new structure increases participation of national representatives and others supporting social work across the Commonwealth. This creates exciting new opportunities and broadens the base of accountability.

Board members will report on a busy and influential year, including such themes as young carers, physical & mental health, child care law reform, human rights, safeguarding & child protection, involvement of older people, youth, social development and much more.

Join the Policy Forum to hear how the voice of social work has contributed to developments in the Commonwealth and the contribution of the Commonwealth to global social policy. Log on to the webinar (**no pre-registration**) [06.00 – 07.30](#) and/or [16.00 – 17.30](#) (UTC).

PROGRAMME

06.00/16.00	Welcome & COSW activity report	Sylvia Daisy & Board members
06.20/16.20	Song for young carers	Oritsé Williams
06.25/16.25	The contribution of the Commonwealth to Global Social Policy Matthew Neuhaus, Joachim Mumba, Janneth Mghamba, Mario Gerada	
07.05/17.05	COSW structural change	K. S. Ramesh
07.10/17.10	Open microphone	David N Jones (chair)
07.25/17.25	Thanks and close	Sylvia Daisy

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Matthew Neuhaus has served for many years in the Australian diplomatic service, including periods in Kenya, Papua New Guinea, Nigeria and Zimbabwe. He served Australia at the United Nations and in October 2002 was appointed Director of the Political Affairs Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat in London, helping to organise three CHOGMs – Nigeria (2003), Malta (2005), Uganda (2007). He also oversaw Commonwealth democracy and election work, and was involved in conflict resolution in Pakistan, Fiji, Kenya, Guyana, Maldives and Tanzania/Zanzibar. He recently retired following a period as Ambassador to the Netherlands. Matthew will share his wide experience of and academic research on social policy in the Commonwealth.

Joachim Mumba is the IFSW President (2022-2026) and has been Secretary General of the Social Workers' Association of Zambia since 2005. He is also a COSW Board Member. He was instrumental in successfully negotiating the Social Workers' Association of Zambia Act, which was signed into law by the President in 2022. Joachim has been involved in a study landscaping the social welfare workforce and the extent to which social work is being recognized as a profession in Africa. This exercise was done in partnership with UNICEF Eastern and Southern Africa (ESARO) and the Global Social Service Workforce Alliance (GSSWA). He describes himself as an Ubuntu social work practitioner. Joachim will comment on the common objectives of IFSW and COSW.

Dr Janneth Mghamba is the Health Advisor for the Commonwealth Secretariat and former assistant director for the epidemiology and disease control section of Tanzania's Ministry of Health. Her current area of focus is on assisting Commonwealth countries to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) goals by addressing inequity and disparities; building their digital platforms to strengthen health outcomes; addressing Global Health Security; NCD and Cervical cancers and the major ATM diseases. Janneth works alongside Advisers on education and youth services and will share an overview of current Commonwealth social policy activity.

Mario Gerada is a social worker based in Malta, a senior manager in the Migrants Commission of the Catholic Archdiocese of Malta and a Civil Society Advisory Governor of the Commonwealth Foundation. He has extensive experience of front-line human rights work with a special focus on migration. He has personal experience of the importance of constructive engagement between government and civil society, gained through his leadership within a national civil society organisation. He played a key role in the 2015 CHOGM People's Forum in Malta. Mario will talk about the experience of CHOGM 2015, the Commonwealth Foundation's critical dialogue programme and plans for CHOGM 2024.

11 October 2023