



David N Jones with Prof Wendy Thomson CBE  
(Vice Chancellor) - both social workers

**COSW BOARD MEMBER & REPRESENTATIVE  
TO COMMONWEALTH INSTITUTIONS**

**DAVID N JONES**

**RECEIVES HONORARY DOCTORATE FROM  
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**

**IN RECOGNITION OF HIS NATIONAL AND  
INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORK**

**COSW is pleased to congratulate Board Member and founding member, David N Jones, on the honorary award of *Doctor of Science (Social Sciences) honoris causa* by the University of London, in recognition of his national and international social work.**

Responding to the news, COSW President, Sylvia Daisy Romanus, quoted Steve Jobs "The only way to do a great job is to love it" - and we all recognise that David loves social work!'

Sylvia continued: 'hearty congratulations to Dr David N Jones for being recognised as one of the 5 notable figures to receive an award from HRH The Princess Royal at the University of London Foundation Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023, recognising your valuable contribution to society. Your talents, skills, and attitude of excellence in the field of social work and your promotion of social justice are admired by the social work fraternity in the Commonwealth and across the globe. Continue to be an inspiration for all,' Sylvia concluded.

In response, David said: 'My life and social work have been guided by a commitment to social justice, social service and respect for all, inspired by family example and Christian and humanitarian values. Social work faces up to the often-brutal realities as well as the joys of human relationships and cannot avoid difficult choices. Those choices must be informed by high quality education and training, alongside other professions, and guided by robust research involving those who are most affected. I have been privileged to engage with social workers and others in local communities and around the world and with people of differing faiths and none, all sharing the same commitment. I thank them for the friendship I have experienced and all that I have learnt from them.'

'There is too much hatred and too little understanding expressed in the world today, sometimes from the highest offices and from those who should know better. As people cohabiting an over-heating and crowded planet, we must keep searching for mutual understanding and respect for peoples and the environment. That is the hard graft of social work (to which I have made a contribution, recognised today) which deserves support and respect.'

ENDS

**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.

David was closely involved in the formation of COSW, from the first conversation with Anthony Tan (Malaysia) in 1992. The initial meeting of associations at the IFSW global social work conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka in 1994 resulted in the formation of a steering committee, the signing of a constitution in 2000 and the formal registration as a company limited by guarantee in 2005. COSW has since grown in influence and prestige. A new constitution approved in 2023 will further expand its activities, improving transparency and inclusion. David has played a key role in these developments.

David qualified as a social worker in 1974 having spent several months as a volunteer teaching and travelling in Kenya and around East Africa in 1969. His interest in international affairs dated back to his school days studying languages and travelling in Europe. David specialised at first in child protection social work. Later, as General Secretary of the British Association of Social Workers (1985-1994), he became increasingly involved in international social policy which subsequently continued, serving on the International Federation (IFSW) European Region Committee and representing the UK government on the Council of Europe working group on social work (1999-2001).

David was elected to the IFSW Global Executive in 2000, serving as President 2006-2010. He then played a leading role in coordinating the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development (2010-2020), and in planning World Social Work Days, working with IASSW and ICSW.

David has represented social work in many meetings with Commonwealth Heads of Government, Ministers and Secretariat. He currently represents civil society on the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Health and chairs the Children's Interest Group of Accredited Organisations (ComCIG). He has taken a particular interest in the situation of young carers in Commonwealth countries and, with others, supported consultations with young carers in several countries which result in the Commonwealth Young Carers Charter, since endorsed in ministerial communiqués.

More information about the Foundation Day ceremony can be found at  
<https://www.london.ac.uk/news-events/news/hrh-princess-royal-awards-university-london-honorary-degrees-fellowship-five-notable-figures>

More detailed biography and comments from other organisations can be found at:

IFSW <https://www.ifsw.org/former-ifsw-president-david-jones-receives-honorary-doctorate/>

BASW <https://new.basw.co.uk/articles/basw-congratulates-david-n-jones-honorary-degree>

CFAB [https://www.cfab.org.uk/blog?e30aff4a\\_page=3](https://www.cfab.org.uk/blog?e30aff4a_page=3)

Commonwealth Young Carers Charter <https://cosw.info/young-cares/>

Photograph of The Princess Royal with those receiving awards and the Vice Chancellor – see next page

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Back row      Dr David N Jones, Prof Paul Layzell, Simon Reeve, Baroness Ros Altmann CBE  
Front row      Claudia Roden CBE, The Princess Royal, Prof Wendy Thomson