

DELAY IN CONSTITUTING NIGERIAN SOCIAL WORK COUNCIL CRITICISED BY SOCIAL WORK LEADERS

Social work leaders in Nigeria have declared that the absence of a Council to regulate social work is undermining the growth and progress of the profession in the country



A strategic meeting in Abuja convened by Nigeria Association of Social Workers (NASoW), in collaboration with its affiliate professional bodies such as Association of Social Work Educators in Nigeria (ASWEN), Association of Medical Social Workers of Nigeria (AMSWON) and Institute of Social Work in Nigeria (ISOWN) ended with a joint communiqué.

The meeting was attended by Alhaji Mashood Mustapha, President of NASoW, Mrs Esther Nasara, General Secretary of NASoW, Professor Alamveabee Idyorough, President of ASWEN, Professor James Ayangunna, National Secretary of ASWEN, Mr. Kayode Ogedengbe, National President of AMSWON and Daniel Ellu, National General Secretary of AMSWON (see picture).

The meeting expressed deep concern over failure to implement the Nigerian Council for Social Work (Establishment) Act which was signed into law in 2022 by former President, Muhammadu Buhari. They said that this delay has created a vacuum in the regulation and coordination of professional social work practice across the country.

COSW recently heard about the campaign to secure the Act of Parliament in a well-attended global webinar with IFSW Africa on the regulation of social work in African countries.

Issuing a **“Call to Action”**, the leaders called on policy makers, the media, and the general public to support this cause ‘which seeks to enhance the delivery of essential social services, protect the vulnerable, and promote national development through professional social work practice’, ‘in the spirit of unity, professionalism, and commitment to national service’.

Welcoming the statement, COSW President Sylvia Daisy Romanus said: ‘the formal recognition of professional social work is crucially important for development and community wellbeing across the Commonwealth. I therefore fully supported the Call to Action, not only in Nigeria but across all Commonwealth countries’.

Ends

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NOTE: 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](#).

Press coverage of the communiqué in Nigeria:

[Absence of Council undermining growth of Social Work in Nigeria - Stakeholders](#)

[Stakeholders decry delay in constituting social work regulatory council](#)

[Social Workers seek Tinubu's intervention to constitute, inaugurate council](#)

[Statement by Nigeria Association of Social Workers \(NASoW\)](#)

COSW webinar on social work in Africa

See report of [COSW webinar on regulation of social work](#) including keynote contribution from Alhaji Mashood Mustapha (President, Nigerian Association of Social Workers)

See video of the COSW [webinar](#) on regulation of social work in Africa

Contact

David N Jones (COSW Secretary General) COSW.cw@gmail.com