

PRESS RELEASE

24 August 2025

**"FROM FRAGILITY TO FORTITUDE"****UPDATE ON SPEAKERS - FOURTH ANNUAL COSW POLICY FORUM ONLINE****REFRAMING SOCIAL WORK DURING GLOBAL TURBULENCE****Reflections on social work in turbulent times****SATURDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2025****06.00 - 07.30 or 16.00 – 17.30 (UTC/GMT)****ZOOM LINK AVAILABLE HERE BEFORE THE EVENT**

A new report: "*From Fragility to Fortitude: Building Resilient African CSOs in the Wake of the US Government Funding Collapse*" will be a key element in the 2025 COSW annual Policy Forum. In one of the first global presentations, the authors Rose Maruru and David Barnard will present findings of a survey of 364 African CSOs in 42 countries. A panel will then explore future global impacts and opportunities, with time for audience questions.

On Saturday 13th September 2025 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.

How should social work react to the global turbulence affecting people worldwide? How does the experience of local social workers get brought into Commonwealth-wide and global debates? Does our experience count? Can we make a difference?

PROGRAMME

06.00/16.00	Welcomes	COSW, IFSW, IASSW and Commonwealth Secretariat
	COSW activity 2024-5 – what we are doing	COSW Board members
06.45/16.45	Reflections on social work in turbulent times "From Fragility to Fortitude" Panel discussion	Rose Maruru & David Barnard Mario Gerada (Malta) and others
07.10/17.10	Open microphone discussion with Q&A	David N Jones (chair)
07.30/17.30	Thanks and close	Sylvia Daisy Romanus
24.8.25/dnj		