

PRESS RELEASE

18 October 2025



NEW PRESIDENT OF COMMONWEALTH ORGANISATION FOR SOCIAL WORK DR K. S. RAMESH – CHENNAI, TAMILNADU, INDIA



Dr K. S. Ramesh has been announced as the new President of the Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work with the unanimous endorsement of the COSW Council.

Speaking from his home city of Chennai, India, Ramesh said "I am immensely honoured and humbled to be confirmed as President of the Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work.

"The **common wealth** of the 56 member countries of our Commonwealth offers a high potential to support the development of all its peoples and the natural environment. The social work profession has a significant role in enabling this process through participatory approaches built on humanistic principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility, and respect for diversity. The Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work has demonstrated its contributions to enhancing the well-being of people, its commitment to a sustainable environment and its support for social work practitioners and their partners. Together, we will continue to enhance our support towards sustainable development and wellbeing of all the nations and peoples of our Commonwealth.

"On behalf of the new leadership team, I thank the retiring and Past Presidents, office bearers and Board members for their invaluable contributions to COSW which has grown in size and breadth of work. I look forward to working with social workers across the Commonwealth to build respect for our profession and to ensure that the experiences of social workers inform debates within the Commonwealth."

Congratulating Ramesh on his appointment, **retiring President Sylvia Daisy Romanus** said: "Ramesh has made a creative contribution to the development of COSW and been a steadfast support over many years. He is widely respected for his integrity and commitment to social work and social justice and will provide strong leadership as COSW continues to extend its influence and support for social workers across the Commonwealth.

"Being President of COSW has been a rewarding and exciting experience. COSW has grown in activity and respect. We have a new constitution, we have launched an Associate membership scheme, we have actively engaged in pan-Commonwealth dialogues and policy development with Commonwealth institutions and partner Accredited Organisations, we have engaged positively with IFSW and IASSW, we have helped to promote and strengthen the voice of social work across the Commonwealth. I am grateful for the opportunity to have served as President for 5 years and thank all who have contributed to COSW activities for their support and encouragement. I send my very best wishes to Ramesh for his term of office and look forward to continuing to contribute to COSW activities", Sylvia concluded.

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Dr Ramesh & Prof. Jayalal,
President, Commonwealth
Medical Association - 2025



Dr Ramesh addressing an IFSW
seminar - 2018



Dr Sylvia Daisy Romanus and Dr K. S.
Ramesh - retiring and new COSW
Presidents

Dr K. S. Ramesh has 25 years of professional social work practice experience in physical and mental healthcare, and leadership of professional associations. He has been a member of the COSW Board since 2010 and played a key role in the recent review of the COSW constitution. He represented COSW in the Commonwealth Health Professions and Partners Alliance and was its Secretary for 2 years. He was President of the Professional Social Workers' Association of Tamilnadu 2008-2011. He was instrumental in creating the revised COSW website.

Dr Ramesh is Director - Education, Social Action and Administration at Banyan Academy of Leadership in Mental Health. He is a member of the Steering Committee of Tamilnadu State Professional Social Work Council. He was Co-Founder & Secretary of the alumni association of Madras School of Social Work, Patron of the Journal of School Social Work and a State steering committee member of the National HIV/AIDS bill. He contributed to 'TB-HIV' co-infection policy and was a drafting committee member for Tamilnadu State Youth policy and Meghalaya state mental health and social care policy. He supported development of Tamilnadu state policy addressing the needs of persons experiencing homelessness and mental illness.

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](#).

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