

PRESS RELEASE

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A NEW YEAR OF SHARED STRENGTH, JUSTICE AND SOCIAL PROGRESS

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

Dear Colleagues, Partners, Supporters, Friends and Citizens across the Commonwealth



Standing on the threshold of the New Year, the Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work (COSW) extends its warmest wishes to you. May the coming year be one of resilience, solidarity, and transformative impact for the social work profession, social development professionals, social care teams, volunteers and the communities we serve.

Reflecting on our shared journey, we enter the new year committed to deepening the activities that define the [COSW mission](#):

- *Championing Human Rights & Dignity:* Let us renew our pledge to uphold the COSW Statement on Human Rights, ensuring that the voices of marginalised people are heard and that social justice remains the cornerstone of our practice across all 56 member countries.
- *Protecting the Future:* Building on our advocacy for the Kigali Declaration on Child Care and Protection Reform and the Commonwealth Charter for Young Carers, may this year bring tangible improvements in the lives of children and young people, safeguarding their well-being and future.
- *Upholding Ethical Standards:* We remain steadfast in our fight against exploitation through our commitment to combating Modern Slavery and opposing Bribery and Corruption. Let our work continue to be a beacon of integrity and ethical governance.
- *Strengthening Our Network:* In the spirit of "sharing our common wealth of knowledge," we look forward to fostering stronger partnerships with Commonwealth Secretariat, Commonwealth Foundation, Commonwealth Accredited Organisations, national associations of social work, the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) and the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW). Together, we will continue to promote education, training, and the exchange of technical expertise to relieve poverty and drive social development.

As we navigate the challenges and opportunities of the year ahead, let us remain united in our goal to promote a society where no one is left behind.

We are eagerly looking forward to celebrating Commonwealth Day (9th March) and World Social Work Day (17th March) with all of you. We invite you for the Joint World Conference on Social Work Education and Social Development (Nairobi, Kenya; 26 – 29 June; "Harambee for Sustainable Shared Futures") and will work with others to ensure that the voice of social workers is heard at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) (Antigua and Barbuda; 1– 4 November; "Accelerating Partnerships and Investment for a Prosperous Commonwealth")

We wish you a peaceful, prosperous, and professionally fulfilling New Year.

In professional solidarity,
Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work (COSW)



NOTES 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.

This statement can be found on the [COSW website](#).



Dr K. S. Ramesh was recently announced as the new President of the Commonwealth Organisations for Social Work. He is based in his home city of Chennai, India. He has 25 years of professional social work practice experience in physical and mental healthcare, and leadership of professional associations. Dr Ramesh is Director - Education, Social Action and Administration at Banyan Academy of Leadership in Mental Health. He has been a member of the COSW Board since 2010 and played a key role in the recent review of the COSW constitution.

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ENDS