

COSW HONOURS PAST PRESIDENT DR SYLVIA DAISY ROMANUS



Dr Ramesh (COSW President), Prof Jerome, Dr Jones (COSW Gen Sec), Associate Professor Sylvia Daisy Romanus, Prof Raja Samuel, Cyril Alexander, Prof Stephen

Dr Sylvia Daisy Romanus, Past President of COSW, received the award of **Honoured Commonwealth Social Worker** at a ceremony held at Madras School of Social Work (MSSW) on **8th December 2025**. The award recognises Sylvia's significant contribution to social work in the Commonwealth working with COSW.

Sylvia was an active President from 2020 to 2025, always inspiring Board members and working with commendable dedication to promote social work as a profession alongside her demanding roles at Madras Christian College in Chennai, India.

Sylvia is a passionate teacher and social worker. An Associate Professor at Madras Christian College (MCC) in the Department of Social Work, she has been associated with MCC since 2007. She has lead responsibility for several community projects supported by the College as well as being involved in national and international networks.

COSW General Secretary, David N Jones, commented: 'Sylvia is a powerhouse of commitment and energy. She never seems to sleep. She has helped to steer COSW through major constitutional changes and to grow and extend its influence.' Current President Ramesh K. S. paid tribute to Sylvia's leadership and thanked her for her passion for social work.

The award was presented by Dr. S. Raja Samuel, Principal of MSSW, in the presence of COSW President Dr Ramesh K. S., Dr David N Jones (General Secretary) and staff and students from MSSW.



*Sylvia Daisy Romanus with David N Jones
Madras Christian College
Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
December 2025*

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. A Sylvia Daisy is the Past President of the Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work (2020-2025). She started her career as a teacher at Nava Nirmana Social Institute in 1999 and later taught UG and PG in Social Work at Stella Maris College. She is an Associate Professor at Madras Christian College Department of Social Work, Self Financed Stream. She has been associated with MCC since August 2007.

Sylvia is a consummate networker and enjoys working with social work practitioners and academicians. She is the author of the book titled "Marriage and Family" and has been the Guest Editor of the International Journal on Social Work Management. She has published more than 25 research papers in national and international journals. Sylvia has been active in several professional networks in South India and has led several social work projects including the Tribal Children Nutrition project (2014- 2019), Tribal Women Entrepreneurship and Empowerment project (2017-2019), Chennai Floods Relief and Rehabilitation project (2015), Vardha Cyclone Relief and Rehabilitation Project (2017), COVID 19 Relief and Rehabilitation project (2020).



Dr K. S. Ramesh became the new President of the Commonwealth Organisations for Social Work in late 2025. 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.