

PRESS RELEASE



14 March 2022

COSW Commonwealth Day statement reaffirms the commitment of social workers to public service and calls on The Commonwealth to facilitate vaccine equity.

On Commonwealth Day 14 March 2022, COSW Chair Sylvia Daisy Romanus, said:

'The Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work (COSW) today reaffirms our belief in The Commonwealth as a powerful influence for good in the world, and we pledge ourselves to the service of Commonwealth peoples, now and for the future.'

Sylvia continued: 'At this time of continuing wars and violence in Ukraine and elsewhere in the world, and as the Coronavirus pandemic continues to affect most countries, we know as social workers that the only solution is continued dialogue, people speaking with people and helping each other'.

This Commonwealth Day, the core message emphasising the value of public service is welcome to social workers, whose professional commitment is to public service.

'A clear sign of that commitment to public service, and of the reality of Commonwealth values, would be concrete steps to promote vaccine equity in the face of the pandemic', Sylvia asserted. 'Put simply, *the rich countries are getting the majority of vaccines, with many poorer countries struggling to vaccinate even a small number of citizens*¹. COSW calls on The Commonwealth to take rapid action to facilitate access to vaccines for all', Sylvia urged.

Echoing the Commonwealth Day 2022 Affirmation, Sylvia Daisy concluded:

'Joining together in kinship and affinity, in diversity and unity, as members of a worldwide family of nations and a global profession, we build on shared inheritances. We cooperate with mutual respect and goodwill to deliver a common future for the good of all.'

NOTE TO 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 www.cosw.info/news

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¹ Source: United Nations <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/09/1100192>