

NEWSLETTER



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4th Issue

13th October 2022

OPEN MEETING FOR COSW SCHEDULED FOR 22nd OCT 2022

The Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work (COSW) invites Social Workers in Commonwealth countries, COSW supporters and interested parties to the first wider consultation forum due to take place virtually on Saturday 22nd Oct 2022. Attendees will participate in the policy development process and also be presented with COSW's activities in detail, achievements and plans for the future in an interactive session. COSW executive will unveil the new constitutional structure of COSW that will enable fuller participation of Commonwealth countries. The Policy Forum provides advice and guidance to the COSW Board and the new COSW Commonwealth Council.



The open meeting will also provide a platform for participants to network with other national/international social work associations/ organisations, universities/schools, sub-specialty interest groups and individual practitioners/educators/students.

We look forward to hosting you in this online meeting at 06.00 or 16.00 (UTC) – join [here](#). See www.cosw.info and social media for joining details as we join hands to reshape COSW activities and strategies that reflects real world needs as we make the Commonwealth community a better place for all, leaving no one behind.

King Charles III Succeeds Queen Elizabeth II as Head of Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth community grew cold on the 8th September 2022 following the passing of the Head of the Commonwealth Queen Elizabeth II, King Charles III succeeded as Head of the Commonwealth following a decision of Heads of Government at CHOGM 2018. Rwanda is currently the political lead as Commonwealth Chair-in-Office.



The Chair of the Independent Forum of Commonwealth Organizations Dr Nicholas S.J. Watts FRSA on behalf of many others in Commonwealth Accredited Organizations sent "heartfelt condolences to King Charles III on the passing of his mother the late Queen." He further noted in a statement that "We mourn the loss of the remarkable leadership the late Queen showed as Head of the Commonwealth and her steadfast commitment to the values that peoples of the Commonwealth share." He also welcomed the commitment King Charles III "...made to sustaining the influence the

King Charles III and Queen Consort Camilla during the visit to Dunfermline and Edinburgh. Source Royal.uk

Commonwealth exerts as a force for good in the world and look forward to contributing to that work."

COSW Chair Dr. Sylvia Daisy Romanus, sent a condolence message to the Royal family in which she noted that *"Several COSW leaders have met the Queen since our formation and have seen the significance of her contribution to Commonwealth relationships."* She also added that *"The Queen as a person has been an example of commitment and service which is well understood and recognised by social workers."* She was

joined by Mr. Okiria Gerald who signed the condolence book at the British Council in Uganda on behalf of COSW as one of the ways to appreciate the Queen's effort to building an all-inclusive Commonwealth community most especially for the children and the needy members of the Community.

COSW looks forward to working with the new Head of the Commonwealth, welcoming his commitment and building on work to support the Commonwealth social work community.

Our prosperity is a result of our thoughts. Think rich, stay rich!



I am pleased to welcome you to the fourth newsletter of COSW. Since the third newsletter in March 2022, COSW has continued to network with its partner organisations. On behalf of COSW, my sincere appreciation to all the committed members of the COSW Board who participated and shared their thoughts in significant meetings, webinars, and events organised in different parts of the globe online and offline. In this newsletter, you will find interesting articles relating to the participation of COSW Board members in the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Rwanda, Commonwealth Health Professions & Partners Alliance, Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Network, IFCO Children's Cluster, the IFSW/UNRISD People's Summit, the webinar on Comparative Histories of Social Work in the Commonwealth, Commonwealth Games, and so on as well as COSW Board meetings.

Are you interested in joining COSW to network with social workers in the Commonwealth countries? Follow the articles on COSW governance arrangements and the COSW Open Policy Forum to find out how to do this. Staying connected and learning from the experience of social workers are needed more now in these times of uncertainty. I hope you enjoy your reading.

Sending best wishes for your success.

Dr. A. Sylvia Daisy, (Chair, Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work)

New IFSW Global President is a COSW Board Member.



Mr. Joachim Mumba – IFSW President Global

We congratulate several social workers from Commonwealth countries who have been elected to the IFSW Executive and others continuing in their roles. Special among them is the COSW Board member, Joachim Mumba who was elected unopposed as IFSW Global President (from Africa - Zambia) in the recent online General Meeting. In an open statement to COSW Mr. Mumba expressed gratitude *"for the show of confidence..."* in him and Africa. In his remarks he noted to being *"committed to growing the profession and the Federation in all the 5 regions... with personal sacrifice and conviction."* He further said that his greatest motivation is derived from Nelson Mandela's statement of, *"there can be no greater gift than that of giving one's time and energy to help others without expecting anything in return."* He encouraged social workers that his team believes in an open-door policy of engagement in order to co-build the shared growth and future towards leaving no one behind.

COSW extends hearty congratulations to Oluwatoni Adeleke, (Africa Vice President, Nigeria) and to Joan Davis-Whelan North American President (Canada). Sriganesh M V (Asia Pacific Vice President - India) continues to serve his four-year term.

COSW Reaps Big from CHOGM



The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Kigali-Rwanda in June 2022 was a great landmark for the Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work (COSW) fraternity. CHOGM Secretary General Rt. Hon. Patricia Scotland during the closing ceremony of CHOGM Rwanda 2022 media briefing announced that “....A number of new principles and declarations and frameworks were endorsed...” and are in the

communiqué “... but key to them were the following; The Living Lands Charter, a call to action on living land, The Kigali Declaration on Child Care and Protection Reforms, the Declaration on Sustainable Urbanization and ... the Declaration on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment.” The Country Director of Hope and Homes for Children – Rwanda who was among the COSW delegation Mr. Hambifura Innocent, noted that the declaration was timely for other Commonwealth countries to learn and also adopt the mode of supporting needy children from homes and communities they belong to.

The first lady of Rwanda Jannette Kagame during the Commonwealth Women’s Forum said that “The draft 2020-2030 Declaration on Gender Equality, must mobilize CHOGM and the Women’s Forum for decisive action.” Ms. Alice Mbiyu COSW delegate represented at the Commonwealth Women’s Forum noted that there are increasing actions and initiatives that promote gender equality. However efforts to empower women and support them need to be encouraged so that the world can gain maximum benefit from the women potential in the different environments they are contributing to humanity.



From Left: Gerald Okiria (UG), Alice Mbiyu (KE) and Innocent Hambifura (RW) some of the COSW delegates at the Commonwealth Peoples’ Forums

The Declaration on Sustainable Urbanization which relates to UN Sustainable Development Goal 11 was welcomed by the COSW head of delegation Mr. Mbugua Charles – Kenya. He noted that the declaration, aims to create cities and communities which are all inclusive of community members of different age groups and thus promote stability and continuity.

Alliances with other Commonwealth accredited organisations such as the Commonwealth Lawyers Association were initiated towards building a joint effort towards easing access to justice and technology. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Rwanda informed a side meeting that “Courts need to take responsibility in adopting technologies in the access to courts as means of strengthening public trust and confidence in courts.” The COSW representative at the side event Mr. Okiria Gerald encouraged participants to continue embracing and appreciating the role of professional social workers in court processes towards access of justice which suggestion was welcomed by the Commonwealth Lawyers Association President Mr. Brian H. Speers.

Dr. Arjoon Suddhoo Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth said during the Commonwealth Youth Forum (CYF) that ‘Many Young People are waking up to hard realities but regardless of the handles of life. We need to take urgent actions to avoid the lasting effects of Covid

19 pandemic.” The Rwanda Minister for Youth and Culture Hon. Rosemary Mbabazi encouraged youths to avoid procrastination to **“Take Charge of the Future”** rather than leaving it for other people since “the people who survive are those who are adaptive and create solutions for their problems.” The President of the Mastercard Foundation, Ms. Reeta Roy, encouraged all stakeholders to listen, work and engage young people’s ideas as one of the ways of tapping into their inner power. The COSW representative at the CYF Mr. Okiria Gerald encouraged delegates that as “we take charge

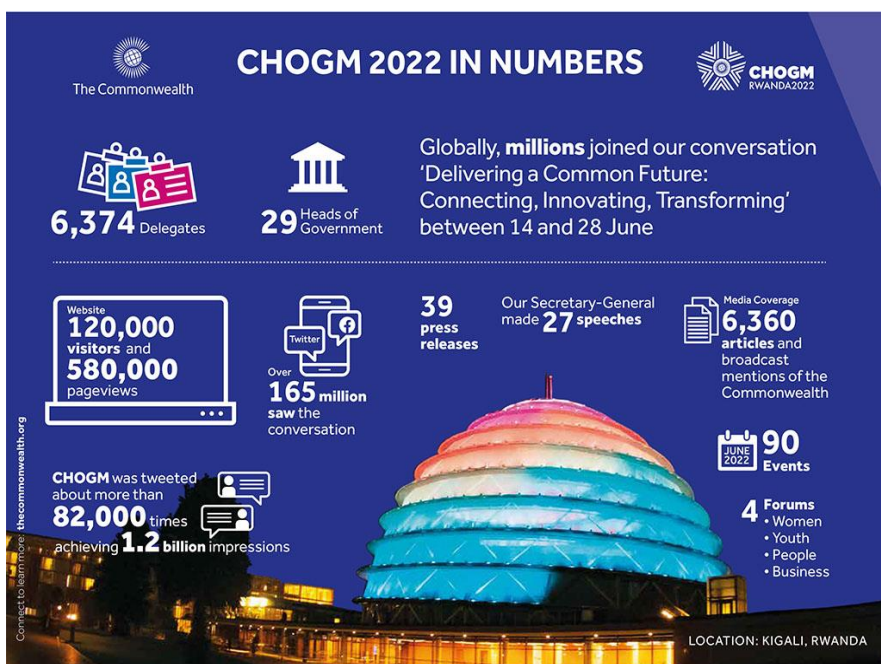


From Left: Gerald Okiria (UG), Charles Mbugua (KE) and Innocent Hambifura (RW) at the CHOGM official Opening Ceremony.

of the future, we need also to remember young carers - children and youths who have been denied enjoying their childhood and youth due to responsibilities over their families due to their parent’s chronic illness, aging, war or death.” As a member of the Governance and Rule of Law subgroup during the CYF, Gerald expressed gratitude to the CHOGM leaders following their commitment “to increase meaningful representation of youth in decision-making processes and mechanisms, including conflict resolution and peace building.”

A four-person COSW delegation was able to participate in the Commonwealth Youth Forum (CYF) represented by Mr. Okiria Gerald, Commonwealth Women’s Forum represented by Ms. Alice Mbiyu, Commonwealth People’s Forum represented by Mr. Charles Mbugua, Ms. Alice Mbiyu, Mr. Hambifura Innocent and Mr. Okiria Gerald while the CHOGM main meeting was attended by Mr. Charles Mbugua – Kenya, Mr. Hambifura Innocent – Rwanda and Mr. Okiria Gerald with support from the Commonwealth Foundation, the COSW secretariat, British Association of Social Workers (BASW) Hope and Homes for Children Rwanda.

COSW played a leading role in consulting on and editing the [formal submission to CHOGM 2022](#) from the Commonwealth Organisations. This sets out the priority concerns and proposals



from the Commonwealth Organisations on the CHOGM agenda themes. CHOGM 2022 was crowned with welcoming and acceptance of Samoa to host the next CHOGM 2024.



Top left photo; Gerald with colleagues at the Commonwealth Youth Forum. Next is Brigid Commonwealth Lawyers Association administrator and Pheonah Wall – Uganda Law Society President at the Ease Access to Justice and Technology CHOGM side event.

On the left is a group photo of participants at Safeguarding Children in the Commonwealth at the delegates led session at the CHOGM People's Forum.



Review of the contribution of Commonwealth Organisations

A review of the collective contribution and achievements of the Commonwealth Organisations has been initiated by the Commonwealth Secretariat. With a steering group established in co-operation with the Independent Forum of Commonwealth Organisations.

Former COSW Board member, Godfred Boahen is a member of the Steering Group for the project. Vijay Krishnarayan, former Director General of the Commonwealth Foundation, has been commissioned to undertake the research. Board member David N Jones was interviewed as part of the research; a summary of his observations will be included in the final report when it is published later in the year.



David N Jones at Commonwealth HQ

People's Global Summit approves The People's Charter for an Eco-Social World



26 diverse global organisations with COSW included representing hundreds of millions of people, came together to organise People's Global Summit held 29 June – 2 July 2022. The online event to discussed ways to create eco-social communities. The event was jointly led by the International Federation of Social Workers - IFSW and the

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD). The partners worked together to create The People's Charter for an Eco-Social World which committed to co-building a sustainable and just world based on the transfer of power to people.

The Charter identifies the following Actions which 'we can do together':

- ✓ Ecological integrity: From exploitation to recognising the rights of nature for sustainable co-existence
- ✓ Economic reform: From measuring economies by profit to sustainable wellbeing societies
- ✓ International solidarity: From national introspection to global cooperation
- ✓ Employment and work: From being undervalued to being recognised with dignified working conditions
- ✓ State social protection: From reactive public spending to public investment in wellbeing

'This Charter is for everyone to own, a living document which can be interpreted and used in local contexts and cultures, while retaining its core values and aspirations.'

Read the complete [Peoples Charter](#) on the link.

Sylvia Romanus, COSW Chair, commented: *'this remarkable partnership of global organisations and local communities is voicing the experience of millions around the world calling for new approaches, peace and social justice. COSW is proud to be a part of this landmark event and calls on political leaders to respond with generosity and determination. Social workers all over the world are ready to respond, supporting people and communities to realise their human potential.'*

COSW Board meetings

The COSW Board met for its quarterly meetings on 30th April and 3rd September. A major focus of work in recent months has been the review of the constitution (described in a separate article) and involved additional meetings. Other activities are described in separate articles. A key focus of Board discussion has been the development of partnerships with Commonwealth institutions and other Commonwealth Organisations. The Board has also planned webinars and online activities. The activity reported in this newsletter is the outcome of Board discussions and planning.

The Board was saddened to receive the resignation of Godfred Boahen as Treasurer and Board Member, due to demands in his new work role. Godfred has been an active advocate for COSW over several years in Commonwealth institutions and networks and had a special interest in Africa. He played a key role in drafting the IFCO submission to CHOGM 2022 and will be much missed by COSW and Commonwealth colleagues.



COSW Board Members in one of the quarterly meetings.

Commonwealth Children’s Cluster Launched

Accredited Commonwealth Organisations recently formed the Children cluster focusing at strengthening the Commonwealth focus on children and family. COSW was honored to have the Main Representative to the Commonwealth Institutions, David N Jones, chairing the Cluster during the setup period with the Secretariat provided by Children and Families Across Borders (International Social Service UK).

Long-serving Commonwealth advocate, Helen Jones, played a leading role in forming the Cluster, ensuring links with the [Commonwealth Businesswomen's Network](#) and it's a Penalty (campaigning to prevent child sexual abuse in sport).

It was noted that the informal group created is not aiming to secure common policy positions but rather, to provide an umbrella for policy discussion and exchange between COs.



Helen Jones representing Commonwealth Organisations at pre-CHOGM planning meeting

The first online meeting attracted considerable interest from key COs. The second informal meeting of COs considered the [Kigali Declaration on Child Care and Protection Reform and agreed to explore joint work on this with Rwanda as Chair-in-Office and the Commonwealth Secretariat](#). The Cluster commended the COSW sponsored [Young Carer Charter for further consultation](#) The Cluster identified education inequality, drowning, cross-border issues affecting children and families and young carers key issues for the cluster to address. The Cluster also noted child safeguarding in sport as a key issue for engagement with Sports Ministers.

Pakistan to Host Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting in January 2023.

The Prime Minister of Pakistan, The Hon. Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, during the 7th Intergenerational Dialogue during the CHOGM2022 in Kigali announced that Pakistan will be hosting the 10th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting in January 2023 in Islamabad. He informed members that “more than 60% of the total population of Commonwealth countries



The Hon Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif
Prime Minister of Pakistan

Photo credit: Rwanda TV YouTube channel

comprises of youth, which holds the future of our world in its hands.” He further acknowledged the increased use of technology and use of digital mediums is the key to digital transformation is the key to achieve innovative, [inclusive](#) and sustainable growth.

The Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting is a forum for Youth Ministers, policy makers and influencers in Commonwealth countries to discuss issues that affect the youth and make recommendations to the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. The 9th Commonwealth Youth ministers’ meeting took place in Uganda from 31st July – 4th August 2017 where COSW was represented by Mr. Okiria Gerald – Uganda and Mr. Njoroge Steven from Kenya.

New Focus for COSW Constitution towards Developing governance, transparency and inclusion

20 years ago when the Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work (COSW) constitution was drafted the organisation was in its infancy but it has since grown and developed with more informed activities and evidence-based understanding of the tasks to be undertaken which also called for the revision of the structure to be effective.

COSW is a 'membership' organisation and is open to a wide range of individuals and organisations committed to supporting social work NOT only limited to national social

membership model due to the very limited funds and no regular source of income noting. This has over time brought about administrative challenges in managing a global membership. The COSW model will therefore be able to address the disproportionate resources of the organisation and thus enable it to address the related administrative and financial challenges.

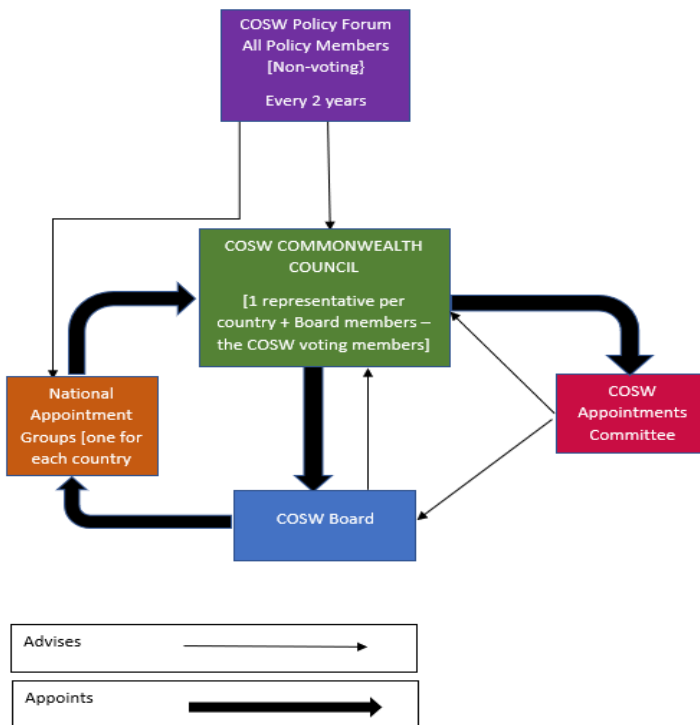
Given the broad 'membership' criteria, the Board has adopted a governance model which respects transparency and accountability and also respects Commonwealth democratic principles whilst also being administratively manageable on very limited income. The Board also noted that COSW is not claiming a global representative role for social work and social workers. International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) and International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) are recognised as the peak global bodies; COSW is constitutionally bound to their ethical principles and will also follow IFSW policy statements. This therefore creates a different relationship with supporters.

The decision is to create a new Commonwealth Social Work Council which will include one member from each Commonwealth country and territory. The members of this Council, which will include the COSW Board as voting members, will be the full voting members of COSW, holding the Board to account and making key decisions.

An Appointments Committee will have a significant role in recommending Board Members and also creating National Appointments Groups to select the representatives to sit on the Council.

Any person wishing to support COSW and be involved in its activities will be known as a Policy Member (title under review) and able to attend a biannual Policy Forum which will have powers to send recommendations to the Council.

COMMONWEALTH ORGANISATION FOR SOCIAL WORK PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE



David N Jones
27 August 2022

work organisations or qualified social workers. The principles underpinning the new constitution are based on a 'Trust' model rather than the more familiar association

IFSW And Bath Spa University Study Of Working Conditions Of Social Workers



Three years ago the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) and Bath Spa University Centre for Health and Cognition (in association with Ulster University Social Work Department) agreed a new research partnership aiming to shine a spotlight on the everyday working

environment of social workers around the world. COSW has supported this project from the outset; COSW Board member David N Jones chairs the Steering Group.

'Objective research shows that social workers have working conditions which are significantly worse than other equivalent professions in many ways', Rory Truell (IFSW Secretary-General) commented, 'including the physical working environment and organisational cultures. These challenges frequently include lower wages, higher work demands and working with stress as constant experience.'

'IFSW knows from many reports and conversations that the effectiveness of social workers is reduced by these poor working conditions. We have therefore been working with Bath Spa University and others to develop a global overview of the working conditions of social workers so that we have objective evidence to share with politicians and agency managements', Rory continued.

Social workers across the globe were invited to make a personal contribution to the project and to take part in a global action to improve social workers' working conditions. Initial results of the first full survey were shared in the Global People's Summit earlier this year. 'The global survey on the working conditions and experience of social workers will be used by IFSW and national associations to support the continuing campaign to improve working conditions', David Jones commented, 'benefiting both social workers themselves and also the communities in which we work'.

An academic paper presenting the initial findings will be published in the journal *International Social Work* later in 2022.

Further consultation on proposed Commonwealth Charter for Young Carers Launched – responding to the voices of young carers

Thousands of children and young people from the age of 4yrs and above known as young carers around the world help look after a relative with a disability, illness, mental health condition, or drug or alcohol addiction. These young carers shared with us that their position in life has exposed them missing out on things that other children and young people get to do. The feeling of nobody else understands what they have to do to look after their family was also shared. In global consultations, the same experience is reported by young people, whatever the economic status of the country.

COSW, working with staff and former staff from the Children's Society alongside several national associations and organisations, supported by the Noel & Thea Jones Fund, has been supporting young carer programmes for almost 20 years and over the past three years sponsored a consultation with young people in Australia, Canada, England, India, Kenya, New Zealand, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda to develop a Commonwealth Charter. The young carers told us that they want to make sure that more people, including country leaders, all around the world know about young carers and understand what they need and what would help them.

The draft Commonwealth Charter for Young Carers was launched in the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Kigali, Rwanda 19 – 25 June 2022.

THE COMMONWEALTH CHARTER FOR YOUNG CARERS



Young carers from across the Commonwealth have developed this Charter, grounded in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Young carers in every country look after someone in their family who has an illness or a disability or other condition. Sometimes they look after the whole family. Young carers are children and young people first and should be free to develop emotionally and physically and to take full advantage of opportunities for educational achievement and life success.

"It is important to involve young carers in all aspects of policy making and decision making. We have a voice - listen to us!"

AS YOUNG CARERS FROM AROUND THE COMMONWEALTH WE ASK THAT WE:

- Are listened to and our views and culture are respected.
- Do not face discrimination as a carer or for our family situation.
- Have our physical health and emotional needs acknowledged and assessed.
- Have the right to an assessment of our needs separate from the needs of the person we care for.
- Have the right support given to the person we care for, so we don't have to provide excessive care which impacts on our own health and wellbeing.
- Have practical support and help offered including respite care.
- Are protected from psychological and physical harm.
- Have the right to education, time to focus on our studies and be offered real choices in accessing further education and future aspirations.
- Have the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.
- Have a home that is suitable and safe for us and our family.

Understand how we feel and what we need.

Being a young carer can be challenging and sometimes we all need a little support and time out, just to be ourselves and relax.

Adults who work with us should know about who we care for and how it might affect us.

Young carers should be treated equally... no one should be judged because of their family situations.

It's hard ... trying to find a balance in life - juggling everything we have to do.

We want schools to respect and understand the issues we have to deal with at home!

The Commonwealth Organisation for Social Work (COSW) works with others to ensure that social work voices and social concerns are heard in the Commonwealth. Find out more at: www.cosw.info

May 2022

There was a special presentation in the People's Forum in Kigali on 22 June and it was also raised in the Youth Forum and Women's Forum. It is hoped that the Charter will get formal Commonwealth recognition before the 2024 CHOGM. The Charter has been commended by the Children's Cluster of Commonwealth Organisations for further consultation.

'Young carers deserve and demand a voice in the Commonwealth and that their particular needs and circumstances are recognised', said David N Jones, COSW Main Representative to the Commonwealth institutions, who has championed the project from the outset. 'Young carers provide an amazing community service, often unseen and at huge personal cost. Heads of Government need to listen and respond, he concluded!'. The draft [charter](#) is available on the COSW website and feedback is welcome to ComSocWk@aol.com.

Comparative Histories of the Development of Social Work across the Commonwealth

The Comparative Histories of the development of Social Work across the Commonwealth conference/webinar was held on 31st March and 1st April 2022 organised jointly by COSW with the Institute of Commonwealth Studies (ICwS)

Comparative Histories of the Development of Social Work across the Commonwealth

31 MARCH & 1 APRIL

Join us to explore the diverse histories of social work across the Commonwealth as a foundation for a proposed major study.

The event includes context setting contributions from senior Commonwealth and academic figures and several presentations exploring the diverse histories of social work across the Commonwealth.

Register to attend via: commonwealth.sas.ac.uk/events/event/25888

ONLINE

Department of Social Work | ICwS | INSTITUTE OF COMMONWEALTH STUDIES | SCHOOL OF EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

during which diverse histories of social work across the Commonwealth were explored. The webinar set the foundation and scene for a proposed major study, which comes at a significant moment in social work education, as the discourse on 'decolonising' the social work curriculum gathers momentum.

The event was planned and chaired by Professor Murphy (ICwS) and Dr David N Jones (COSW) and included context setting contributions from the COSW Chair, Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Director General of the Commonwealth Foundation and Vice Chancellor of the University of London. Keynote addresses were given by Professor

Philip Murphy (ICwS) and Professor George Palattiyil (University of Edinburgh). Individual presentations explored the diverse histories of social work in New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia, India, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Caribbean, Canada and UK. Professor Linda Kreitzer and colleagues presented first insights from research into The Association of Social Work Education in Africa (ASWEA) - 1973-1989. Panel discussions at the end of each day also included contributions from Professor Jill Manthorpe, Sharon-Rose Gittens, Charles Mbugua.

Following the event, Dr David N Jones thanked the Institute for its efficient support of this complex, live streamed, pan-Commonwealth event, which was a flawless broadcast. He also thanks Philip Murphy, the Steering Group and all the contributors. "The webinar illustrated the diversity and inter-connectedness of the development of social work across the Commonwealth countries", he said. "Documenting this history and exploring its many inherent challenges and contradictions is an essential task for decolonised social work practice and the future development of the profession", he concluded.

The contributions will be summarised in a special issue of the Bulletin of the Social Work History Network, due for publication in December 2022. Videos of the presentations can be found at <https://cosw.info/history-of-sw-across-cw-conference/>. <https://www.sas.ac.uk/videos-and-podcasts/history/comparative-histories-development-social-work-across-commonwealth-day-1>

Diaspora Social Workers Form Special Interest Group

The Diaspora social work special Interest Group (SIG) was formed to support the interests of the Social Work diaspora community from different countries who are qualified social workers and practice in the UK with a common experience of adjustment and resettlement in the UK that other social workers have not experienced.

The group promotes the ethical recruitment of social workers and advocates for better induction and pastoral support of social workers who were recruited from abroad. It also encourages a better understanding of cross-cultural and transnational practices to support various ethnic communities in the UK.

The SIG has brought varied Diaspora associations in the UK to discuss a collaborative way of working to address concerns raised. They have also been able to meet with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in which they addressed concerns by diaspora members about recruitment and induction. This collaboration has helped the DHSC to revise the ethical code to name social workers and highlight the responsibility of local authorities in recruiting ethically.

The Code was amended and published on 22/8/2022 to reflect this work whose details can be got through clicking the link of [Code of practice for the international recruitment of health and social care personnel in England](#).

The SIG is currently developing best practice guidance for recruiting and induction social workers. On completion, it will be promoted through the British Association for Social Work (BASW) with local authorities in UK and recruitment agencies as part of the campaign for the better treatment of diaspora social workers in the UK.

The SIG is keen to understand and address the high number of disciplinary actions against Black and Ethnic minority social workers. The group welcomes COSW and IFSW social workers interested in social work practice in the UK. The group meets every 3rd Thursday of the month from 5.30 – 6.30 UK time. However, only BASW members can vote and hold committee positions.

Details can be got through contacting Priya David or Duc Tran – Co-chairs via email at basw.diaspora.sig@gmail.com

BASW publishes report on the 8 COVID-19 projects funded in several Commonwealth countries



The British Association of Social Workers (BASW) has published a report on the impact of eight Covid-19 projects which were funded from the association's International Development Fund. This fund is intended to support members of BASW in developing international research and development, including funding of travel to establish partnerships. This became impossible during the early stages of the pandemic so BASW repurposed the fund to support social work practice in responding to Covid-19 in several countries.

The report just published includes material from projects in India (2), Kenya, Malawi, Palestine, Guinea Bissau, and Uganda and also from the African Social Work Conversation Virtual Forum project which initiated a series of pan-African webinars in a partnership between IFSW and the Zambian Association.

Details of the report are in the link [here](#).

Commonwealth Games highlights risks of trafficking and sexual abuse

The Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, UK, was widely seen as a hugely successful sporting and social event. Watched by millions around the world, there was much to enjoy and celebrate in sporting achievements as well as in cementing Commonwealth friendships.

The [10th Commonwealth Sports Ministers Meeting](#) took place on 27th July 2022 alongside the 22nd Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, United Kingdom, with the theme of 'Creating an Inclusive and Resilient Sport Sector; Enhancing the Contribution of Sport to the SDGs'. Ministers received a presentation from Unicef UK's lead specialist on safeguarding in sport on the joint initiative with the Commonwealth Secretariat to create model legislation in respect of Positions of Trust (POT) to better protect minors aged under 18 years inside and outside sport. Some Commonwealth countries do not have legislation and others have loopholes in their existing legislation in respect of sexual activity between minors and those in positions of trust, responsibility or authority being a criminal offence. In their Statement ministers recorded; 'We took note of the progress made in promoting safeguarding in sport and welcomed the Model Legislative Provisions on Preventing Abuse of Positions of Trust (P.o.T) within the relevant areas, including sport, law, education and social welfare sectors to ensure further protection of children and vulnerable groups especially our athletes' (para 14). The draft legislation will now go forward to the upcoming Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting (November 2022). The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) also unveiled its first Safeguarding Policy at the meeting, the most comprehensive in the history of the Movement.

In parallel with the Games, the NGO [It's a Penalty](#) ran an awareness Campaign to highlight the issue of [modern slavery](#) and trafficking in the UK and the wider Commonwealth. In July COSW attended the launch of the [Birmingham campaign](#) which ran throughout the Games until the end of August under the umbrella of the United by Birmingham legacy programme. The campaign is supported by [Usain Bolt](#) and other leading sporting heroes and heroines, and also received the support of the Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022 Organising Committee whose Deputy Chair, Geoff Thompson, helped launch the Campaign and has recently shared his reflections on the successful completion of the [Games and the campaign](#). COSW is also pleased to be a supporting Commonwealth partner in [Common Protect](#), an advocacy programme led by It's a Penalty that is focused on legal reform in order to protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA) throughout the Commonwealth. During Commonwealth Week in March 2022 COSW participated in an [online panel](#) exploring Commonwealth co-operation in responding to abuse alongside Commonwealth lawyers, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, and the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative. The Common Protect [report](#), which reviews the legal systems protecting children against sexual exploitation and abuse in 21 Commonwealth countries, was published in May 2022, and includes a [Spotlight](#) piece from COSW on the key role of social workers in protecting children (p366). COSW continues to take a leading role to ensure that the experience of social workers feeds into Commonwealth-wide campaigns against abuse in all forms.

Commonwealth Games 2022 Medal count (Source;

[Sports tiger](#) and [Birmingham 2022](#).

RANK	COUNTRY	G	S	B	TOTAL
1	Australia	67	57	54	178
2	England	57	66	53	176
3	Canada	26	32	34	92
4	India	22	16	23	61
5	New Zealand	20	12	17	49
6	Scotland	13	11	27	51

RANK	COUNTRY	G	S	B	TOTAL
7	Nigeria	12	9	14	35
8	Wales	8	6	14	28
9	South Africa	7	9	11	27
10	Malaysia	7	8	8	23
11	Northern Ireland	7	7	4	18
12	Jamaica	6	6	3	15
13	Kenya	6	5	10	21

RANK	COUNTRY	G	S	B	TOTAL
14	 Singapore	4	4	4	12
15	 Trinidad and Tobago	3	2	1	6
16	 Uganda	3	0	2	5
17	 Cyprus	2	3	6	11
18	 Pakistan	2	3	3	8
19	 Samoa	1	4	0	5
20	 Barbados	1	1	1	3
20	 Cameroon	1	1	1	3
20	 Zambia	1	1	1	3
23	 Bahamas	1	1	0	2
23	 Grenada	1	1	0	2
25	 Bermuda	1	0	1	2
26	 British Virgin Islands	1	0	0	1
27	 Mauritius	0	3	2	5
28	 Ghana	0	2	3	5
29	 Fiji	0	2	2	4
30	 Mozambique	0	2	1	3
31	 Sri Lanka	0	1	3	4
32	 Tanzania	0	1	2	3
33	 Botswana	0	1	1	2
33	 Guernsey	0	1	1	2
35	 Dominica	0	1	0	1
35	 Gambia	0	1	0	1
35	 Papua New Guinea	0	1	0	1
35	 Saint Lucia	0	1	0	1
39	 Namibia	0	0	4	4
40	 Malta	0	0	1	1
40	 Nauru	0	0	1	1
40	 Niue	0	0	1	1
40	 Vanuatu	0	0	1	1
44	 Anguilla	0	0	0	0

RANK	COUNTRY	G	S	B	TOTAL
45	 Antigua and Barbuda	0	0	0	0
46	 Bangladesh	0	0	0	0
47	 Belize	0	0	0	0
48	 Brunei	0	0	0	0
49	 Cayman Islands	0	0	0	0
50	 Cook Islands	0	0	0	0
51	 Eswatini	0	0	0	0
52	 Falkland Islands	0	0	0	0
53	 Gibraltar	0	0	0	0
54	 Guyana	0	0	0	0
55	 Isle of Man	0	0	0	0
56	 Jersey	0	0	0	0
57	 Kiribati	0	0	0	0
58	 Lesotho	0	0	0	0
59	 Malawi	0	0	0	0
60	 Maldives	0	0	0	0
61	 Montserrat	0	0	0	0
62	 Norfolk Island	0	0	0	0
63	 Rwanda	0	0	0	0
64	 Saint Kitts and Nevis	0	0	0	0
65	 Seychelles	0	0	0	0
66	 Sierra Leone	0	0	0	0
67	 Solomon Islands	0	0	0	0
68	 St Vinc & Grenadines	0	0	0	0
69	 St. Helena	0	0	0	0
70	 Tonga	0	0	0	0
71	 Turks and Caicos Islands	0	0	0	0
72	 Tuvalu	0	0	0	0

Commonwealth Organisation For Social Work (COSW) Executive Board			
<p>Sylvia Daisy Romanus (India) – Chair</p> 	<p>Monique Auffrey (Canada) – Honorary Secretary</p> 	<p>– Honorary Treasurer</p>	<p>David N Jones (UK) – Main Representative to the Commonwealth Institutions</p> 
<p>Charles Mbugua (Kenya)</p> 	<p>Jan Christianson-Wood (Canada)</p> 	<p>Sharon-Rose Gittens (Barbados)</p> 	<p>Joachim Cuthbert Mumba (Zambia)</p> 
<p>K. S. Ramesh (India)</p> 	<p>Naomi Spencer (Australia)</p> 	<p>Teoh Ai Hua (Malaysia)</p> 	<p>Okiria Gerald – Uganda – Chief Newsletter Editor</p> 

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM.

It is a great motivation to us as the editorial team to always receive feedback, articles and contributions towards our existence and commitments to keep our audience and partners informed.

We trust that you have found this newsletter informative and look forward to connecting with you more at the COSW Open Meeting on the 22nd October 2022 via meeting at 06.00 or 16.00 (UTC) – join [here](#).

The 1st, 2nd and 3rd newsletters can be got from the link <https://cosw.info/newsletter/>

Gerald Okiria – Chief Editor COSW Newsletter

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