



***Diversity is beauty***

## **COSW celebrates Commonwealth Day and World Social Work Day**

'World Social Work Day is significant to all professional social workers', said COSW Chair Sylvia Daisy speaking from Chennai on 21 March 2023. 'This year the theme given by the International Federation of Social Workers is "*Respecting Diversity through Joint Social Action*". The theme for Commonwealth Day 2023 is '*Forging a sustainable and peaceful common future*'.

These complementary themes resonate with the values of social work. Respecting diversity means considering that everyone deserves equal respect and that we should disregard factors such as caste, class, gender, sexual orientation, disability and age. Accepting this requires an attitudinal change. Strategic decisions based on this attitude will for sure reduce social problems such as discrimination, communal conflicts, and crimes. Let us stand together to advance this message and ensure a quality of life for everyone' Sylvia asserted.

COSW is marking [Commonwealth Day](#) on 13th March 2023 and [World Social Work Day](#) on 21st March 2023 with a [webinar on migration of social workers](#), which aimed to enhance respect for the diversity of migrating social workers through our joint action. The webinar, hosted by the British Association, brought together social workers from India, Nigeria, the Caribbean, Canada and the UK to share their experiences, aiming to shape a better experience for the future.

'Social workers who choose to migrate for work often experience distressing challenges, negative reactions and discrimination', said Sylvia, 'despite the reality that their work is about supporting people and communities.

**On World Social Work Day, COSW and our partners call on governments and employers to ensure that migrating social workers are treated fairly and respectfully, which is frequently not the case at present', said the COSW Chair.**

Sylvia concluded: 'I wish social workers throughout the Commonwealth a happy World Social Work Day, full of respect and free from discrimination. **ENDS**

**NOTE 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 [www.cosw.info/news](http://www.cosw.info/news)

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