MESSAGE FROM EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

DR. SUMIT ARORA

I am delighted to release the eleventh issue of our monthly newsletter. It is anticipated that the information and contents given in this newsletter will provide a comprehensive understanding of the activities/tasks undertaken by APSWDP during the month of February.

In this issue, we will have a chance to read about the historical background of World Social Work Day and APSWDP’s commitment to commemorating the day in the Chandigarh region, glimpses of World Social Work Day celebrations from 2014 onwards, representation of association in global events hosted by the UN agencies, and featuring of association in UN DGC/NGLS web portals along with forthcoming events.

I take this opportunity to invite short write-ups from the esteemed members of APSWDP which shall be published in our forthcoming issues.
World Social Work Day (WSWD) was launched by The International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) in 1983. Later, other social work organizations such as the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) have also joined as partners to this event. WSWD has become a focal point in the social work calendar with social workers all over the world celebrating and promoting the contributions of the profession towards individuals, families, communities, and wider society. The day is celebrated every 3rd Tuesday of March.

On this day, social work organizations throughout the world celebrate WSWD by the way of bringing messages to their governments, communities, and peer professional groups on the unique and significant contributions made by the social work profession. The actions also highlight the approach of the social work profession to facilitate sustainable community outcomes by applying a developmental and capacity-building approach coupled with advocating for social justice and human rights.

The themes of WSWD are set for two years according to the goals of the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development as per below:

2017 – 2018: Promoting Community and Environmental Sustainability
2019 – 2020: Promoting the Importance of Human Relationships
2020 – 2021: Strengthening Social Solidarity & Global Connectedness

Every year IFSW produces a poster announcing WSWD which is spontaneously translated into over 45 languages, and presented to governments, political bodies posted on the notice boards of social services and in social work classrooms throughout the world. The event has become so successful in recent years it is now generally considered as a highlight of international solidarity and cooperation of social workers. Prior to the evolution of the Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners (APSWDP), the Alliance of Professional Social Workers commemorated World Social Work Day 2014 for the first time in Chandigarh tri-city region at IGNOU RC among Professional Social Workers, undergraduate, and Post Graduate Social Work Students, practitioners and IGNOU counselors under the mentorship and guidance of Mr. Vivek Trivedi and Dr. J. K. Yadav. Later, inspired by the successful organization of World Social Work Day for the first time in the region, a giant leap was taken in conceiving the formal and legal set up of the Association of Professional Social Workers and Development Practitioners in 2014.

The first official debut of commemorating World Social Work Day 2015 in the entire northern region was made under the mentorship and invitation from the renowned social worker and the then His Excellency Prof. Kaptain Singh Solanki, Hon’ble Governor, Punjab and Haryana, the Administrator, U.T. Chandigarh at Raj Bhawan, U.T. Chandigarh. Since then, APSWDP is celebrating consecutively World Social Work Day at Chandigarh by involving leading and premier government and non-government institutions more prominently, State Legal Service Authority, U.T. Chandigarh, District Legal Service Authority, Chandigarh, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Regional Centre, Chandigarh, Govt. of India, School of Public Health, PGIMER, Chandigarh, Centre for Social Work, Panjab University, Chandigarh, Punjab Energy Development Agency (PEDA), The Climate Reality Project India, Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh, Union Bank of India, Chandigarh etc. in past. contd...
This year World Social Work Day is on the 16th of March 2021. It is the key day in the year that social workers worldwide stand together to advance our common message globally. This year, the 2021 World Social Day highlights *Ubuntu: I am Because We Are*. This is the first theme of the 2020 to 2030 Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development. *Ubuntu: I am because we are* is a concept and philosophy that resonates with the social work perspective of the inter-connectedness of all peoples and their environments. It speaks to the need for global solidarity and also highlights indigenous knowledge and wisdom, Silvana Martinez, IFSW President commented. The theme comes from extensive consultation within IFSW and beyond. At a time when global politics has retreated into nationalism, Ubuntu is a powerful message on the need for solidarity at all levels: within communities, societies, and globally.

It is a message that all people are interconnected and that our future is dependent on recognizing all people’s involvement in co-building a sustainable, fair, and socially just future. Motivated by IFSW, APSWDP will be organizing various events in the northern region which will comprise of physical and virtual events with support from member social workers, partner organizations, and people who care about the future in the country. Together we can change the world for this and future generations.

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**Glimpses of World Social Work Day celebrations in Chandigarh Region From 2014 Onwards**

2014  
2015  
2016  
2017  
2018  
2019  
2020

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**Know Your Member**

**ER. BALDEEP SINGH ACADEMICIAN**

Mr. Baldeep Singh is a development professional and started his career in the Government of Punjab and headed the Accounts Branch of the Department of Local Government. He is currently working as Technical Director of Punjab Urban Livelihood Mission constituted by the Local Government Department and is responsible for centrally sponsored schemes like DAY-NULM and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. He is also a Nodal Officer of Tobacco Control and coordinator with NUHM and AIDS Control Society.

**MR. MOOL RAJ VERMA ACADEMICIAN**

Mr. Mool Raj Verma is an academician by profession and possesses a Masters Degree in Social Work and pursuing a Ph.D. from Kurukshetra University. His areas of expertise are in Community Development, Women Empowerment, NGO Management, Resource Mapping, Youth Development, and Rural Development. Presently, he is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Work, Chaudhary Bansi Lal University (CBLU), Bhiwani, Haryana.
Mr. Vivek Trivedi Principal Adviser APSWDP participated in The Civil Society Forum 2021 from 10-12 Feb, 2021 organized by the United Nations Department of Global Communication (UN DGC).

Dr. Sumit Arora President and Mr. Youdhvir Singh Member APSWDP represented the association and participated in SDG Localization: Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI)-based ways forward from 19-24 Feb, 2021 organized by UNITAR/CIFAL JEU.

Mr. Vivek Trivedi represented APSWDP in a webinar on Disaster Risk Reduction and Health in COVID-19 Pandemic on 24 Feb, 2021 organized by UNDRR Asia Pacific.

APSWDP FEATURED IN UN DGC CSO UNIT AND UN NON-GOVERNMENTAL LIAISON SERVICE (NGLS) WEB-PORTALS

APSWDP PARTICIPATION IN UN EVENTS

FORTHCOMING EVENTS ON THE OCCASION OF WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY 2021

- Training Workshop on Effective Management of Women-based ALF/CLF/CBOs on 16-17 March 2021 in collaboration with DAY–NULM at Chandigarh.
- Training Workshop on Community Driven Development and Sustainable Development Goals on 20 March 2021 in collaboration with Department of Social Work, CBLU, Haryana at Bhiwani.
- Capacity Building and Training Programme on Community Driven Development for Para-legal Volunteers and Social Workers in collaboration with State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) on 25 March 2021 at Chandigarh (Venue to be finalized)