

**BASW STATEMENT ON WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY 2019
PROMOTING GOOD RELATIONSHIPS AND OVERCOMING VIOLENCE
BASW WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY EVENT – LONDON - 19 MARCH 2019**

On World Social Work Day, BASW joins with social workers around the world to reaffirm the importance of good personal relationships as the foundation of all human endeavour and the essence of good social work.

In this week especially, we remember the ruthless violence and personal tragedies which we have seen in Christchurch, New Zealand, and Utrecht, Netherlands, evidence of profound ruptures in social relationships. We also remember the terrorist incidents in recent years in our own country and the tensions which are evident in politics around the world, where relationships have broken down and violence replaces dialogue and mutual respect.

In the face of horror, BASW believes that this is a time for human solidarity and to reaffirm our shared identity and common existence. Our thoughts go out to all those affected by terrorism, violence and conflict around the world. We acknowledge that social work has sometimes contributed to pain in relationships; we do not get it right all the time. However we pay tribute to the quiet, determined work of hundreds of social workers, frequently working behind the scenes, who facilitate reconciliation between people and within communities and promote positive relationships in many situations of personal and social conflict.

We pay tribute to the work of social workers in Northern Ireland, during the Troubles, quietly getting on with demanding work in the face of personal threat and danger, so vividly reported in the recent publication by BASW in association with academic colleagues in Northern Ireland.

BASW remembers today the social workers in New Zealand and the Netherlands who are responding to the immediate needs of individuals and communities coping with trauma, as we join with colleagues around the world to recognise our shared identity and values.

BASW reaffirms the mission of the social work profession to better understand what breaks relationships and to promote and restore good human relationships wherever possible, respecting the rights and needs of those who are victims of broken relationships.

BASW calls on governments and individuals to engage in the tough work of building a world of positive relationships and to turn away from promoting division and conflict.

Gerry Nosowska	BASW Chair
David N Jones	Chair, BASW International Committee
Ruth Allen	BASW Chief Executive

19 March 2019