

BASW

The professional association for
social work and social workers

BASW COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Election for Chair of the International Committee – Election Statements

DR RUKHSANA FAROOQI



I was the First Project Coordinator of Kiran Asian Women's Aid in East London. I qualified in 1992 and I have worked cross culturally with service users from all parts of the world in the Midlands and Wandsworth. I served as a Guardian ad Litem for Leicester, Nottingham and Inner and North London Panels. Public Law Service Manager when CAFCASS came into being. Social Work Practice Manager and Senior Practitioner for Tier 3 and 4 of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in Islington and Southwark. I have worked with marginalised, poor, parents and children with the most complex issues mental health, poverty, racism and issues of forced removal from the UK. I have been Practice Assessor/Practice Educator for Brunel, Havering College, Middlesex, Royal Holloway and Keele Universities. Many of my students had international connections. I practised as an Independent Social Work Consultant since 1996 alongside other roles. My work has involved extensive work with refugees, asylum seekers and children and families who are being forced to leave the UK. I work with JSCL and Law Centres as well as immigration solicitors. I completed international assessments in Pakistan, India, Nepal, Iran, parts of Europe, Africa and Bangladesh. During the Covid 19 pandemic I accompanied two young children to be placed with their paternal grandparents. This was agreed by all parties and the Court.

I am currently a member of the committee of BASW England. I have served as the Co-Chair of the Criminal Justice Group. I am on the advisory panel of the YEF Delphi group advising the Anna Freud Centre. I am also a member of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Group which advises BASW Council. I am part of the Disparity Working Group for the YJB. I am interested in policy development, research, education, and policy work within the social work profession internationally and in the UK. I moderated and presented at an International Conference in Mental Health in 2019 in Helsinki, Finland.

I am currently involved in KPMI a project which is offering training and setting up Forensic Services in Pakistan. I am self-employed with my own Consultancy Empowering Black Children and Families LTD. I have the flexibility to attend and chair meetings and attend Council meetings and development sessions. My passion for international social work makes me the ideal candidate for this position.

MANDEEP GILL



The world has been through many challenges of late and the work of social workers has been critical in rebuilding society. There are a breadth of issues effecting global social work: the challenges with equal access to vaccines, various work with diaspora and domestic policy, growth of populism, people's ability to redress the harmful impact of travel by contributing to social work projects and to travel ethically (Sustainable Development Goals).

The outgoing Chair has done a wonderful job paving the way and connecting social work internationally. The profession needs to continue to develop and align globally.

I would like to stand for this key role with BASW, demonstrating that throughout my career I have spoken out for the profession and remained committed to challenging social injustices.

I have been working with BASW in the role of Elected Director, a role that I decided to undertake due to the black lives matter movement and the significant challenges we have in the profession. I have enjoyed the role very much, therefore, I would like to increase my involvement and become more active within the organisation by leading this critical area. I have been working in leadership roles in the sector for twelve years and engaged in developing local policies and procedures, whilst chairing and driving plans for boards. I also have experience working with international organisations such as, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

I understand the context the role of the Chair operates within, such as the International Federation of Social Workers, Commonwealth, European Union, Council of Europe, United Nations and the International Development Fund.

My commitment is to work with international organisations to develop social work, to ensure that BASW is able to influence the wide range of work social workers undertake, strengthen the identity of the profession and promote participation.

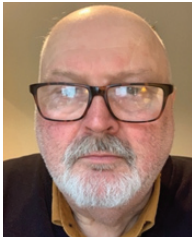
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DAVE HARROP



I have become increasingly interested in exploring the commonalities and contrasts between social work practice across different and diverse situations, and the scope for learning and reflection.

Through my work in Palestine in particular I have learned the true significance of normalisation. I have been inspired by social work practice which overtly challenge such processes. Arguably, once a situation has become normalised it renders the suffering and sorrow matter less and allows abuse to continue.

During my career I have witnessed how social workers have been critical factors in addressing issues such as domestic violence and have been agents of change to develop a clear adult and child safeguarding agenda around this. I have worked alongside social workers in Serbia who are clear in stating that the mistreatment of refugees is not only unacceptable, but that there is an abiding responsibility to intervene and respond to this.

In the UK I have been involved with Social Work without Borders and engaged with raising the need for social work interventions which are based upon skills, methods and ethics, to address the issues facing refugees and asylum seekers in the UK. Again they challenge the narrative that the (mis) treatment of refugees and their families is somehow acceptable.

I believe that through engaging with practitioner colleagues on a global scale, we can learn to challenge the barriers and boundaries which often shackle individuals, families and their communities.

I have the privilege to work with communities in Dhading in Nepal, who are seeking to address issues of child exploitation and trafficking through developing social entrepreneurship initiatives. They are seeking to create a fresh narrative for themselves, which promotes self-worth and develop capacity and community resilience.

I have sat with a 12 year old Palestinian child who told me that she was a good painter and she was not a terrorist like people say. Absolutely. She must have the right and the platform to create her narrative which isn't proscribed for her by the forces which oppress her and her community.

If successful I would look to share and develop these ideas and continue to develop and promote BASW's global sensibilities for the membership.

DUC TRAN



I have lived and worked in Australia and in the UK since 2002 to deliver frontline services across four different local authorities and I have always enjoyed working with talented social workers and care managers of different backgrounds and traditions.

As a profession, we are stronger and more resilient when we call on the diversity of skills and experiences from our membership to inform social work policy and practice. Not least is the contribution of social workers who were trained overseas and chose to settle in the UK despite the practical difficulties of adjusting to hostile workplaces. Their experience and skills have helped so many services to meet the challenges and demands of our local communities and this should be celebrated equally alongside the contributions of those who were born in the UK.

I have also seen the impact of discrimination on social workers who were trained here and those trained abroad and whether we are engaging in human rights at work, or campaigning against racism and speaking out against populism in government, our social work practice has always had an international dimension.

I understand that our Association was built on a strong tradition of engagement with international issues and events by collaboration with other agencies such as the International Federation of Social Workers and much good work has been done by our International Committee and in particular, the stewardship of Mr David Jones who was the Committee Chair for the last two terms.

If I am elected as the new Chair, I would be honoured to continue in this work of the International Committee and help create opportunities for individuals to get involved. Over the past year, the integration of online technologies with practice has made connection with colleagues and collaboration much easier across geographic boundaries and together with our partners and allies in the UK and abroad we can continue this tradition to make a sustainable difference.