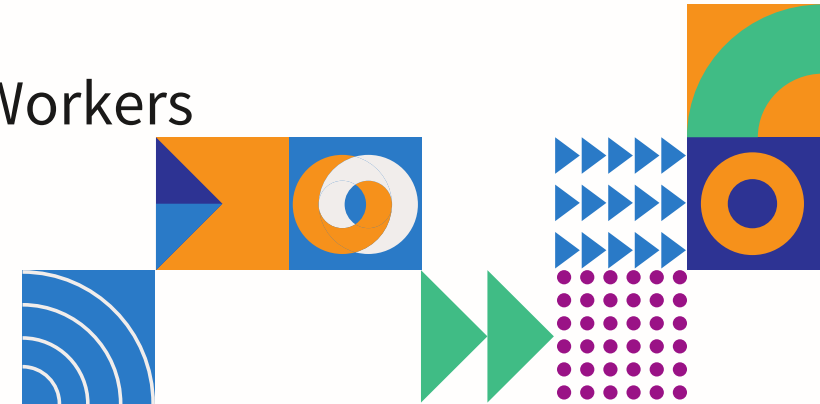
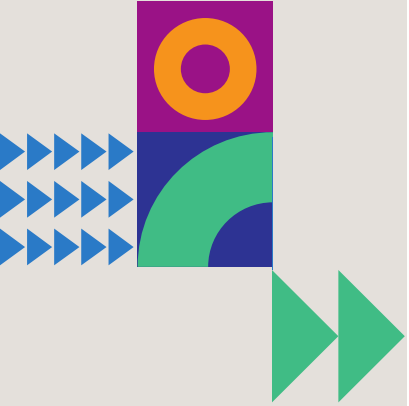


Motions 2023 - update

Ruth Allen

CEO British Association of Social Workers

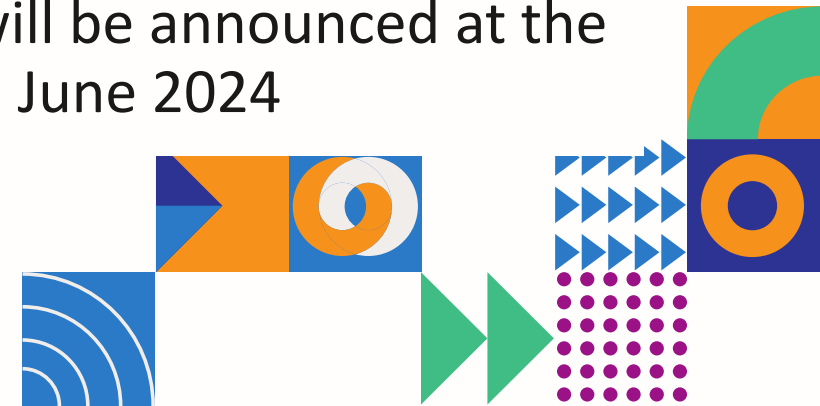




Motion 1

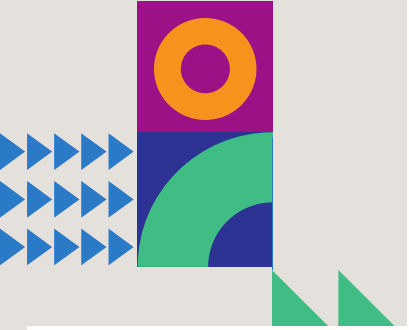
Life achievement award for
June Thoburn

- Passed. The award was presented to June at the AGM
- Subsequent to this, the Recognition and Remuneration Committee and Chief Executive have been working on a standard approach to nominating people for lifetime achievement awards and this will be announced at the AGM on 5 June 2024



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Motion 2 (Amended)

- This AGM notes:
- The recent reports of the Israeli human rights organisation, B'Tselem, the international organisations, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, and the United Nations Special Rapporteur, which all found that Israel is practising apartheid against the Palestinian people;
- The leading role BASW played in the suspension of the South African social work association from the International Federation of Social Workers during the apartheid years.
- This AGM welcomes:
- BASW's commitment to anti-racist action.
- This AGM believes:
- BASW should therefore take appropriate action to understand and where appropriate take action on the claims of apartheid and human rights breaches in Israel and in any country.
- Accordingly, this AGM agrees that BASW will:
- State its abhorrence of apartheid, whenever and wherever this is practiced.
- Remit the claims by human rights organisations of apartheid by the Israeli government for review by the BASW International Committee and produce an explanatory position paper for members of the facts and ethical issues.
- Ensure BASW does not hamper members in expressing views critical of the Israeli government;
- State its solidarity with the Palestinian people;
- Work within IFSW towards that body taking these positions.
- Proposed by BASW Council

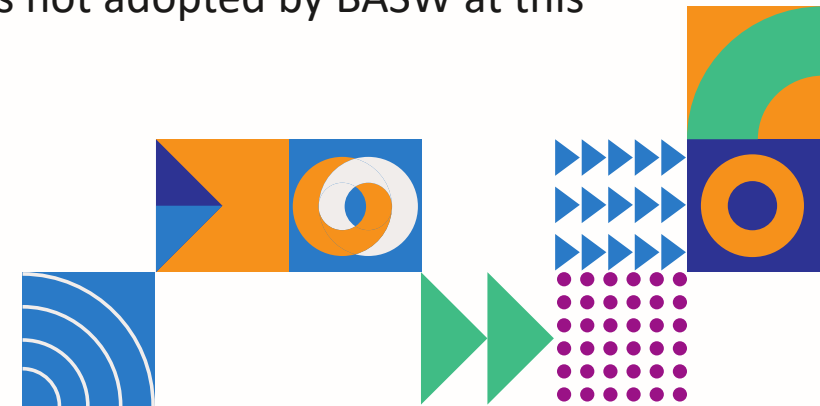


Motion 2 (Amended)

- Motion 2 (Amended) was passed. Work on this was remitted to International Committee (IC) and discussed at 2 August meeting. An initial policy paper was presented on the issues. A full paper was received and a substantial discussion held at October IC. No decision taken on the Motion – remitted to January IC meeting where a further paper and proposals were discussed.
- Based on IC discussions and recommendations, a proposed response to Motion 2 (Amended) was presented to February 24 Council for review and decision on adoption.
- BASW Council reaffirmed the commitments given within Motion 2 (amended option 2) that was passed by members in June 2023.
- After a full and lengthy debate (which can be read in the Council minutes), BASW Council voted to approve the recommendation of International Committee that the term ‘apartheid’ as a one-word descriptor for the Israeli state’s treatment of and laws affecting Palestinians is not adopted by BASW at this time.

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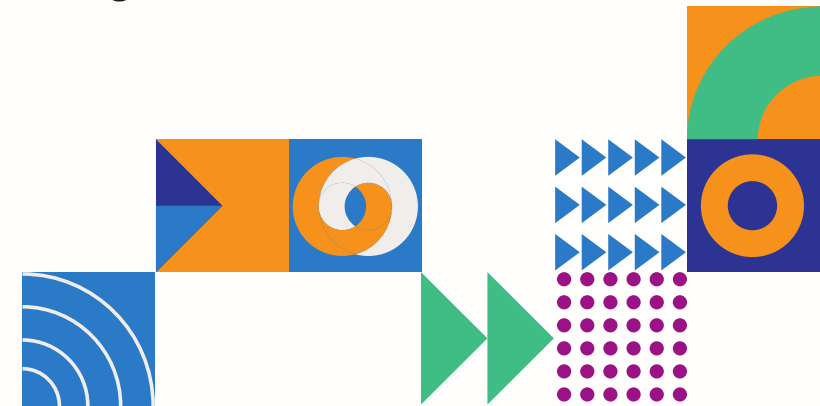


Motion 2 (Amended)

- Council acknowledged that the International Court of Justice in the Hague found in January 2024 that at least some acts by the Israeli military that were alleged by South Africa (which brought the case) appeared to fall under the Genocide Convention and ordered Israel to take all measures to prevent acts that could be considered genocidal
- Council went on to note its appreciation of the work done to date by International Committee and the reports provided to develop a policy statement on the situation in Israel and Palestine/Gaza and asked that a final integrated document is completed for publication to the membership and (as appropriate) wider stakeholders.
- BASW has continued to update joint statements with SWU abhorring the conflict and humanitarian crisis that has unfolded in Gaza and Council committed to ensuring members were kept informed about BASW's deep concerns and shock in relation to the loss of life and escalation of violence and calls for an end to violence, humanitarian aid and a peace process.
- BASW Council reiterated its commitment to this motion by publishing the Motion for members in April 2024

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Motion 3

Motion to speak out against authoritarianism and anti-democratic governments

This AGM notes:

Social work ethics are rooted in European and global commitments to human rights, democracy and rule of law, embodied in the European Convention of Human Rights of the Council of Europe, the UN Declaration on Human Rights and other conventions of both bodies. BASW helped produce the 2019 IFSW statement: Social workers respond to the growing social crisis in Europe highlighting growing authoritarianism, anti-democratic, anti-universal rights and discriminatory forces in governments across Europe and globally <https://www.ifsw.org/socialworkers-respond-to-the-growing-social-crisis-in-europe/> Such forces have spread since 2019. BASW has highlighted how these forces are driving global but also UK government policies on human rights law, migration, protest, voting and welfare.

This AGM calls on BASW to: Work with IFSW to update and reissue the 2019 statement; Speak out against authoritarianism and anti-democratic governments at home and abroad; Champion the practical and advocacy role of social workers in fostering inclusivity, democracy, social and human rights in the UK and internationally.

Proposed by: BASW Council



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Motion 4

Motion to challenge Government's current policies for support to asylum seeking children in the UK:

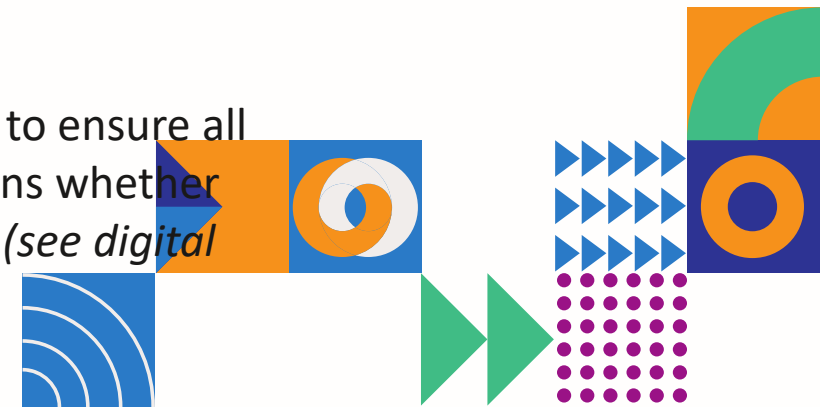
This AGM notes: Since July 2021, 4,600 unaccompanied children have been housed in hotels, for an average of 16 days but some up to 3 months. It is currently illegal to accommodate unaccompanied children in unregulated facilities, including hotels. There are concerns about safeguarding as 1 in 10 have gone missing and 200 remain missing. The Illegal Migration Bill significantly undermines the rights and protections of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children across the UK and increases the risk of their abuse and exploitation. In addition, there are thousands more children accompanied by their parents, but nonetheless housed inappropriately and subject to physical and mental ill health as a result.

This AGM thereby calls on BASW to: Challenge the UK Government to ensure all asylum-seeking children receive the same legal rights and protections whether they are accommodated by local authorities or by the Home Office (*see digital pack for more details*)

Proposed by Coventry and Warwickshire Branch

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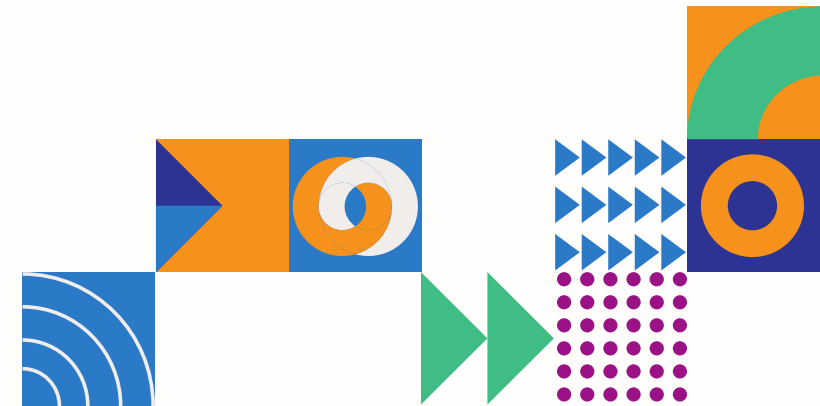


Motion 4

- Passed. BASW action on this is embedded in the extensive work to highlight the discriminatory and harmful nature of new UK immigration law and policies led by Policy Ethics and Human Rights and reflected also in the work of IC.
- Most recently we have been working as part of a coalition of 260 human rights and refugee organisations to object to the Rwanda Bill which seeks to disapply key aspects of our Human Rights Act (HRA) which include basic, minimum standards that exist to protect us all. Adults and children seeking safety as
 - asylum seekers/refugees who are threatened with removal to Rwanda will not have the full protections of the HRA to enforce their rights in domestic courts.
 - We have actively advised social workers not to join the Home Office team working on age assessments after the department could not give assurance social workers will not be subject to political influence/pressure.

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Motion 5

- Motion to fully acknowledge Jewish identity as ethnoreligious
- This AGM notes: Currently, when completing the voluntary Equality and Diversity information for BASW membership, there are inadequate categories for Jewish people regarding self-identification. Jewish people can tick whether they are Jewish as a religion, and this disregards that there are many secular Jewish people. Jewish people could also tick 'any other ethnic background' or 'any other white background'. This disregards the complex intersectionality's, and that Jewish people can be divided into various other ethnic groups. For example, there are Jewish people who identify as Black (e.g. Jamaican Jewish), or South Asian (e.g. Goan Jewish), or African (e.g. Ethiopian Jewish). It also ignores that despite being typically considered as such by others, some Jewish people may not regard themselves as 'white' but instead 'white presenting'. Inadequate and unsuitable categorisations and labelling of Jewish people, which are inconsistent with self-identification result in a lack of visibility, marginalisation, and inaccurate data. This can make it difficult to determine, for example, how many complaints are made disproportionately against Jewish people and how many complaints Jewish people make regarding antisemitism.
- This AGM thereby calls on BASW to: Agree that the Policy, Ethics and Human Rights Committee will commit to examining current categorisations of Jewish people with consultation with Jewish members, the UK Jewish Social Worker Special Interest Group, and an independent Jewish organisation well-versed in such matters. Agree that the Policy, Ethics and Human Rights Committee will commit to examining all current categorisations of ethnoreligious identities.

Proposed by: The UK Jewish Social Worker Special Interest Group

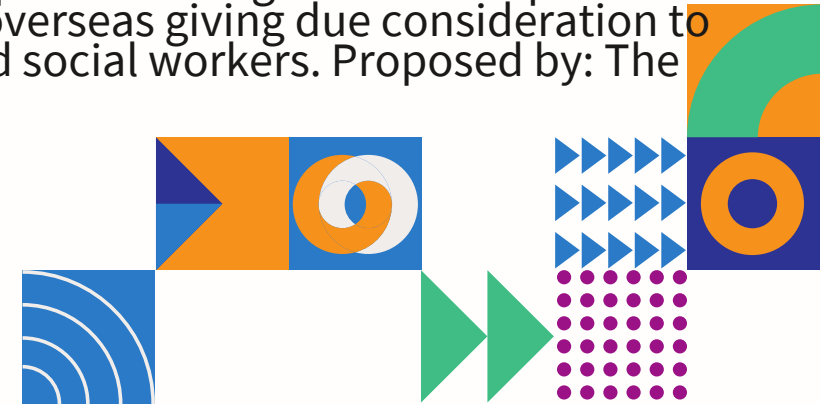


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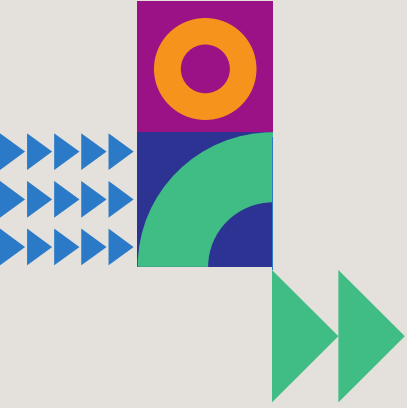


Motion 6

- **To call on employers to adopt recruitment and induction standards for overseas social workers**
 - This AGM notes:
 - The Recruitment and Induction Standards highlight the need for adequate support to resettle (overseas social workers) which is particularly relevant during this time with high accommodation costs, utilities, and general expenses. We want the UK to be an attractive place for all social workers to practice safely and call on recruiters and employers to adopt these standards so that overseas social workers are afforded equal dignity, respect and fairness.
 - This AGM thereby calls on BASW to: Recognise the valuable contributions of overseas recruited social workers in the UK and the importance of maintaining high standards for recruitment, induction, and support; Call on regulators, recruiters and employers of overseas social workers across the UK to adopt our 'Recruitment and Induction Standards' which sets out standards for recruitment and induction practice, to support internationally recruited social workers to adapt and adjust into the workplace culture and values. Campaign that training and support including reflective supervision and reflective practice, is available for all social workers from overseas giving due consideration to the additional risks which disproportionately affect minoritised social workers. Proposed by: The Diaspora Special Interest Group.
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- Passed. Remitted to Policy, Ethics and Human Rights committee to ensure the standards are being promoted with UK employers via BASW.
- This work is now mainstreamed into the ongoing work of the Working Conditions project, is being promoted with employers across the UK, and links have been made with the Overseas Qualified Social Workers development programme offer which is being actively marketed

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