

**2018-2022 INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF STREET SOCIAL WORKERS'
GLOBAL STRATEGY
STREET WORKERS NETWORK**

The network's general strategy aims to structurally and sustainably reduce the inequality faced by people in street situations by defending their rights.

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I. ADVOCACY

AIM: THE NETWORK COMMUNICATES CLEARLY AND IS POSITIONING ITSELF IN THE RELEVANT SECTOR IN THE INTERNATIONAL NON-PROFIT LANDSCAPE

1. THE NETWORK'S INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN ISSUES - CAMPAIGNING ON SHARED ISSUES

Our campaigning work over the past few years has focused on social protection, which is an active issue for street social workers, who are seeking to address the exclusion of people in a range of street situations (they are excluded from healthcare, education etc), and has been spurred on by the CNCD in Belgium.

http://www.travailderue.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Positionnement_international_Protection_sociale_pour_tous.pdf

The street social workers have now selected a new campaign issue: visible and invisible violence (social cleansing, minors in detention, conflicts, extremism, austerity measures) suffered by people in street situations.

Several activities are planned:

- Set up a working group within DISWN.
- National platforms to define the concepts relating to violence suffered by people in street situations.
- Develop a campaign plan and objectives (communication).
- Inclusively develop our official stance and transpose it at the different levels of intervention.
- Present the findings.
- Roll out the advocacy work at the various levels of intervention.

2. IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL COMMENT 21 ON THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN IN STREET SITUATIONS

In 2017, the UN published General Comment 21 on the rights of children in street situations. The General Comments made by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child supplement at the highest and legal level the International Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Dynamo International (DI) played a big part in writing the comment.

Working in partnership with the Consortium for Street Children, DI organised the European consultation on General Comment 21 in April 2016 in Brussels.

The overall aim of the consultation process is to collect a maximum number of comments from social workers and children in street situations, using a participatory and inclusive approach, and then use these comments as the basis for the General Comment. The report produced by this consultation is very important as it lets children/young people in street situations have their say. They are often invisible and inaudible.

Dynamo International Street Workers Network (DISWN) also made a written submission to the overall slant of the General Comment. Our written submission has been published on the OHCHR webpage: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRC/Pages/ChildrenInStreetSituations.aspx>

The General Comment was therefore officially published in 2017 in several languages:

http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fGC%2f21&Lang=en

Now that the text has been published, we must ensure that it is applied. We are monitoring implementation in close collaboration with the [Consortium for Street Children](#), which specialises in monitoring children in street situations from a political perspective. Several members of DISWN took part in events linked to implementation of the comment:

- Geneva: Members of the Swiss platforms took part in the presentation of the texts and issues: <http://travailderue.org/fr/networking-meeting-in-geneva-on-children-in-street-situations/>
- Sao Paulo: Members of the Mexican, Brazilian and Bolivian platforms took part in the implementation of the General Comment 21: https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_services/homelessness_poverty/events_cle/saopaulo2017.html

The intention is for several professions to be involved in the implementation of the comment, including the public authorities, universities and legislative bodies, for example.

DISWN is going to do the following to ensure that the texts are correctly applied:

- Continue getting involved and contributing at the international level in order to represent the interests of civil society and social workers in the discussions.
- Work in an inclusive and participatory fashion to produce an opinion on the official text.
- Each national platform will be tasked with monitoring application of the text in their own country. The CSC is working collaboratively to produce a resource on how to undertake advocacy on the implementation of the General Comment in your country.
- Help the Senegalese platform with ensuring that the General Comment is applied at the national level. Senegal could then be publicized as an example of good practice in the network.

3. THE NETWORK'S REGIONAL CAMPAIGN ISSUES - ADAPTING TO SPECIFIC ISSUES

It was decided that each DISWN region should undertake advocacy at the regional level, with a view to adapting to specific regional issues, as well as being involved in the international advocacy campaigns.

Priority work topics for the Europe region:

- Migration and integration into European society.
- Extremism, radicalisation, polarization and loss of social cohesion.

Priority work topics for the Americas region:

- Social cleansing.
- The reality faced by minors in detention.

Priority work topics for the Africa region:

- The role of workers when faced with violence, conflict and disaster.

The priority work areas for the Asia region still need to be selected (2018 PG in Nepal).

Regional advocacy is led by the regional coordinators. Each region must decide how it will run campaigns. This aspect will be developed in 2018 at the International Pilot Group (IPG) in Nepal.

4. 2020 STREET WORDS - SEMINAR TO GIVE A VOICE TO AND GET PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND STREET SITUATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

Several "street words" forums have been organised by DISWN. The first forum in 2002 launched the movement, while the second one in 2010 bolstered it. The idea is to organise a further "street words" forum in 2020 to affirm the network's commitment, discourse and presence, and reiterate the challenges involved in combating the exclusion of people in street situations. A "street words" event is an international awareness-raising, networking and advocacy event on street-related issues. The intention is to make undertakings to defend human rights using coherent strategies and long-term partnerships.

Aims

1. Bring together participants affected by street issues: the stakeholders involved should get to know each other, exchange information and express their concerns and wishes for the future.
2. Study examples of good practice, raise public awareness, attract the attention and call on political authorities to make a commitment to this issue.

"Street words" are multi-stakeholder forums bringing together representatives of the European Union (EU), local and national authorities, international organisations (such as the Council of Europe, UN system institutions), social workers, grassroots or international level NGOs, academics, businesses, media, citizens and, of course, children and people in street situations.

2020 is a symbolic year as it is the 10th anniversary of the first "street words". 2020 will therefore be the opportunity to assess progress made on the recommendations formulated a decade ago, which commitments have been made by the various stakeholders working to combat the exclusion of people in street situations and respect their rights, and it will also be the chance to evaluate European policy (the Europe 2020 Strategy). The 2020 PG will take place in Europe, thus offering an opportunity to combine these events.

5. A PHOTO EXHIBITION TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT STREET SOCIAL WORK WORLDWIDE: STREET SOCIAL WORKERS - WEAVING TIES BETWEEN PEOPLE

Street social work is not properly valued as a means of effectively addressing poverty and exclusion. Dynamo International decided to depict the daily lives of these street social workers who work "in the shadows" in order to raise the awareness of the general public and politicians about this strand of social work.

For almost a year, the photographer Véronique Vercheval focused her gaze on street social workers in Belgium, Romania, DRC, Vietnam, Haiti, Israel and Palestine.

These photographs illustrate the daily work of these social workers and shed light on the different aspects and issues involved in street social work, both locally and internationally.

The images from this year-long photo report are to be showcased in an exhibition and a book containing all the images.

The exhibition was unveiled in Belgium (May 2018). It then travelled to Quebec in September 2018 to coincide with the Quebec platform's anniversary seminar, before moving to Kinshasa in November 2018.

The intention is for the exhibition to travel from country to country. Each national platform is invited to organise publicizing the exhibition in their country. The exact form will depend on the situation in the country. The technical team is on hand to help with arrangements and communication with the photographer in particular.

The aforementioned advocacy issues will be addressed in the various working groups throughout the Nepal 2018 Pilot Group. The aim will be to develop an action plan and share out tasks and responsibilities between the various stakeholders.

II. NETWORKING

AIM: THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF STREET SOCIAL WORKERS IS BECOMING A STRONG AND DECENTRALISED SOCIAL MOVEMENT BASED ON AN INCLUSIVE AND PARTICIPATORY APPROACH

1. CREATING A SOCIAL MOVEMENT BASED ON A STRONG IDENTITY - THE NETWORK'S IDENTITY IS BASED ON A BOTTOM-UP DYNAMIC

Reworking the network's membership base

Every meeting year, the PG develops its practices and takes strategic decisions. In 2018, a decision was taken to focus on the issue of "phantom platforms". While the network based its legitimacy in the first few years on expanding its membership base, nowadays the most active members want to consolidate the membership base and focus it on street social workers, even if this means letting go some members. The overall legitimacy of the network will be based on a specific social work approach and not on the number of partners.

Cross-cutting working groups

The idea of setting up cross-cutting working groups will be floated in 2018 and put into practice in 2020. Volunteer members will pledge to work on various topics, define basic concepts, and reflect upon methodology, based on their like-mindedness, and will produce content/ideas to be presented for debate at the next Pilot Group. A remote working method needs to be put forward and the working framework established in order to achieve this aim. The idea is for these working groups to be cross-cutting, i.e. for them to bring together representatives from different countries and continents.

Regional review of street social work

In 2016, the regional coordinators had the opportunity to produce a document reviewing street social work and street situations on their continents (via the STREAT project). The idea is to enable regional coordinators to continue this analysis, enabling changes to be assessed and the major difficulties that involve the principle of solidarity inherent to the network based on defending human rights to be identified.

This regular review, in addition to helping the members of the international Pilot Group (IPG) share information, aims to (i) provide content for the network's international external communications and (ii) be the basis for the advocacy undertaken by the regional coordinators.

In practical terms, this review is drafted inclusively, in cooperation with the region's members: each platform describes the situation in their country and the coordinators provide a coherent summary. The national platforms are free to arrange national workshops where these reviews can be jointly prepared.

This point will be discussed at the 2018 PG and implemented by the regional coordinators working closely with the technical team.

2. DECENTRALISATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF STREET SOCIAL WORKERS: THE REGIONAL COORDINATION BODIES OPERATE INDEPENDENTLY

Regional Pilot Groups (RPGs)

The idea is for a Regional Pilot Group (RPG) to be held annually:

- 2019: Africa - Senegal
 - 2020: Europe - Switzerland
 - 2021: Americas - Mexico/Bolivia
 - 2022: Asia - Nepal
- ⇒ These four countries are now the regional coordinators of the DISWN network.

The aims and objectives of these RPGs can be described as follows:

- Discuss their working arrangements (for instance, how they are going to write the review).
- Identify advocacy strategies: who are we targeting? What are the main messages that we wish to convey? And so on...
- Plan meeting objectives and timescales.
- Decide upon communication methods (language, resources etc).
- Identify joint project opportunities.
- Identify funding opportunities.

In theory, organising this type of meeting is an integral part of the regional coordinators' role. However, the dynamic has not been set in motion at the same pace in all the regions. The idea of holding the same meetings in each region, with the same aims and objectives, is to offer all the regions the same opportunity to strengthen themselves. The aim is that after five years of work all the regions will be fully independent with regard to the aforementioned points. The idea behind the support role played by the technical team and the holding in the short and medium term of meetings of regional coordinators is to move forward the process in parallel.

Regional reinforcement priorities (2016 priorities)

Bolster the European network

- Hold an annual face-to-face meeting.
- Arrange Skype meetings every two months.
- Develop a participatory working method.
- Resolve the practical language issue.
- Diversify funding ideas.

- Organize meetings with countries in Eastern Europe to share working methods: share experiences and identify good practice.

Bolster the Americas network

- Develop governance rules at the regional level.
- Update the list and identify phantom platforms.
- Continue arranging monthly Skype meetings.
- Facilitate the Haitian platform's integration into the Americas Region.
- Work out how to arrange (and fund) a face-to-face regional meeting every two years, alternating with the PG international meeting.
- Create a register of data and general information about each American platform, briefly describing the situation on the streets in each country.

Bolster the African network

- Draft internal rules for the African members (without membership fees / membership cards).
- Arrange national consultations prior to regional consultations.
- Designate a sub-regional focal point based on languages and geographical areas.
- Set up projects in which several platforms are involved.
- Improve communication and consultation between the members.
- Assess training needs and the African bodies with which the institute could forge partnerships.

Grassroots visits

Prior to each IPG, the regional coordinators will be able to travel to a country in the region that they coordinate to visit a platform that is applying for membership or experiencing significant difficulties, in order to support the platform. They must choose a country in their region that is requesting particular support when selecting where to visit. By providing this support, the coordinator fully plays their role of building the capacity of the members of the region that they represent.

This closeness is vital in order to foster a sense of belonging to the network and bolster peer learning. These visits will be conducted with the support of the technical team, both prior to and after the visit.

Capacity building for the regional coordinators

The regional coordinators have for a long time asked to meet up in order to discuss their practices and support each other. The idea is to combine these meetings with specialised training, such as: internal communication, network facilitation, collective intelligence, and fundraising.

The SWTI and/or outside speakers could be approached based on the regional coordinators' capacity-building needs and requests.

Apart from enabling peer discussion, these training courses will enable the coordinators to acquire the technical skills that their training and experience as street social workers do not necessarily give them. The idea is also not to leave them alone to contend with the great responsibility involved in their coordination role, but also to compensate their voluntary commitment to the development of the network by enabling them to develop skills.

Information about this is contained in the CNCD five-year project. As the budget is tight, there will be a need to choose the priorities and activities for implementation each year. This decision will be taken by the regional coordinators and the technical team.

The following will be placed on the agenda of the 2018 PG:

- Work on the network's membership base (regional and plenary working group).
- Cross-cutting working groups (plenary).
- Regional pilot groups (regional working group).

III. SUPPORT WORK

AIM: STREET SOCIAL WORKER SKILLS ARE STANDARDISED ACROSS THE NETWORK

1. TRAINING FOR STREET SOCIAL WORKERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD: THE STREET WORK TRAINING INSTITUTE (SWTI)

The overall aim of the SWTI is to help bolster and professionalize the social work sector. The institute has a twin-pronged remit:

- Build and develop street social work specific skills.
- Equip street social workers with all the skills required to do their jobs.

The institute utilizes various types of activities, including seminars and training courses, e-learning and research, to achieve this aim.

In more concrete terms, the SWTI undertakes to:

- Take steps to enable international training courses, seminars and conferences to be held, and enable research and the setting up of resource centres on street social work (and related topics).
- Promote vocational and educational training for trainers and create a pool of trainers.
- Promote the exchange, with the national DISWN platforms, of technical and academic information, including books and periodicals, dissertations and theses, with the idea of reciprocally promoting and disseminating them.
- Undertake a European accreditation process for the SwTI training courses with the Portuguese accreditation agency (DGERT).
- Further develop partnerships with universities and other training bodies.
- ...

The SWTI is accountable to the Pilot Group to which it presents past and future projects. The SWTI develops its action plan independently in collaboration with the technical team.

2. FORMALISE STREET SOCIAL WORK METHODOLOGY ACROSS THE WORLD

The need to further develop a number of methodological aspects of street social work was immediately felt in the network and takes the following form:

- A need to continue creating practical and theoretical tools for street social workers (there is little in the way of research on the links between practice and theory).
- Street social work has a low profile and there is a lack of recognition for the profession.
- A need to increase exchanges of practices between street social workers.
- False representation and stigmatising of target groups (street families, adults, young people).

An action-research method has therefore gradually developed in the network. This sort of process has an academic and educational dimension aimed at grassroots stakeholders who are inevitably geographically far apart.

Our action-research method is participatory with grassroots stakeholders invited to share their practices.

Several publications have been produced along these lines:

- International guide to street social work methodology around the world (2008).
- The role of group action in street social work (2012).
- Street social work - struggles, resistance and mobilisation (2017).

Upcoming methodological publications could be as follows:

- Individual work at the heart of the social approach to the streets: this is the last intrinsic street social work approach not to have been the subject of a specific publication.
- The social issues surrounding street social work: what is the street social worker's position in society? Who are their contacts? What are their difficulties, stumbling blocks, work areas, struggles? And so on.
- Toolkit about respecting human rights for both people in street situations and street social workers: social workers are often regarded as being human rights defenders, which can put them in a difficult position. The network wants to get organised in order to pressurize the public authorities which persecute them.
- How to include beneficiaries in political decision-making? This aspect is at the heart of the international convention on human rights but unfortunately there is very little compliance. Street social workers place beneficiaries at the heart of the decisions that affect them. The network wants to establish this principle and talk about what they do in order to achieve it.

At the 2018 PG a decision will be taken about the next publication, methodology and the countdown schedule for the publication.

3. SUPPORT FOR STREET SOCIAL WORKER PLATFORMS

DRC

Programme funded by the Belgian Directorate General for Development Cooperation - 2017-2021

Title: DRC, rights and protection for street children in DRC, CATSR (DRC street social work support committee).

Haiti

New project submitted to the Wallonia-Brussels Region - 2019-2021 (an answer will be received in late 2018).

Title: Vocational training and recognition for street social work in Haiti.

Senegal

Project funded by the Wallonia-Brussels Region as part of a joint committee - 2017-2019.

Title: Raising the awareness of civil society and public services about children's rights.

4. PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LIONS CLUBS

Dynamo International has been supported by the Centennial Lions Club for years. The Lions Club International Foundation played a big part in the setting up of the LIKEMO emergency shelter in the DRC in the outskirts of Kinshasa.

In 2018, Lions Club International, the Consortium for Street Children and Dynamo International signed a memorandum of understanding to step up the quest to defend the rights of children in street situations by forging structural links between social grassroots stakeholders and local Lions clubs.

IV. DYNAMO INTERNATIONAL - STREET WORKERS NETWORK 2018-2022 ACTION PLAN

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
ADVOCACY/AWARENESS RAISING					
INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY					
International campaign: visible and invisible violence.					
Stance on the general comment on the rights of children in street situations					
Operational regional advocacy		Africa	Europe	Americas	Asia
Street words (2020)					
AWARENESS RAISING					
Photo exhibition	Brussels	Africa	EU	Americas	Asia
NETWORKING					
CREATING A SOCIAL MOVEMENT WITH A STRONG IDENTITY					
International pilot groups	IPG Nepal		IPG EU		IPG Americas
Regional coordination: grassroots visits by the RC					
Inclusive development approach: updated review					
DECENTRALISATION					
Regional pilot groups		RPG Africa	RPG EU	RPG Americas	RPG Asia
Building the capacity of the regional coordinators					
SUPPORT WORK					
INDIRECT SUPPORT (FOR THE STREET SOCIAL WORKERS)					
Training (SWTI)					
Social street worker methodology - publications					
DIRECT SUPPORT (VIA THE PLATFORMS)					
DRC - DGD					

Haiti - CM					
Senegal					