IASSW AIETS

International Association of Schools of Social Work
Association Internationale des Écoles de Travail Social
Asociación Internacional de Escuelas de Trabajo Social
国际社会工作教育联盟
国際ソーシャルワーク教育学校連盟

An Invitation to Join IASSW's Special Interest Group: Gender and Sexual Diversity

You are invited to be a part of IASSW's Gender and Sexual Diversity Special Interest Group (SIG).

Purpose: This SIG promotes social work research and teaching in gender diversity and sexual diversity. Gender diversity includes, but is not limited to, transgender and intersex persons. Sexual diversity includes people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and queer, and the broad array of cultural expressions of gender and sexuality identities and behaviours around the world. Members of the SIG will connect, support and mentor new and emerging researchers in these areas, particularly in places where such research is devalued, stigmatized, or may negatively impact career pathways.

The SIG supports research that does not view gender and sexually diverse persons only as objects of research. It also focuses on social policies and phenomena which negatively impact gender and sexual diverse persons, such as violence against gender nonconforming individuals, national or civic policies which criminalize diversity, or which inhibit access to health, mental health, and social care.

The group does not support research or teaching which problematizes gender and sexual diversity or non-conformity.

The SIG advocates for inclusion of gender and sexual diversity as relevant topics in academic curricula around the world. This SIG is available as an expert resource to IASSW and other SIGs as the Association seeks to implement its values of inclusion and diversity in its governance, work, policies, practices, and meeting venues. The group will also hold IASSW, its office-holders and membership to a high standard of inclusion.

This SIG seeks to collaborate with existing similar groups in other international social work and social development associations.

Membership: While you and your institution are invited to be members of IASSW, membership is nor required to be a member of a SIG. Social work students are very welcome. Members will bring creativity, enthusiasm and inquiring minds to the group. Members of this SIG may request that their membership remain private. We expect SIG members to respect the privacy of other members, and to recognise that there are places in the world where disclosing gender and sexual diversity may be dangerous. Allies, including cis-heterosexuals who are engaged in relevant research and teaching are welcome. After all, we all have a gender and sexuality of some kind!

Leadership: Co-leadership of this group will emerge from the membership. We particularly welcome new and emerging researchers who are interested in a leadership role. The current convenor has agreed to an interim role while the group organizes, and will then step back. SIG convenors must be individual or institutional members of IASSW.

Contact:
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