

**sociedad
internacional
para
la salud
y
derechos humanos**



**international
society
for
health
and
human rights**

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2002

The following report describes the organizational and political initiatives and activities in the period 01.01.2002 – 31.12.2002.

Council and Executive committee

The council was elected at the AGM 2001 and has consisted of the following members: Dean Ajdukovic, Jorge Aroche, Ahmad M. Baker, Umesh Bawa, Jean-Claude Metraux, Paz Rojas Baeza, Vijah Shah, John R. van Eenwyk and Nora Sveaass. Executive committee has consisted of Dean Ajdukovic, Jorge Aroche, Jean-Claude Metraux, Ahmad Baker and Nora Sveaass. Nora Sveaass has had the function of Secretary General, Jean-Claude Metraux was elected treasurer. The honorary president, Loes van Willigen has been a consultant to the council.

Meetings

There was no Council meeting during 2002. All contact in the council has been conducted electronically.

Secretariat

ISHHR's secretariat is located in Oslo, Urtegata 50, in the Norwegian Human Rights House. An organizational secretary, Sigurd K. Gulbrandsen, is working one day a week for ISHHR, but e-mail and incoming mail are normally checked every day. For the finalization of the proceedings from the conference, as well as for work with the new web page, Magnar Naustdalslid has been engaged part time also in 2002. Together with Sigurd he has been working actively on the web project (see below). The secretary general is present at the secretariat one day weekly on a voluntary basis. Besides this there is a regular daily contact between secretariat and general secretary by phone or email.

Members

ISHHR operates with a dual type of membership, individual and groups membership. We have members in 45 countries. In 2002 120 were formally registered as members, 67 as single members, 53 as group. Unfortunately only 10 paid the membership fees in 2002. Reminders have been sent to members who have not paid but they have not yet been removed from the list. We hope to be able to reengage them as paying members.

Web

ISHHR's home page has functioned all through the year and we are happy to say that the number of visitors to this page is growing steadily. In 2002 we had 25 000 visitors at www.ishhr.org The web page has permitted a much better system of information and contact between members and secretariat. We are now able to spread information from the regions, announce on-going activities as well as communicate issues of importance, and actions of advocacy or protest, in relation to human rights and health. To some extent the secretariat has tried to comment on relevant issues as well.

Collaboration with other organizations

- WHO: The Declaration of Cooperation and Tools for Rapid Assessment of Mental Health Needs of Refugees, Displaced and Other War-Affected Populations and Available Resources was endorsed by the AGM 2001. We have made some attempts at finding out how this Tool is worked with for the moment, but after our main contact, Mary Petevi, left WHO, it has not been clear how this work will best be continued or how we can participate actively in this process.
- The International Federation of Red Cross: The Statment of Understanding between the Federation Reference Centre for Psychological Support and ISHHR was endorsed at the AGM. During the fall 2002 there was a meeting between Janet Rodenburg at the Reference Centre in Copenhagen and Nora Sveaass to discuss our on-going contact and collaboration. Our work with regard to skills overview and the HHRI project are of special interest to Red Cross.

Meetings with other organizations

- Being located at the Human Rights House in Oslo ISHHR gets into contact with a wide variety of Human Rights organisations, both national and international.
- COUNCIL – HAVE YOU HAD MEETINGS WITH OTHER GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS THAT SHOULD BE DESCRIBED HERE –

Economy and Fundraising

- The project; "Health and Human Rights Info" (2002) funded with 50 000 USD from a Norwegian NGO Mental Health Project
- Only 10 members have paid

- Funding from the Cavtat Conference was used for the elaboration of the abstracts and papers presented, and an electronic book of proceedings is presented
- The Health and Human Rights Project has paid overhead to ISHHR, and this amounts to 5000 US dollars, used for organizational purposes.
- We are dependent on more members paying their fees. This is the only way that the secretariat and council can manage the different tasks within our society.
- See budget, accounts and notes for further information

Health and Human Rights Info

The information project, the Health and Human Rights info project has been an issue with very high priority all through the year. The project plan, presented and endorsed at the AGM meeting 2001 was further developed and a complete funding was obtained from The Mental Health Project, a NGO in Norway. A reference group was organized consisting of resource persons both within and outside ISHHR. This group has provided the project with some input, and have been available for questions and evaluation of the project. At the secretariat, Sigurd K. Gulbrandsen and Magnar Naustdalslid have been in charge of the actual work in relation to the project. Nora Sveaass is project responsible. The project group have had regular meetings with the funders. The project was planned to be launched on December 10 th 2002, but this date had to be postponed somewhat.

VI Conference.

As mentioned in the Annual Report for 2001 the 6th International Conference for Health and Human Rights, entitled "Communities in Crisis: Strengthening Resources for Community Reconstruction" was a great success. The local organising committee, chaired by Dean Ajdukovic, and the international program committee, chaired by Loes van Willigen, did a very fine job. The financial issues with regard to the conference were mostly finalized during 2001. The work with the proceedings started immediately after the conference and were completed in 2002. As will be seen from the accounts, the work with the proceedings, the grants permitted us to work with the proceedings following the conference, in line with our initial hope and plan.

VII Conference. The 7th International Conference for Health and Human Rights was planned for Palestine, either Ramallah or Gaza. There are no concrete plans for alternative venues, though the question has been raised whether it is possible to organize a conference in Palestine under the present circumstances. This question will be looked at in 2003.

Regional activities

European initiative for a network

Elise Bittenbinder, member of ISHHR and affiliated to Xenion in Berlin, and BAF in Germany took an initiative during the Spring 2002 to get a group together, with representatives both from ISHHR and from IRCT, in order to organize regional meetings in Europe, among professionals working with asylumseekers, refugees and survivors of torture and other human rights violations. The idea was to form a group that on a more stable basis could function in response to the political issues in Europe, with regards to refugees and refugee policy. This group would have to function in a close relationship to the different centres in Europe. The idea of regional working meetings was launched. This implied revitalizing an European network that earlier had been initiated by ISHHR members. In order to facilitate this, Elise Bittenbinder suggested that an application for EU should be developed. In June 2002 a small working group met in Copenhagen, at IRCT. Present were, Michael Peel (Medical Foundation), Elise Bittenbinder (XENION), Jens Modvig and Caroline Pincemon (IRCT) and Nora Sveaass (ISHHR). AN application was agreed upon and sent. Unfortunately it was turned down, but the group agreed to suggest that professionals from different centres should meet anyway, on their own cost. Plans were finalized for a working conference or meeting in April 2003, in Belgium. Information about this initiative has been available on the ISHHR web site.

Latin America:

Africa:

Asian-Pacific Region:

We are aware that more regional activities should have been initiated and our hope had been that this could be supported by ISHHR, both morally and economically. But alas, our kind of organization, with very limited funding for these kinds of important activity does not permit this to happen. We do hope, nevertheless, that, ISHHR members have the opportunity to meet in different contexts, and that we will go on being in contact through our web options.

Nora Sveaass
Secretary General

November 2003