**IASWG**

**Notes from the The Town Hall Meeting, June 2016, New York**

(**A Note**: the use of ‘Chapter’ in these notes does not refer to a chapter in a book, but it is the word that IASWG uses to describe a local organisation affiliated to the IASWG. I have capitalised each use of the word to make this clear; ‘Chapters’ are both geographical, as in ‘Florida Chapter’ or linguistic, as in ‘Francophone Chapter’).

Mark Doel (Facilitator)

**Headlines**

These were the primary recurring themes that emerged from the Town Hall Meeting, in no particular order:

* The continuing need to consider what internationalisation means for IASWG and the broader impact of globalisation; how to develop the mutual relationship between local and global – ‘glocal’
* Regional networking and conferences
* Making use of new technologies and social media to extend IASWG’s reach – incuding the potential for a ‘Virtual Chapter’
* A campaigning role that could include an IASWG rapid response mechanism
* The need for IASWG to develop an international groupwork textbook to help reinvigorate groupwork in social work curricula
* Ways to find collaborative funding to enhance groupwork research and IASWG’s role within that research

Below are the notes kindly made by Hilda Baar. These are then followed by a write-up of each small group’s flipchart notes -

***What do we want from the organisation?***

***What can we give?***

1. What 3 things could this organisation provide that would help with your groupwork?
2. Are there ways that we think that IASWG could step up / mobilize as to the events that are currently happening (e.g. the homophobic shootings in Florida).

*Overview of responses:*

Groupwork education opportunities throughout the year

Building ways to communicate with as many people as possible

Create a rapid response team – take a stand!

Bring the global aspect of the organisation to a local level – and the other way round

Some funding for groupwork research

Create opportunities for connecting and communication

Update (or create a new) groupwork textbook on how to teach groupwork

Becoming truly global/international

Developing regional small conferences

Write a manual of what is the Chapters’ tasks, setting out how Chapters work – the rules and protocols, etc.

Find ways to strengthen groupwork in the social work curriculum

Think creatively about Chapters

What are the needs of the Chapters?

Networking and making our presence known – inviting others to our Chapters

Enhancing communication – what other platforms can we use? A virtual chapter?

Develop regional conferences

*How can we start?*

*Through each of the committees:*

1 Education (known as the ’Commission’)

2 Practice

3 Membership

4 Marketing

5 Symposium

6 Nomination and elections

7 Chapter development

8 Economic development

9 International issues

SMALL GROUP NOTES

***Sarah Davis’ group***

*more information from Sarah at:* [s.ardendavis@gmail.com](mailto:s.ardendavis@gmail.com)

1) As many group work education opportunities as possible throughout the year: webinars, symposium videos, Continuing Education training (remotely)

2) Networking and connecting to other like-minded organizations (Marketing Committee??): CSWE, BPD, SSWR, ACOSA, APA, APHA, NASW, GADE, NADD, SWAA, IFSW, ISSW, CASWE, CASW and other international associations *(note from facilitator: in order to help internationalise our language and understanding, please spell out acronyms or, even better, state the* kind *of organisation rather than a specific one that others may not have heard of).*

3) More connection to and between different Chapters and more collaboration

*Next steps:*

(1) Identifying pre-existing connections to other associations

(2) Invite Associations to represent themselves at IASWG symposium at no charge (to develop relationships)

(3) offer discounted rates for ‘dual membership’

(4) look for ways to ‘benefit’ larger association

*Goal:* Attract more members by developing idea of dual membership (IASWG and other Associations)

***Gorgianna Dolan’s group***

*more information from Georgiana at:* [Georgianna.Dolan.Reilly@gmail.com](mailto:Georgianna.Dolan.Reilly@gmail.com)

1) A new Groupwork textbook (How to) - translation

- community / macro; general practice (social work);

* Finding people to work on this book – different authors, different Chapters
* Educating social workers; Teaching guide for educators – with student book. Ways to teach groupwork – experiential, process learning, video, online context

2) CSWE – more instrumental role in groupwork

other international social work boards / government

3) Online / social media groups

- engagement / information / PR

4) Infuse groupwork within practice (exposure)

5) Identify as a groupworker (standards/ other languages)

6) Social justice / action

7) Ecological / sustainable / inclusion

8) Interprofessional groupwork (teams)

***Meghan Odonnell’s group***

*more information from Meghan at:* [odonnell.meg@gmsil.com](mailto:odonnell.meg@gmsil.com)

1) a) Bring the global aspects of IASWG into the local level – ***glocal***

*via webinars, lectures in classrooms*

b) Take the local to the global

2) Move the organisation closer to being *the* voice for group work.

3) Just do it! Reinvigorate and inspire groupwork in workplaces.

* Chapter chairs ask members about interests, needs, potential webinar topics – local topics. What’s most relevant to individual members at a local level?
* Film at least one lecture or all invitationals to make available online for remote viewing
* Ask o f local Chapters – what is it we can share with the group work community?

***Mamadou Seck’s group***

*more information from Mamadou at:* mamadouseck@att.net

1) Educational enhancement:

- innovation; integration of new theories

2) Manualize Chapters:

- development; maintenance

(if already done, find it for use of newcomers)

3) Create a rapid response team

- responses link

- IASWG public response to crisis

- e-blast update to members

- create video clips on group practice (ask members to tape sessions to submit to IASWG)

*Next steps:*

Create a subgroup to:

* Identify how international organizations respond to crisis
* How would IASWG respond to crisis?
* Differentiate statement from action

***Hildegard, William and Natasha(?)’s group***

*more information at* [*hildegardnl@gmx.de*](mailto:hildegardnl@gmx.de)*;* [*pelech@ucalgary.ca*](mailto:pelech@ucalgary.ca)*;* [*anatshvadron@gmail.com*](mailto:anatshvadron@gmail.com)

More communication and transparency

Link through regional events and/or technology

Inclusive of different professions that practice groupwork

- learning opportunities that are inspirational

- becoming truly global (i.e. events and resources that are culturally competent and inclusive)

- strong motivation for articulation

- sharing experiences

- symposium

- articles

- networking with people with similar practice interests

- sharing resources

- webinars

- opportunities for sharing groupwork with the larger community including non-social work group practitioners

***Dana Leeman’s group***

*more information from Dana at:* [dana.leeman@gmail.com](mailto:dana.leeman@gmail.com)

*3 things to help our group work*

1) Exploration and use of social media as group format

- call for groups undergrads to submit proposals

- digital consultation group on IASWG

- way to communicate ‘”readily immediately” with IASWG

- how to be seen as a resource

\* online chapter pilot

2) More ideas for chapter activities (subgroup due to distance; digital/Skype collaborations)

- continue to promote cultural collaboration. Lots of mozaic stones.

3) Be louder in agency, university, institutional level.

***Michael Wagner’s group***

*more information from Michael at:* [michaelw@childrensaidsociety.org](mailto:dana.leeman@gmail.com)

*3 things IASWG could do*

organize resources on the web

mentoring and buddy systems for Chapters and Board work

online chat for members – Skype or FaceTime to connect with members

International sharing opportunities

Keep working on certifications / Continuing Educations

collaborative practice around international research and evaluation / communalities

“a groupwork app” Youtube content

archive symposia programs online with ‘meta-tags’ or contact information to make it searchable for users

active list serve

calendar of Chapter events that members outside of local chapters can see

help groupwork teachers teach the practice / tools and tips

*Broader Context*

With groupwork curricula being structured out of social work education IASWG must advocate to keep groupwork relevant in Schools of Social Work.

Inclusion work with the disenfranchised populations.

*Next steps*

Enhancing communication

- gather groupwork information in online media video, practice tips, curricula

don’t limit to already known platforms

webinar / video / twitter etc.

[LPKwiat@optonline.net’s](mailto:LPKwiat@optonline.net's) ***group***

- In School of Social Work (SSW), as a teacher how to handle conflict around differences (race, ethnicity, politics, etc.) that promotes growth and acceptance and respect. How does ‘good’ groupwork contribute.

- IASWG should promote teaching of groupwork in SSW and other schools (in DSA – *please spell out for international audience)* other cultures / countries are teaching groupwork

- IASWG should become more sensitive to multi-cutural issues

- doctoral programs not teaching groupwork – faculty not knowledge

- IASWG can help with research on groupwork

- hard to obtain grants to do research on GW

- IASWG provide scholarships for young students to come to the Conference/symposium

- accessible (cost) of membership to allow students and young social workers to join

- regional / smaller conferences – help with cost

*Next steps*

1 Chapter take responsibility for a program

2 Ask local presenters to represent locally – mini symposium

3 Collaboration between school / agency / Chapter

4 Developing a community of groupwork practice – that leads to a Chapter

5 Providing educational opportunity on social media and networking opportunities

6 Matching students in different countries through social media

collated by Mark Doel, Vice President, IASWG.