



The Reconnect Newsletter

A Newsletter for Past Members of IASWG: We miss you

Why a newsletter?

Since you have been away, so much has happened with IASWG and we wanted to keep you connected. IASWG remains the premier international association for social workers and allied helping professionals engaged in group work. We aim to promote excellence in group work practice, education, field instruction, research and publication. The goals of this Association are realized through a program of action and advocacy at both the local, national and international levels.

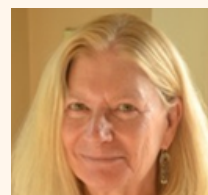
Meet the Executive Committee of IASWG



Será Godfrey-Kaplan
President



Namoonga Chilwalo
Co-Vice President



Kristina Lind
Co-Vice President



Michael Wagner
Historical Secretary



Sam Pompeo
Secretary

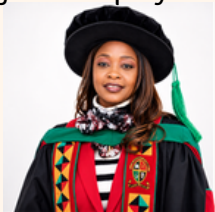


Anthony De Jesús
Treasurer

A Celebration of Excellence

Please help IASWG celebrate the wonderful accomplishments of Dr. Nammoonga Chilwalo and Dr. Alexis Howard on their successful dissertation defenses.

Dissertation Title: Mainstreaming Social-Ecological and Disaster Resilience in Social Work Education and Practice: A Pragmatic Inquiry in the Erongo Region, Namibia



Namoonga Chilwalo, Ph. D.

Research Synthesis: This study examined how disaster resilience can be mainstreamed into social work education and practice in disaster-prone informal settlements in Namibia. Drawing on the experiences of communities affected by recurrent fire disasters in the Erongo Region, it identified key resilience processes and developed the Integrated Disaster Resilience Pathways Model (IDRPM) to strengthen disaster-informed social work education, practice, and policy in Namibia and other Global South contexts.

Dissertation Title: The Experiences of the Transfer of Learning Path: MSW's Perceptions of Organizational Influences.



Alexis Howard, Ph. D., LCSW-R

Research Synthesis: The work environment plays a critical role in shaping organizational conditions that either support or impede successful transfer of learning. This qualitative study employed a grounded theory approach to illuminate organizational strategies that support transfer of learning within public child welfare agencies. Findings highlight the central role of peer relationships, in supporting the transfer of learning journey and navigating the transition from student to advanced practitioner or administrator.

The Reconnect Newsletter

This newsletter was designed with you in mind

Quarterly Membership Meet Up: Waiting for you to Join Us!



IASWG International Association for Social Work with Groups, Inc.

Join us for our 2026 Quarterly Membership Meet-Ups!

2026 Meeting Dates (all times in Eastern Time - New York City)

Month	Topic	Date & Time
May	Groupwork in Difficult Times Share successes, challenges, and difficulties navigating your group work practice during times of uncertainty	May 19 th @ 12pm May 20 th @ 7pm
August	Making Connections A fun, relaxed opportunity to connect with colleagues and friends across IASWG's global community	August 18 th @ 12pm August 19 th @ 7pm
November	Imposter Syndrome in Group Work Practice Share and learn techniques for managing and working through doubt and self-criticism in groupwork practice.	November 17 th @ 12pm November 18 th @ 7pm

- This meeting is open to all current and prospective IASWG members!
- Advance registration is not required
- Network with others and learn from international experts
- Discuss group work
- Learn more about IASWG and how to get involved

Join us on Zoom at
https://bit.ly/2026_iaswg_meetups

The Quarterly Membership Meet Up was designed to create space and time for current and prospective IASWG members seeking to connect with other members around identified themes. The goals of which are to enhance group work skills, make connections with group workers across the globe, and share your group work experience. For 2026, two meetings have already been held during the month of February and May. A summary of each meeting includes:

*February 17th @ 12pm est & February 18th @ 7 pm est. The theme was preparing for the 2026 Symposium where attendees shared their proposal ideas, tips on navigating the submission process and past Symposium highlights. We also received updates on the planned events such as the Symposium schedule, plenary speakers, invitational speakers and the outstutute scheduled for Saturday, June 6th.

*May 19th @ 12pm est & May 20th @ 7 pm est. The theme was group work in difficult times. Attendees, shared practice experiences, and more importantly key takeaways such as effective use of boundaries for self as the facilitator, being mindful of facilitator unintentional selfcare neglect (“do as I say, not as I do”), giving grace to oneself for mistakes, seeking support through supervision and creating time to reflect.

For the second half of 2026, the remaining two Quarterly Membership Meet Ups are scheduled for:

*August 18th @12 pm est. and August 19th @ 7pm est. The focus of the meeting will be on “Making Connections” with colleagues and friends within our IASWG global community.

*November 17th @12 pm est, and November 18th @ 7 pm est. The focus of the meeting will be on “Imposter Syndrome in Group Work Practice.” We are hoping that attendees share their techniques for managing doubt, and self-criticism in group work practice. Please consider joining us to share your expertise, experience and challenges, while connecting or reconnecting with our group work community.

So, you might ask, “what can I expect from the Quarterly Membership Meet Ups? Each 60-minute session is thoughtfully designed (and held on Eastern Time—New York) to be welcoming, engaging, and worthwhile. We begin with a quick and creative icebreaker to help everyone connect, then move into meaningful conversations centered on the session’s topic. We wrap up with a few quick updates and a preview of what’s coming next. We’d love for you to join us at our next Quarterly Membership Meet-Up 😊

Su voz profesional es importante para nosotros.

Noticias del capítulo francófono

El capítulo francófono tiene el placer de compartir dos de sus logros del año 2026 y un próximo evento:

1- 4ta Jornada Anual sobre el Trabajo Social con Grupos: En marzo de 2026, en colaboración con la Université du Québec à Chicoutimi (UQAC), se llevó a cabo la cuarta jornada anual sobre el trabajo social con grupos. Participaron 25 profesionales del trabajo con grupos y la misma cantidad de estudiantes. El tema de la jornada fue: "Los retos del trabajo social con grupos: limitaciones organizacionales, problemáticas y movilización". La jornada comenzó con una conferencia sobre el tema impartida por nuestro colega Éric Gascon, T.S., y continuó con 7 talleres sobre experiencias prácticas relacionadas con este tema y la presentación de herramientas sobre los grupos abiertos. Esta jornada fue muy valorada por la riqueza de su contenido y las oportunidades para crear redes.

2- Guía de intervención virtual sobre los grupos abiertos: Dado el uso cada vez más frecuente de los grupos abiertos y la escasa documentación al respecto, el Equipo Francófono de la IASWG decidió crear una herramienta virtual especializada. Para desarrollar esta herramienta interactiva, nos basamos en la literatura existente, organizamos grupos focales con profesionales del trabajo social con experiencia en este ámbito y consultamos a colegas de la IASWG. El formato permite a las y los usuarios consultar únicamente las secciones que necesitan, dependiendo de sus intereses, dudas o contexto. Además, es un recurso ideal tanto para la enseñanza académica como para el apoyo directo en la práctica grupal.

Durante nuestra presentación en el Simposio de Madrid (2024), nos pidieron ampliar la difusión de esta herramienta. Para lograrlo, era fundamental traducirla. Este paso fue posible gracias a la contribución de estudiantes de traducción (2025) y a la valiosa colaboración del Comité de Acceso Lingüístico.



Grandir ensemble

VIVRE ET COMPRENDRE
LES DYNAMIQUES DE GROUPE

**CAMP D'EXPÉRIMENTATION
2 AU 4 OCTOBRE 2026**

? Tu travailles en intervention de groupe et tu souhaites approfondir ta pratique?

Ce camp d'expérimentation t'invite à vivre le travail de groupe de l'intérieur, à explorer les dynamiques de groupe et à réfléchir à ta posture d'intervenant à partir de l'expérience vécue.

LIEU
Centre de plein air Fatima,
Notre Dame de l'Île Perrot

OBJECTIFS DU CAMP

- Vivre le groupe de façon expérientielle, dans un cadre structuré et sécurisant
- Partager des compétences, des connaissances et de l'expérience en travail de groupe
- Créer et élargir un réseau de contacts avec d'autres intervenant-e-s

POUR QUI?

Toutes personnes intéressées par l'intervention de groupe.

COÛT

350 \$ CAD
par personne

Prix enfant à venir

RECONNAISSANCE PROFESSIONNELLE
Cette activité est reconnue par l'OTSTCFQ.

INSCRIPTION ET INFORMATION
Pour plus d'information: iaswgchapfranco@gmail.com,
lien d'inscription suivra sous peu.

**+ Un espace pour expérimenter, réfléchir, réseauter...
et grandir ensemble. ♥**

Hoy, además de su versión original en francés, la herramienta ya está disponible en inglés y en español. Nos complace muchísimo compartirla con ustedes. Al ser una herramienta viva, se irá enriqueciendo con el tiempo; el enlace que les compartimos siempre les dará acceso a la versión más actualizada. Esperamos que esta iniciativa inspire a otros equipos a fomentar el intercambio de herramientas y material educativo. Aquí tienen los enlaces:

[Groupes ouverts : un guide d'intervention](#)

[Open groups: an intervention guide](#)

[Grupos abiertos: una guía de intervención](#)

2- Campamento de experimentación (Groupwork Camp)

Por último, les anunciamos la celebración de un campamento de experimentación (Groupwork Camp) bajo el tema "Crecer juntos: Vivir y comprender las dinámicas de grupo". Se llevará a cabo del viernes 2 de octubre al domingo 4 de octubre de 2026, en el Centre de plein-air Fatima, Notre-Dame-de-l'Île-Perrot, Quebec, Canadá. Los detalles de inscripción se enviarán más adelante. Las personas que deseen obtener más información pueden escribir a iaswgchapfranco@gmail.com.

Cabe destacar que el evento se realizará en francés.



The Reconnect Newsletter

Our global group work community isn't the same without you—we'd love to welcome you back to the IASWG circle

We Missed You at IASWG's 2026 International Symposium: A Few Highlights



We truly missed you at this year's IASWG International Symposium, held June 3–5 in beautiful San Juan, Puerto Rico, and generously hosted by the University of Puerto Rico at Río Piedras. Centered on the theme “The Power of Groups: Cultivating Hope, Acknowledging Fears, and Taking Action,” the symposium brought our global groupwork community together for three vibrant days of learning, connection, and shared purpose.

Participants experienced a rich and diverse program featuring more than 45 hour-long sessions, over 25 shorter presentations, student research posters, seven dynamic invitationals, three sponsored plenaries, and an engaging Outstutite. Each session offered something unique—sparking new ideas, deepening understanding, and strengthening professional connections.

A small sampling of presentation topics reflects the depth and creativity of this year's symposium: Teaching with (and about) PhotoVoice to Promote Reflection and Critical Dialogue; The IASWG Standards in Practice: Education and Research; The Power of Festival and Its Place Alongside Group Work; Use of Poetry to Promote Empowerment in Group Work Practice; Latinx Cultural Oppression: Student Struggles in the University Classroom Group; From Probation to Connection: A Peer-Led Support Group for Early-Career Faculty; Practicing Hope in Groups; and REL(OA)TAM: A Model for Digital Inclusion in Later Life, among many others. These conversations highlighted innovation in practice and a shared commitment to growth, inclusion, and meaningful connection.

As a truly international organization, we were honored to welcome participants from across the globe—including Canada, Germany, Lithuania, New Zealand, Nigeria, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom, and across the United States and Puerto Rico. This diversity enriches every IASWG experience and strengthens our collective learning.



The Reconnect Newsletter

Your professional voice matters to us!

And while a written summary can capture highlights, it cannot fully convey the energy in the rooms, the meaningful conversations between sessions, or the connections formed throughout the symposium.

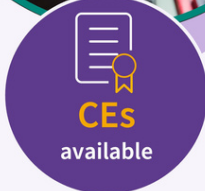
New this year, we are excited to offer a first-time, one-day virtual symposium this fall, featuring a curated selection of presentations from the in-person symposium. This special opportunity will make it possible to experience some of the rich content and insights shared in San Juan, even if you couldn't attend.



One Day
Virtual Professional
Development Institute

The Power of Group Work

Friday, September 18, 2026
7:00am to 4:00pm Eastern Time



**To register, scan this
QR code or visit iaswg.org**

A one-day gathering featuring
educational sessions from group
workers around the world

We would love for you to be part of this next opportunity. IASWG membership comes with valuable perks, including access to events like the upcoming virtual symposium, professional resources, and ongoing connection with a vibrant global network of groupwork practitioners and scholars. To participate in this special fall event, we encourage you to renew your membership.

There is still a place for you here—and we would be truly delighted to welcome you back.

[Renew Your
Membership
Today, or
Invite New
Members!](#)

Rejoin IASWG today and reconnect with group workers worldwide.

Group Work Special Project or Research Funding Available Through our SPARC Grants! Author: Alice Kirk

Are you a group work practitioner, educator, trainer or researcher looking for funding for special projects or research? The IASWG SPARC program may be able to make that happen.

The SPARC program started in 2013 to encourage and empower social group workers to develop projects, training, education and research to advance the IASWG mission. Since then, IASWG has funded 71 SPARC projects, 49 of them with funds totaling \$40,000, across three continents. You must be a current member of IASWG to apply, and applications are reviewed twice a year.

Information about the SPARC program is available here in English, French, German and Spanish.

Recent Awardees Include:

- ***Sunday Ofili Iboror, University of Benin, Nigeria:** Group Interventions in Community Development in Umuebu, Delta State, Nigeria
- ***Nancy Viana, Universidad de Puerto Rico:** Uniendo Islas, Tejiendo Futuros: Trabajo social con grupos en la Escuela Ecológica de Culebra
- ***Joyce Roberson-Steele, Medgar Evers College, New York, US:** Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome (PTSS), Spirituality, and Recovery from Substance Use Disorder Among Older African Americans
- ***Isabel S. Lee, Salem State University, Massachusetts, US:** Promoting Vaccine Confidence through Group- Based Community Engagement: Final Phase of a Mixed-Method Study

Why Reconnect with IASWG?

Unsure about membership? Let's see what current IASWG board members find valuable about membership, as well as how it has supported their professional growth:

"Connections with international colleagues; learning from experts in the field - new skills, their work & research; presenting at symposia: I appreciate the connection with other people who love social group work and the international community in the association."

"Learning with others; growing as a teacher and practitioner; learning about international contexts; learning about groupwork; meetings and joining together brings growth."

"Conocer gente y aprender de otras personas. Feels part of algo."

"Having links with different countries! I wanted to see social work from this point of view. To see and feel the importance of the groups and adopt their perspective and insight into my teaching and investigation."

**Connect with
IASWG**



The Reconnect Newsletter

*Your professional voice matters to us; rejoin IASWG today and
reconnect with group workers worldwide*

Group Work Activity Corner: Identity Crisis **Author: Barbara Muskat**

Welcome to the activity sharing corner of IASWG. We are piloting and sharing group activity ideas that we have used and tested and have been fun and engaging. We invite your contributions to this space and hope we will end up with a great resource for IASWG members. This is the first shared group activity.

I have used this in a group work class, and everyone was engaged and laughed quite a bit!

Identity Crisis: Good for early stages of group, ages 10+

Purpose: A “getting to know you” activity. Low risk and easy to participate.

Equipment needed: Index card and a marker

Instructions: Explain to participants that the purpose of this game to help them get to know one another. The only skill needed is listening.

1. Ask everyone to write their name on an index card
2. Pair up with one person from the group
3. Each of you shares one interesting fact about yourself or something interesting that you have done.
4. After you share, switch index cards. Then move to another person and introduce yourself as the person whose card you now have.
5. Share the information you received as the other person, then once again switch cards.
6. Continue sharing and switching for several more times.
7. Then stop and have people introduce themselves as the person whose card they now have.
8. Then have the person who actually is the name on the card to verify the information.

This works a bit like a broken telephone. This and other similar activities can be found [here](#).

IASWG Committee Connections: We Would Love to Have You

IASWG is a vibrant, volunteer-driven organization built on the passion and engagement of its members. We warmly invite you as a past member to reconnect with our community and explore meaningful ways to get involved again. Whether you have a little time to give or are looking for a deeper level of engagement, our committees offer wonderful opportunities to share your talents, support your professional interests, and help advance the mission of IASWG.

You can learn more about each committee, including their goals, activities, and current chairs—on the IASWG website. Our committees include:

- Budget and Finance
- Chapter Development
- Climate & Ecological Justice
- Commission of Group Work in Social Work Education
- International Committee
- Language Access
- Marketing
- Mutual Aid Action Committee
- Membership Committee
- Nominations and Elections
- Student Participation

We would truly value your voice, experience, and energy. Rejoining a committee is a great way to reconnect with colleagues, contribute to important initiatives, and make a positive impact in our groupwork community. We hope to welcome you back!



The Reconnect Newsletter

The workers in the group are awesome!!!!

Across the Oceans: A Circle of Support

Across oceans, languages, and lands, we gather not as strangers, but as hands. Extended toward one another's story— Seeking dignity more than glory. In circles formed through trust and care, we find that every voice belongs somewhere.

The joys, the wounds, the hopes we bring become the threads from which communities sing. Guided by the spirit of IASWG, we learn that change grows collectively— Not from a single leader standing tall, but from the courage shared among us all. From villages, cities, nations wide, we walk together, side by side.

For social work with groups reminds us of true that humanity is strongest when it includes you. And in each circle, large or small, we discover what connects us all—That justice, compassion, hope, and grace know no border, language, creed, or place.



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

<u>Students</u>	<u>Practitioners</u>	<u>Educators</u>	<u>Organizations</u>
• Professional, international networking • Opportunities for presentation and publication • Mentorship opportunities • Resume building • Reduced membership for two years after graduation • Scholarships to Group Work Camp • Reduced symposium registration	• Connection to a warm, inclusive professional community • International networking • Opportunities for scholarship • Resources for professional growth and support, including local activities • Discounted access to group work journals • SPARC grants • Reduced symposium registration	• Connection to a warm, inclusive professional community • Opportunities for scholarship • International networking • Access to syllabi and other educational resources on the IASWG website • Mentoring opportunities • SPARC grants • Reduced symposium registration	• Connection to an international organization with individual members from four continents • Recognition in the annual symposium program distributed to all participants • Information, logo, and link featured on IASWG website • Reduced symposium advertising rates • Reduced symposium & event registration rates for affiliated non-members (offered at the member rate)

[Renew Your Membership Today, or Invite New Members!](#)

IASWG offers both individual and organizational membership at varying rates depending on geographic region and professional status!

For Questions please visit our website or email membership@iaswg.org

This newsletter is put together by members of the IASWG Membership Committee including Sam Benbow, Georgianna Dolan-Reilly, Barbara Muskat, and Alice Kirk.