



International Association for Social Work with Groups,

# 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 and international levels.

## Leading our Global Organization



Ser'a Godfrey-Kaplan,  
President, USA



Namoonga Chiwallo  
Co- Vice President, South Africa



Kristina Lind,  
Co-Vice President, USA

## Grants Available: Update on the SPARC Organizational Grant

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. IASWG encourages current IASWG members to submit proposals for upcoming review cycles. The winners of the SPARC program are awarded each year at the Symposium in June.

Information about the SPARC program is available in English, French, German and Spanish. [Please see this link link to find out more.](#)

## Be a part of the NEW Art-Based Chapter!!



Join us for a discussion as we launch our newest chapter!

### Arts-Based Interest Group Chapter

Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>  
1:00pm to 2:00pm Eastern Time

For more information, contact Jen Currin-McCulloch at [Jen.Currin-McCulloch@colostate.edu](mailto:Jen.Currin-McCulloch@colostate.edu)

Join us on Zoom at  
<https://zoom.us/j/3391438565>  
Meeting ID: 339 143 8565

Join us for IASWG's new Arts-Based Interest Group Chapter! At the meeting, we will gather ideas about what attendees would like to incorporate into an arts-based chapter, format and frequency of meetings, and other ideas about ways that we can collectively foster community around arts-based group activities. The meeting is free and open to IASWG Members who is interested in arts-based group work. **For more information, please contact Jen Currin-McCulloch at [Jen.currin-mcculloch@colostate.edu](mailto:Jen.currin-mcculloch@colostate.edu)**



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*This newsletter was designed with you in mind* 😊

## 2026 Symposium Call for Proposals is OPEN!

The International Association for Social Work with Groups invites group work students, practitioners, researchers, faculty, administrators, community workers and activists, and group organizers from various professional disciplines, to submit and join as at this exciting event! Proposals may be submitted in English, French, Spanish or German, and sessions at symposium may be conducted in these languages as well. [Submit Your Proposal](#)

### CALL FOR PROPOSALS

## IASWG INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM 2026



📍 University of Puerto Rico at Río Piedras in San Juan, Puerto Rico  
📅 June 3rd through June 5th

### 2026 SYMPOSIUM THEME

## The Power of Groups: Cultivating Hope, Acknowledging Fears, and Taking Action

Group work is increasingly vital. Through group work we engage in building mutual understanding and respect while developing a sense of belonging in a world experiencing waves of negativity and hatred, causing rifts among individuals, groups and communities. Through group work we engage in collective action against injustice, hate, and fears by cultivating hope, understanding, and joy.

**We invite you to share your group work experiences in practice, research, activism, and education in relation to this year's theme.**



### WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

Proposals welcome from group work practitioners, group organizers, administrators, students, researchers, faculty, and activists

- Group work practice from diverse and multicultural populations and settings
- Underserved communities and global perspectives
- Group work in activism, organizing, research, community development, and more!



### SESSION TYPES

- 60-Minute Interactive and Experiential Workshops
- 30-Minute Presentations
- Posters



### KEY DATES

- 60 and 30-Minute Presentation Proposals  
**Due February 21, 2026**
- Poster Proposals  
**Due March 7, 2026**



### LANGUAGES ACCEPTED

Proposals may be submitted in English, French, Spanish, or German.

### CEUs Available!

Coordinated by the Adelphi School of Social Work Continuing Education



International Association for  
Social Work with Groups, Inc.

**TO LEARN MORE AND SUBMIT  
YOUR PROPOSAL ONLINE**  
[www.iaswg.org/2026-symposium](http://www.iaswg.org/2026-symposium)

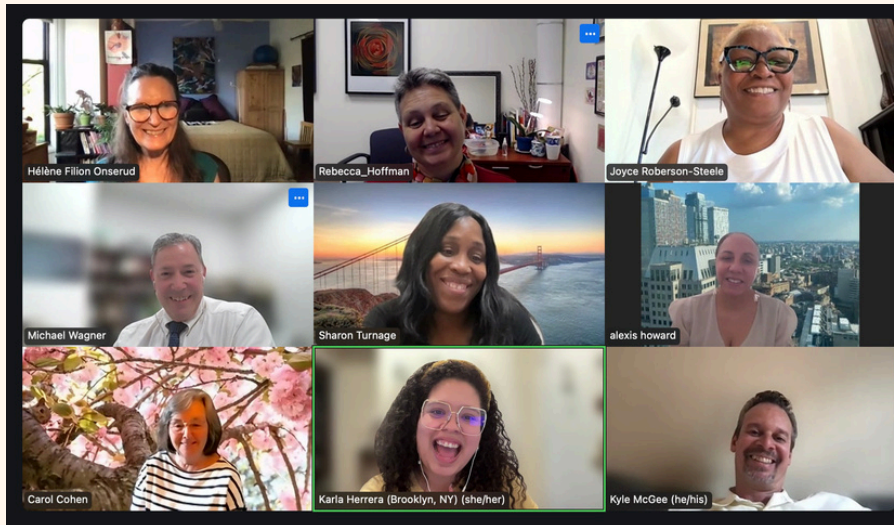




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Regional, language, and interest chapters are an integral part of IASWG and open to all members, with many offering in-person and/or virtual meetings and trainings. This is a screen shot of the NYC Red Apple Chapter gathering during the 2025 Virtual symposium.

## Join IASWG's newest committee for Climate and Ecological Justice!

On February 6, 2025, the International Social Work Group on Ecological Justice (ISWGEJ), one of many mutual aid initiatives within IASWG, hosted an international webinar on group work and climate justice, bringing together nearly 100 global practitioners, educators, students, and activists. The event offered a space to build awareness and explore how social group work can serve as a catalyst for meaningful climate and environmental action.

The energy from this event led to the creation of the IASWG Climate and Ecological Justice Committee, co-led by Hélène Filion Onserud and Dr. Andrew Spaumer. The committee advances climate and ecological justice in group work practice, education, and leadership, in response to the growing impact of the climate crisis on practitioners and those we work with. All IASWG members are invited to participate and join the committee. The next meeting will be held on January 19 (time TBD). [For more information about the committee, including how to join please click here.](#)

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!**



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## Membership Update

As the 2025 year closes, here are a few highlights we thought would be of interests to know:

Our Yearly Symposia are a Truly Global Gathering - The 2025 virtual symposium brought together 260 participants from 24 countries, highlighting the global relevance of group work. With participants engaging in English, French, and Spanish, the event offered a rich, dynamic exchange of ideas, ensuring meaningful takeaways for all. The 2024 Annual Symposium was held in-person in Madrid, Spain

Quarterly Membership Meet Ups Helps us stay in Touch and Learn New Strategies: in 2025 we established Quarterly Membership Meet Ups for our entire membership. Dates and times for 2026 will be posted on IASWG website at the start of the new year.

Group Work Camp Held In-Person in Lithuania: The IASWG Lithuania chapter invited members to attend their 2025 European Group Work Camp in October. Attendees from across the globe spent 4 days together strengthening their relationships and skills.

Pictured here are IASWG members sharing a moment of connection at the 2024 Symposium in Spain. This interactive activity sparked stories, laughter, and meaningful connections among participants. We hope to reconnect with you through similar experiences soon!



Connect with  
IASWG



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