



Special Interest Groups for Social Work with Groups

Conveners:

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From 2004 to 2014:

Joining Together



Symposium/ Session Abstract

- Experiences with groups around the world suggest that members and their communities desire opportunities promised by group participation. Group membership appears central to human experience and the promotion of social justice. However, while the power of groups is indisputable, people who work with diverse groups rarely have the opportunity to talk with each other about the connections, challenges, joys and demands they encounter.
- We have proposed this Special Interest Group session to draw World Conference attendees who are organizers, facilitators and/or members of groups across disciplines. We will discuss the experiences of participants, and if appropriate, develop preliminary ideas for ongoing networking and promoting group interventions and activities to build sustainable societies.
- Based on our experiences with past special interest groups, including in Adelaide (2004 World Congress), Munich (2006 World Congress), Bonn (2011 United Nations DPI/NGO Conference), and Stockholm (2012 World Conference), these sessions provide a less formal venue for participants to focus on their work and support each other as they share struggles and accomplishments.

Proposed Session Discussion

- Welcome to Our Session Today: Joining Together
- Introductions (Please Sign the Attendance Roster)
 - Names, affiliations, groupwork highlight
- Opportunities and Challenges in Groupwork
 - Issues we face in our practice and education in groupwork
- Building and Sustaining our Connections
 - Networking strategies for communication
 - Resource sharing
 - Research, practice and teaching collaborations
 - Planning for 2016 World Conference in Seoul, Korea
- Closing and Next Steps (Time For Our Photo)
 - How did we come together today?
 - What are our next steps for moving forward?

Adelaide, Australia (World Confernece) 2004



Adelaide 2004



Munich, Germany (IFSW) 2006



Durban, South Africa (World Conference 2008)



Stockholm, 2014



Additional Special Interests Group in Social Groupwork

- Parma, Italy (European Social Work Conference), 2007
- Bonn, Germany (United Nations NGO DPI Conference), 2011

**OTHER SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS IN
OTHER VENUES? WHAT IS NEXT?**

Upcoming Conferences

- **International Association for Social Work with Groups (IASWG, Formerly AASWG):**
June 2015, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, United States: www.iaswg.org
- **European Group Work Symposium:**
2015 Dates and Venues to be Arranged:
<http://www.whitingbirch.net/>
- **IFSW, IASSW, ICSW Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Deveopment 2016** Seoul, Korea, June 27-30
<http://www.swsd2016.org/>

OTHER IDEAS AND CONTACTS?

Connections

- **International Social Work Skills Network:**
Contact: Pam Trevithick, University of Bristol
Pam.trevithick@bristol.ac.uk
- **International Association for Social Work with Groups (IASWG)** Formerly Association for the Advancement of Social Work with Groups (AASWG): www.iaswg.org
- **Global Group Work Project:**
www.globalgroupworkproject.com

OTHER IDEAS AND CONTACTS?

Thank You!!

We look forward to our continuing work together as groupwork practitioners, educators and scholars, and most of all to expand benefits of effective group participation by members and communities internationally.

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