

## **Local practice and the global agenda for social work**

In 2010, at a joint conference in Hong Kong, the three major international social work organisations, IASSW, IFSW and ICSW launched a consultation process for their draft Global Agenda for social work. The consultation is intended to promote discussion about the meaning, aims and scope of social work and the validity of social work as an international profession.

The outcome is to be a Global Agenda that can be agreed as the way forward for social work for the next ten years. It will be formally accepted at the next tri-partite conference in June 2012 and will be presented to the United Nations.

The international consultation includes a focus on the connections between local and global problems and how social work practice is both shaped by international policy but also influences it. The consultation asks social workers to consider the adoption of strategies at the local level. The workshop will invite participants to contribute to this process and build on feedback from social work students from UK Universities.

Between December 2010 and March 2011 members of the JUCSWEC International Committee have been exploring the Global Agenda with students and colleagues, using questions designed by committee members. The workshop leaders will invite feedback on the points raised and will lead a discussion on how it can be developed further.

The Global Agenda includes global and local themes of social and economic inequalities, human dignity, environmental and community sustainability and the importance of human relationships. The workshop will engage participants in a critical discussion of potential strategies, at local, national and international levels, which could be developed to assert a global praxis for social work and a critical pedagogy for the new social work curriculum.