



International Network for School Social Work

<http://internationalnetwork-schoolsocialwork.htmlplanet.com>

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Resources for 2007

There are many free resources to help school social workers plan programs and interventions. The World Wide Web now makes it easy for busy school social workers to use professionally gathered data, research, resources, materials and networks. Here are some websites that can help you decide where to put your efforts, influence decision-making and plan interventions.

Each year **UNICEF** focuses its report on a different aspect of children's needs. For 2007 "*The State of the World's Children 2007* (<http://www.unicef.org/sowc07/>) examines the discrimination and disempowerment women face throughout their lives – and outlines what must be done to eliminate gender discrimination and empower women and girls. It looks at the status of women today, discusses how gender equality will move all the Millennium Development Goals forward, and shows how investment in women's rights will ultimately produce a double dividend: advancing the rights of both women and children."

Visiting this interactive website offers inspiring ideas about empowering girls. The website makes it easy for you to produce customized statistical tables for your country of indicators that affect children including child protection, health, education and the status of women. It even has a Youth Centre you can use with your pupils at <http://www.unicef.org/sowc07/youth/youth.php>.

More detailed information about the status of children in your country can probably be obtained. For example in the US, Kidscount <http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/sld/databook.jsp> provides in depth data about children's lives state by state, including how indicators have changed over several years. Using these data school social workers can produce customized reports of the needs of schoolchildren in their state.

The Center for Mental Health in Schools, located at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), <http://smhp.psych.ucla.edu/> is a school mental health project that offers an easy to use website with an enormous selection of resources, databases, free materials, quarterly newsletter and networking, as well as technical assistance by e-mail.

International Alliance for Child and Adolescent Mental Health and Schools <http://www.intercamhs.org/> is a relatively new international alliance that aims to promote the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people. Membership is free and it is easy to join online. INTERCAMHS has members from 35 countries and membership is growing rapidly. INTERCAMHS brings together a wide range of professionals from all over the world, each with

their own expertise and experience. It is important for school social workers to join INTERCAMHS in order to provide social work expertise, values and skills to the Alliance. The Alliance provides resources, promotes linkages and publicizes national and international mental health conferences.

Reaching out to new contacts

I recently wrote to social work associations in countries where we do not have any school social work contacts and am slowly receiving information and developing contacts. I found confirmation that there are social workers in schools in Luxembourg and France, serving secondary schools. In Luxembourg, school social work was officially started in 2001, and there are now 20 school social workers in a country of only 451,700 people. In France some municipalities, such as Paris, place social workers in elementary schools as well as in secondary schools.

We now have information about school social work in 40 countries. In several of these countries, the program is small or in early stages of development and it is sometimes difficult to maintain contact with a representative who can continue to gather information about the status of school social work in their country. In spite of this, the International Network is growing and making possible communication with colleagues around the world. The Report on the status of school social work around the world in 2006 is ready. If you have not received a copy and would like me to send it to you, you can write to me at mhuxtable@olympus.net.

In Bulgaria, there are pedagogical advisors in schools who are either psychologists or social workers. The President of the National Association of Social Workers of Uganda writes that the professional association would like to see school social work developed in Uganda. The President of the Association of Social Workers of Kyrgyz Republic would like to see school social work introduced into the social work curriculum at the Bishkek Humanistic University.

Conference website

You can visit the Third International School Social Work conference online, read about the topics presented and see photographs of the participants at the [Third International School Social Work Conference](#). Our next international school social work conference will be in New Zealand in 2007.

NASWE Annual Conference

The conference will be held on 12th and 13th April 2007 at St. Giles Hotel, London. The focus is on access and inclusion of all vulnerable children. NASWE hopes to publish a conference journal and would welcome research or evaluated projects on the topic. If you are interested in participating either by presenting a workshop or paper or by attending, contact <mailto:stephen.mason@cumbriacc.gov.uk> and visit <http://www.NASWE.org.uk>.

SSWAA Annual Conference

All are welcome to attend the 10th annual conference of the School Social Work Association of America. It will be held April 18 – 21, 2007 in Orlando, Florida. The brochure and details of keynote speakers and three days of workshops with many topics are available at <http://www.sswaa.org/conf/2007ConfBrochure.PDF>. The workshops will contain practical approaches that can be adapted to schools in all countries.