



# World News

Winter 2019/20

## 60 years C.I.F.



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Rotterdam, The Netherlands!

The Council of International Fellowship Magazine

## From the Editor's Corner

Dear CIF members and friends,

One more year has passed and getting ready for the holidays. Again a very full and difficult year for the entire world – refugees, immigrants, expatriates, have really been challenged this year. Mono-cultural countries have become multicultural, mono-language countries have become multilingual and the changes are still going on in a quick and rapid pace. The economic crisis of 2013-18 has escalated into something different, not to say that it added another component. People and nations try to catch up with all this evolution, but it is not easy. We all need to change the ways we think, we live, we work and we feel in order to manage all the challenges we have to face day after day. The most difficult part is that even though you work all day, you try your best it seems that it is never enough. There is always this “other” thing you need to do to succeed.

Our CIF conference in St Malo this summer was very informative, gave us a lot of insight in many issues, and gave us the opportunity to expand our knowledge, to network with all the participants who were from all over the world, to share our concerns, but also good practice. We came away with a barrel full of new ideas, energy and willingness to fight for the benefit of the society, for the needy, for the ones who need our help to survive. We talked about joint projects, to get together with the university professors and create exchange programs which will offer trainings and expertise in our service professions. We talked about ways to get into European Project Funding so as to enable us to run these programs in the most effective way.

Apart from the work, the fellowship and friendship among all participants grew. We saw a nice revitalizing spirit of how to try and attract more people to join our CIF, make them see the benefits of being members of this international organization and how important networking and exchange programs are for the continuous professional development of our professions all over the world.

Dear CIF members, coming back from an international professional conference in Seville, Spain I had the chance to meet and



by Maria Christopoulou,  
Editor, World News

be with people from all over the world who for once were not all in the service professions like us, but mostly in technology, advancements, managerial, leadership and marketing areas. It was so refreshing to discuss things with people who think differently than you as they are in a different domain of practice and doings. Nevertheless, there were so many similar points and so interesting ways of seeing things from the perspective of others that really made me think twice on many things I had a completely different view due to the upbringing and the way we live in Cyprus. The end result is that we all learn from each other, we all are able to give and take and this is what helps the world move on and become a better place for us and our children.

This new edition of World News, is the first that is going to be only online (electronic version). It is a very nice edition with new and very interesting articles from all over the world. The content of this World News is rich in information, in sharing experiences, in building bridges and showing how CIF networking is moving along in a successful way.



It is with great pleasure and satisfaction

that I address this editorial to you all once more. My experience as the editor of the World News for CIF International always excites me as it opens up my horizons regarding our multicultural status, and gives me a lot of joy to be always learning more and more about people around me with my main concern – SERVICE ABOVE SELF. CIF fellowship has expanded worldwide, and the connectivity among its

members and friends is unbelievable. All and each one of us is important and can make a difference to bring only happiness, love and smiles to all people on earth.

**SEASONS GREETINGS and HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL**

Maria Christopoulou, CIF Cyprus  
World News Editor

## CIF International President's Message

Dear Friends of CIF

Best wishes to you, your families and dear persons for the New Year.

I hope the best in a peace world for 2020

I want to thank you for re-electing our entire Executive Committee (EC) team. We will continue to serve you in solidarity for the next two years.

We had another very strong time together in Saint Malo. It may be difficult for me to be objective, but I think it was a nice conference. I thank the CIF France team, which fully organized this conference. We are all volunteers, but it was a professional job.

The theme allowed us to take stock of the evolution of professions in the social field. New management is not comfortable for anyone and calls into question the basics of social action. Human contact, continually challenged within these companies, leaves a number of people on the roadside. Ken Loach's film, *I Daniel Blake*, illustrates this. I thank Mr. Ken Loach for his attention to our conference by sending us a letter. The conference was a great moment of conviviality, professional and friendly meetings because it is also the life of CIF.



Mireille Boucher,  
President CIF International

The development of CIF is one of our priorities; and the CIF 2028 working group is in action and looking for good practices to evolve our association.

Let's continue to grow in the middle of a tormented world: the climate, the impoverishment of some and violence. We have values of peace and solidarity, and we put them into practice. The work continues. New programs will be proposed in 2020 by our CIF branches offering young helping professionals and others the opportunity to participate and continue to develop CIF.

Thank you all for these beautiful moments, and we will meet again in 2021 at the CIF International Conference in India. Have a nice end to the year and build together beautiful projects in 2020. Our EC team is at your side, and I confirm my esteem and my confidence in building the future in peace and respect for everyone.

*Amitiés de France*

## Committee CIF 2028 reports progress

CIF International's Board of Directors (BD) decided at its meeting in 2017 to appoint the **Committee CIF 2028**, to look at the future of CIF in a changing world. The work was entrusted to Ya-Chuan Hsu (Taiwan and Switzerland), Lisa Purdy (CIF USA), Margit Randaru (Estonia) and Mieke Weeda (Netherlands), with Elisabeth Fischbacher Schrobiltgen (Switzerland) as convener.

The Committee undertook a survey of the national branches and the contact persons, covering six subjects: International Professional Exchange Programs (IPEPs), conferences, publicity, CIF as an organization, its finances and environment. The Committee CIF 2028 analysed the responses (almost 70 percent of the questionnaires were sent back), and presented the results at the BD meeting in August 2018

**The BD then clearly decided upon the goals: CIF in 2028 will be –**

- the relevant international professional exchange organization (not an alumni organization)
- building bridges through fostering intercultural relationships, promoting and encouraging tolerance and understanding = acceptance, and peace
- offering programs for professional and personal development
- covering social work and related fields
- a learning organization itself.

**The BD also formed two small working groups on**

- Communication
- Standards and the Quality of International Professional Exchange Programs.

By November 2018 the goals, tasks, functioning and members for both groups were determined. The groups worked by different means; met once separately as groups face to face in Taiwan and in Estonia, and they each wrote a feedback report.

**Feedback from the Communication Working Group**

The group was led by Szu Hui Ema Huang (Taiwan). The members were Leo Heikkilä (Finland), Ying Hao Huang (Taiwan), Adsule Jalinder (India), and Kristina Weinsjö (Sweden).

They clearly differentiated between internal and external communication and proposed a number of steps to intensify internal communication. This would lead to a better recognition of the work of the organization internally and from outside.

**Suggested first steps:**

- Redesign of the CIF International website. To achieve this, the needs of national branches have to be identified. Among other things there should be a page for employers. Design, links, content and visual attractiveness should be made better.
- In the near future it should be possible to hold BD and other meetings through technical means such as Zoom and not just face to face. The first time could be in order to agree upon the design of the new website,

By Elisabeth Fischbacher Schrobiltgen, convener

for the approval of the annual report and the accounts 2019 by May 31, 2020. (The BD meeting 2020 only takes place in November 2020).

- Every national branch should appoint a person for social media management, not only so that the Executive Committee has direct access to the responsible person, but also to increase the work capacity of the whole organization in this respect.

The responsibility for this future work lies with the EC and David Scheele, in conjunction with Szu Hui Ema Huang and a small working group.

**Feedback from Standards and Quality of IPEPs Working Group**

The group was led by Dorte Feierabend (Germany). Its members were Carolina Dominguez and Carolina Grudzien (Argentina), Bhavna Mehta (India), Margit Randaru (Estonia), Mirella Saari (Finland) and Yaffi Wollman (Israel). The report of the group came as a report accompanying a draft of a revised Manual for IPEPs. For this important area different discussions are needed, and decisions need to be taken by the BD. Documents such as the evaluation form, host family manual, and application form need to be harmonized, and if possible shortened: in effect, revised. A small group has been entrusted with this work: IPEP coordinator and member of the EC of CIF International, Margit Randaru, and Dorte Feierabend, for the contents; Elisabeth Fischbacher Schrobiltgen, assisted by Paul Dolan, for editing work. By early 2020 the draft documents should be ready for the national branches to comment on. Subsequently the BD 2020 should be able to adopt them.

**The next steps**

For the Committee CIF 2028, for both working groups and in particular for the national branches a lot remains to be done and needs a careful follow up. The Committee 2028 is assessing these tasks, looking at what has been done and what needs to be developed further. Mieke Weeda has resigned and has been replaced by Tina Trygg from Sweden. The other members of the Committee remain: Ya-Chuan Hsu, Lisa Purdy, Margit Randaru and Elisabeth Fischbacher Schrobiltgen as convener.

**To conclude, so far, so encouraging –**

The Board of Directors appreciated that within one year, out of 18 specific proposals, many were already realised (the report at the BD meeting 2018 gives more details). In summary:

1. Based on 2018 adopted goals for CIF in 2028 the two working groups have shown practical results (see above).
2. New criteria for working groups, "intergenerational, intercultural, representing diversity, nevertheless small," have been well implemented.
3. All national branches realise that they continuously need to recruit more members and that they have to decide themselves what is a realistic number for them. Several national branches plan concrete

campaigns.

4. Cooperation between national branches is showing progress: There has been a meeting of the Baltic national branches and Norway. Cooperation between Austria, Germany and Switzerland regarding applications is agreed. The goal of this and other proposals is that all places offered in CIF IPEPs are filled with qualified participants.

- For better cooperation within German speaking countries a mini-IPEP in Vienna in fall 2020 was suggested. Participants from German speaking countries would be invited.

- Diversification between IPEPs regarding themes, length, language, with or without field placement, are taking place in some national branches, but differences need to be identified more clearly.

- Definitional issues regarding "social work and closely related fields" will be brought by Lisa Purdy and Elisabeth Fischbacher Schrobiltgen into the revised IPEP Manual.

- Raising employers' interest in supporting participation in

IPEPs is to be addressed with a revised website and IPEP Manual.

- The development of a new application form is on hold until questions of data protection and the redesign of the website are clarified.

5. Tightly focused BD-meetings, with a minimum of 2-3 half-day workshops, was done well and is to continue.

6. Unclear situation of CIF International regarding finances has been settled.

- Annual report 2018 has been presented in a way which can be used for fundraising and is to be continued.

- Financial planning 2019-2020 is to continue.

- Guidelines for fundraising are developed by Elisabeth Fischbacher Schrobiltgen.

## INVITATION

### SYMPOSIUM 60 YEARS BUILDING BRIDGES TOWARDS PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING.

**C**ome and celebrate 60 years CIF from Friday July 3 till Sunday July 5, 2020 in Rotterdam, The Netherlands! In 2020 CIF International exists 60 years. Time to celebrate! That's why the CIF branch of The Netherlands decided to organise a symposium for all interested CIF members to celebrate this anniversary together, to enjoy and of course also to learn a bit.

CIF's anniversary coincides with the remembrance of 75 years of freedom after the Second World War. Rotterdam suffered extremely by extensive bombing at the start of the war, which caused the Dutch government to surrender. After the war, Rotterdam started the rebuilding and healing process, which is clearly visible in its modern architecture. That is the reason CIF Netherlands thought this city is most appropriate to hold the symposium. Moreover, Rotterdam is the port from which the first CIP/CIF participants left for the USA to participate in Dr. Henry Ollendorff's international exchange program. As a matter of fact, they left from the same quay where now the hotel is situated where the symposium will be held, the Nhow Hotel at the Wilhelmina kade 137, Rotterdam.

The devastation of Europe during the Second World War, was one of the reasons for Henry to develop CIP/CIF. He wanted to build bridges between the nations and its people. He spoke of hope: "hope for freedom, hope for peace, hope for security, but freedom is the greatest of them". He did this to give us the opportunity to experience a new world, a

different culture, a new approach to social work and a more democratic way to help those who needed us. We all profited from his endeavours.

The theme of the symposium will be the effect of wars and the upheaval it causes to many lives and what the rebuilding after the war is about.

During the symposium we offer you a program in which we will address the devastation of Rotterdam, the suffering and perseverance of the people and the rebuilding of the city. We will relate this to the effects of the wars all over the world right now and the mass migration movements. We also will address its effects and changes on the social cohesion, social work, and its political effects in our societies.

Of course there will also be a lot of time for you to meet and enjoy yourself. We will show you the beautiful

city of Rotterdam, much of which you will also be able to see from your hotel window.

**NEDERLANDS**

You may register for the Symposium from now on until the first of March 2020. The registration form is included in the mail of the CIF World News and is also sent to all presidents of the CIF Branches and CIF contact persons, who all will be asked to forward it to all their members. You can also find the registration form on the websites of CIF The Netherlands, CIF International and CIPUSA.

The cost of the Symposium from Friday 14.00 h. till Sunday after lunch are € 399,00 for a double room and € 499,00 for a single room. Besides the hotel room, This also includes all meals, tempting coffee breaks, the symposium and a tour.

We hope to welcome you all on July 3 2020!!

On behalf of CIF Netherlands,

Mieke Weeda,

President

<https://cifnetherlands.nl/nl/home/>

<http://www.cifinternational.com>

<https://www.cipusa.org>



The building where the hotel is situated

## Highlights of the 33<sup>rd</sup> CIF International Conference from the Conference Grantees

CIF International gives conference grants to branch presidents, their representatives and to contact persons to attend to the CIF conferences. CIF has guidelines for the grants. The financial situation of the applicant is taken into consideration. The Executive Committee (EC) takes care of the application process and decides who get the grants.

This time 16 applications came and seven of the applicants were given a grant for the conference fee. Three of them also got money for travel costs.

All the grantees have sent their report.

**We have gathered some highlights by quoting the reports:**

First of all, some mention that the financial grant was essential for them to be able to attend the conference.

The first time in CIF conference or also the first time attending the Board of Directors meeting has been a great opportunity.

The conference was a great encounter with CIF friends and colleagues from different countries all over the world: meeting CIF friends, making new friends, different cultures and backgrounds, the great French team. Magical landscape, agency visits and the memorable visit to Mont Saint Michel. The list is long.

Many grantees mention the well-planned conference agenda; lectures were amazing. Some mention language barriers.

The theme of the conference was timely: The social and economic crisis impact in the labour market and in people's daily life. So it is good to know more

In the conference it was possible to make a contribution to the discussions of socially significant issues on development in social work and the international professional cooperation in it now days. The fact that people from different countries, different generations,

**By Merja Niemelä, EC member at large**

different experiences came to the conference gives special meaning to other discussions. It was possible to see new horizons for the development of CIF projects in one's own country.

One mentions that we are ready to think together and develop new forms of the exchange of professional knowledge and professional experience, to solve the tasks that the social workers community faces today taking into account the development of internet technologies and new communication tools.

It was a great opportunity to analyze the social policies between countries.

Another grantee mentions to have learned techniques of implementing programs which help persons to actually participate and get involved without the obstacles of bureaucracy. In general the conference enriched the ideas for one's job and strengthened opinions that: **Persons are coming First!**

Also the main aim to establish a CIF branch became clearer and easier.

**And to conclude by the words of a grantee:**

"I have learnt in conference the diverse cultures from many countries while mixing up in the room sharing, while having breakfast, lunch and dinner. During field visits and in our leisure time. It is connected so deeply now it's unforgettable. How we could open up ourselves. No fear no barriers, no rich no poor, just CIF participants. It was a wonderful feeling."

### Ken Loach film

By Sonia PANAFIEU,  
CIF France member

## I, DANIEL BLAKE created a moment of great emotion

Like many previous conferences, this 33rd International Conference in St Malo, France was rich, marked by strong moments: work sessions (lectures and workshops of high quality), social time (music and dance during the opening and closing ceremonies), the pleasure of reunions and new encounters, cultural discoveries (the City of St Malo and its story, the visit of the tourist highlight: Mont St Michel...). All the ingredients were there to leave beautiful memories. Even the sun remained with us until the last moment.

But there was a strong moment that will remain in my memory, as I am sure, with other participants as well. It was the screening of Ken Loach's film, I, DANIEL BLAKE. The film was chosen to illustrate the impact of New Public Management and it achieved its goal perfectly. It showed us how the changes, combined with the digital revolution, have

contributed to the de-humanization of the relations between public services and citizens.

The new contact point for citizens claiming their rights is a computer, with voicemail to help if necessary. The administration time required to process a request is not commensurate with the needs of the person in social and financial difficulties.

The characters in the film touched us, judging by the red eyes of both men and women at the end of the screening.

Hurrah to Ken Loach. He is a great director, and in view of all his filmography, a humanist director. The choice of this film was particularly relevant.



# Souvenirs from St Malo . . . .

"Feed your body well, your soul will stay there longer."

Breton proverb

*You can do it!!*

250 gr wheat flour  
50 gr melted butter  
Half of a liter of milk  
3 eggs  
1 packet of yeast  
1 pinch of salt

(For 12 pancakes)

In a bowl, mix flour and salt.

Pour the milk in slowly, beating all the while.

Then, add the melted butter and eggs.

Let the batter stand 30 or 45 minutes in the refrigerator.

Grease a crepe pan with a knob of butter and pour a ladle of dough.

Cook 2 minutes per side.

Spread with jam or salted caramel...

Don't forget to share your experience in the next CIF World News!



## INDIA SHARES MEMOIRS OF 33<sup>rd</sup> CIF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN SAINT MALO

It was indeed a great opportunity to attend the CIF board of directors meeting and the 33<sup>rd</sup> CIF International conference held at the Varangot Centre in Saint Malo, France. At Saint Malo, as legend goes the city of 'corsairs,' one gets the glimpses of changing light over the Atlantic Ocean, the sandy expanse and the ancient wall of a historic place. Theme was *Market Economy and New Public Management in Social Field, impacts and alternatives*.

Ms. Mireille Boucher, president CIF International and Ms. Margaret Longuevre, vice-president, CIF France welcomed the participants. The keynote address was delivered by Ms. Levillain, deputy mayor of Saint Malo followed by a short presentation by Mr. Herve Coulouarnon the city of Saint Malo.

Marc Humbert, emeritus professor University of Rennes in his keynote lecture spoke on *New Public Management, philosophical and anthropological foundations*. He elaborated on the concept of convivialism and its relevance. It was indeed a new learning for me.

Roland Janvier, ex-director general of the Foundation Masse Trevidy (Finistere) spoke extensively on *Market Logic as regulation of the offer in social action: An inept practice for working with and for others*.

**WORKSHOPS:** As there were six workshops and the participants were asked to choose any two. I decided to opt

for Workshop No. 3 and No. 6.

The theme of the Workshop No. 3 was *Heritage and Transmission, expressing our professional knowledge*. Martine Trapon a social worker shared her experiences and emphasised the advocacy and the importance of the role of professional workers and making a difference in the life of people.

The theme of the Workshop No. 6 was *Creativity and Social Work*. Mr. Antoinette Le Pomellec, France and Ms. Vanesa Santos Casado, Spain presented their ideas before the audience.

Antoinette Le Pomellec shared the initiative of his organisation – the Association Le Café Joyeux, which helps people with mental and cognitive disabilities to integrate into society by offering them work in an ordinary environment.

Vanesa Santos Casado, social worker working in a Spanish prison shared her experiences, knowledge and skills, and explained how one can be creative and make a difference. She stated that creativity plays an essential role in improving the life conditions of the people in need. The prison she spoke about is situated close to nature and the social worker there uses animal assisted therapy such as dogs, bird migration observation, gardening and a radio

### INDIA

Report by  
Ratnakar Khaire,  
president CIF India



**Musicians on board ship at farewell dinner with Ratnakar Khaire**

station. It was an informative and interesting workshop. The concepts of creativity and its relevance and use in social work was made amply clear to participants. In order to make the concept of creativity clear to everyone, Ms. Vanesa asked the audience to express their emotions by drawing a tree and use different colours. Further, she showed the participants, 11 photographs of eminent women such as Marie Curie, Mary Richmond, Miriam Makeba, Rosa Parks, Amelia Earhart, Maria Callas, Jane Goodall, Dolores Ibarruri, Jane Addams, Rigoberta Menchu and Virginia Woolf, and explained the contributions they have made in the lives of people.

**A film, *Moi, Daniel Blake*:** The film portrays the life of a protagonist named Daniel Blake, a 59 year old carpenter who suffers a major heart attack at work. He is advised by the doctors to rest a while, but instead he fights the bureaucratic forces of the system in order to receive his support allowances due to him. The story sums

up a struggle of an ordinary man for his frugal life.

**Eric Pliez:** General director of Association Aurore and president of SAMU SOCIAL made a presentation on



**Ratnakar Khaire and Jane Ollendorff**

*Creativity and Innovation in a context of Management Constraints: What conditions to achieve it.* The presentation was relevant and well received by the participants.

**Alice Casagrande:** Director of training, innovation and associative life department at FEHAP presented on *Grounding Management on real people voices*, a critical perspective following the partners in knowledge experience. This was very interesting session based on practical experience in a hospital setting. She touched the topic of work conditions, ethical issues and care of vulnerable populations. The session emphasised the importance of *Life long Training, Home visit and observation in depth.*

**Michel Chauviere:** Emeritus researcher and sociologist at CNRS presented on *Trade*



**Left to right: Frank Ollendorff, Ratnakar Khaire, Dorothy Faller**



*Ratnakar Khaire and Frank Ollendorff at Mont Saint Michele*

**Expertise and Transmission: New contexts, new challenges.**

The author covered very important points of transmission of values in professional schools. He observed that the training centres forget the transmission of social thinking in order to move towards employability, and thus social work is slowly losing its meaning and ideas, and becoming a labour enterprise.

**Agency Visit:** A field visit was paid at Banque Alimentaire De Saint Malo. This organisation is doing wonderful work on collecting and distributing food to disadvantaged people. It is very important to use the food products and resources in a judicious and systematic manner and to avoid waste.

**Site seeing Le Mont Saint Michel:** Mont Saint Michel is a village located on a tiny island off the coast of Normandy, in France. Surrounded by the Mont Saint Michel Bay, the site is a tidal island: part of the land at low tide, but an island at high tide. Previously called the 'Mont Tombe', its current name comes from the St. Michel Abbey (built in the 8th century), which is one of the several historical buildings on the site. It belongs to the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites (since 1979), and is nicknamed 'the Wonder of the West'. The CIF France Team had organised this trip at Le Mont Saint Michel. It was a memorable visit. I was encouraged to visit Le Mont Saint Michel by Frank Ollendorff and my CIF France friend.

**Nations Market:** I attended the Nations Market which was held in the Varangot Centre. I was happy to buy a few souvenirs and products made by different nationals. It was interesting to know the concept of Nations Market from CIF friend, Gabi. The idea behind organising Nation Market is to bring the products, eatable, goods, souvenirs, etc. from

home country and to display and sell them during designated time at the conference. The proceeds of sales goes to CIF International as a contribution including the capital cost and moreover that is a contribution from CIF friends from all over the world.

**Dinner & Farewell party in Etoile du Roy:** The farewell party was a big surprise. An elaborate party was arranged on a boat with music and dance and an array of drinks, fruits and sumptuous dinner. This was an experience of a life time with our CIF International friends.

**Conclusion:** In my capacity as the president of CIF India, I attended the CIF International BD meeting and made a presentation on the proposed 34<sup>th</sup> CIF International Conference in India. I was well prepared and wanted to understand the points of view. During the deliberations, so many valuable suggestions were given by CIF friends with regard to the dates and nitty gritty of the proposed conference. CIF International friends are eager to visit India. It was also suggested to have cost-effective and affordable stay arrangements for the participants. Moreover, the CIF friends visiting India wish to understand the culture, religions, and social systems prevailing in true India and further wish to focus on issues and problems and the solutions thereof. They look forward to a study of the social work education and social work practices in India.

**The Seeds of Peace that were sown by Late Dr. Henry B. Ollendorff, six decades back have taken their roots, bearing the flowers and fruits and transformed into a full grown Tree. Let us carry the torch of peace forward and strive to keep this Tree alive and flowering and bearing the Fruits.**

## Upcoming events,

1. Executive Committee and Board of Directors meeting will be held on 10th November- 15th November 2020 in Marrakech , Morocco.
2. 34th International CIF Conference will organize by CIF India in Jaipur in 2021.

## Italian participated in CIF India PEP – a very different culture

# ITALY

By Barbara Ferrero,  
CIF Italy

I learned about CIF Italy by chance. For some time, I had felt the need to confront myself with an experience abroad, particularly in the field of social work. When I attended the CIF Peace Project Meeting in Rome, September 2018, I understood that I had found my place!!

Besides meeting a lot of interesting people, I realized that there was the possibility of cultural exchanges for social workers abroad, and so...in January 2019 I left for three weeks in Mumbai, to participate in the CIF India Programme. I chose the country of India because I wanted to know a place that was very different from mine in terms of culture, the way of working and the way of living...and so it was!!

It was a strong experience: exciting and rich, both from the personal and professional point of view. It was strong because at the beginning I understood the meaning of "leaving your comfort area." Everything sounded odd and curious... slowly I had to learn a lot of things about Indian culture and then I settled very well. First of all, I noticed that local people move their heads, side to side in a swinging movement. Everywhere heads are shaking and you don't know what the meaning is, especially when you are asking something to someone... the answer could be yes, no, maybe or thank you!!? The most interesting thing that I found about "swinging heads" is that it is a very spontaneous sign of respect and it was also very funny for me.

At the beginning, I also felt a strong impact going around the street of Mumbai by taxi, by tuk tuk, on foot or by public transport. The first day that I got on a tuk tuk it was like being on "bumper cars." All vehicles sounded the horns and it seemed that



*Barbara Ferrero  
and Ratnakar Khaire*

there were no road rules. Apparently, everyone gets on you. In reality, all drivers are very good and fast and you always get safely to your destination.

I was very happy that I also experienced the local trains. I was in different stations, crowded or less crowded; I was in mixed or female compartments and every time I had to jump out the train and into the train, pushing someone (local trains don't have doors). I can say that in every moment, in the street, on foot, by train or by tuk tuk I felt a very strong and powerful energy. I had never seen so many people together in the same place!! I liked to see the local people for their colourful clothes and smiles; everyone was very friendly with me and I always found spontaneous help from them.

I shared this experience with other three women who participated in the Program (they came from different countries, the Netherlands, Estonia and Germany). In the first week we were in the Mumbai's Social Science Campus and in the remaining period we were

guests of local families, where friendships were created.

We visited different places everyday: schools, hospitals, poor neighbourhoods, always meeting many people who were happy to share their social experience with us. It was very interesting for me to meet local social workers who work in specific projects for women and for the protection of children, in Mumbai and in the rural villages.

I'm very happy that I have lived this experience and I feel that I have enriched my cultural and professional background.

I thank all the members of CIF India who were welcoming and very helpful to us, and CIF Italy who gave me the opportunity to join this exchange program.



## Israel IPEP offered in-depth information about immigration, gender issues, Arab areas and more

Hanna Kirjavainen from Finland and I, Helen Joseph from India, were selected this year for the CIF Israel programme. For both of us Israel was our first, or only choice, and we were both very excited because the program fit so beautifully with what we wanted. The reality of the 18day visit exceeded even those expectations. Our experience of the history, culture and politics of the region, and the warm hospitality of the Israeli people that we experienced during our visit, is something that we will always treasure.

The programme began with an introduction to the CIF Israel members and to the programme details. We also had the opportunity to introduce ourselves and share with the team the work we were doing in our respective countries. The meeting set the tone for the rest of the visits and we were very happy that the schedule included not only formal visits, but visits to places of historical and cultural significance.

### Government Intervention in Social Services and Integration / Absorption of Immigrants

To understand the governance of social services a visit to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services was organized. This gave us an overview of the historical, geographical, demographic, social, and political dynamics of the region and the role of the government and municipalities in reaching out to the needs of its citizens, even though Israel did not have a clear social policy for itself. We were also informed of how social services are administered in Israel and the role played by social workers and the work of International Social Services which coordinates internationally on issues of child-rights.

What was interesting is that the government in many cases worked in partnership with voluntary organizations in reaching out to the needs of its citizens. The Israeli Ministry of Immigration and Integration/Absorption for example worked closely with PAAMONIM, a voluntary organization to help newcomers to Israel to better integrate with the rest of the community. The visits to the Municipal Absorption Department at Be'er Sheba, the Absorption centre for Ethiopian newcomers, and 'Yeelim' the centre for newcomers from Ukraine, Venezuela, Yemen, Argentina and Brazil exposed us to the efforts made by social workers, the municipality and the government in

supporting the newcomers to integrate with the mainstream. Through these visits we came to understand the concept of 'Aliyah,' meaning 'to go up' a term used to indicate the coming to Israel of the

Jews from all over the world. We were also informed about the financial and other assistance offered to these newcomers, in the area of health, education, social services etc. by the government and the municipality to tide over the difficult period while doing Aliyah.

The 'Ulpan' where the newcomers learn Hebrew is the focus of many centres, because it is only when they are able to know enough Hebrew, they are able to integrate with the mainstream Israelis. Special courses for professionals like doctors, programmers, engineers, for those who were proficient in physics, mathematics, etc. were organized in some centres to keep them up to date with the situation in Israel. For youngsters, teen clubs for youth between 13-18 years, theatre groups for children, 'Song Circles,' etc. were organized to help children and youth with the transition, and to give them a sense of identity. Interesting in some of these absorption centres was the efforts made to retain the culture of the place from where they came. Families were thus provided opportunities to grow vegetables that they were used to having in their country of origin, or for example to have a coffee ceremony that is very typical of people from Ethiopia.

What seemed significant to us was the change in power dynamics in the families that went through this kind of absorption process. The children for example, learned Hebrew much faster than their parents. The children were therefore able to negotiate the system better and parents had to often depend on their children. Also, people coming from very patriarchal societies, found the new culture in Israel quite threatening, as they had to treat women with dignity. These changes in the power equations within the families brought with it new challenges.

### Work with the Bedouin

We got also an opportunity to familiarise ourselves with the work done with the Bedouins in Israel. Bedouins, as many might be aware, are

## ISRAEL

By Helen Joseph  
& Hanna Kirjavainen





an ancient nomadic tribe who used to move freely from one place to another without concern for physical or political boundaries. In Israel, after the formation of the Jewish state, the Bedouin community had to give up their nomadic life-style, which was very much resented by the community. Though the government is willing to offer them apartments, and develop various kinds of infrastructural and social services that they would need, they prefer to live in tents with their respective clans. We were also informed that the socio-economic status of the Bedouins is the lowest in Israel.

A visit to a kindergarten in Rachma gave us an idea of the difficulties faced by agencies in reaching education to Bedouin children. We were informed that more boys than girls drop out from school, as boys are expected to be 'productive.' An interesting experiment started for the children in this community is the setting up of a Robotics centre to allow them to explore the world of science in everyday life. This was done by an inspiring volunteer, Avinoam Doron, who told us that Yerucham is the Robotic Empire, and that the local youth are teaching robotics to Bedouin children. Gradually some of the youth (Bedouins) have started learning Hebrew and have started taking up jobs, which make them economically stronger than their parents. Self-help groups, in some areas, have made women more independent economically. This has resulted in a break-up of the traditional family power structure.

#### Work on Gender Issues

Gender issues is a further area we were exposed to. We were briefed on the feminist movement in Israel and the status of women in Israeli society. We were informed of the patriarchal practices in the Israeli army – around which much of Israeli society revolves. It was pointed out that women in the army were primarily (though not exclusively) given roles such as typing, writing, serving men etc., and though there have been female pilots in the army, there has been only one woman-fighter pilot.

From a care perspective, we were informed that there were 14 shelters for women in Israel. Besides the government hotline for women, there is a 24-hour hotline for women (operated by volunteers) and services that offer women legal aid and counselling. Special shelters for batterers and group counselling for men are also mandated by the State.

An interesting learning with regard

to Israeli society, both in the Jewish and Arabic communities, is that, only a man can divorce his wife. Also, if a married woman has a child from a second man, her child is considered a bastard and is damned for 10 generations, and the child cannot marry a Jew. On the positive side, because of social media and education, this attitude is changing, especially among younger men. We were also informed that a bill has been passed in Parliament where, unlike in many countries, the clients in prostitution are punished, and pimps are jailed for six years.

Later, in continuation of our earlier exposure to gender issues, a visit to Isha'l'isha ('woman to woman'), a feminist centre in Haifa, exposed us to the issues of women in Israel, especially women without status, women in prostitution, elderly women and women with disabilities.

#### Visits to the North (mainly Arab areas)

Our visits to Haifa and Tamra took us to the foster care homes that were run by voluntary agencies with funding from the government. Each foster home has a caretaker, who takes care of about six young girls, who either have behavioural or mental health problems. They live as a family, cook together and eat together. The younger ones go to school and the older ones worked on a farm to keep themselves occupied. In the homes we visited, the children seemed happy and seemed to enjoy a very cordial relationship with the social worker and the caretaker.

The Tamra Alhada Hostel for people with intellectual disability gave us a glimpse of the interdisciplinary work that is being done in the area of disability. The take away from this exposure was the efforts made by the social worker to interact with the local community and make them aware of the problems of the residents in the institute and enlist their cooperation in their work. The institute invites them over for special occasions like iftar (a Muslim festivity), etc. The members of the community in some cases also provide employment to those who can be employed.

A meeting with the Haifa Provincial Physician gave us an overview of the health services for women, especially for Arabic women. He gave us an understanding of the health status of the different communities living in Israel, like the Jews, the Arabs, the Christians, the Bedouins, etc. and the health services for the women. These services include ambulatory services and shelters for sex workers. He also commented on the contribution of the Arabs in the health sector.



The process followed by the Child Protection Agency of the municipality of Nazareth in protecting children between the ages of 3 and 14, who are abused by strangers either physically or through contact via the digital world, was an eye opener. It was interesting to see how an interdisciplinary team of doctors, social workers and the police worked in coordination, in the best interest of the child, so as to ensure that the investigation is completed in one day.

### **Migrants & Asylum Seekers**

There are also organisations that work with asylum seekers and migrants. Migrants are those who legally come to Israel, usually to care for the elderly, or work in agriculture and other such jobs in Israel. These migrants are given visas for five years but are not allowed to bring their children with them. Furthermore, they cannot change their job, and if they do, their visa becomes invalid and they become illegal migrants. Currently, it's estimated that there are over 300,000 migrants in Israel and of them, two-thirds are illegal. Asylum seekers on the other hand are those who escaped torture camps and other forms of suffering, and fled to Israel. The majority of them came from Egypt, Eritrea and Sudan. There are approximately 40,000 asylum seekers in Israel. Though they are protected as a group, they do not have rights. Children however, have rights to health insurance and education (from 3 to 18 years including kindergarten). Children with special needs are given a special allowance, and their rehabilitation is taken care of. There are also daycare centres for children of asylum seekers and migrants.

### **Other Visits:**

We also visited Shanti House, a home/hostel for street youth who have no one to care for them. It was started by Marioma, an inspirational woman, who had left her own home because of the abuse that she was subjected to by her parents and others. She came to Israel where initially she spent a lonely life. However, one Sabbath she decided to get out of her own misery and open her house to youth who were as lonely as she was. This started her practice of reaching out to the youth, providing them simple food and shelter. Today, she has a huge building, an open house for any youth in need. The organization is named Shanti which means 'Peace' in Hindi (an Indian language).

The visit to Kibbutz Naan was a truly marvellous experience. It was a dream come true, because we had always wanted to visit a Kibbutz. The Kibbutz functioned originally on the Communist ideology of communal living and common property. They grew their own vegetables, fruits, grains, baked their own bread, had their own horse-riding schools, made their own furniture, and in the past, made weapons to fight the British which used to be hidden, for example, under ponds of water so that nobody suspected anything. All the children were looked after by a caretaker/housekeeper and the parents were expected to visit their children for a few hours only. They were expected to work in the interest of the community. Today of course things have changed. Many of the Kibbutz members work outside. The children are with their parents. All contribute something to the Kibbutz. The rich pay an additional tax. They have also built a new housing complex to cater to those who are married and need additional housing. They have shops, cafeterias, a swimming pool, etc. and are



quite self-sufficient.

For both of us the visit to the Ashkelon University was of particular significance as both of us are academicians. The university was established for those students, who lived in the outskirts of Israel, close to the Gaza strip. Here we interacted with students and teachers, listened to the research presentations made by some students and were happy to see the similarities of student presentations in India and Finland. We also had the opportunity to make presentations about the social work profession in our respective countries. What was an eye-opener was the meeting with the students from the ultra-orthodox community, who must have permission from their respective Rabbis to take admission into any university. Generally, those given permissions were either older or married women. They all seemed very happy to attend university and were very excited and vocal in sharing their experiences.

The dean of the Ashkelon Academic Institute explained to us the three different systems of social services in Israel: the NGOs, the National Social Insurance Institute and the Personal Social Services by the Ministry of Social Welfare. He stated that around 80 to 90 percent of the work of social services is contracted out to NGOs, though the local authority still takes care of the core services. Being a family oriented society, a file is created in the name of every family by the local authority. The income support offered takes into account the income of the household. It is believed that even though inspectors from the government visit NGOs to check on their work, the outsourcing of work to the NGOs appears to have led to a loss of knowledge by the State. It was interesting to learn his view that, at its core, Israel is a capitalistic society.

Overall it was a very educative experience and hugely worth it. We wish to express a very 'BIG thank you' to all our host families Miriam, Shlomo, Edna, Muhammad, Eilat and Hana and Uzi for putting us up and organizing our visits. Some of them went out of their way to plan things that were not in the original schedule, like the visit to the Kibbutz. We were fortunate to have some really good tour guides. Nili Dror for one was like an encyclopaedia with her understanding of Jerusalem, the history and culture of Israel and the government system. Shlomo, on the other hand, trudged along with us to Mesada, En Gedi and then to the Dead Sea in 54 degrees (Celsius) temperature without blinking an eyelid. We (Hanna and Helen) also had the opportunity to get to know each other and learn about each other's home countries. All in all it was a wonderful and a memorable experience. We are sure that we will return to Israel someday.

## CIF France thanks conference participants!

Dear friends,

First of all, CIF France is very grateful for your participation in and support of the 33rd CIF Conference in Saint Malo. You made this event possible and your contributions brought very rich content and exchanges.

Indeed, in line with the spirit that drives all of us, the conference was able to meet the current questions of our world and of the links between the economy and social issues. As an event, it was also an incredible occasion for friendly sharing among all participants.

It was a great joy to have the participation of Jane and Frank Ollendorff, whose presence reminds us of the values that Dr. Henry B Ollendorff wanted to endorse and apply with the creation of CIF and CIP. We are extremely thankful to them for attending the conference.

From the very first day of this week in July, a warm atmosphere of international friendship prevailed: after the welcome speeches and the vin d'honneur offered by the city of Saint Malo, the performance by the Crevindiou band was a very lively introduction, which set the key for the coming conference.

On Tuesday, the different speeches and workshops introduced the theme in a varied approach, and captured audience attention with a diversity of material, which led to substantial exchanges on the history of social work, on traditional and innovative educational practices, on the place and expression of persons in care, but also on the personal professional experiences of CIF friends...

On Wednesday morning, I, Daniel Blake an auteur film by Ken Loach was shown as a very successful illustration of the damaging impact of a dehumanised market economy. The film engaged us both personally and professionally, as revealed by the high-level content of the ensuing debate.

In the afternoon, the speakers – all experts in their fields – developed the theme in the current French context by focusing on the different groups concerned (dependent persons, persons in situations of social distress...). And to close the day our crêpemaker-friends came to give us a taste of our local treats, with crêpes of their own making.

On Thursday morning, we were greeted by our colleagues in different institutions where

we could discover their daily activities and share experiences with staff and users. In this way, we could get an insight of the different social interventions in France with the institutional, financial opportunities and constraints resulting from current public policies.

Then, after a picnic at the foot of Mont Saint Michel, we climbed up through the quaint streets to the abbey, a great humbling moment to get the feel of this marvel and reflect on the past and the wonderful achievements of our ancestors.

In the evening, the nations' market had such a display of attractive artefacts coming from all CIF branches, that we had to push back the walls to accomodate everyone!

Finally, on Friday morning the proceedings of the General Assembly brought us together to approve the policies and decisions of our organisation. On this occasion, the re-election of the Executive Committee members for the next two years was announced.

To wrap it up, it was then time for farewell and merry-making: on board L'Etoile du Roy, the replica of an XVIIIth Century man-of-war in Saint Malo harbour, we shared a buffet dinner to the sound of an incredible band that got everybody on their feet dancing and singing, joining hands as true CIF members.

The volunteers of CIF France are very happy to have been able to bring together so many enthusiastic and dynamic participants from CIF branches though out the world, who created such an impressive spirit of fellowship and goodwill.

**With many thanks to you all from CIF France.**

**Patrick LEHOUX and Margaret LONGUÈVRE**



*The CIF France Conference Team*

# ISRAELI DESCRIBES HER ATHENIAN IPEP EXPERIENCE

I was fortunate to have been accepted to the IPEP for social workers in Athens, which took place in May, 2019 organized by CIF Hellas, mainly by its president, the wonderful Catherine Psarouli.

I chose the PEP in Athens among the many other opportunities offered by CIF for 2019, since I've had a long-time affinity for Greece and Greek culture - music, theater, dancing, food, etc. I had visited the island of Rhodes many years before and also Northern Greece, but had never been to the capitol, and it was time!



Due to this fact, I arranged to come a week earlier with my husband, who also hadn't been to Athens. We toured the city and one close island and enjoyed the sites and the culture.

At the end of our vacation week, I entered the hostel in the Plaka to join the other participants, as we were staying there the first two nights. We were four women, the others came from Spain (Basque country), Finland and Argentina, and of course, I'm from Israel.

The next morning, after the Greek breakfast, we were escorted by a CIF member to the first meeting, a get-to-know-you event and a welcoming as well. We had the chance to meet some of the local CIF members there, and more of them that evening at the

welcoming reception at Catherine's home. The warm welcome and the lively mood and congenial atmosphere helped us feel at ease and ready to begin the program.

After the two first nights, each participant was taken to her host home in different parts of the city. Mine was quite far from the center and required a long ride each day but the conditions there were very good. Three of us spent the next 12 nights at the same home, but one was obliged to change in the middle, due to the plans of the first hostess who had to leave Athens after one week.

During the two weeks of the program, we were taken to many social agencies and organizations, (some were NGO's), and were exposed to the work of the staff and the aims of each one. We were given lectures about the purpose of each place of work, were shown around the offices and engaged in discussions revolving around their work. We asked questions and made comparisons with similar services in our home countries. In each agency or organization, we were greeted warmly and treated with dignity, and the professionals showed interest in our own work and the way our home agencies functioned and dealt with problems.

We visited the School of Social Work at West Attica University and spent a day there for orientation. Each one of us (participants) gave a presentation about her own work in her agency and also presented her native country. We heard several interesting lectures from the faculty members of the social work school on various social issues in Modern Greek society and a representative from the Hellenic Association of Social Workers informed us about the goals and activities of the association. This was an informative event that provided us with important background material.

The professional visits were mostly with all four of us together and at times we were divided into two and two, but during the last three days each participant was given an individual program. Hellas CIF arranged visits for each of us to agencies which matched our requests, which were similar to our own at home. On one of these

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By Judy Shlasky,  
CIF Israel



days I was taken to a rehabilitation hospital where I met the social service professionals and heard about the service, and was given a tour of the hospital.

On the last day of the PEP we had a final meeting at a social service agency in Piraeus some distance from the center and which we had visited during the program. The evaluation of the PEP was done there, in the presence of two CIF members who presided and guided us along. The other CIF members were not present.

During the professional visits (as listed above, and others) we learned about the way the social services are organized and dispensed in Greece, also about the approach and way of thinking of the professionals, and got an idea of how social work is practiced there. I was very impressed by the high level of professionalism and the dedication of the social workers and other related professionals that we met. I felt that the country, in spite of the difficult economic situation, makes many efforts to provide aid for those in need and improve the quality of their lives. It seemed that the population of foreign workers and migrants constituted a large percentage of the clients served. We were accompanied to each agency by a CIF member who took us, either in a car or on the public transportation, and remained with us until the end of the meeting.

In addition to the professional aspect, which was diversified and fascinating, we also enjoyed the social and cultural aspects of the program and had many good times! In addition to the first two social meetings at the beginning we were entertained a number of times, including a lovely dinner at the home of one of the most active CIF members and some delicious meals in nice restaurants together with CIF local members. These get-togethers, along with the Greek food we sampled, enabled us to have informal contact with our colleagues from CIF in a more relaxed and comfortable atmosphere and get to know them better, on a personal basis. They all showed interest in us as individuals and as professionals. Once we were escorted by a CIF member to a lovely roof-garden caf? on top of a luxury hotel in the center of Athens where there is a clear and direct view of the Acropolis. We enjoyed the view in daylight as well as in darkness when it's lit up so nicely, since we arrived towards sunset and had the benefit of both views! Of course we enjoyed the company of our escort as well.

We were also provided with a tourist bus city tour of Athens courtesy of CIF Hellas, which gave us an over-view of the city and its many attractions. On another day, after a professional visit in the morning, we were driven to a wonderful site called Sunio, an hour and a half drive out of Athens, along the coast. Here we

enjoyed a spectacular ancient temple which remained nearly whole, and is situated by the sea, at the tip of a peninsula so that the sea surrounds the site, and the views around it are just beautiful! We also were treated to another sumptuous meal at a restaurant on the way, along with the CIF Hellas members who accompanied us. This was one of the most enjoyable events!



On the last night we participated in the farewell party for us, which took place at the beautiful home of one of the CIF Hellas' members. Many local members and others connected attended, and once more we had a chance to meet local professionals informally, and say goodbye to all those who accompanied us and helped us all through our program.

I also would like to mention the devotion and commitment of all the CIF members to help us, the participants, at times when it was needed. This dedication was evident all through the program as they were helpful and supportive.

My hostess was a lovely lady, a retired math teacher in a high school, and she "spoiled" me with her wonderful cooking and local Greek dishes, and treated me to souvlaki that she brought home. She was very hospitable; we had many good

conversations about life in Greece and she taught me how to use the transportation. I got to meet one of the daughters of my hostess who lives in her building, and she was also helpful to me in different ways. I am still in touch with my hostess, through the media, and she is planning to visit Israel soon, so I will of course meet her again and help to show her around locally!

Fortunately the four of us participants, in spite of coming from different parts of the world and being different ages, got along well and enjoyed each other's company. We used to go out together to have a meal or a drink, either in mid-day between our professional visits, or at the day's end to a caf? or roof-garden with a view, and had a good times together. Having this pleasant peer group was another benefit of the program!

I was very pleased with the PEP, the way it was organized and the contents. I enjoyed meeting so many wonderful people there. The CIF Hellas is a terrific group with a strong spirit and a desire to share their ideas and local culture, and it was a pleasure to be with them!

This was a memorable and rich experience for me in many ways, which I will surely never forget! I am still in touch with a number of the CIF Hellas group and hope to meet them again in the future. I recommend attending a CIF Hellas PEP to anyone who is contemplating doing this and am sure whoever does will benefit!

# CIF Morocco REPORTS on CIF Conference Saint Malo 2019

By Aziz and Maria Elboudiri



CIF Maroc - CIF Morocco

It was really so nice meeting you all in St Malo and we were very pleased to attend the CIF 33rd Conference which we enjoyed very much and gained a lot there.

We feel very glad and lucky to be in such a wonderful conference seeing old CIF friends and meeting new others with different cultures and backgrounds.

It was such a successful and wonderful conference with distinguished professionals lecturers and different social topics, workshops and meetings with nice people from different countries.

It was also such a good idea to present during this conference, the good movie of Ken's Loach I, Danielle Blake, which left so much influence and touched the feelings of all the participants.



Another fascinating event, and in the framework of CIF, friends exchange visits and following the generous invitation from the former CIF Morocco PEP 2018, Ms Marie-Anne Karlsson who has become a board member of CIF Sweden, we had the opportunity to explore the fabulous, exciting and excellent city of Stockholm where we spent very memorable and unforgettable days and good times. Thanks to our CIF friend Marie-Anne who was pleased to host us during our stay in Sweden. In return, we both were happy that she accepted our invitation to come to Morocco again and stay with us in a different city of the country since we will be moving from Oujda where Marie-Anne had her PEP in 2017.

Her next visit to Morocco, mostly in the winter, as it is arctic in Sweden, will be much appreciated in order to give her some lovely hospitality and warm sun in return.

During our stay in Stockholm, we had also the pleasure to see the former CIF Morocco PEP 2017 Ms. Nina with whom we had dinner in her home and we all shared talks when gathered in the saloon while having Moroccan tea with menthe which Nina prepared herself.

Thank you CIF Swedish friends for the strong belief of CIF fellowship, wishing you all the best.

In the end, I would like to thank the EC for the registration fee and thank Mireille and CIF France for the warm welcome and the well organised conference.

Looking forward seeing you in Marrakech next year 2020 for the EC and BD meetings.



## Kia ora! Participant reflects on PEP 2018 and Aotearoa/New Zealand hospitality

By Daniela Hoelblinger, Austria

I chose to apply for the PEP in New Zealand for many reasons and was one of the very lucky six social workers to actually participate. It wasn't my first visit to this beautiful country with its wonderful inhabitants and there's just something about New Zealand that always makes me want to go back, to learn more, to see more, to look deeper and to make new experiences.

During my stays I came across this Maori proverb a couple of times and would like to share it:

**He aha te manui o teao?**

**he tāngata, he tāngata, he tāngata**

**What is the most important thing in the world?**

**It is people, it is people, it is people.**

It sits on my desk and not only makes me fondly remember the time I spent in New Zealand and the extraordinary people I came across, but also defines the perspective we have as social workers. When supporting a person in need we ask: Who is there to help? To whom are you connected?

Never before the program did I have the pleasure to meet, talk to, learn from and laugh with so many social

workers from different backgrounds and different countries, and for making this opportunity happen I'm very grateful to CIF.

After a great weekend at the beginning of the program in Auckland with all of us together at the CIF president's house where we were warmly hosted and spoiled with delicious homemade New Zealand treats, we spent three days at the Unitec. The lectures provided us with insight into the Treaty of Waitangi, New Zealand history, Māori culture, values and customs, how to introduce and acknowledge each other in Māori and memorised a waiata (song) and karakia (prayers). A major part of showing hospitality is the sharing of food after a welcome, something that we did often. The next day we visited Oranga Tamariki (ministry for children), where social workers from different teams told us about their work. We also experienced the much talked about variable New Zealand weather, with heavy rain that poured down on us nearly horizontally, and as the day progressed so did the weather – to sunshine.

On Friday we set off on a self-organised short trip around the North Island where we tried to fit in as many interesting sights as possible and got to know each other even better.

Energised after our weekend getaway we started our second week with a visit to Auckland Museum and Auckland City Mission, accompanied by CIF member, Joy. The following day was spent at Auckland City Hospital, one of the most interesting visits as we got to spend 1:1 time with a social worker and had client contact.

The next part of our programme was held in New Plymouth, the major city in Taranaki region, to spend the next part of the program in a different, more rural part of New Zealand. Everybody was excited to go, the only setback was that we had to say goodbye to one of our friends as she withdrew from the program for personal reasons and went home. So, a more than six hour bus ride later, the remaining five of us were warmly greeted by our new host families. New Plymouth is an amazing city of roughly 60,000 people, with beautiful gardens and a perfectly coned volcano in the backyard. A very busy schedule lay ahead of us, our time was filled with visits to a lot of different agencies and organisations in and around the city. Yet once more our hosts went out of their way to make us feel welcome and part of their family. For our visits my host mum even lent us her car to make it more convenient to go around. All the agencies and organisations that opened their doors treated us so kindly and told us about the important work they do.

On a personal point of view there seemed to be a lot of different social organisations and community services in Taranaki for such a largely rural region, necessarily many of them are doing a lot of outreach work. Some of the social workers we talked to told us about the lack of government funding, the ways they have to come up with



Hetty (Netherlands),  
me (Austria), Anu  
(Finland),  
Claudia (Germany),  
Petra (Sweden), Maria  
(Spain)

funding by themselves, and that they never quite know if they can still provide their services in a year's time. I have utmost respect for all those who work, motivated and tireless under such circumstances. The cooperation with the communities plays a very important part and we heard about possible ways social organisations are trying to get the community involved. Also, quite different from my country is the positive cooperation with the police in many different social areas. Police officers working alongside social workers are not an exception as we saw for ourselves. We should definitely learn from this approach.

A highlight from our time in New Plymouth was our live on-air radio talk on the community station Access Radio. Our group along with Rachel and Sarah from CIF New Zealand, although we were quite nervous all went smoothly and we had a lot of fun. We introduced CIF,



In Hobbiton and Rotorua

talked about our home countries, our work and how we as social workers revive ourselves. Local musician Wesley joined us in the studio with his guitar and listening to his songs gave everyone goose bumps. After one and a half weeks of lasting memories we heavy hearts we had to say goodbye returning to Auckland.

We spent rest of the weekend with our host families; together with another participant I stayed with Sue and her beautiful family. After she picked us up from the airport we went for a stroll to Auckland's West Coast beaches and her equally hospitable husband Murray took us on a fishing trip the next day, I even managed to catch a fish which he cooked for us back at their home.

Our last week was spent on our individual placements. I had the chance to spend one day with a school social



of the program. After the final evaluation and farewell party, our group had to say goodbye to each other and to our host families in Auckland who cared for us so much. As for us

participants we promised to visit each other and to come back together again, the planning for a reunion is already underway as I'm writing this reflection. Looking back now nearly six months after the exchange program I was so fortunate to participate in, it still fills me with joy and gratitude. I got so much more than I could have ever wished and asked for. With all my heart I thank the members of CIF Aotearoa/New Zealand who made everything possible, my two amazing host families and all the other kind people who crossed my path and I was so lucky to meet.



worker, two days at the Child and Youth Mental Health Service Marinoto where I got an insight into the Choice and Partnership approach, and one day at Oranga Tamariki Takapuna, which was among my most memorable visits. During this placement I was able to look into the assessment and practice tools they use, talk with a social worker responsible for Family Group Conferences and to another one from the Youth Justice Team, and even accompanied a social worker to a home visit to follow up on a report of concern. Those days flew by and I always stayed longer than intended, as I was never short on questions to ask and patient staff members willingly clarified them.

The end of that intense week sadly also meant the end

## In Memoriam –

### *Dora Del Tesso*

We deeply regret to announce that Dora Del Tesso passed away. She was one of the former presidents of the CIF Argentina, a very active person who devoted many years of her life to pursuing the goal and spirit of CIF. She promoted the exchange programs and her participation was significant in the organization of our first PEP. Our condolences to the family and her dearest Cif friends.

CIF Argentina team

# CIF Scotland sends news

At the CIF Scotland board meeting on 20 July the evaluation of the Scottish Professional Exchange Programme 2019 concluded

that it had been an overall success with the three participants all having indicated that it had been a worthwhile experience. It proved difficult to match some of the expectations of one participant, but the other two were delighted with the content their individual programmes. The fourth participant from Turkey withdrew prior to the programme. The photo was taken during an orientation week visit to the Criminal Justice Team in Dundee facilitated by CIF members, Hetty and Jim, followed by lunch at the V&A and a glimpse of Dundee's industrial heritage. The group also visited Edinburgh and Stirling during the orientation week, and the four-week programme included the usual weekend in Aviemore facilitated by Carolyn, Hetty and Kendra.

The weather proved very typically Scottish but as you can see did not dampen the spirits of any of the participants. Finally, members who were involved as placement co-ordinators, host families and general facilitators joined the participants for the farewell meal in Perth at the conclusion of the programme.

The next event in the CIF calendar was the international board meeting and biannual conference, which took place in St Malo, Brittany with beautiful weather at the beginning of July. Anne Robertson attended both events giving us detailed feedback from both on 20 July including a colourful slide show.

The photo shows Anne with a group



## CIF PEP participants 2019

Susie (USA) Anusha (Nepal) Roosa (Finland)

of seven previous participants in the Scottish programme who were all attending the Conference, you may recognise someone.

One decision of the International board of directors of note to members is that World News will no longer be published as a hard copy, but will be available online only. This will reduce our own branch administrative expenses, as it was our main annual postage commitment. Anne reported that CIF International continues to look to future developments and support the establishment of new branches noting that there were 18 international exchange programmes in 2018 attended by a total of 71 participants. The next biannual conference in 2021 will be in India.

The next board meeting for CIF Scotland will be Saturday 23 November when the main agenda item will be future plans. By then we will know if there are any applicants for a Scottish programme in 2020 and if indications are positive the selection of candidates and planning process can start, so come and join us if you can.

*With best wishes to you all from CIF Scotland (UK) SCIO,  
Anne Partington, administrative secretary Anne Robertson, president, CIF Scotland*

## Workgroup formed for NEW WEBSITE

The workgroup for a new updated CIF International Website started working right away after our last conference in St. Malo. As decided by the board of directors, a workgroup was assigned with Annica Frank (Sweden), Lisa Purdy (USA), Szu Hui Ema Huang (Taiwan) and Ilse Hoffmann-Klee, convener (Germany). From the executive committee (EC) a clear agenda was given to the group, and so we started right after returning back home from France. Our job is to do an inventory until the end of 2019 with the requirements, needs and functionalities of a new website for CIF International. We searched all national websites and found wonderful good ideas and examples to add to the international page. We developed a chart to compare the contents of the current site and added suggestions for a new design. By

*By Ilse Hoffmann-Klee, convener*

early October we sent a letter to all branches with this chart and asked for their suggestions, ideas and wishes for an updated site. We asked for comments in content, colours, functionality and any ideas from users around the world. At the same time we asked for completion of a little easy to be answered questionnaire. We received 43 feedbacks by the end of October and are working now at the next level, putting all suggestions together to prepare a first draft for the EC.

The next step will be to find a company who will put all the valuable old contents together with the new ideas and changes into a new website layout. Hopefully we will be ready to present a new site to the BD meeting in Morocco.

## Conference gatherings allow connection, sharing and brainstorming

Where can you find CIF members from your country? In another country, of course! At least this is a truth for the USA CIF membership branch that I pleasantly stumbled upon. I had the luxury of many first face-to-face visits with several of my USA folks at the CIF Conference in St. Malo, France this summer. This year's CIF International Conference in St. Malo, France certainly provided this benefit as well as a multitude of other gems.

Besides meeting, greeting and reuniting our CIF ties, a particular lecture stands out as equally valuable. Specifically, on the second day the lecture entitled: "*Ethics of Accompaniment and Criticism of Technicism*" continues to resonate with me. The main thread that was discussed and also woven into other pieces of the conference is telling of its significance. The lecturer, Dominique Depenne PhD political sociology, describes the importance of keeping ones 'humanity,' especially when each of us in the field are often barraged with formal rules, regulations and other 'mandated' requirements. Thus, in the age of electronic mechanisms and formats, limited resources and overwhelming numbers, we can lose our way as to what may truly help this person. We can forget to see them and their situation; to ask with compassion: what do they need, when and how might we provide this service?

Our compassion and creativity can be desensitized and diminished easily in these fields of helping and times of 'requirements' and 'technology.' The outcome is too often sticking to the formal rules, regulations and other 'mandated' requirements without providing help to the *humanity* at hand. In the book, *Trauma Stewardship* by Laura van Dernoot Lipsky, she shares a story from

**By Nancy Sprynczynatyk,  
LPC-MH vice president, CIF USA**

Deadria Boyland of Seattle, Washington, manager at a domestic violence center. Deadria says it perfectly:

It matters because people who are in need are coming to us for services, and we have to be ready for whatever they're about to say, and I think the healthier we are the better we are, the better we are able to provide supportive services. If a woman comes in and says, "I've been held in my house and I wasn't able to leave, and my child was sexually abused and I don't know what to do," I know at this point that this woman, one, needs to talk; two, needs some counseling; three, needs help to attend to her child. I'm able to give her the appropriate support and not just refer her to another office because she's not just a number to me.

Further, on the third day of the CIF Conference, the film *Moi, Daniel Blake* accentuates this same point throughout. We must not hide behind the standards and regulations, nor forget our decencies; be so bound that we fail to provide a simple glass of water and chair (as in the film) while we explain the necessary steps.

In sum, great job CIF France in your preparations and delivery of the CIF International Conference! These gatherings allow connection, sharing and brainstorming with all CIF – creating new ties and rekindling the old – and also provide meaningful topics to learn and bring into our practices.

Thank you to all and be well.

## An Eye on the Future – 2021 Executive Committee Nominations

We congratulate the newly elected 2019 Executive Committee (EC)! After a number of calls for nominations to Branches and to the membership – *the EC team elected in 2017 was again elected by the Board of Directors (BD) to continue in their present positions,* demonstrating support from the organization for their accomplishments and plans for the future.

**By Jane Ollendorff,  
convener of the CIF Election Committee**

Your Election Committee has already started the process of preparing nominations for the EC election to be held in 2021 at the next CIF International Conference in India. For the health of our organization, we must be prepared with new leaders that can step in and keep CIF moving forward when change becomes necessary – when individual EC members have served as long as our statutes allow or must resign for personal reasons. Already we know that two positions will require candidates, those of president and vice president, due to the expiring terms of Mireille Boucher and David Scheele.

The Election Committee chosen in February 2019 (Ilse Hoffmann-Klee, CIF Germany, Nüket Atalay, CIF Turkey and myself, USA) implemented a new enthusiastically received “Meet and Greet the Candidates” process in St Malo led by Ilse. After communicating the need to develop candidates for the 2021 election, our membership at St Malo offered the names of a number of potential leaders. This is a good beginning, but *we still need additional suggestions from you...*

What are some of the basic qualities of persons who might be considered for future nominations to any EC position?

- Passion for the mission of CIF
- Member of CIF in good standing
- Former program participant
- Daily access to computer with ability to send/receive e-mails and access the internet
- Ability to function as project/task leader, but also a cooperative team member
- Follow through on assigned responsibilities
- Past leadership experience (CIF Branch or professional experience).

The 2021 Election Committee – Jane Ollendorff (CIF USA) [jane.franko@charter.net](mailto:jane.franko@charter.net) and Ilse Hoffmann-Klee (CIF Germany) [hoffmann.ilse@gmx.de](mailto:hoffmann.ilse@gmx.de) – welcome your suggestions of qualified candidates for the future. Let us know your interest, thoughts and preferences by confidential e-mail at any time during the next year.

*Note: As we go to press, one additional member of the 2021 Election Committee will be recruited since Nüket Atalay has resigned to refocus her time and energy on another CIF project.*

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# International Professional Exchange Programs

## IPEPs 2020

For professionals of social work, social welfare and human services



COUNTRY	DATES	FLYER	DURATION	DEADLINE	LANGUAGE	PROGRAM FEE	No of PARTICIPANTS
ARGENTINA	Sept 4 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> 2020	<a href="#">Flyer English</a> <a href="#">Flyer Spanish</a>	2 weeks	March 1 <sup>st</sup> 2020	Spanish	€ 350	4-6
AUSTRIA	April 17 <sup>th</sup> – May 5 <sup>th</sup> 2020	<a href="#">See flyer here</a>	2,5 weeks	over	English	No fee	8
ESTONIA	Next program May 2021		2 weeks		English	€ 250	3
FINLAND	May 1 <sup>st</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> 2020	<a href="#">See flyer here</a>	3,5 weeks	over	English	No fee	6-7
FRANCE	June 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> 2020	<a href="#">See flyer here</a>	3,5 weeks	Jan 10 <sup>th</sup> 2020	French	€ 350-500	3-8
GERMANY	May 1 <sup>st</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> 2020	<a href="#">See flyer here</a>	3 weeks	over	English, German if possible	€ 400	4-6
GREECE	May 10 <sup>th</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2020	<a href="#">See flyer here</a>	2 weeks	Jan 30 <sup>th</sup> 2020	English	€ 300	5
INDIA	Jan 6 <sup>th</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> 2020	<a href="#">See flyer here</a>	3 weeks	over	English	€ 325	3-10
ISRAEL	May 31 <sup>st</sup> – June 14 <sup>th</sup> 2020	<a href="#">See flyer here</a>	2 weeks	Dec 31 <sup>st</sup> 2019	English	€ 350	2-3
ITALY	Next program 2020						
JAPAN	Oct 9 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> 2020	<a href="#">See flyer here</a>	2 weeks	Feb 29 <sup>th</sup> 2020	English	€ 300	3
MOROCCO	March 13 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> 2020	<a href="#">See flyer here</a>	2 weeks	over	French and English	€ 350	3-4
NETHERLANDS	Next program Sept – Oct 2020		2 weeks		English	€ 350	5-8
NEPAL	Next program Nov – Dec 2020		3 weeks		English	€ 500	3-5
NEW ZEALAND	Next program Oct – Nov 2020		4 weeks		English	NZ\$ 500	4-6
NORWAY	Next program 2020		2 weeks		English	No fee	4
RUSSIA	Next program May – June 2020		2 weeks		English	€ 300 (+Moscow € 100)	4-6
SCOTLAND (UK)	May 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> 2020	<a href="#">See flyer here</a>	4 weeks	over	English	£ 300	4-6
SPAIN	Sept 18 <sup>th</sup> – Oct 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2020	<a href="#">See flyer here</a>	2 weeks	March 1 <sup>st</sup> 2020	Spanish	€ 400	4-5
SWEDEN	April 17 <sup>th</sup> - May 16 <sup>th</sup> 2020	<a href="#">See flyer here</a>	4 weeks	over	English	No fee	9
SWITZERLAND	April 22 <sup>nd</sup> – May 8 <sup>th</sup> 2020	<a href="#">See flyer here</a>	2 weeks	over	English	CHF 400	4-8
TAIWAN	March 7 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> 2020	<a href="#">See flyer here</a>	2 weeks	over	English	NT\$ 13,000	3-5
TURKEY	April 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> 2020	<a href="#">See flyer here</a>	2 weeks	Dec 31 <sup>st</sup> 2019	English	€ 350	4-6
USA <a href="http://www.cipusa.org">www.cipusa.org</a>	March or August		4-6 weeks	Open	English	US\$ 1,000 – US\$ 1,500	Open

All programs provide participants with housing – usually living in host family - during the program and local travel.

For more information see IPEP flyers and visit our website: [www.cifinternational.com](http://www.cifinternational.com)

Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> 2019

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We're on the Web!

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