

# The Development of Social Work in Post-Soviet Countries

A DISCUSSION  
ON THE PROFESSION  
IN AZERBAIJAN AND UKRAINE

Virtual Event  
November 15, 2021  
4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. (central)



Center for Social  
Development

BROWN SCHOOL AT WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



International Consortium  
for Social Development



# Agenda

## Welcome and Introductions

**Moderator:** Michael Sherraden, Director, Center for Social Development (CSD), Brown School, Washington University in St. Louis

## Achievements and Challenges of Social Work in Azerbaijan

**Description:** Aytakin Huseynli will present the findings from a qualitative study that evaluated the development of social work in Azerbaijan, highlighting its achievements and challenges. The presenter will also talk about the history of social work in pre-Soviet, Soviet, and post-Soviet times.

**Speaker:** Aytakin Huseynli, PhD Candidate, Adjunct Faculty and Research Associate, Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis; Instructor, Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy; Founder and Board Member, Azerbaijan Social Work Public Union

## The History of Social Work Development in Ukraine

**Description:** Dr. Nataliia Gusak will talk about social work as a relatively new profession in Ukraine and its practice over the first 30 years. The process of its professionalization is ongoing. The author will present the key achievements, current efforts to develop social work as a profession, and obstacles encountered.

**Speaker:** Nataliia Gusak, Associate Professor, School of Social Work, National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy Kyiv; Fulbright Scholar 2021, School of Social Work, Wayne State University

## Q & A

**Moderator:** Michael Sherraden

# Speakers

## Nataliia Gusak

Dr. Nataliia Gusak is an associate professor in social work at the School of Social Work, National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (Ukraine), and a Fulbright Scholar (2021–2022) at the Wayne State University School of Social Work (Michigan, USA). She is a member of the International Association of Schools of Social Work, the International Military Social Work Consortium, and the Institute of Health Visitors (UK). Her main research interests are in mental health, military social work, human trafficking, and research methodology in social sciences. She has over a dozen years of experience in teaching social work and social research-related courses in Ukraine and Ireland. She also possesses experience in providing training and organization development for social service providers. She has been involved as an expert and a researcher in various international projects performed by international organizations (IMC, UNDP, UNODC, UNICEF, WHO, IOM, World Bank, GFA, Kent University, Embassy of Switzerland, etc.), national organizations, and the Ukrainian government (including the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine).



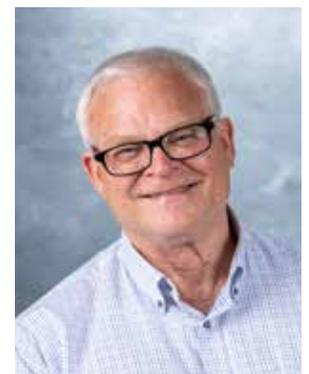
## Aytakin Huseynli

Aytakin Huseynli is a doctoral candidate in social work at the Brown School at Washington University, where she also earned her master's degree. She is a research associate with the Center for Social Development and the Center for Innovation in Child Maltreatment Policy, Research and Training. She studies political dimensions of child well-being domestically and globally, and her focus is policy-based intervention research. Additional research interests include professionalization of social work and child maltreatment. Huseynli founded the Azerbaijan Social Work Public Union, the nation's association of professional social workers ([www.azswu.org](http://www.azswu.org)), and has served as its chair since 2015. She also served as a country director of Hilfswerk Austria International and as Second Deputy Member of the Executive Committee of the International Federation of Social Workers. In 2018, Huseynli led a collaboration between CSD and Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts to co-organize an international conference on Child Development Accounts. She also was instrumental in the organization and establishment of social work in Azerbaijan. She participated in the establishment of Azerbaijan's first social-work education programs, helping to found master's and bachelor's programs at Baku State University, where she also taught. She currently teaches a course at Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy. In addition, she has worked with the government of Azerbaijan on reforms to the nation's child-welfare system and on children's policy. Huseynli serves on the editorial boards of *International Social Work Journal* and *International Journal of School Social Work*, and she periodically reviews articles for *Global Social Welfare* and *Child Abuse and Neglect*.



## Michael Sherraden

Michael Sherraden, PhD, is the founding director of the Center for Social Development and the George Warren Brown Distinguished University Professor at Washington University. Working with CSD colleagues and many partners, he creates and tests innovations to improve social and economic well-being. He has defined and informed a growing body of applied research and policy to promote inclusion in asset building. This work has influenced asset-based policies and programs in the U.S. and many other countries. His research results have also informed inclusive and progressive Child Development Accounts in St. Louis, other U.S. cities and states, and other nations. His research on the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s contributed to the creation of AmeriCorps, and he was in attendance for the signing of the bill at the White House. Sherraden serves on the Leadership Board of the national initiative Grand Challenges for Social Work, having previously served as a member of the initiative's Executive Committee. Among other awards, he has been a Fulbright Scholar and listed by TIME magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world.



# About the Sponsors

## Center for Social Development

The Center for Social Development's mission is to create and study innovations in policy and practices that enable individuals, families, and communities to formulate and achieve life goals, and contribute to the economy and society. Through innovation, research, and policy development, CSD creates intellectual and applied contributions in social development theory, evidence, and policy. CSD is celebrating over 25 years of innovative contributions to better lives and well-being. For more information, visit [CSD](#).

## Brown School Open Classroom

To connect with our community across the globe, the Brown School created Open Classroom – a series of free, one-hour webinars on a wide range of social work, public health, and social policy topics. We offer new programs each week and have an on-demand library with recordings of more than 140 past offerings, available to everyone. For more information, visit [Brown School Open Classroom](#).

## The International Consortium for Social Development (ICSD)

Social development processes aim to bring about social, economic and environmental improvement in the lives of people through capacity building. The International Consortium for Social Development (ICSD) is a non-profit international association of institutions, interdisciplinary scholars, practitioners, and students that builds and spreads knowledge of social development to eradicate poverty, improve standards of living and promote human equality and ecological sustainability. It was started in the 1970's by a group of social work educators to respond to pressing human concerns from an international, interdisciplinary perspective. ICSD promotes international collaboration, education, research, and the dissemination of knowledge by asking key questions, specifying theory, conducting research, using evidence to improve policy and practice, teaching, holding professional meetings, organizing international conferences, and publishing the international journal, Social Development Issues. It is committed to creating peaceful solutions to the problems and needs at the local, national and global levels. ICSD members use a social development approach to

- Develop capacity of individuals and communities
- Promote world peace and social, economic and environmental justice
- Improve access to adequate health care and education
- Overcome discrimination against women and minorities
- Create sustainable income and economic structures

For more information, visit [ICSD](#).

## The International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW)

The International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) is a non-governmental organization focused on advocacy, knowledge-building and technical assistance projects in various areas of social development carried out at the country level and internationally.

Created in 1928 in Paris to address complexities and challenges of social work, the ICSW has evolved through the years to embrace the major issues of social development, becoming a global organization committed to improving human well-being. Establishing common ground on issues of international significance, and acting with partners, ICSW represents national and local organizations in more than 70 countries throughout the world working through its nine regional networks. Membership also includes major international organizations. By virtue of its constitution, ICSW operates as a democratic and accountable organization. For more information, visit [ICSW](#).

