

# Commission for Social Development, 63rd Session

## Online Side-Event: Fostering Inclusive Communities: Addressing Barriers to Social Participation

Co-sponsored by International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) and International Association of the Schools of Social Work (IASSW).

**Date:** February 12th, 2025 **Time:** 10:00 – 11:15 AM EST

### Background and objective

This side-event will explore how inclusive participation can serve as a cornerstone of vibrant, equitable, and cohesive communities. Through participatory processes, communities can develop more accurate diagnoses of social needs, co-design welfare systems, and evaluate their impact. The transformative potential of participation, the role of local administration and strategies for addressing barriers to participation will be discussed.

### Key topics for discussion include:

- Building resilient communities through inclusive decision-making frameworks.
- Leveraging technology and partnerships to break down barriers to community engagement
- Co-designing public initiatives: Effective partnerships between administrations, civil society, and private sectors

### Speakers:

- **Prof. Lynne Healy:** Main Representative of IASSW to the UN
- **Maria de La Paz Fernandez Lobato:** Mayor of Ronda, Spain
- **Prof. Dr. Antonio López Peláez:** UNED, Spain
- **Kathleen Wabrowetz:** Deutscher Verein für öffentliche und private Fürsorge, Germany
- **Nicola Byrne:** CEO, SHINE, Ireland
- **Prof. P.K. Shajahan:** Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India
- **Dr. Sergei Zelenev:** President of ICSW

**Moderator:** Prof. Gloria Kirwan: Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland

**Technical assistance** provided by Gonzalo Cavero Cano, ICSW (gcavero@icsw.org)

**Registration Information:** This event is free and open to the public. To register, use the registration link for the event: <https://forms.gle/wTCr7acQwnekepAH9>

