

The International Association for Counselling

And the United Nations



The International Association for Counselling (IAC) supports its members by providing a united global voice for counselling. IAC contributes to formal United Nations (U.N.) deliberations agencies through our various statuses (e.g., consultative, special and general) with U.N. organizations such as the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), and the International Labor Organization (ILO).

This means that the United Nations have determined that the IAC programme of work has direct relevance to the aims and purposes of the United Nations and that we are permitted to take a formal role in UN deliberations. The UN provides us with suitable arrangements for our consultations with them in our role as an International Non-Governmental Organization (INGO). IAC is accredited for participation in UN conferences, submits reports to UN bodies, disseminates relevant UN information to members, and submits policy recommendations on relevant matters.

IAC represents the counselling profession at the following United Nations organizations and agencies:



International
Labour
Organization



The World Health Organization (WHO) is the directing and coordinating authority on international health within the United Nations system. The objective of WHO is the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health. Health, as defined in the WHO Constitution, is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

The International Labor Organization (ILO) promotes international labor rights by formulating international standards on the freedom to associate, collective bargaining, the abolition of forced labor, and equality of opportunity and treatment.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) focuses on everything from teacher training to helping improve education worldwide to protecting important historical and cultural sites around the world.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) works in 190 countries and territories to save children's lives, to defend their rights, and to help them fulfil their potential, from early childhood through adolescence.

The Economic and Social Council (EcoSoc) is at the heart of the United Nations system to advance the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental. It is the central platform for fostering debate and innovative thinking, forging consensus on ways forward, and coordinating efforts to achieve internationally agreed goals. It is also responsible for the follow-up to major UN conferences and summits. The UN Charter established ECOSOC in 1945 as one of the six main organs of the United Nations.



IAC and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDG's are a group of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a blueprint to achieve a better and sustainable future for everyone. The SDGs were set up in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by the year 2030. As part of our affiliation with the UN we prioritize the following SDG's:

SDG 3: Good Health and Well being

SDG 4: Quality Education

SDG 5: Gender Equality

SDG 8: Decent Work



SDG 10: Reduce Inequalities

SDG 16: Peace, Justice and strong Institutions

IAC Advocacy

What is IAC advocacy? Our advocacy is activity that aims to influence decision-making in political, institutional and social systems. It brings a much-needed voice for the counselling profession. Advocacy takes place at local, national and international level.

Why is advocacy important? Advocacy enhances the reputation and credibility of the profession and allows us to strengthen the position of counselling by influencing counselling-related policy worldwide. Important, high-level policy decisions on mental health, education, social issues, and work, are made at the intergovernmental level, e.g., at the United Nations and Supranational/Continental Bodies (e.g., The African Union, The ASEAN Committee, The European Union) and it is essential to ensure the appropriate inclusion of counselling. Policy decisions have a direct influence on the approaches that national governments take in these areas and impact you, your clients, and the counselling profession.

How does this impact me as a counsellor? The recognition of counselling by governments has a direct impact on your work and clients. In many countries, there is significant dissatisfaction with the status quo and the lack of recognition of the importance of counselling. It is essential that we come together to influence the standing, credibility, and recognition of the profession, and lead to long-term improvements for our clients worldwide.

For enquiries relating to IAC Advocacy, please contact the IAC Chief Executive Officer:

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IAC – Connecting Counsellors Worldwide

See all details on our website: www.iac-irtac.org

