

IAC and the United Nations

Representing the Global Counselling Profession



The International Association for Counselling (IAC) is proud to represent the counselling profession within the United Nations system. Through our consultative relationships with key United Nations bodies and agencies, we ensure that the voice of counselling is heard in global discussions on mental health, education, employment, equality, and sustainable development.

Our engagement with the United Nations reflects the recognition that counselling plays an essential role in promoting wellbeing, strengthening communities, and supporting individuals around the world.

Our Role at the United Nations

IAC holds consultative and representative status with a number of United Nations organisations and agencies, including:

- The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- The World Health Organization (WHO)
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- The International Labour Organization (ILO)

Through these relationships, IAC:

- Represents the counselling profession in international policy discussions.
- Participates in United Nations conferences and consultations.
- Submits reports and recommendations to UN bodies.
- Shares relevant UN developments with members worldwide.
- Advocates for the inclusion of counselling in policies affecting health, education, employment, and social wellbeing.

The United Nations recognises that IAC's work contributes directly to its mission of promoting human dignity, equality, and sustainable development.



International
Labour
Organization



Advancing the Sustainable Development Goals

As part of our commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), IAC prioritises:

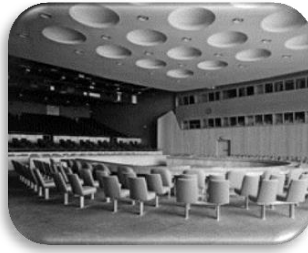
- **SDG 3:** Good Health and Well-Being
- **SDG 4:** Quality Education
- **SDG 5:** Gender Equality
- **SDG 8:** Decent Work and Economic Growth
- **SDG 10:** Reduced Inequalities
- **SDG 16:** Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

By promoting counselling worldwide, IAC contributes to healthier communities, more inclusive societies, and improved access to support services.

Advocacy for Counselling Worldwide

IAC advocacy strengthens the recognition, credibility, and impact of counselling at local, national, and international levels. Decisions made by governments and international institutions directly influence the lives of counsellors and the people they support.

By representing the profession at the United Nations and other international bodies, IAC works to ensure that counselling remains central to conversations about mental health, education, social development, and human wellbeing.



Further Information

This information has been prepared by the International Association for Counselling (IAC) as part of its ongoing advocacy and representation work within the United Nations system.

For enquiries relating to IAC's advocacy and United Nations engagement, please contact:

Naoise Kelly

Chief Executive Officer

International Association for Counselling (IAC)

Email: ceo@iac-irtac.org
