



THE COUNCIL OF INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

**International Professional  
Exchange Programs**

for professionals of social work,  
social welfare and human  
services

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President:

Mireille BOUCHER  
43, rue Paul Langevin  
18400-Saint Florent sur Cher  
France  
E-Mail:  
[president@cifinternational.com](mailto:president@cifinternational.com)

Vice-President:

David SCHEELE  
Netherlands  
E-mail:  
[contactpersons@cifinternational.com](mailto:contactpersons@cifinternational.com)

Secretary:

Demet GULALDI  
Turkey  
E-Mail:  
[secretary@cifinternational.com](mailto:secretary@cifinternational.com)

Treasurer:

Astrid SEHMER  
Germany  
E-Mail:  
[treasurer@cifinternational.com](mailto:treasurer@cifinternational.com)

Member at Large:

Margit RANDRAU  
Estonia  
E-mail:  
[pep@cifinternational.com](mailto:pep@cifinternational.com)

Member at Large:

Merja NIEMELÄ  
Finland  
E-mail:  
[grants@cifinternational.com](mailto:grants@cifinternational.com)

Web site

[www.cifinternational.com](http://www.cifinternational.com)

**Dear Kostas GAVROGLU,**

**Minister of Education, Research and Religious Affairs**

We, The Executive Committee of The Council of International Fellowship are writing to express solidarity for Social Work Professionals in Greece.

The Council of International Fellowship (C.I.F.) is a private, voluntary, non-profit, politically and religiously independent organization founded in 1960 by Henry Ollendorf. CIF provides professional human services development and training through intercultural exchange. The goal of CIF is to promote international understanding and world peace through training and exchange of experience for professionals in human services.

The General Assembly of CIF 32<sup>nd</sup> Conference on 23 September, 2017 in Kalamata, strongly supports the autonomy of the Social Work Department of TEI of Athens in the upcoming establishment of the University of West Attica. It is crucial for Social Work education in Greece to be in compliance with the European and International standards and give students the opportunity to register directly and upon entry to the University at the Social Work Department. Any attempt to merge the Social Work Department with other irrelevant Departments will result in the degradation of Social Work Education, the overall disdain of Social Work Profession and the weakening of the professional identity of Social Workers. We consider this perspective even more destructive under the current severe psychosocial conditions of a vast majority of the Greek society due to the long lasting economic crisis and the high influx of refugees in Greece.

On behalf of the members of CIF, we would like to express our belief on your consideration to this letter. We are very excited about the improvements social work in Greece.

Yours faithfully,

Mireille BOUCHER  
President