CONFERENCE POLICIES

Privacy Terms and Your Rights · Registration Policy · Abstract Policy

IFSW × ASSWA 2027 — Joint Conference of the IFSW Africa Region and the Association of Schools of Social Work in Africa (ASSWA)
Lilongwe, Malawi · 27–31 October 2027 · Pre-conference events: 26 October 2027
Theme: Advancing Social Justice in Africa: Tackling Crises and Conflict, Strengthening Resilience and Building Sustainable Communities

Effective date: 30 October 2026

This document brings together the policies that govern participation in the IFSW × ASSWA 2027 conference: how we handle your personal information (Part 1), how registration works (Part 2), and how abstract submissions work (Part 3). Part 4 lists the organisations named in this document. By registering for the conference or submitting an abstract, you confirm that you have read and understood the parts of this document that apply to you.

Part 1 — Privacy Terms and Your Rights

1.1 Who we are

The data controller for the information described in this Part is the IFSW Africa Region, which organises the IFSW × ASSWA 2027 conference jointly with the Association of Schools of Social Work in Africa (ASSWA). The organisations involved in the conference are listed in Part 4.

For general and privacy enquiries, contact us at info@ifswafrica2027.com. For matters about your registration itself, contact registration@ifswafrica2027.com.

1.2 Scope of this Policy

This Part covers personal information collected through the conference website and its online registration system, including registration forms, abstract submissions and

messages sent through the website contact form. It does not cover the websites of other organisations, even where we link to them.

1.3 Information we collect

When you register or contact us, we may collect:

- Full name.
- Email address and telephone number.
- Country and organisation or institution.
- Delegate category (IFSW & ASSWA Member, Non-Member, or Student Delegate).
- Passport number, only if you choose to provide it. This field is optional.
- Abstract submissions: title, authors and content.
- Messages you send us through the contact form, and our replies to you.

We do not ask for payment card details through the registration form. If a payment step is added later, this document will be updated before it goes live.

1.4 How we use your information

We use your information to:

- Process and administer your conference registration.
- Send you registration confirmations and conference updates by email.
- Manage abstract submissions and the conference programme.
- Prepare delegate lists, badges and certificates for the conference.
- Respond to your enquiries and provide support.
- Keep the registration system secure and prevent misuse.

We do not sell your personal information, and we do not share it for third-party marketing.

1.5 Legal basis

We process your information on the basis of your consent, which you give when you submit a registration or an abstract, and because processing is necessary to administer your registration and communicate with you about the conference. You may withdraw your consent at any time by contacting us (see section 1.10), although withdrawal does not affect processing that has already taken place.

1.6 Who we share your information with

Your information is handled by the conference organisers and by the service providers that run the conference systems:

- Supabase — database hosting for registrations and abstracts.
- Vercel — hosting for the conference website.
- Resend — delivery of registration, abstract and contact emails.

- Cloudflare — file storage for conference materials.

These providers process your information only on our instructions and only to provide their services to us. We may also share the minimum necessary information with conference organising partners where it is needed to run the conference, for example to prepare the programme or delegate materials. We do not disclose your information to any other party unless required by law.

1.7 International transfers

Some of the service providers listed above operate outside Malawi, so your information may be stored or processed in other countries. Where this happens, we rely on the safeguards of those providers, including encrypted connections and access controls, to protect your information. By registering, you understand that such transfers may take place.

1.8 How long we keep your information

We keep registration and abstract information until 30 April 2028, six months after the conference ends, and then we delete it or anonymise it so it can no longer identify you. Contact-form messages are kept for the same period. If the law requires us to keep particular records for longer, we will keep only what is required, for no longer than required.

1.9 Cookies

The conference website uses only cookies that are strictly necessary for the website to function. We do not use analytics cookies, advertising cookies or any tool that tracks you across other websites.

1.10 Your rights

You have the right to:

- Access — ask for a copy of the personal information we hold about you.
- Correction — ask us to correct information that is inaccurate or incomplete.
- Deletion — ask us to delete your personal information, subject to section 1.8.
- Restriction — ask us to limit how we use your information while a concern is resolved.
- Withdraw consent — withdraw consent for processing based on consent.
- Complaint — lodge a complaint with the relevant data protection authority in your country.

To exercise any of these rights, email info@ifswafrica2027.com with the subject “Privacy Request” and tell us what you are asking for. We aim to respond within 30 days. We may

ask you to confirm your identity first, so that we do not disclose your information to the wrong person.

1.11 Security

We take reasonable technical and organisational measures to protect your information, including encrypted connections to the website, access controls and role-based administration of the registration system, so that only authorised administrators can view registration records. No system connected to the internet is completely secure, and we cannot guarantee absolute security, but we will act promptly if we discover a breach that affects your information.

1.12 Children

The conference and its registration system are intended for adult delegates. We do not knowingly collect personal information from children under the age of 18. If you believe such information has been provided to us, please contact us at info@ifswafrica2027.com and we will delete it.

1.13 Changes to this Part

We may update this Part from time to time. The updated version will be posted on the conference website with a new effective date. If a change materially affects how we use your information, we will notify registered delegates by email before the change takes effect.

1.14 Contact us

For any question about this Part or about your personal information, contact us at info@ifswafrica2027.com. For questions about your registration itself, contact registration@ifswafrica2027.com.

Part 2 — Registration Policy

2.1 Registration windows

Registration for the conference opens on 1 November 2026. The registration windows are:

- Super Early Bird: 1 November – 31 December 2026.
- Early Bird: 1 January – 30 April 2027.
- Standard: 1 May – 30 September 2027.

The conference takes place 27–31 October 2027 in Lilongwe, Malawi, with pre-conference events on 26 October 2027. Fees for each registration category are to be advised. The rate that applies to you is the rate for the window in which you register.

2.2 Categories and eligibility

There are three delegate categories:

- IFSW & ASSWA Member — for members of the International Federation of Social Workers or the Association of Schools of Social Work in Africa, through a member association or institution. Membership may be verified during registration review.
- Non-Member — for delegates who are not members of IFSW or ASSWA. Everyone is welcome.
- Student Delegate — for currently enrolled students. Verification is required, and proof of student status may be requested during review.

Select the category that matches your status. If the category you select does not match your verified status, the organisers may correct it and will inform you.

2.3 Registration review and confirmation

Every registration is submitted for review. Your registration confirmation will state that your registration has been successfully submitted and is pending review. Personal details and category are verified separately by the registration team, and you will receive further updates by email. Please ensure the details you provide are accurate, and keep your confirmation message for all correspondence about your registration.

2.4 Changes and cancellations

To change details on your registration, contact registration@ifswafrica2027.com. Cancellation and refund terms are to be confirmed by the organisers and will be published in this document when available.

2.5 Attendance

Registration covers attendance at the conference in Lilongwe, Malawi, 27–31 October 2027. Pre-conference events on 26 October 2027 are announced separately, and any separate attendance arrangements for those events will be communicated to registered delegates.

Part 3 — Abstract Policy

3.1 Call for abstracts

The call for abstracts opens on 1 November 2026 and closes on 31 March 2027. Submissions received after the closing date will not be considered.

3.2 What to submit

Each abstract submission must include the presenting and co-authors with their affiliations, the institution or organisation and country, one of the six conference sub-themes (section 3.3), and a proposal type (section 3.4).

The abstract body must be 250–300 words and should cover the background, purpose, methodology or approach, results or conclusion, and practice implications. Abstracts that fall outside the word range, or that do not name a sub-theme, will not be considered.

By submitting, you confirm that the work is your own and that the information you provide is accurate.

3.3 Sub-themes

Choose one sub-theme for your abstract:

- Social Work in Humanitarian, Crisis and Climate Contexts.
- African-Centred, Indigenous and Decolonial Social Work Practice.
- Strengthening Social Work Systems, Education and Innovation.
- Social Protection, Family Strengthening and Inclusive Community Wellbeing.
- Community Participation, Social Justice and Sustainable Development.
- Research, Evidence, Policy and Future Directions for African Social Work.

3.4 Proposal types

Abstracts may be submitted as:

- Individual paper.
- Co-authored paper.
- Poster presentation.
- Workshop.

3.5 Review and notification

Abstracts are reviewed between January and April 2027. Acceptance notifications will be sent between 1 and 10 May 2027. On submission you will receive a reference number — please keep it for all correspondence about your abstract.

3.6 Presentation

Acceptance of an abstract does not by itself register you for the conference. Presenters are expected to register for the conference under Part 2. Accepted authors will receive further instructions, including presentation arrangements, with their acceptance notification.

Part 4 — Organisations named in this document

The organisations named in this document are:

- IFSW Africa Region — International Federation of Social Workers: conference organiser and data controller (Part 1).
- ASSWA — Association of Schools of Social Work in Africa: conference co-organiser.
- Republic of Malawi — host nation of the conference.
- ASWIM — Association of Social Workers in Malawi: conference partner.

Other partners and sponsors may be added as the conference approaches; the conference website lists the current partners. Organisations interested in partnership or sponsorship may apply through the partner form on the conference website, and the conference publicity officer will respond.