



IFSW Europe, board and members

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FO boycott of Israel - meeting with IFSW

Referring to IFSW invitation to a meeting with FO September 25th about the delegate meeting in Oslo on October 3rd – 5th.

As proclaimed in letter to IFSW Europe, its board and members on September 23rd, FO is bound by The Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions (LO) to boycott the hosting of the delegate meeting (DM) in Oslo. The decision is also in line with the politics of FO, and coherent to the demands of its members.

FO is genuinely interested in facilitating international cooperation within IFSW, and between social workers across countries. However, FO also considers that the time is now for standing up to humanitarian principles, unconditioned unanimously with a common ground, call for the end of Israels occupation of Palestine.

We understand that the situation puts IFSW in a difficult position. However, the decision, of September 23rd, to boycott the hosting and participation of the DM stands, as long as Israel is represented or even observes the DM. Hence, FOs' decision cannot be altered, unless Israel withdraws from the meeting.

The boycott also has implications for the resource use of FOs' employee Andreas Pedersen Kikvik, in that he cannot aid IFSW in arranging the DM as long as Israel is participating. Hence, IFSW must, unaided, find an alternative location for the DM.

Consequently, FO propose IFSW to exclude Israel from the DM. Would that be done, the DM can be carried out as planned with FO as host.

FO encourages IFSW executive response on an agenda for the proposed meeting on September 25th, and not the least, its formal and prompted response to FO's proposed solution to the DM situation.

Kind regards

Marianne Solberg
President, FO