International Federation of Social Workers

IFSW Europe

Deutscher Berufsverband für Soziale Arbeit e.V.

Bundesgeschäftsstelle
Michaelkirchstraße 17/18
10179 Berlin

Nadja Khan
Tel: 004917692284356
Email: khan @dbsh.net
Web: www.dbsh.de

23.09.2026

Election Statement – Nadja Khan

Throughout my professional and voluntary engagement, I have been driven by one conviction: social work is strongest when professionals are connected, empowered, and represented at local, national, and international levels.

For more than ten years, I have been actively involved in the German Association of Social Work (DBSH). I contributed to the development of "Young DBSH", served in regional and national leadership roles, and currently serve as the elected Speaker of the International Cooperation Division. Through my engagement with IFSW Europe and IFSW Global, the New Social Workers Network (NSWN), and World Social Work Day initiatives, I have worked to build bridges between social workers across countries and generations.

I am standing in for NSWN because I strongly believe that meaningful, authentic, and equitable youth and early-career engagement is essential for the future of our profession and for IFSW. Young social workers should not only be represented symbolically but be enabled to actively shape our professional community. I see myself as someone who can facilitate dialogue, create connections, and support understanding between different perspectives, generations, and organizational structures.

I am a strong supporter of agile and collaborative working approaches. I greatly appreciate the development IFSW Europe has achieved in recent years and find the spirit and commitment of the current Executive Committee highly inspiring. At the same time, I believe there is still room to strengthen inclusivity, flexibility, accessibility, and participation. As IFSW Europe is legally based in Germany, I can also contribute as a bridge between the organization, its structures, and its members.

Diversity and inclusion are core values for me. I am committed to ensuring that practitioners' voices are heard alongside academic perspectives and to developing opportunities that enable more practitioners to participate in European and international conferences.

I continuously reflect on potential Eurocentric perspectives in my own thinking and believe international cooperation requires humility, openness, and mutual learning. At a time when exclusionary and nationalist ideas are gaining ground in Europe, solidarity among social workers is more important than ever. Together, we must strengthen human rights, social justice, democracy, and international cooperation through dialogue, participation, and mutual respect.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Nadja Khan