



UNITED NATIONS  
**HUMAN RIGHTS**  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

**Continuing Professional Development (CPD) 2026**  
**Human rights of Social Workers and  
their Human Rights Responsibilities for Service Recipients**

for practising social workers, members and representatives of national social work associations, educators, and other professionals engaged in social work policy and advocacy

**Dates:** 27 March · 10 April · 24 April · 8 May 2026

**Time:** 12:00–13:30 CET

**Registration:** <https://ifsw-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/ZBCxs1-DTsGxl30HbrY50A>

**Format:** Online (Zoom, livestreamed on YouTube)

**Language:** English, Spanish

**Co-organized by**

UN Commission of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW)  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)  
In collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO)

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Social workers operate daily at the frontline of human rights, supporting individuals and communities while navigating complex systems, laws, and institutional expectations. They are both holders of rights — including decent work, safety, and professional autonomy — and professionals responsible for respecting and protecting the human rights of service recipients.

**Objectives**

The CPD aims to:

- Strengthen social workers' understanding of their own human rights and labour rights;
- Clarify human rights responsibilities towards service recipients in complex practice settings;
- Support practical skills for analysing and addressing real-life professional dilemmas;
- Identify shared advocacy and policy priorities at national and global levels.



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## Programme

### **Session 1: Human Rights, Labour Rights, and Social Work Frameworks**

This session will introduce key concepts and standards from human rights, labour rights, and social work perspectives. It will provide a common framework to help participants analyse professional dilemmas and case studies.

### **Sessions 2–4: Learning from Practice – Case Studies**

Each session will begin with a social work case. The cases will focus on:

- The multiple roles and expectations placed on social workers;
- Tensions linked to public employment, authority, and legitimacy;
- Efforts to improve state systems while protecting human rights.

The three organisations OHCHR, IFSW, and ILO will analyse each case along their framework. *Participants will jointly examine the cases, identify relevant rights and responsibilities, and discuss practical ways to address challenges and improve outcomes for both social workers and service recipients.*

## Expected Outcomes

Participants will

- have a clearer understanding of their human rights and professional responsibilities;
- feel more confident in applying human rights principles in daily practice and policy discussions;
- contribute to identifying key areas for collective advocacy and policy action at the global level.

Certificate: a certificate of attendance will be provided.