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Romanian Association of Social Workers

Statement by ASproAS

for the Special General Meeting of the IFSW on 18th February 2026, regarding:
Motion to suspend or exclude the Israeli Association of Social Workers

Dear colleagues of the IFSW,

The Romanian Association of Social Workers – Aspro AS – has maintained close contact and cooperation with social workers in crisis and war situations (e.g., Ukraine, Armenia, Afghanistan, Israel) for many years. This experience informs our assessment of the conditions under which professional social work can be carried out in these regions. Our attention is focused on both:

- Framework conditions for social work
 - Following the imposition of martial law, fundamental rights are often (partially) suspended;
 - Activities are restricted in crisis mode;
 - Expression of opinions is subject to strict penalties and threats of repercussions;
 - Resources are prioritized according to the conflict and are therefore unavailable;
- Individual situation of social workers
 - Potential personal risks due to war events
 - Loss or restriction of livelihoods

The demand for adherence to ethical principles must take these circumstances and limitations into account.

Under the described circumstances, the applicants' justification (“...to hold IUSW to account for continuing breaches of IFSW’s Global Ethical Principles (by confirming the legitimacy of their members’ combat roles, refusing to request non-combat exemptions and not standing for peace and universal human rights of Palestinians) by calling a Special General Meeting (online) to propose suspension and/or expulsion of IUSW from IFSW.”) ignores the lived reality of social workers in Israel and the capabilities of the Israeli Social Workers' Association.

Apart from the fact that Article 9.3 is formulated not as a categorical rule but as a desired course of action, a suspension/exclusion of the Israeli association would contradict core

values of the profession, namely: solution-oriented approach, relationship building, communication, and cooperation.

ASproAS supports the substantive arguments and proposals of the Swiss and German colleagues (AvenirSocial & DBSH) and rejects the suspension/exclusion of the IUSW from the IFSW.

ASproAS represented by

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Herbert Paulischin', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Herbert PAULISCHIN
ASproAS International Representative
Member of ASproAS Executive Committee