



**International Federation of Social Workers, Asia-Pacific**  
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## **Statement by the President of the IFSW Asia–Pacific Region**

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### **1. Preamble**

Social workers in the Asia–Pacific Region uphold the core principles of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW), including respect for human dignity, social justice, the protection of human rights, and the commitment to non-violence. Guided by these principles, we remain dedicated to addressing the diverse and complex challenges faced by our region and the global community.

We express our deep concern regarding the grave humanitarian impact currently unfolding in Palestine. We strongly call for an immediate cessation of violence and for the protection of all civilians, in accordance with international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

### **2. Concerns Regarding the Current Situation in Palestine**

In the Gaza Strip and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, prolonged blockade, military occupation, restrictions on movement, and the destruction of social infrastructure have persisted for many years. These conditions continue to severely undermine the lives, safety, and dignity of the civilian population.

Children, women, older persons, and persons with disabilities are particularly affected and face heightened vulnerability. As social workers, we urge the international community to uphold and protect fundamental human rights, including the rights to life, development, and human dignity, for all affected populations.

### **3. Ethical Considerations Concerning the IUSW and the Importance of Dialogue**

A joint motion submitted by the European Region has raised concerns regarding whether the actions of the Israeli Union of Social Workers (IUSW) may be inconsistent with the IFSW Code of Ethics.

While recognising the importance of ethical accountability and transparency, the IFSW Asia–Pacific Region notes that IFSW has engaged with the IUSW through processes of dialogue, review, and opportunities for explanation.

Social work is a profession dedicated to building bridges in times of division and fostering mutual understanding, dialogue, and reconciliation. In this spirit, we emphasise the importance of addressing ethical concerns through continued dialogue. We respectfully encourage member organisations to exercise their judgment, in accordance with the principles of social justice and professional ethics, when casting their votes.

#### **4. Commitment of the Asia–Pacific Region**

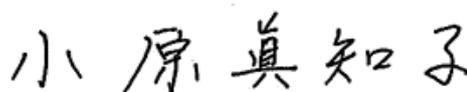
Social workers in the Asia–Pacific Region remain committed to the realisation of societies free from violence, the peaceful resolution of conflict through dialogue, and a world in which all people can live with dignity.

Guided by the principles of non-exclusion, human rights, social justice, non-violence, and solidarity, we strongly hope that IFSW will continue its deliberations in an ethical, transparent, and constructive manner.

#### **5. Recommendations from the Asia–Pacific Region**

The IFSW Asia–Pacific Region recommends the following actions:

1. Providing support for Palestinian social workers, including through fundraising initiatives.
2. Strengthening social welfare networks that contribute to peacebuilding and reconciliation.
3. Supporting collaboration among social workers working in conflict-affected settings, including the promotion of psychosocial support and community reconstruction.
4. Respecting regional and historical contexts while fostering mutual understanding.
5. Promoting education that upholds the universal values of the IFSW Code of Ethics, while respecting cultural, religious, and political diversity.
6. Strengthening professional safety, training, and international solidarity, and developing sustainable support systems within the IFSW framework.



**Machiko Ohara**

President, IFSW Asia-Pacific Region

