

**Statement of the PhD student and Early Career Researcher (ERC) Group: Peace and  
Reconciliation is the only way toward a Just Society**

We, the PhD student and Early Career Researcher group composed of PhD students and Early Career Researchers from different countries and were founded at the World Social Work and Social Development conference in Sweden supports our colleagues in Palestine and Israel who are working for sustainable peace based on social work principles.

We have witnessed the humanitarian crises that were televised worldwide and we have a duty as social work and social development students and researchers to voice out our strongest condemnation on the violence against children, women, elderly, and civilians in Gaza.

We believe that peace and reconciliation is the only way forward in promoting a just and fairer society. In-line with the crises in Palestine and Israel, we support a permanent ceasefire and for the continuous dialogue between both State in settling their differences.

We are united in diversity in supporting a Two-State solution in Israel and Palestine to co-exist in peace and harmony. We are also requesting the international community to intensify its humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people.

We firmly support the symbolic statements of the International Federation of Social Workers and various social work organizations in promoting peace and self-determination in Israel and Palestine.

We have a solemn oath as social workers to be in the forefront of advocating and working for the preservation of social justice, alleviation of human suffering, and in promoting peace and self-determination in any countries and communities.

*“True peace is not merely the absence of war, it is the presence of justice.” — Jane Addams*

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**For further information contact: Nicamil K. Sanchez** (Founding Member of the PhD and ERC group at the Social Work and Social Development conference in Sweden)

Email: [nksanc001@myacu.edu.au](mailto:nksanc001@myacu.edu.au)/[nicamil.sanchez@acu.edu.au](mailto:nicamil.sanchez@acu.edu.au) cell phone: + 61 422071986

Web: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/WSWSD2012/>