

Arab Federation of Social Workers (AFSW)

Arab Federation of Social Workers is a Union for the Arab Unions of Social Workers and Arab organization active in the field of social work in all Arabic-speaking countries. The idea of this regional union came to respond to the urgent need in the field of social work in Arab world. The urgent need came as a result of the social political and economic unrests and conflicts in the Arab world. This fact makes the social work in the Arab World particularly special and challenging. Therefore a union that knows the local context and the pressing need for the intervention is a necessity. Given that the union seeks to achieve social justice, development, reinforce the concepts of human rights, and provide the best expertise and professional resources for all unions and organizations working in the field of social service in the Arab world. It also seeks to develop the staff working in these organizations in the world through getting admission/ recognition for the Arab union by the International federation of social workers.

The union is consisted of 6 (Egypt, Palestine, Jordan, Yemen, Tunisia and Morocco) so far; the founding committee has been established and convened in March 15, 2014 at the headquarters of the professional social workers union in Egypt and in the presence of the secretary-general of the International Federation of Dr. Rory Truell.

The reason behind the establishment of the AFSW among many others is to respond to the work system in the Arab world and the social and economic changes that have been accompanying it since ages. These changes were clearly shown in several countries, and they affected the social structure, which contributed largely to the need to find a system of Arab social work and social service that does not contradict with concepts (IFSW). This requires that we need to speed up and form an Arab Union officially which will be announced in the coming months, and to develop a regional plan and Arab effort to expand and develop the concepts of social service and professional practice in universities and governmental and private institutions.

The mechanics of the Union's work:

The Union General assembly will consist of representatives of the existing Arab Social Workers Unions and the member organization which have to submit request to join and will be accepted based on pre-fixed criteria. Both the Unions and the organization have to sign the code of ethics and rules, as well as, the internal system of the union which currently they are working on it enlightened charters (IFSW).

The objectives of the Union:

1. To respond to the urgent need in the field of social work in Arab world resulted from social political and economical unrests and conflicts in the Arab world.
2. To achieve social justice in the Arab world and the apply human rights and the values of justice, and morality.
3. To strengthen the theoretical concepts of social service in the Arab world in the field of academic and professional practice through the exchange of expertise between organizations, member states at the international level and the Arab world.
4. The development of professional staff in the Arab world in terms of professional practice according to the latest theories and concepts in social service and prepare studies and specialized research about social work and social problems in the Arab world.
5. To establish and create unions and associations in the Arab countries which do not have union for social workers in order to help and contribute to the establishment (AFSW).
6. To modify the foundations system of the Arab Federations, improve them, promote and defend their rights.
7. To issue the code of ethics of the Arab Union of social workers in the Arab region in accordance with the system. It should not contradict the International Labour Organization and the United Nations which call for human rights and dignity of the individual.
8. To study the reality of the Arab world, the social and psychological challenges on the individual, family and society; trying to find solutions and suggestions for the competent authorities of government. This will help us monitor the challenges, identify and address them.

Memberships:

The AFSW contains unions and organizations of social workers in the Arab world. They have to submit written requests and submit it to the main office which will be in Egypt. Their membership will be discussed for approval in an annual conference.

The IFSW as part of its constitutional review taking place between 2014 and 2016 consider the establishment of a new Middle East region.

Kindest regards,

Raed Amira