



10th June. 2024

A statement issued by:

The Palestinian Union of Social Workers and Psychologists (PUSWP)

The ongoing colonial occupation war against our people in the Gaza Strip persists, while simultaneously, forced displacement, house demolitions, and arrests among other human right violations are occurring in the West Bank and Jerusalem. These actions constitute genocide, one of the most extensively documented atrocities in contemporary history. They occur in full view of the world, international organizations, and legal institutions, all of which have concluded that the events unfolding in Gaza amount to a crime of organized genocide perpetrated by the occupying state against our people. Similarly, the events occurring in the West Bank and Jerusalem represent a smaller scale of this campaign of extermination. The occupation and destruction of land are central to the occupying state's policy, representing one of the most perilous forms of societal genocide, which is accompanied by the ethnic cleansing of the indigenous population.

The international movement, represented by the global human rights and humanitarian system, demands an immediate cessation to the war against our people, the establishment of a Palestinian state, and the recognition of the right to self-determination. This movement signifies a significant intellectual shift in major European and American universities regarding the rights and freedoms of peoples. Today, this movement unequivocally acknowledges that the Palestinian people have endured genocide and displacement by colonial forces for over 76 years.

We, the Palestinian Union of Social Workers and Psychologists, steadfastly advocate for justice, liberation, and an end to occupation and colonialism for all peoples, as affirmed by the United Nations. The right of occupied peoples to resist occupation is guaranteed by international law. As professional unions and social workers, our role is to support and empower communities so they can contribute to building societies and achieving liberation from occupation. As part of the international professional trade union system represented by the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW), we have consistently called for decisive actions since 2011 amidst the ongoing war on Palestine, including the current genocide. We demand that the Federation adopt a resolute stance aligned with its vision and strategy for justice, liberation, and the end of occupation and colonialism. Unfortunately, the International Federation of Social Workers has often equated the victim with the aggressor, perpetuating colonialism instead of promoting justice and equality for the Palestinian people.

**The Palestinian Union of Social
Workers & Psychologists**

General Secretarial



**نقابة الأخصائيين الاجتماعيين
والنفسيين الفلسطينية**

الإمانة العامة

The International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) is the global body for the social work profession, enjoying consultative status with the United Nations. The IFSW and its members are committed to achieving social justice, human rights, and comprehensive, sustainable social development by promoting best practices in social work and fostering international cooperation. As a full member of the IFSW, Palestine expects the Federation to play a crucial role in supporting oppressed peoples, taking decisive stances against violations by its members, condemning massacres by occupying forces, and taking practical measures to halt the war against our people. The IFSW must hold its members accountable to its vision and methodology, which it advocates annually. This commitment should be translated into concrete actions, such as taking measures against the Israeli institution” that are full member of IFSW “ For the involvement of their members in genocide, the killing of children, and the commission of atrocities.

Social workers and psychologists in Palestine operate under harsh and challenging conditions. Many have been martyred while fulfilling their professional and humanitarian duties, and some have faced administrative detention and torture due to their professional, trade union, and humanitarian activities. Today, the International Federation of Social Workers must recognize the Palestinian issue as an exceptional human rights concern, especially after more than 76 years of colonialism. This recognition should align with multiple international agreements affirming the Palestinian people's right to freedom.

Given the genocide through starvation, the halting of humanitarian aid, and the targeting of aid providers for our people, we, the Palestinian Union of Social Workers and Psychologists, urgently call on the International Federation of Social Workers to take a firm and practical stance. This includes halting the war and genocide against our people, recognizing the Palestinian right to self-determination, and supporting the establishment of an independent state. We urge the Federation to advocate for freedom, independence, and the struggle for justice and dignity. Additionally, we call for the boycott of Israeli institutions that oppress our people and violate all values, norms, and working principles of the International Federation. We look forward to the Federation assuming its vanguard and professional role in accordance with its principles of freedom, justice, and dignity for all human beings.

Palestinian Union of Social Workers and Psychologists (PUSWP)

