

## Response to the IFSW's "Public Statement of Solidarity with Palestinian Social Workers and the People of Gaza"

The Palestinian Union of Social Workers and Psychologists (PUSWP) rejects the recent statement issued by the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) as insufficient, morally ambiguous, and deeply disconnected from the lived reality of our people under genocidal assault.

While framed as "solidarity," the statement is little more than a carefully worded exercise in neutrality. It fails to name the aggressor, omits the term **genocide**, and avoids addressing the occupation, settler-colonialism, and apartheid that underpin the Palestinian tragedy. This is not solidarity. This is complicity masked as diplomacy.

IFSW claims to uphold the Global Social Work Statement of Ethical Principles, which demands the defense of human dignity, opposition to oppression, and courage in confronting structural injustice. Yet, when it comes to Palestine, these principles are abandoned. The Federation refuses to confront the reality that the Israel Union of Social Workers and its members serve in the occupation army, as we mentioned in previous statements, yet continue to hold membership in the IFSW and it has systematically engaged in:

- The **deliberate starvation** of over two million civilians,
- The **mass killing** of thousands, including humanitarian workers,
- The **ethnic cleansing** of entire communities in Gaza and the West Bank,
- And the **targeting, arrest, and killing** of Palestinian social workers and psychologists.

To call this a "cycle of violence" is an insult to truth. It erases the colonizer-colonized dynamic and reduces a campaign of extermination to abstract "conflict."

IFSW's moral posturing is further undermined by its ongoing affiliation with the Israeli Union of Social Workers, despite their complicity in these atrocities, as documented by the IFSW. Two mild reprimands have been issued in the past, empty gestures with no meaningful consequence. How many more atrocities must be committed before IFSW finds the courage to act? Shall we wait for a third reprimand while children in Gaza are dying of hunger?



Palestinian Union of Social Workers and Psychologists (PUSWP) refuses to accept hollow expressions of concern while our people endure one of the most brutal genocides of modern history. As social workers, we are committed to justice, truth, and the dismantling of oppressive systems. We expect no less from the Federation that claims to represent our profession, we demand that IFSW:

- **Recognize and name** the atrocities in Gaza and the West Bank for what they are: **genocide, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity**.
- **Decisive action** must be taken against any union proven to violate the ethical and professional standards mere censure alone is wholly insufficient and incompatible with the IFSW institutional framework
- **Adopt a justice-centered approach** that acknowledges the structural realities of occupation, apartheid, and settler-colonialism as the root causes of Palestinian suffering.
- **Support the Palestinian right to self-determination**, not as a rhetorical flourish but as a core demand of international justice.
- **Engage in direct, meaningful collaboration** with PUSWP to develop actionable strategies for protecting Palestinian social workers, psychologists, and the communities they serve.

History will judge IFSW not by its words, but by its actions or its silence. If the Federation truly wishes to stand in solidarity, it must abandon neutrality in the face of genocide and act with moral courage. Anything less is a betrayal of the profession's very soul.

**Palestinian Union of Social Workers and Psychologists (PUSWP)**

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