



February 13, 2026

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National Association of Social Workers
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Dr. Yvonne Chase
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Fred Phelps
Executive Director
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Dear Dr. Estreet, Dr. Chase and Mr. Phelps:

Thank you for your longstanding leadership in the field of social work. As organizations that fund, advocate for, and support social services that help millions of people in the U.S., Canada and across the globe, we deeply value the expertise of your members. We are proud to consider social workers integral members of our communities and we appreciate longstanding partnerships with your members in furtherance of our shared ideals to make the world a better place.

We are writing today on behalf of Hadassah, The Women’s Zionist Organization of America, the Academic Engagement Network, American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Medical Association, Anti-Defamation League, Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington, Jewish Federations of North America, Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies, StandWithUs and StandWithUs Canada from this place of partnership and collaboration to strongly **urge the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW) to oppose and refuse endorsement of the International Federation of Social Workers’ (IFSW) planned February 18, 2026, motion to vote to suspend or expel the Israeli Union of Social Workers.**

This proposal follows last year’s censure and represents a clear escalation. This decision was not based on documented, conduct-specific ethical violations by individual Israeli social workers. Instead, it imposes collective punishment, rendering professionals ethically suspect solely on the basis of nationality. No other national association is held to this standard. Indeed, there is no justification for such discriminatory exclusion.

Excluding professionals on the basis of national origin and identity violates fundamental civil rights principles. Such action contradicts NASW’s and CASW’s commitments to dignity, equity, non-

discrimination, and runs afoul of the fundamental values of the profession NASW and CASW purports to represent.

The IFSW Statement of Ethical Principles (2018, Articles 2.1 and 2.3) and the NASW Code of Ethics (2021, Sections 1.01, 1.05, and 6.04) explicitly affirm respect for inherent human dignity, prohibit discrimination on the basis of national origin or political belief, and reject collective punishment and professional actions that cause foreseeable harm. The CASW Code of Ethics, Values and Guiding Principles (2024, Articles 1.1 and 2.3) recognizes the inherent dignity and worth of all people, and the rights of all people to be free from oppression, exclusion, racism and discrimination. The upcoming vote directly conflicts with these principles.

NASW and CASW have an independent ethical and civic obligation to act. As the largest social work organizations in the United States and Canada, NASW and CASW are guided by their Code of Ethics and by civil rights norms to protect social workers and clients from identity-based harm. That responsibility includes standing up for Israeli and Jewish social workers, as NASW and CASW would for any other group, and for Israeli and Jewish clients, whose protection is a core professional duty.

Hatred has no place in healthcare. Antisemitism and boycotts of Israel in medicine set a dangerous precedent for future generations of healthcare professionals and social workers. **We urge the NASW and CASW to reject and publicly oppose the IFSW vote and to stand up for Jewish and Israeli patients and providers.**

We invite you to conversation with us to further discuss how we can help on this matter. We value our partnership with NASW and believe wholeheartedly that together we can find a good resolution.

To discuss further, please contact Elizabeth Cullen, Hadassah Director of Government Relations, at ecullen@hadassah.org.

Thank you,

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