



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS
FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSISTANTS SOCIAUX
FEDERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE TRABAJADORES SOCIALES

Statement of IFSW Europe e.V. in support of social workers in Croatia

The International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW Europe e.V.) supports the representations our member organisation, the Croatian Association of Social Workers and the Croatian Chamber of Social Workers have been making to policymakers to take adequate measures to protect the rights and interests of social workers and those using their services.

Professional regulation is an essential element of our accountability as social workers. IFSW Europe urges all relevant stakeholders in Croatia to support professional bodies in their efforts to establish the systems necessary to ensure that all social workers are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to support people at times of crisis, protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse and deliver a quality service.

We understand that our colleagues in the social work professional community in Croatia are seriously concerned over the discriminatory treatment of social workers employed in the health sector where social workers receive lower wages than other professionals with humanistic orientation (psychologist, special educators, speech therapist) who have the same level of education and jobs with comparable responsibility.

Furthermore we are advised that social workers in the Centre for Social Services feel threatened because, contrary to the reformed and decentralised social welfare system they had been led to expect, they now have many additional responsibilities and high caseloads. This increases the likelihood of them making unethical decisions and puts them in a position where they may not be able to uphold their professional Code of Ethics and protect human rights.

IFSW Europe supports the professional organisations of social workers in the Republic of Croatia with their current appeals to policy-makers to eliminate obstacles to the successful organisation and delivery of social work services in accordance with the law.

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Cristina Martins

For further information contact: Cristina Martins, President of the IFSW European Region

[International Federation of Social Workers Europe e.V.] E-mail: martinscristina25@hotmail.com Cell

phone: + 351 936272618 □ Web: www.ifsw.org/europe