



International Federation of Social Workers Fédération Internationale des Travailleurs Sociaux Federación Internacional de Trabajadores sociales

April 17, 2014

To the Honorable Prime Minister of Greece: Mr. Antonis Samaras

On behalf of the International Federation of Social Workers, we are writing to you to express our deep concern at the suspension and likely reduction of social work staff and social work training that the Greek government has initiated.

The economic crisis facing austerity-affected countries has resulted in widespread social strains, which unmanaged lead to significantly increased intergenerational mental health problems, family breakdowns, suicide and family/community violence.

Social workers act as a positive resource to support communities, families and individuals deal with the social pressures and reduce the harm that occurs to people in a social crisis. Such harm reduction has a major effect on family life and untimely avoids or reduces the on-going psychological trauma which has significant emotional, psychological and financial costs to the family/community; and also the momentous costs to governments in terms of increased hospitalization, crime and amplified pressure on all other government services.

Our member in Greece, The Hellenic Association of Social Workers has written to you separately asking for your personal direct involvement to ensure that social workers that are currently suspended are reinstated, and that social work services are resumed. They also ask that you prioritize maintaining social work services through this crisis.

The social workers of Greece have our full support. Without social work services people often have nowhere to turn except into a negative spiral of despair. All peoples deserve professional psychological and social support, - and further - it is critical to restoring peoples dignity and maintaining their active participation in rebuilding community life.

- To contact The Hellenic Association of Social Workers email: skle@otenet.gr
- To contact The International Federation of Social Workers European President email: martinscristina25@hotmail.com

Yours sincerely,

Cristina Martins, European President, IFSW

Rory Truell, Secretary-General, IFSW