

Statement from the IFSW Asia-Pacific President On the Earthquake in Cebu, the Philippines

The International Federation of Social Workers Asia-Pacific Region (IFSW-AP) expresses its deepest condolences and solidarity with the people of the Philippines following the recent earthquake that struck Cebu and surrounding areas.

We are deeply saddened by the loss of lives, the injuries, and the damage caused by this disaster. Our thoughts are with all those affected, including the families who have lost loved ones and the communities now facing great hardship.

Cebu holds a special place in our hearts, as it hosted the 2023 Asia-Pacific Social Work Conference, where many of us gathered to share learning, solidarity, and friendship. We hope that the community will recover its vibrant spirit and stand strong once again.

We also recognize and commend the tireless efforts of the Philippine Association of Social Workers, Inc. (PASWI) team, who are currently on the ground conducting assessments. As recovery efforts develop, there may be opportunities to provide donations or other support, and we trust in the generosity and solidarity of our colleagues and friends throughout the region.

The dedication and compassion of social workers, community leaders, and volunteers embody the true values of our profession. IFSW-AP stands with our colleagues in the Philippines and throughout the region in solidarity and hope for the swift recovery and healing of all affected communities.

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Machiko Ohara

President, IFSW Asia-Pacific