



The specialist union for social workers

ABOUT THE SOCIAL WORKERS UNION

The Social Workers Union (SWU) is a Trade Union dedicated to social work professionals. Unlike other trade unions, SWU is able to offer you representation* **from a qualified Social Worker** - someone who understands the competing demands placed upon you by your employer and the Code of Conduct, and what it's like to be a practicing Social Worker. We know how difficult it can be working under tremendous pressure to deliver the services your clients deserve, often subjected to wholly unreasonable criticism in the media. We are able to use our specialist knowledge to advocate and negotiate on behalf of social workers, both individually and collectively within the trade union movement and with employers.

Membership of the Social Workers Union is an additional benefit to members of **BASW (The British Association of Social Workers)** and our membership fee is £30.00 per year (or £10.00 per year for students and unwaged). **SWU is an independent Trade Union and is proud to be associated with BASW, but our legal status as a Trade Union means that SWU members are better protected and their rights to representation in any meeting with an employer are safeguarded.***

The Social Workers Union, unlike a professional association, can **enforce the legal entitlement of representation in employers' hearings by SWU's Trade Union Officials.*** SWU offers swift, practical representation and works alongside BASW to protect social work professionals, speaking as people who are social workers or were formerly social workers, for social workers. Having a professional association and trade union together is important for the social work profession. We aim to be the best trade union for social workers.

SWU is a member of the **General Federation of Trade Unions (GFTU)**, a group of 30 specialist unions with over 300,000 individual members. As a SWU member you can enlist to become a Union Contact within your workplace or university to promote membership, campaigning, and activism. This means that our members have access to the fantastic range of training provided by the GFTU - details can be found at www.gftu.org.uk

Being part of a strong collective trade union is a vital and recognised way of successfully negotiating with employers for better working conditions, pay and security.

If you want to join SWU or learn more about becoming actively involved go to www.swu-union.org.uk or email us at swu-admin@swu-union.org.uk today!

** Advice and Representation excludes pre-existing issues and issues that became active within the first month of membership. Representation is also not available to retired and overseas members.*

Regulatory bodies are Social Work England (SWE), the Care Council for Wales (CCW), the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) and the Northern Ireland Social Care Council (NISCC).