



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 £25.00 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 with BASW which offers Advice and Representation (A&R) before the regulatory bodies**. **In these challenging times we believe that, working together, SWU and BASW provide the best protection and best advice for social workers from social workers.**

SWU is a member of the **General Federation of Trade Unions (GFTU)**, a group of 30 specialist unions with over 260,000 individual members. 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 bargaining 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 swuinfo@swu-union.org.uk today!

* Representation excludes pre-existing issues and issues that became active within the first three months 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).

VISION, MISSION, AIMS, VALUES AND BEHAVIOURS

Vision ...

To be a trade union growing in size and influence by being held in high regard by the social work membership, the social work profession, employers and Government alike with a high level of loyalty and activism. The SWU Executive Committee is pledged to delivering this Vision

Mission ...

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 code of conduct and what it is like to be a practicing social worker. Our mission is to be regarded by our members as the best trade union for Social Workers.

This will be through:

- The excellence of our A&R Employment services, our SWU Executive and representatives.
- The effectiveness of employment representation for our members.
- The positive influence we have upon the relationship between social work employers and government in pursuit of trade union aims and values pertinent to social work.
- Further links with International Social Work Bodies.

Aims ...

- To provide Members with trade union services including advice, assistance and representation, legal or otherwise, and other benefits, in relation to matters arising out of or in connection with their employment as registered social workers or as student social workers.
- SWU will strive to improve the terms and conditions of Social Workers and fight for better resources for the people who use these services.

Values and Behaviours ...

Our values are necessary to ensure we provide outstanding member service and maintain our independence.

SWU and those who represent it will:

- Act with integrity and principle in line with the BASW code of ethics;
- Work together;
- Operate in an open, democratic, and representative manner;
- Strive for excellence and *not* defend bad practice;
- Be open and transparent in all our union activities and funds;
- Support the principles of human rights and social justice worldwide.