

Faisal Azaiza

Biographical Sketch

Professor Faisal Azaiza is Professor in the Faculty of Social Welfare and Health Sciences at the School of Social Work at Haifa University. Between 2002-2009 he was Head of the Jewish-Arab Center at the University of Haifa and is the Head of the School of Social Work at the University. He currently serves as a member of the IASSW board. His research and publications include Jewish-Arab relations in Israel, especially in the educational contexts, as well as welfare and health of the Arab population in Israel in terms of social needs, health problems, and service delivery systems. Professor Azaiza has been involved in promoting Arab affairs in Israel for decades and has held many positions within the Ministry of Labor and Welfare such as being a member of the Advisory Council for this Ministry. Since 2002 he has been a member of Israel's Council for Higher Education (CHE) and is presently the Chair of the Committee for Promoting Accessibility of Higher Education for Arab Population in Israel in the Council for Higher Education and a member of the Planning and Budgeting Committee of the CHE.



IASSW Vision Statement Professor Faisal Azaiza

In serving as a member of the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), I have found that our institution has numerous dreams and visions. However, our ideas are limited by a small budget. I would encourage people to write proposals to be submitted to foundations so we have a larger budget for our activities in different circles within the organization. As a result, we can more effectively work towards social work's mission to improve the quality of life of individuals and communities, as well as IASSW's mission to achieve excellence in social work education across the globe.

Another goal I have is for the IASSW to support the development of additional schools of social work in the developing countries in general, and in the Arab nations in particular, because there is a shortage of schools of social work in these nations. I would also like the IASSW to promote access to higher education in these nations in order to support social mobility, increase employment rates and integration into the labor market, decrease poverty rates (which are higher in these communities), and create a social bridge to a diverse society. One priority for scaling up access to higher education for all is enhancing the representation of underrepresented populations in higher education by 1) addressing any significant barriers to higher education and 2) respecting cultural differences that may deter individuals from pursuing higher education. I want to give opportunities to communities that have a lack of social workers and encourage them to pursue social work. I also would like to push for international social work programs around the world that provide training in cultural sensitivity.