

One of the activities the NASW International Chapter participated in during National Social Work month in March 2010 was supporting the Dubai Foundation for Women and Children (DFWAC) launching of the first Social Work Certificate and Master Degree Program in the United Arab Emirates. DFWAC is partnering with Zayed University and the University of Texas School of Social Work to develop these programs for the academic year 2011. Andrea Albalawi, At-Large Representative for the NASW International Chapter, who resides in Dubai, presented Zayed University with the NASW Code of Ethics in both English and Arabic. The NASW National Office provided the necessary approval to support this initiative. This activity marked the first Code of Ethics translated and distributed in the United Arab Emirates.

In addition, Ms. Albalawi, spoke to social work university students at two prominent universities in the country to promote the profession of social work. Ms. Albalawi introduced the many opportunities available to social work graduates and emphasized the flexibility, diversity, and commitment of the profession.

Ms. Albalawi reports that the Social Work profession is gaining greater respect and recognition in the Middle East. The event in Dubai exemplifies the International Chapter of NASW's commitment to promote the profession of social work internationally.