

The 2014 Global Definition of Social Work: Implications for Practice

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IFSW



So What Does IFSW Do?

- **Partnerships:**
- Building external partnerships with people who use social work services and their wider communities; to ensure that social services recognise people's inherent strengths and build on them to meet community aspirations. Building partnerships to work for global solidarity, also partnerships with other professionals and within IFSW. • "
- **Action:**
- Facilitating international and regional cooperation for shared learning and joint action. •
- **Policy:**
- Developing ethical statements and policies that enhance best social work practice. •
- **Advocacy:**
- Advocating at global, regional and national levels for social justice, and individual, group, civic and cultural human rights. Advocating professional social work values, standards, ethics, human rights, recognition, training and working conditions

Weltsozialarbeitstag 2014

18. März 2014 weltweit

Soziale und wirtschaftliche Krisen –
Lösungen der Sozialen Arbeit:



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World Social Work Day

17 March 2015

Promoting the Dignity and Worth of Peoples



Upholding
Human
Rights
4 All

Respectful
Communities
=
Sustainable
Futures

FREEING
SILENCED
VOICES

RESPECTING
VOICES
~
VALUING
DIVERSITY

Social Workers
For Human
DIGNITY



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WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY
MARCH 15, 2016



Societies thrive when the
dignity and rights of all
peoples are respected

**SOCIAL WORKERS TOWARDS
AN UNDIVIDED HUMANITY.**



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New Global Definition of Social Work

Is it possible to have a common definition and policies when the practice of social work is so diverse?



1957 Definition of Social Work

SW is a systematic way of **helping** individuals and groups towards better **adaptation** to society. The social worker will work together with clients **to develop their inner resources** and **he** will mobilise, if necessary, outside facilities for assistance to bring about **changes** in the environment. Thus, social work tries to contribute towards greater **harmony** in society. **As in other professions** SW is based on **specialised knowledge**, certain principles and skills.

1982 Global Definition of Social Work

“Social work is a profession whose purpose it is to bring about social changes in society in general and in its individual forms of development”.

2000/2001 Global Definition of Social work

"The social work profession promotes social change, problem- solving in human relationships and the empowerment and liberation of people to enhance well-being. Utilising theories of human behaviour and social systems, social work intervenes at the points where people interact with their environments. Principles of human rights and social justice are fundamental to social work."

- Most influential
- Most cited definition
- 1st explicit commitment to social justice & human rights
- Academic debates
- Addressing the oppressive aspects of the profession's history
- Impetus for many frontline social workers to confront and challenge oppression
- Sought to emphasise the political nature of SW

Critiques

- Too much focus on social change (Asia-Pacific)
- Too little focus on social change (Latin America)
- Western, individual bias – Human rights perspective (All outside of Europe and North America)
- No acknowledgment of indigenous theories
- No reference to social work theories
- Belies complexity

Definition Review

Working Group Principles

- **Respect for the inherent worth and dignity of human beings**
- **Doing no harm**
- **Respect for diversity**
- **Upholding human rights and social justice – 1ST, 2ND and 3RD generation rights**
- **Co-existence of human rights and collective responsibility**
- **Interdependence**

2014 Global Social Work Definition

Soziale Arbeit ist eine praxisorientierte Profession und eine wissenschaftliche Disziplin, deren Ziel die Förderung des sozialen Wandels, der sozialen Entwicklung und des sozialen Zusammenhalts sowie die Stärkung und Befreiung der Menschen ist. Die Prinzipien der sozialen Gerechtigkeit, die Menschenrechte, gemeinsame Verantwortung und die Achtung der Vielfalt bilden die Grundlagen der Sozialen Arbeit. Gestützt auf Theorien zur Sozialen Arbeit, auf Sozialwissenschaften, Geisteswissenschaften und indigenem Wissen, werden bei der Sozialen Arbeit Menschen und Strukturen eingebunden, um existenzielle Herausforderungen zu bewältigen und das Wohlergehen zu verbessern.

Die obige Definition kann auf nationaler und/oder regionaler Ebene noch erweitert werden.“

Social work is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people. Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work. Underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities and indigenous knowledges, social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance wellbeing.

Knowledge

- SW draws from a wide array of scientific theories
- SW theories – applied and emancipatory
- **Co-construction of knowledge - interactive, dialogic process and therefore informed by specific practice environments**
- **Indigenous knowledges - redress historic Western scientific colonialism and hegemony**

Practice

- **With rather than for people**
- **System maintenance and/or system change – transformation.**
- **Increase hope, self-esteem and creative potential to confront oppressive power dynamics and structural injustice**
- **Challenge the micro-macro; personal-political dichotomy**





Yolanda





Creating Awareness of Trafficking

Registering Survivors

**Advocating for Survivors Involvement in
Their own Recovery**

Supporting Survivors

Providing Information





Coron

Social Work Principles

- The survivors must be involved in all decisions that affect their futures.
- Use this crisis as an opportunity for Capacity Building – Improving the lives of survivors from pre-Yolanda conditions.

Established a school

5 dollars a day which stimulated local economy

New skills developed



Negotiated new housing settlement

Active engaged community

**Where as back in Tacloban the
People waited for the UN deliveries
Amongst the rubble**





Film in der Originalversion

- **One social worker, one plan per house**
- **Identifying social problems and formulating proactive responses**
- **Identifying that the community is both the main resource and also responsible and therefore need to be fully engaged in their own social wellbeing.**
- **Moved from a context where 60% of budget was spent on administration down to 10%.**



Film in der Originalversion

THANK YOU

Social Work = Social Transformation

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