



National Association of Social Workers

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STATEMENT OF THE CHARACTER OF AFFAIRS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER (NASW-RI)

Mission Statement: National Association of Social Workers

The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty. A historic and defining feature of social work is the profession's focus on individual well-being in a social context and the well-being of society. Fundamental to social work is attention to the environmental forces that create, contribute to, and address problems in living.

Social workers promote social justice and social change with and on behalf of clients. "Clients" is used inclusively to refer to individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities. Social workers are sensitive to cultural and ethnic diversity and strive to end discrimination, oppression, poverty, and other forms of social injustice. These activities may be in direct practice, community organizing, supervision, consultation, administration, advocacy, social and political action, policy development and implementation, education, and research and evaluation. Social workers seek to enhance the capacity of people to address their own needs. Social workers also seek to promote the responsiveness of organizations, communities and other social institutions to individuals' needs and social problems.

The mission of the social work profession is rooted in a set of core values. These core values, embraced by social workers throughout the profession's history, are the foundation of social work's unique purpose and perspective:

- Service
- Social justice
- Dignity and worth of the person
- Importance of human relationship
- Integrity
- Competence

The constellation of core values reflects what is unique to the social work profession. Core values, and the principles that flow from them, must be balanced within the context and complexity of the human experience.

In addition to activities outlined in the National NASW Mission Statement, specific activities of NASW-RI include:

- Advocate with and on behalf of individuals/groups to promote equality, necessary services and promotion of healthy involvement in the Rhode Island community.
- Provide professional training opportunities to Rhode Island social workers to improve services to those they serve and meet Rhode Island's continuing education requirements for licensure.
- Review and approve/disapprove training applications in relationship to Rhode Island's continuing education requirements for licensure (CE approval).
- Promote the rights, well-being and inclusion of people living in poverty, individuals with disabilities, minorities and other individual/groups who due to lack of resources, systemic societal factors or other limitations do not fully enjoy the benefits and access of our community. These objectives are carried out through public speaking, public education, advocacy, service on statewide and local committees and a host of other methods.
- Intervene on behalf of NASW-RI members when appropriate and necessary.