



The Importance of the Social Work Profession in the 21st Century

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Abstract

The social work profession has evolved over the last century into a discipline recognized for its promotion of the overall well-being of oppressed populations. Since its inception, the field has grown tremendously and is known to work in various settings with diverse populations. A major area of continued growth relates to social, economic, environmental, and racial injustices experienced both systematically and on micro-levels. In the 21st century, social workers are needed more than ever to serve the various needs of communities and society. This presentation will provide a brief history of the field of social work in the United States and the multiple areas of practice to provide context for the current position the profession occupies in serving those in need. Specific areas of focus will relate to current social problems and the ways social workers are capable of alleviating their strain on individuals, communities and society. A discussion will be held to identify international needs while addressing approaches to collaboration as a call to action.

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