

## Human Rights and Social Work

### Towards rights-based practice

#### Third edition

Now in its third edition, *Human Rights and Social Work* explores how the principles of human rights inform contemporary social work practice. Both human rights and social work have traditionally been understood through the lens of an Enlightenment world view. Jim Ife explores the implications of this Enlightenment heritage for social work, and the possibilities of ‘post-Enlightenment’ practice, in a way that is accessible, direct and engaging.

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**Emeritus Professor Jim Ife** holds adjunct positions at the Centre for Human Rights Education at Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia, at the Centre for Citizenship and Human Rights at Deakin University, and at Victoria University, Melbourne, Victoria.

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Towards rights-based  
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Jim Ife



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## About the author

Emeritus Professor Jim Ife holds adjunct positions at the Centre for Human Rights Education at Curtin University of Technology, Perth, Western Australia, at the Centre for Citizenship and Human Rights at Deakin University, and at Victoria University, Melbourne. He is a former secretary of the Human Rights Commission of the International Federation of Social Workers and is also a former president of Amnesty International Australia. Previously, he was Professor of Social Work and Social Policy at the University of Western Australia and at Curtin University. His other publications include *Community Development* (3rd edition, 2006), *Rethinking Social Work: Towards Critical Practice* (1997) and *Human Rights from Below: Human Rights and Community Development* (2010).

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## Acknowledgments

For the author of a book to claim that the ideas it contains are all his/her own is both false and arrogant. Ideas are shared, developed and reconstructed through a process of continuous dialogue, reading and collaborative praxis, and any claim to individual ‘ownership’ of such ideas in the form of ‘intellectual property’ is a nonsense. Simply writing ideas in a book, with its corresponding claim to ownership and authority, is to privilege the author over others who have had a major influence in the creative endeavour and is, for this author at least, a source of some discomfort. Many people have contributed, often unknowingly, to the ideas in this book and it would be impossible to acknowledge, or even to remember, them all. I owe a great deal to many encounters with students, colleagues and friends in several different universities and in the wider community.

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