Human Rights & Social Work: Towards Rights-based Practice helps students and practitioners understand how human rights concepts underpin the social work profession and inform their practice.

This book critically examines the three generations of human rights and the systems of oppression that prevent citizens from participating in society as equals. It explores a range of topics and concepts, from ethics and ethical social work practice, to deductive and inductive approaches to human rights, and global and local human rights discourses. The language, processes, structures and theories of social work that are fundamental to the profession are also discussed and critiqued.

The fourth edition features new case studies that explore current events, movements and human rights crises, including the Black Lives Matter movement, the Northern Territory Emergency Response, the #FreeBritney campaign, and the issues of child labour in the Global South and homelessness among LGBTIQA+ young people. This edition is accompanied by online resources for both students and instructors.

Human Rights & Social Work: Towards Rights-based Practice is an indispensable guide for contemporary social work students and practitioners aiming to become well-rounded human rights social workers.

Emeritus Professor Jim Ife has been a professor of social work at several universities, and was foundation Handa Professor of Human Rights Education at Curtin University. He is a former President of Amnesty International Australia, and has been active in various community groups.

Professor Karen Soldatić is Professor, School of Social Sciences, and Institute Fellow, Institute for Culture and Society, Western Sydney University. Karen’s research engages with critical questions of inequality, human rights and social injustice. She obtained her PhD (Distinction) in 2010 from the University of Western Australia.

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CONTENTS

List of case studies viii
About the authors ix
Acknowledgements x
Guide to online resources xi

Introduction 1

Chapter 1  Human rights in a globalised world 5
Introduction 6
The Enlightenment tradition of human rights 6
Social work 10
A discursive and constructivist approach to human rights 12
Globalisation 21
Rights-based practice 25
Conclusion 27

Chapter 2  Human rights: beyond traditional formulations 30
Introduction 31
The three generations of human rights 32
The dominance of first-generation views of human rights 35
The potential of the three-generation perspective 38
The three generations as a framework for practice 40
Beyond the three generations 48
Conclusion 50

Chapter 3  Public and private human rights 53
Introduction 54
The oppression of women, the contribution of feminism and constructions of gender 55
Children, dependency and competing claims for rights 59
Older people 64
People with disabilities 66
Other issues 68
Non-state abusers of human rights 68
Conclusion 70

Chapter 4  Culture and human rights 73
Introduction 74
The Western domination of human rights discourse 75
Individualism 76
Patriarchy 77
Colonialism, racism and progress 79
Chapter 5  Human rights and human needs
Introduction
The problem of needs
Needs and rights
Giving priority to different needs and rights
Hierarchies of needs and rights
Needs as contextualised rights
Needs and rights, means and ends
Who defines needs and rights?
Conclusion

Chapter 6  Human rights and obligations
Introduction
The erosion of the state
The protection of human rights
The realisation of human rights
Citizenship obligations
Respecting the rights of others
Exercising one’s rights
Conclusion

Chapter 7  Ethics and human rights
Introduction
Rights and ethics
Ethics as a conservative individualist discourse
Ethics as modernist
Ethics and human rights
Practising ethically
Conclusion

Chapter 8  Participation in the human rights discourse
Introduction
The global discourse of human rights
Participatory democracy
The local discourse of human rights
Conclusion
### Chapter 9  Constructing human rights for social work practice 167
- Introduction 168
- Deductive approaches to human rights practice 170
- Inductive approaches to human rights practice 174
- Conclusion 176

### Chapter 10  Achieving human rights through social work practice 179
- Introduction 180
- Theoretical foundations 180
- Empowerment 188
- Contextual/universal issues 197
- Conclusion 201

### Chapter 11  Respecting human rights in social work practice 206
- Introduction 207
- The language of social work 207
- The processes of social work 212
- The structures of social work 219
- The education of social workers 224
- Conclusion 228

### Chapter 12  Conclusion: prospects for human rights practice 231
- Introduction 232
- Post-Enlightenment social work 235
- Conclusion 242

Glossary 246
References 251
Index 274
# CASE STUDIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The Australian Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse 2013–17</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Liz Magee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The Northern Territory Emergency Response 2007</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Linda Briskman</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elder abuse</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Liz Magee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Human rights, culture and women with disabilities in Sri Lanka</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Karen Soldatić and Niroshini Kandasamy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Needs assessment, human rights and automation</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Karen Soldatić, Jason Lal and Ashley Liao</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Black Lives Matter</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Linda Briskman</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Child labour in the Global South</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Karen Soldatić</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Participation in the human rights discourse</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Karen Soldatić, Jason Lal and Ashley Liao</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Timor-Leste 1999</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jim Ife</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Trauma-informed practice</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Liz Magee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Young, queer and homeless</td>
<td>229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Karen Soldatić</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>International social work solidarity and the role of the International Federation of Social Workers</td>
<td>242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Linda Briskman</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ABOUT THE AUTHORS

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For the authors of a book to claim that the ideas it contains are all their 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 authors over others who have had a major influence in the creative endeavour and is, for we three authors 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. From our experience and collective knowledge, we 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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GUIDE TO ONLINE RESOURCES

Additional online resources for Human Rights & Social Work: Towards Rights-based Practice are freely available at www.cambridge.org/highereducation/isbn/9781108829700/resources. Visit the site to explore additional reading material for each chapter and links to human rights declarations, treaties and conventions.

Chapter 1  Human rights in a globalised world

Further readings


Human Rights Watch, ‘Reports’


National Archives of Australia, ‘Recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse’

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (website)

The Guardian, News: The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs 2020, World Social Report 2020: Inequality in a Rapidly Changing World