

Editorial: Abortion and The Routledge Handbook of Social Work Ethics and Values

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Because I am the founding editor of *The Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics*, I received an email from Routledge Publishers requesting me to edit a volume that they envisioned as timely and wanted the title *The Routledge Handbook of Social Work Ethics and Values*. I thought that, because I edit JSWVE, this project would be a breeze. After two months of working on it, the stark reality set in. I have heard the old expression: “It was like herding cats.” The 88 authors helped me understand the meaning of that phrase. This was not a job for one person. I sent out a plea to our editorial board for assistance, and Bob McKinney volunteered to help. There was no way I could have made the deadline without Bob.

Routledge required the volume to be international in scope. As a result, nearly half the recruited American authors dropped out because they were unable to include an international focus within their area of expertise. To compensate for the loss of authors, Bob and I capitalized on our social networks to recruit well-established social work authors in Africa, Australia, Europe, India, Korea, the Middle East, New Zealand, and South America. We were successful.

One ethical issue that is often discussed within the pages of JSWVE is abortion. The professional social work community is lopsided with pro-choice members. However, among the goals for all of Routledge’s handbooks are inclusiveness and comprehensiveness. Thus, if our handbook was to fulfill Routledge’s vision, we had to present the social work values of both sides of the abortion debate. Frankly, recruiting pro-life social workers

was a Herculean task. We found two authors who met our standards. In the end, the handbook includes three chapters addressing social work values as they relate to the abortion issue. There is a pro-choice chapter, a pro-life chapter, and a third chapter that advocates for a nondogmatic stance on abortion. These chapters will become great assets to social work education and practice. I doubt that there is another social work resource that tackles the abortion issue from these three perspectives.

To demonstrate the comprehensive nature and usefulness of this volume, we share the chapter titles:

1. A Historical Foundation to Social Work Values and Ethics
2. International Analysis of Human Rights and Social Work Ethics
3. Ethical Theories and Social Work Practice
4. Then and Now: The History and Development of Social Work Ethics
5. An Integrated Principle-Based Approach of International Social Work Ethical Principles and Servant Leadership Principles
6. Social Worker Self-Care: An Ethical Responsibility
7. The Test of a Good Conscience
8. Narrative Ethics in Social Work Practice
9. How a Relational Approach to Practice Can Encourage Social Work to Return to Its Ethical Endeavor
10. Ethical Action in Challenging Times
11. Social work ethics and values within the context of South African social work education and practice
12. Barriers to the Designing a Code of Ethics for Social Workers in the Arab Society

13. Disability Ethics: A Confluence of Human and Distributive Rights
14. Self-Determination and Abortion Access: A Pro-Choice Perspective on the International Statement of Ethical Principles
15. Preventing and Ending Abortion: The Role of Social Workers in Protecting Unborn Children
16. Mercy or Murder: Social Work and Ambivalence over Abortion
17. Advocating for Self-Determination, Arriving at Safety: How Social Workers Can Address Ethical Dilemmas in Domestic Violence
18. Social Work Clinical Practice and Intimate Partner Violence: A Systems Approach to Help Reverse the Macro (Epidemic) and Individual Effects of Violence
19. The Legal and Ethical Consequences of Human Trafficking
20. Social Work Ethics and Values in Criminal Justice Practice
21. Boundary Issues and Dual Relationships in Social Work: A Global Perspective
22. Social Worker's Dilemma in Patients' Rights on End-of-Life Care and Decision Making under the New Act in South Korea.
23. An Effective Theoretical Approach to Ethical Problem Solving in Cross-Cultural Social Work
24. Ethics and Values in Social Groupwork
25. Ethical challenges in group work: Potential perils and preventive practices
26. The Ethical Geography of Macro Practice: Human Rights to Utilitarianism
27. Ethical Dilemmas when Working with Extreme Right-winged Youth Cultures in Germany
28. Towards a response-able social work: Diffracting care through justice
29. Moral Courage and Moral Distress in Social Work Education and Practice: A Literature Review
30. Disagreement about Ethics and Values in Practice: Using Vignettes to Study Social Work Attitudes and Judgements
31. Ethical Study Abroad: Good Intentions Aren't Enough
32. Ethical Social Work Practice in the Technological Era
33. Social Work and Human Services Leadership in the New Genomic Era
34. Navigating Social and Digital Media for Ethical and Professional Social Work Practice
35. Cross-border Social Work Practice and Ethics in a Digital Age
36. Data Justice: An Ethical Imperative for Policy and Community Practice
37. Ethical decision-making model: an Islamic perspective
38. Social Work Ethics and Values: An Arabic-Islamic perspective
39. The Pope Francis' philosophy and the social work values
40. Essential Ethics Knowledge in Social Work: A Global Perspective
41. Welcoming the Stranger: The Ethics of Policy and Practice with Migrant and Refugee Populations
42. From the welfare state to welfare markets: Organisation and Management of UK Social Work/Social Care
43. Trading the Hard Road: Social Work Ethics and the Politicization of Food Distribution in Zimbabwe
44. The Ethics of Social Work and Its Professionalization: The Italian Case
45. The ethical question in the Argentine social work
46. Ethical Decision-Making in the Age of Austerity in the UK
47. Ethical Limitations of Privatization within Social Work and Social Care in England and Wales
48. Unconscious Awareness: The Implicit and Oppressive Ethical Context of Bilingual Social Work Practice
49. Inter-professional Ethics: Working in the Cross-Disciplinary Moral and Practice Space
50. Social Work Practice and Bullying in the Workplace
51. Ethics in the End

For social work professors, we hope this volume emerges as a great asset for the instruction of BSW, MSW, DSW, and Ph.D. students. We also understand that the changing landscape of communication

technologies, workplace settings, and myriad other factors mean that there will eventually be the need for a second edition of this volume that reflects those changes. Bob and I hope that you, as readers of JSWVE, will feel compelled to contribute when that time comes.

If you have questions, comments, or need additional information, email me at smarson@nc.rr.com. If you want your letter published in the next issue, you will have to include a statement granting me permission to publish your email.