Social Work and Feminism

Developed by the CSWE Council on Women and the Role and Status of Women

Overview

Social work educators and practitioners are uniquely positioned to both inform and be informed by the broader dialogue associated with feminism (Gringeri, Anderson-Nathe, & Wahab, 2015). From a practice perspective feminist approaches provide the values, knowledge, and skills social workers regularly use to elevate suffering and promote social justice. Relevant across all aspects of practice, feminist theories focus on engagement, social change, the importance of human relationships, overcoming oppression, and understanding privilege.

Related Resources:

- CSWE Council on Women and the Role and Status of Women blog

Journal of Social Work Education (JSWE) Special Sections

In the Winter 2008 and Fall 2015 editions of the JSWE, there were special sections designated for the role and status of women in social work education. In 2008, guest editors, Tricia Bent-Goodley and Susan Kiss Sarnoff, identified five areas of concern regarding women social work faculty, including “limited data collection, pay and rank inequity, limited mentoring opportunities, the challenges presented of balancing home life and work life in the professoriate, and the unique challenges of diverse groups of women in the academy” (p. 2). In the 2015 special section guest editors, Anna Faul and Johnnie Hamilton-Mason, confirm some accomplishments and ongoing struggles in regard to the concerns raised in 2008, in addition to new challenges for women in the academy.

Related Resources:

- Supplemental Readings (Appendix A)
Appendix A: Supplemental Readings

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*Journal of Social Work Education* Special Sections on the Council on the Role and Status of Women in Social Work


