



## The History of Relations Between Human Rights and Public Cooperate: An International Perspective

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### ABSTRACT

From its inception, social work has been a human rights profession, with its fundamental tenet being the intrinsic value of every human being and one of its primary goals being the advertising of equal and fair social structures. This can offer customers security and stability while maintaining their dignity, states the incorporation to the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) policy document. Following the publication of this declaration, the World Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) and, to a smaller but still substantial degree, the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) initiated a number of human rights activities (IASSW).

## 1. Introduction

The term “human rights” must first be defined before the profession’s claims to being a human rights speciality can be examined further. To put it simply, human rights are the freedoms and liberties that we enjoy as a species because they are our humanity [1, 2]. Although Ife’s emphasis on the human rights components of processes and outcomes is appealing, for sixty years, the area of human rights was already defined by the requirements of the UDHR, established by the UN in 1948. The Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 is often seen as a turning point in the history of human rights, even if there were earlier representations of human and civil rights in League of Nations policy and religious and political organizations [3].

This ground-breaking pact defined three ‘generations’ of rights [4, 5]. Human rights can be divided into three categories: first-generation (civil and political) rights; second-generation rights (e.g., the right to a clean environment), and third-generation rights (such as the right to a system of fair trade), which are collectively owned by and require the cooperation of all people on Earth. First and second-generation rights, as well as human rights claims made by persecuted minority groups, have all been considered in developing these rights. Some of the essential treaties include The International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) (1966); the International Convention on Racial Discrimination (1969); CEDAW (1979); CRC (1989); and the recently adopted Aspects of a given on Human Rights (2006).

While many components of the treaties pertain to human services, Articles twenty-two and twenty-five of the UDHR are especially pertinent since they state business and societal rights to necessities and services. Article twenty-two says: Everybody should have the right to be secure as well as to the fulfilment of economic, societal, and cultural rights necessary for human integrity as well as the free development of individuality (UN, 1948). Article twenty-five states, ‘Everybody should have rights to a standard of livelihood sufficient for his health and that of his household, including meals, housing, accommodation, healthcare services [6].

The UDHR’s vast rights are stated to be interrelated and indivisible. World leaders, particularly Western governments, and organizations like Amnesty International have paid far increasing emphasis to 1st-generation rights. While caseworkers have been active in all three categories of human rights, they are specifically interested in 2nd-generation rights and rights provided to specific groups [7]. This paper is organized in the following format: Section 2 talks about the contributions of social work to advancing human rights. Section 3 focuses on responses to the UDHR adoption by the social work community. Section 4 presents conclusions and summaries, including critical concluding remarks for research directions.

## **2. Considering the Contributions of Social Work to the Advancement of Human Rights**

Extensive research on the role of social work in human rights issues is required. Social work leaders have made significant contributions to human rights concerns, as has the profession's framework that addresses and activity on human rights. Social work has been involved in essential episodes and significant human rights campaigns. There is some overlap here, so they may as well be combined. Human rights work has been studied in the field by asking what social workers have done and looking back at what they said and did at pivotal times in the social justice movement. It was necessary to go through the outcomes and plans of previous International Conferences on Social Work, examine the articles produced during that time, and look into social work leaders' biographies. The following are concise descriptions of the evidence gleaned from various lines of inquiry [8].

### *2.1. Compatibility Between the Organization's Purpose and Values is Essential.*

The official pronouncements of social work ideals unquestionably agree with human rights. Human rights and social work ideals go hand in hand, as many writers have noted. The declaration's importance for social work comes principally in the fact that it unambiguously respects the value and dignity of each Gore of India made this connection in his statement to the 1968 International Conference on Social Welfare. Social work is based on the premise that every human being is deserving regardless of their monetary or social circumstances [9]. Codes of ethics in social work respect the inherent value of all persons [10, 11]. Respect for people's intrinsic value and dignity and the rights that come from this, as stated in a most current declaration of international ethical standards, is the foundation of social work. Even though many more declarations and measures might be cited, it is reasonable to say that social work is, in the abstract, a human rights professional.

### *2.2. Human Rights Leaders: Social Workers*

Nearly fifty years before the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted, the profession of social work's forebears was actively engaged in significant human rights initiatives. An outstanding example is Jane Addams, a native of the United States who became a local and worldwide activist before serving as the inspiration for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The biography says she was in the vanguard of fighting for women's suffrage, education for immigrants, children's health care, and housing and peace rights. At the time of her death, she had worked to form several international and regional human rights groups that still exist today, including the ACLU, the NAACP, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and many more. As a result of her pioneering work on behalf of the rights of future generations, she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931. One other early pioneer of American social work, Breckinridge, joined Addams in these global human rights campaigns in 1915 as treasurer of the Women's Peace Party and member of the women's peace mission to The Hague [12]. She participated in the International Penal and Prison Congress in the 1920s and 1930s, advocating for offenders' rights and humane treatment. Maintenance of peace, difficulties of international law; the rights of women; and social concerns" were some of the issues Breckinridge addressed as a delegate to international and American meetings. As Addams' colleagues in the United States, Julia Lathrop and Grace Abbott both served on League of Nations human rights committees, with Lathrop modern edge of the League Committee on the Traffic in Women and Children, serving as the first American delegate to the International Labor Organization [13].

A British activist for children's rights sprang out of her early work with a non-profit organization society. In 1923, she penned the Declaration of Geneva, which the League of Nations accepted in 1924. (Healy, 2008). A leading advocate for women's rights, Alice Salomon founded social work and social work education in Germany and served as the first president of the International Association for the Study of Social Work (IASSW). In the early twentieth century, she was actively involved in peace and disarmament campaigns [14].

### *2.3. Involvement in Significant Human Rights Campaigns and Critical Occurrences*

More formal engagement by the social work practice could better represent its status as just a human rights professional in aside from looking at the activities of individual leaders. The span of this essay does not include an in-depth discussion of all of the twentieth century's significant movements. Despite this, a few things should be noted. In the 1930s and 1940s, social workers continued to advocate for peace. According to a declaration signed by 75 US national social work leaders, social workers "consider the avoidance of war to be of immeasurably more value than this kind of ministrations just after the fact". To ensure that all civil liberties were protected, the statement was sent out to the press and all representatives of the US Congressional, and it expressly encouraged the protection of free speech rights, free assembly, and free press [15].

Worldwide professional groups embraced the anti-apartheid campaign. IFSW and IASSW were formally active as external pressure organizations. Because of South Africa's racially professional groupings, the IFSW provisionally excluded the country in 1970 and banned it forever in 1976. Several requirements and inspections were put in place by the IASSW for South African institutions to remain members. However, this was not without opposition from some of the organization's members, particularly the Nordic schools [16].

### **3. Responses to the UDHR's Adoption by the Social Work Community**

Looking for responses to the UDHR in social work or elsewhere has yielded surprisingly little information. While searching through the archives of major American social work publications from 1946 to 1950, I came across just one item about the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and its suggestions for a UN Declaration of Human Rights. A small mention of human rights was included in the broad discussion sections of the Social Service Review. Still, there was no mention of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) or the creation of UNICEF. In the February 1948 issue of *The Survey*, an early American social work journal, an article titled "Human Rights" was published. For the first time, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights has approved a draft of the Convention on Human Rights. It highlighted the most important themes and provided a timeline for UN organizations to complete their work before submitting their recommendations to the General Assembly [10].

Few referrals to human rights could be found in proceedings from international social work conferences held between 1947 and 1952. Atlantic City and New York City hosted the International Conference in April of 1948. UNICEF, the International Labor Organization, the International Refugee Organization, and the World Health Organization were among the organizations that spoke at the sessions, which were closely related to the UN's Social Commission. Human rights were not mentioned, nor was there any mention of the current process for producing the monumental statement. As a lecturer on Brazilian social work colleges said, those studying to become social workers must address topics such as the basis of a human being, their needs, and "their rights and obligations as a person" [10].

#### *3.1. International Representation and Action by Official Professionals.*

As professional engagement in human rights activism and study has grown in recent years, several publications on human rights and social service have been published due to this increased activity. In the early 1990s, the UN published a guidebook on international law and human work in partnership with the IFSW and the IASSW. "More than several occupations, education providers and professionals are mindful that their issues are directly related to regarding for human rights," says the handbook *Human Rights and Social Work*. This group believes that civil liberties and political liberties cannot be fully realized without thoroughly enjoying one's economic, social, cultural, and spiritual liberties. According to the declaration, "theory, values, ethics, and practice of social work are all intertwined with human rights." Therefore, social work must include advocating for these rights, even if doing so might have negative implications for social workers in countries with authoritarian governments. Children's rights have also been addressed in a guidebook published by IFSW [17].

### **4. Conclusions and Discussion**

It is clear from historical evidence that social work has played a significant role in human rights advocacy from its inception, even before the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Although there were several examples of engagement and awareness, there was no formal leadership from 1945 until the 1980s. While the seventies may be attributed to a lack of official participation, this was not the case in the mid-1950s. Instead, post-war assistance and rebuilding and attempts to disseminate social work support and to learn to other regions were the emphases of social work during this period (Kendall, 1978). In 1988, the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) released a policy statement outlining the organization's commitment to human rights. Despite this, social work efforts are still undervalued [10].

There are several theories for social work's lack of visibility in the worldwide human rights movement. Focus on vulnerable and socially excluded groups, preference for case approach rather than macro issues, strict obedience of personal privacy impeding the use of cases to serve the broader cause. Focus on needs rather than rights and the absence of prolonged effective dominance on human rights by institutions that reflect them are just some of these. There are others as well. Each of these points to potential directions in which the profession may take its human rights work.

Social workers have generally focused more on people's needs than human rights, which is an understandable conclusion. Even though the profession was heavily engaged in international affairs during the preparation and approval of the UDHR, its attention was drawn to UNICEF's newly formed child social safety net programs and the extensive relief efforts underway in Europe and East Asia. While human rights policy was left to others, this was only one example of the profession's concentration on immediate human needs. American Association of Social Workers approved a program declaration for its delegate conference in 1947 that foreshadows Article 25 of the UDHR, which was enacted over a year and a half later. "All people worldwide require systematic systems to offer chances for a job and a steady income, to secure their house, to encourage health and wellbeing and proper education, and to provide possibilities for religious expression [18].

Frequently, demands and rights are placed side by side as if one were inherently more significant than the other. There are several ways in which social work might reframe this perspective. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Articles 22 and 25 are founded on human needs. Several fundamental human rights have been established. As an action-oriented career, social work has a lot to offer. Although some academics may spend their time debating philosophy,

social workers are more likely to use their time-solving issues and meet needs. According to Article 25 and other essential articles of ICESCR, CEDAW, and CRC, social workers might be considered front-line human rights professionals in their implementation.

In thinking about the future, the field of social work has a chance to make a stronger case for its human rights emphasis. Human rights and the institution's purpose and principles are so closely aligned that it's easy to see how the two go hand in hand. A worldwide presence is possible because of human rights, which connect regional and national problems with those of the world.

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