



«Human Rights: a theoretical framework for Social
Work education»

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Social Work, as an area of scientific knowledge in the field of social and human sciences

- Integrates a theoretical and scientific approach to Human Rights.
- In the exercise of the profession, the social worker applies Human Rights within a theoretical framework of his own reference based on the scientific dimensions of Social Work (principles and values).

Human Rights in contemporary society

- They are integrated in the macro theory of Social Work and are considered as fundamental for the promotion of professional practices:
 - of protection and emancipation of the population (general)
 - for specific groups characterized by social, economic and cultural vulnerability (specific)

When considering Human Rights as a macro theory of Social Work...

- we recognize them as a theoretical reference for practice.
 - This requires concrete intervention models that are based on the principles and values of Human Rights and not only on the recognition of these as a humanist philosophy that guides professional action.
- Human Rights and social welfare are framed with greater emphasis on radical, critical and activist practices of social and human development and counseling.

Table nº 1 «Human Rights and Social Work»

Universal Declaration of Human Rights	Social Work
Universality	Human Dignity
Equality and non-discrimination	Self-determination
Civil and political rights	Social Justice
Right to life, freedom and security	Autonomy
Right to belong to a social order	Participation
Economic, social and cultural rights	Social citizenship

Graphic nº 2. «Relationship between paradigms and values / principles of Social Work based on Human Rights»



Fundamentals of Human Rights as a theoretical and sustainability basis of Education in Social Work in Contemporaneity

- To illustrate this issue of the foundations of Human Rights as a theoretical basis of Social Work, we explain in the following table the relationship between two dimensions: the principles and values of Social Work in comparison with the articles of the Declaration of Human Rights (1948).).

Table nº 2. «Relationship between the Principles and Values of Social Work and the articles of the Declaration of Human Rights»

Principles and Values of Social Work	Article of the Declaration of Human Rights (1948)
<p><u>Human Dignity</u> - It covers all people. Social Work must promote and defend the integrity and physical, psychological, emotional and spiritual well-being of each person.</p>	<p>Art. 1 - all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.</p>
<p><u>Autonomy / participation</u> - Social Work must respect and promote the right to self-determination, the right to freedom of choice and decision-making regardless of the values and life choices, provided that they do not threaten the legitimate rights and interests of the the rest; and to promote the right to participation: the involvement and participation of all people must be promoted, using their own resources in order to train them to strengthen all aspects related to their decision-making capacity and the actions that affect their lives</p>	<p>Art. 2 - expresses the principle of equality and non-discrimination of all persons who need the support of this Declaration, and prohibits any type of discrimination, based on race, color, sex, language, religion, political opinions or other , national or social origin, economic position, birth or any other condition.</p> <p>Article 3. - guarantees the right to life, liberty and personal security.</p>

Equality, non-discrimination - Social Work has the responsibility to avoid negative discrimination based on characteristics such as age, culture, gender, marital status, socioeconomic status, political opinions, skin color, race or other physical characteristics, sexual orientation or beliefs spiritual and even recognize and respect the ethnic and cultural diversity of the societies in which they perform their practice taking into account individual differences, family, group and community.

Art. 4 to 21 - includes civil and political rights: the prohibition of slavery and servitude, the prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or treatment, the right to recognition of legal personality, the right to marry and founding a family, the right to property, the right of thought, conscience and religion, freedom of opinion and expression, the right of peaceful assembly and association and the right to participate in the government of their country and the access under equal conditions the public functions of each country.

Social Justice - distribute resources equitably, Social Work must ensure that available resources are distributed equitably according to the needs of each and on the other hand innovate in public policies and practices, having the duty to call attention to the state, employers, governments, politicians and the general public to situations where resources or distribution are inadequate, as well as oppressive policies and practices.

Art 28 to 30 -. The right of everyone to belong to a social and international order that is capable of making fully effective the rights and freedoms enunciated in the Declaration, as well as the duty of everyone has with their community.

Social Citizenship - promotion of support measures for the citizens that need it, improving the well-being and quality of life in society, carrying out activities of national and local participation in the group.

It corresponds to Social Work to challenge the social conditions that contribute to social exclusion, stigmatization and marginalization, contributing to an inclusive society.

Art. 22.º and Art. 23.º al 27.º - Here are explained "the economic, social and cultural rights to which all are entitled" as members of society. "Rights as indispensable for human dignity and free development of personality and mentions that they must be carried out "through national effort and international cooperation." It points out the limitations in the enjoyment of those rights, which depend on the resources of each State.

Conclusive synthesis

- We want to emphasize that human rights education requires a holistic and interdisciplinary approach in the entire fields of intervention of the social worker.
- These constitute experimental fields of human rights learning, since their values, skills and critical thinking can only be acquired through experience and practice.

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Thank you

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Muito obrigado

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