



Co-production Achieving transformational Change

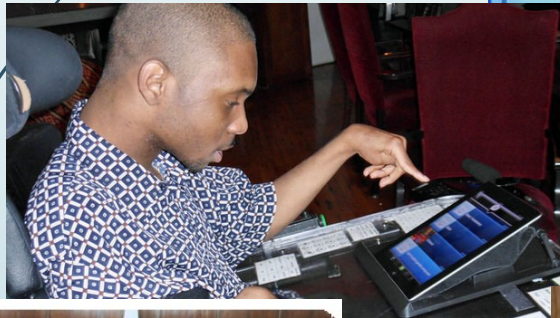
Ruth Stark
President IFSW

Transformation



This document presents our Disability Action Plan.

Into full membership of the community





Co-production leads to sustainable development

From our professional practice experience we find that people don't want to be in the hands of disempowering social care systems, which undermine communities of their organic means of helping one another. People who use social services and those trying to access them want fairness: a level playing field and equal opportunity to succeed. They want their voices to be heard and to have influence over their own lives.



International Definition of Social Work 2014

Social work is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that

promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people.

Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work. Underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities and indigenous knowledge,

social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance wellbeing.



Social Care/Social Protection Systems

- ▶ *73% of world population have no or very restricted access to social protection resulting in the perpetuation of extreme poverty and hardship in the lives of the majority of the world's inhabitants", (ILO (2014) World Social Protection Report 2014/15)*
- ▶ Social security is a human right enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. States are in the obligation to provide a minimum level of well-being and social support for all citizens.
- ▶ The ILO -Recommendation 202 (2012) concerning the national implementation of Social Protection Floors defines a minimum level of social protection as a right for social security.
- ▶ **But governments are free in the way they conceive and organize their national social protection systems.**



IFSW Policy 2016

- ▶ this policy comprises two parts:
- ▶ The first **addresses the need for all people to have access to competent social protection systems.**
- ▶ The second part is directed at **the role of social workers working with people engaged with these systems.**
- ▶ Both parts advance that the understanding of **social work locates social welfare in a broader context of a social developmental model making social protection transformative, leading to positive economic outcomes, to more sustainable, stabilised, resilient and harmonious societies.**



Current issues

The provision of social protection has traditionally been seen as alleviating the impacts of insecurity, poor health, economic and social vulnerability and can help preserve basic standards of living for all.

Social protection reduces fears and gives assurance and confidence that such problems do not result in a further impoverishment.

More recent debates have raised the question about whether this traditional perspective feeds a dependency model or whether it is possible to construct social protection systems that are socially transformative by reducing inequality and building social justice.

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"BLUNT, DIGNIFIED AND
BRUTALLY MOVING."

- The Guardian



What Social Protection systems should do

- Social protection systems should have a preventive and sustainable effect; strengthening resiliency of individuals, families and communities and enhancing the capability to react to risks of life.
- Social protection should better the quality of life of vulnerable populations living in precarious situations that may have few if any resources to help them through the crises and disasters that they may encounter in their life path.
- They should also promote the realisation of basic human rights and make a crucial contribution to establishing social justice.



Why?


- ▶ Social protection helps to stabilize economic development as it has been demonstrated that for every \$1 spent on social protection yields a \$3 return to the economy.
- ▶ As people become empowered they become engaged in economic activity and this leads to increased social and economic outcomes.
- ▶ A comprehensive social protection system contributes to the reduction of poverty, reduces inequalities, contributes to social cohesion, and lays the base for a socially sustainable economic development

(Basu & Strickler, 2013).



Implications of the policy

- In social work ethics and principles, social workers view **social protection systems as instruments for social transformation, democracy and creating socially just societies.**
- The role of social workers is to mediate between state services and family community systems to achieve outcomes that reinforce the capacity of family and community in sustainable self-care and the ability to access social protection systems when necessary.
- Social workers use their knowledge, experience and skills to advocate within services to ensure that people who use services are treated with dignity and are able to make decisions with respect to the care that they receive.

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- Social workers advocate within their places of work and communities that services are integrated enabling maximum accessibility and avoiding unnecessary duplication. **As social professionals they encourage that all other professional groups work to co-construct understandings with their clients and work towards the person's self-determination.**
 - Social workers are advocates for the development of accessible, affordable and transparent social protections systems that are embedded within communities and engage communities in the development of services.
 - The implications of this policy also impact upon employers of social workers. **Employers of social workers and administrators of social protection systems need to support social workers as advocates for social development, peoples rights and community engagement.**



Co-production?

The IFSW policy

locates social welfare in a broader context of a social developmental model making social protection transformative, leading to positive economic outcomes, to more sustainable, stabilised, resilient and harmonious societies.

This cannot nor should be done alone, it needs other partners, primarily

People who have expertise through their lived experience of the systems and the people who work in them

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Further detail on

www.ifsw.org

www.ifsw.org/policies/the-role-of-social-work-in-social-protection-systems-the-universal-right-to-social-protection/



How do we work together for transformational change?

International organisations in partnership

IASSW

ICSW

IFSW

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- ▶ The Global Agenda
- ▶ World Social Work Day 21st March 2017
- ▶ World Conference on Social Work and Social Development July 2017 Dublin