

Human Rights and Social Justice in Social Work training

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Social Work has a pillar in its ethical foundations such as human rights, social justice, human dignity and self-determination of the individual as a person / citizen. It is human rights and social justice that motivate and legitimize the action in promoting inclusion and social integration. Currently new reconfigurations arise from societal changes in terms of rights in which new frameworks of social policies emerged and human rights have been progressively undermined.

Social workers are confronted in their practice with questions that require a deep knowledge of human rights, since only in this way they can work in basis of solidarity and social justice, without which the targets and local / global needs as part of its activity, are forgotten. It is also based on this in-depth knowledge that the social worker takes part in the definition of social policies, in addition with their execution.

Human rights and social justice defense must remain beyond the boundaries that separate countries, even those which the regime does not allow it. It is up to Social Work to reinforce this reality, since it is embedded in its practice. Additionally to theory, values and professional practice, this knowledge should be part of an academic training contributing to the most legitimate and urgent needs of the professional practice.

In order to know how these issues are contained in the Study Plans of the 1st cycle of the Social Work courses and understand at European level their differences and similarities, we carried out a qualitative study of categorical content analysis of a wide range of study plans in European schools. The preliminary results showed that although there is an investment in this area there is also the need to reinforce this subject in the curricula and to enhance a convergence in its treatment between European schools.