

BASW Human Rights Advisory Group Specification for 'Foundation Report'.

Social work is a human rights based profession. While social workers are experts in their specific areas of practice the profession lacks one coherent document that sets out the range of social work practice in the context of human rights. BASW thus seeks to commission a written resource that will act as an introduction to human rights and social work with a focus on practice. The document is being commissioned to support the establishment of BASW's Human Rights Advisory Group, nevertheless, it is envisaged that it will also go on to be used as a wider resource for the social work community in the UK.

Content

The report will need to describe and evidence:

- The development of human rights in an international context;
- The development of human rights law in the UK;
- The relationship between ethics and human rights;
- What falls within 'human rights' and what does not;
- The mechanisms whereby conflicting human rights are resolved; and;
- How emerging thinking on human rights theory and practice might develop in the future.

The document will cover the protected characteristics of age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, 'race', religion and sexual orientation.

The document will need to give *particular attention* to human rights as they are applied in legal and policy terms to statutory social work *practice* in relation to:

- Children and families (e.g. including safeguarding, care and adoption orders, care leavers and unaccompanied asylum-seeking children);
- Adults (including the compulsory detention & treatment of people with mental health problems and the role of the AMHP, capacity and capability issues for the vulnerable elderly, people with a learning disability through DoLs and BIAs and Adult Safeguarding); and,
- Disability (including the social model, personal budgets and direct payments and residential care).

The document could usefully include case *vignettes* that ground examples of practice in the context of human rights law.

Service users and carers have been at, and continue to be at, the forefront of advocating for the practical implementation of human rights through social work practice and the report will need to address this.

The document will need to address the extent of any pre-qualification education that social workers receive in human rights, and the extent to which post qualification training is available.

Social work and the application of human rights is not practised in a vacuum. Poverty and, since 2010, the political choice of austerity, have constrained the practical delivery of human rights based services. The report will need to address this and identify the main areas of constraint.

There is increasing divergence in law and policy between the four countries of the UK and *particular attention* needs to be given to how these impact on differences in social work *practice* in the four countries.

The document *may* also consider: human rights and issues of 'medical science' (e.g. end of life care, surrogacy and epigenetics); ICT related issues (e.g. data mining, machine learning; right to privacy; GDPR) and the impact of Brexit.

However, where categories are omitted clear reasons for exclusion must be included.

The document must be fully referenced.

Style and length

The aim is for a document which is accessible to a range of social work audiences - especially practitioners - rather than being aimed at a primarily legal, policy or academic audience. It is an introduction rather than a comprehensive description and analysis. It would be particularly useful if the report was structured in such a way that country-specific social work communities could navigate in the report from the UK-wide position to the specific position in their particular country. The accessibility is reflected in the length of the document which should be between 5,000 and 10,000 words.

Intellectual Property and Branding

The text of the document will be put in a PDF document, that will be available on the BASW website and through other channels. The copyright of the document will be with BASW. However, the author(s) name(s) will be on the front cover. The citation will thus be: Author(s) (Date) (Title) Birmingham: BASW. Potential authors will therefore recognise that this is a significant publication which funds the author(s) up-front.

Fee

The proposed fee for undertaking this work is up to £5,000.

Application

BASW welcomes applications from individual authors or one or more authors working together. Application is by CV and covering letter. The CV, or CVs if more than one author, should cover relevant qualifications and experience including previous publications (if any). The covering letter should set out why the proposer, or collective proposers, are best placed to undertake this work, the proposed timescale for development and completion and the proposed fee. Applications should be submitted by 17th March 2019. BASW will select the strongest application. BASW reserves the right not to appoint simply on the basis of fee.

LG 7th December, 2018 / Updated 8 Jan, 2019.