

Update of the revised Manual: Human Rights and Social Work. A Manual for Schools of Social Work and the Social Work Profession (Centre for Human Rights Geneva 1994:15-17)

April 2024

Mareike Niendorf

Nivedita Prasad

First published on aliceOpen, the publication server of Alice Salomon University Berlin in September 2024. The document is available at: <https://doi.org/10.58123/aliceopen-646>

Suggested citation

Niendorf, Mareike/Prasad, Nivedita (2024): Update of the revised Manual: Human Rights and Social Work for Schools of Social Work and the Social Work Profession. Berlin.

<https://doi.org/10.58123/aliceopen-646>



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One of the purposes of the Manual on Human Rights and Social Work is inter alia to provide social work students, teaching staff and practicing social workers with an understanding and awareness of human rights issues and social justice (see Centre for Human Rights Geneva 1994:3¹). This manual is an essential document for social workers because it was the first to give voice to the idea of social work as a human rights profession. It was prepared at the level of the United Nations as a collaborative venture between the Centre for Human Rights, the International Federation of Social Workers and the International Association of Schools of Social Work. Much of the document is still very much up to date, but for obvious reasons this cannot be said of the list of "basic human rights instruments", which has been updated in this document to hopefully enable trainers to continue to use the manual.

We would like to thank the colleagues from the EASSW Special Interest Group Human Rights and Social Work² for their contribution by sharing the documents and institutions they refer to in their classes.

¹ <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/209246?v=pdf#files> [11.9.2024]

² https://eassw.org/Pages/sig_content.php?sig=1 [11.9.2024]

Basic instruments concerning human rights

A. Instruments providing general protection

1. Charter of the UN (1945)
2. Universal Declaration on Human Rights UDHR (1948)

B. Instruments providing particular protection (including Committees, Jurisprudence and General Comments/Recommendations)

1. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination ICERD (1965)
2. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ICCR (1966)
3. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ICESCR (1966)
4. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women CEDAW (1979)
5. Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment CAT (1984)
6. Convention on the Rights of the Child CRC (1989)
7. International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families ICRMW (1990)
8. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities CRPD (2006)
9. International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance CPED (2006)

C. Specialized agencies

1. International Labour Organization (ILO)
2. UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
3. World Health Organization (WHO)
4. International Monetary Fund (IMF)

D. United Nations Bodies

1. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
2. Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
3. General Assembly and subsidiary bodies
4. International Criminal Court ICC (1998)
5. Human Rights Council and special procedures
 - a. Special Rapporteurs
 - b. Working Groups

E. Regional instruments/Commissions

1. Africa

- Charter of the Organization of African Unity/OAU Charter (1963)
- African Charter on Human and People's Rights/Banjul Charter (1981)
- African Commission on Human and People's Rights (est.1987)

2. Asia-Pacific Region

- The Asian Human Rights Commission (1984)
- Asian Human Rights Charter (1986)

3. The Americas

- American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man/Bogota Declaration (1948)
- Charter of the Organization of American States (1948)
- Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (est. 1959)
- American Convention on Human Rights/ Pact of San Jose, Costa Rica (1969)

- Inter-American Court of Human Rights (est. 1979)

4. Europe

- European Convention on Human Rights (1952)
- European Court of Human Rights (1959)
- European Social Charter (1961)
- Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (1975)
- European Convention and Committee (CPT) on the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (2002)
- Council of Europe Convention and Committee (GRETA) on Action against Trafficking on Human Beings (2005)
- Council of Europe Convention and Committee on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence/Istanbul Convention (2011)

5. League of Arab States

- Arab Charta on Human Rights (2004)

F. Other Human Rights Instruments/Documents

- UN-Declaration on the Protection of Women in Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict (1974)
- UN-Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief (1981)
- Principles of Medical Ethics relevant to the Role of Health Personnel, particularly Physicians, in the Protection of Prisoners and Detainees against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1982)
- Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (1985)
- United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice/The Beijing Rules (1985)
- UN-Declaration on the Right to Development (1986)
- UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (2007)
- Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity (2007)
- UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training (2011)
- UN-Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (2016)

National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)

- Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI)
- Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF)
- European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI)
- Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI)
- Network of National Institutions in the Americas (NHRIs)

Relevant Documents of the Profession

- International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW)/ International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) (2004): Ethics in Social Work, Statement of Principles. Adelaide: IASSW.
- International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) Europe (2010): Standards in Social work practice meeting human rights. Berlin: IFSW Europe.

- International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW)/International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW)/International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) (2012): The Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development Commitment to Action. New York: ICSW.
- International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW)/ International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) (2014): Global Definition of Social Work.
- International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW)/ International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) (2018): Global Social Work Statement of Ethical Principles. Dublin.
- International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW)/ International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) (2020): Global Standards for Social Work Education and Training.