

ENSACT– Conference in Dubrovnik/Croatia, April 27th to April 29th, 2009

SOCIAL ACTION IN EUROPE. DIFFERENT LEGACIES – COMMON CHALLENGES?

PRE-CONFERENCE: HUMAN RIGHTS IN TEACHING AND PRACTICE

APRIL, 26TH, 2009, 10.00 to 18.30

At the European Conference in Parma, in March 2007, colleagues from schools of social work and from social services have participated in a Roundtable with the human rights expert, professor Joe Wronka from Springfield College, Mass./ USA. After an introduction by Joe Wronka the participants informed about the relevance of Human Rights in the curricula of their schools. The session closed with the idea to start an European Network about the topic of "Teaching and Training for Human Rights in Social Work".

Fact is, that in spite of the different documents about the "International Definition of the Social Work Profession", the „Ethics in Social Work, Statements of Principles" and the "Global Standards for the Education and Training of the Social Work Profession" (all in a Supplement of the Journal of International Social Work of 2007), who all mention human rights as ethical criteria for social work, there is still little resonance about this till to-day. The same holds for the Recommendations of the Minister Committee of the Council of Europe of 2001 and 2003 to integrate human rights in the education and field work of social work. Yet, the revised European Social Charter of 1966 could and should be a great chance for social work to put its focus on social rights in theory and practice. A speaker at the Conference of the International Association of Schools of Social Work in Durban/South Africa, was very radical in saying, that if the schools are not able to engage in and teach about human rights, they should stop to talk about them.

Yet, there are enough issues to discuss in their relevance for European social work. But it seems easier to point to the human rights violations of non-European countries: Considering the increasing gap between rich and poor and the ‚jobless-growth‘ in many regions and suburbs (banlieues), considering the cutting of subsidies till to zero by misbehaviour, considering the inhuman European policies for refugees, the trafficking with women and children, the sometimes disastrous situations in homes and institutions, the growing nationalisms and racism, the crude national ethnocentrism of social policies and social welfare of the rich countries etc., there are plenty of relevant social problems which challenge social work and ask for a contribution with the means it has.

Invitation to participate

Thus, we would like to invite colleagues – teachers, practitioners and students – to discuss these issues in a Pre-Conference on Sunday, April 26, 2009. The possible topics could be about especially vulnerable groups and human rights violations, philosophical and ethical foundations of human rights, universality versus pluralism/diversity, dilemmas in the implementation of human rights, best and worst practice in human rights etc. A group of students from the University Ravensburg-Weingarten / South Germany would be interested in the conference at all and would like to prepare a presentation for the pre-conference about their view of Human Rights in Social Work.

Meanwhile 9 colleagues and 10 students have send us an abstract, to give present a contribution and on this base we have drafted the following programme (see next page) for the pre-conference. Therefore, if you are interested to participate, don't hesitate, to send your registration on the form (see the following page 3) to walz@hs-weingarten.de.

Prof. Dr. Silvia Staub-Bernasconi, Director of a "Master of Social Work and Human Rights", Berlin/Germany (mail: staubernasco@bluewin.ch) / Prof. Dr. Hans Walz, University of Applied Sciences, Ravensburg-Weingarten (mail: walz@hs-weingarten.de) in cooperation with

Dr. Graça André, Social Worker and lecturer at the Catholic University in Lisbon / Prof. Christel Michel and Prof. Dr. Maik Winter, Univ. of Applied Sciences, Ravensburg-Weingarten / MSW Sharon Schneider, DSA, Head of Division, Zick-Zack: Community-Based Social Work Services for Secondary School Pupils (Vorarlberg/Austria) / Ruth Stark, Social Officer BASW, Edinburgh, Head of the IFSW World-Human-Rights-Commission / Prof. Dr. Gaby Franger-Huhle, Univ. of Applied Sciences Coburg / Prof. Elisabeth Reichert, Ph.D., Univ. of Carbondale, USA.

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Program for the Pre-Conference:
HUMAN RIGHTS IN TEACHING AND PRACTICE

APRIL, 26TH, 2009, 10.00 to 18.30 in the old city of Dubrovnik, adress: Benfortuna d.o.o., Poljana Paška Miličevića 4. (You can see the place of Benfortuna on www.benfortuna.hr)

- 10.00 - 10.15:** Opening: Silvia Staub-Bernasconi and Hans Walz
- 10.15 - 11.30:** Gaby Franger–Huhle, University of Applied Sciences Coburg, Germany
Elisabeth Reichert, Southern Illinois University, Cabondale (USA):
Human Rights education in Schools for Social Work
- 11.30 - 12.00:** Students from University for Applied Sciences in Weingarten, Germany: Nikias Bermetz,
Benjamin Börner, Maria Günther, Joerg Hügler, Daniela Lentner-Banholzer, Anna
Knieper, Bastian Oechsle, Lars Stoll, Tobias Linder, Michael Bollinger:
Human Rights in Social Work Practice
- 12.00 - 12.15:** Break
- 12.15 - 12.45:** Rudi Roose, Ghent University, Belgium:
Childrens Rights: A Challenge for Social Work
- 12.45 - 13.15:** Sharon Schneider, Head of Division, Zick-Zack, Dornbirn, Austria:
Realising the Convention of the Rights of the Child in Social Work Practice
- 13.15 - 14.45:** Break for Lunch
- 14.45 - 15.15:** Christel Michel, University of Applied Sciences Weingarten, Germany:
Justice and Social Work
- 15.15 - 15.45:** Silvia Staub-Bernasconi, Director of a “Master of Social Work and Human Rights”,
Berlin/Germany
How to rethink Theories of Social Work in the light of Human Rights
- 15.45 - 16.15:** Break
- 16.00 - 16.30:** Graça André, Social Worker at Casa Pia and lecturer at Universidade Católica
Portuguesa in Lisbon, Portugal:
Social Work Education and the relevance of Human Rights Topics
- 16.30 - 17.00:** Hans Walz, University for Applied Sciences in Weingarten, Germany:
How to teach Human Rights to different professions
- 17.00 - 17.15:** Break
- 17.15 - 17.45:** Ruth Stark, Social Officer BASW, Edinburgh, UK, Head of IFSW Human Rights
Commission:
A new version of the Manual “Social Work and Human Rights”
- 17.45 – 18.30:** What has to be discussed in the next meeting; conclusions and further steps
(e.g. the Manual and the Network)

Form for answering (Deadline: April, 4th 2009):

- I am interested to participate at the whole Pre-Conference: 0 (please mark with a cross)
- I participate only in the morning (10 – 13.00): 0
- I participate only in the afternoon (15.00 – 18.30): 0
- I won't be in Dubrovnik, but would like to be on the network-mailing list: 0

I am interested in

- Human Rights Teaching: 0
- Human Rights Practice: 0
- Participation in a Network : 0

Name:

Institution:

Function:

Postal address:

E-Mail address:

Tel.:

Suggestions for the Pre-Conference:

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Please: send back till April, 4th 2009 by mail to: walz@hs-weingarten.de

Postal adress:

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