



Global Awareness Society International  
**Virtual Symposium: *Globalization and Climate Change: In Pursuit of a Better World***

**Panel Session 2B – *Global Social Work***  
May 28, 2021 – 10:10-11:50 AM New York Time

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Abstract

***Social Work Education's Role in Preparing Social Work Students to Impact the Challenges of Climate Change Globally***

Climate change has become one of the most important challenges facing societies worldwide. Communities experiencing disasters induced by climate change require support of social workers to deal with the aftermath. As professionals, social workers focus on the 'person in the environment' from a human rights and social justice perspective to enhance the well-being of humans globally. Climate change has led to an increase in several related physical illnesses, mental health issues and death due to extreme change in weather. Specifically, asthma, and cardiovascular disease have been linked to pollution. Social educators must understand climate change and its impact on vulnerable populations globally. It is imperative that social work curriculum prepare students with the knowledge and skills to become competent practitioners, advocates, and community mobilizers to work with communities affected by climate change globally.

This presentation will focus on the role of social workers as community leaders, educators and policy makers on the impact of climate change. The presentation will also highlight some of the barriers that has been identified in the slow process of change. In addition, the presentation will challenge participants to begin to think about an ideological shift in the social work profession that will expand our understand of what is truly meant by the person-and – environment. The final part of the presentation will be a call to action address policy changes that will align with human dignity globally.

**Key words:** climate change, social work education, and policy,



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Mr. MOHAMMED ELARDI  
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***Social Work in Morocco***

Abstract

This short introduction sets out a vision for international cooperation and shared learning and expert in social work between North-South and partner organisations interested in advancing international social work knowledge and impact. The social work profession is undergoing significant growth and change. In recent years more governments throughout the world have recognized that social work is essential to running sustainable economies and societies. Another driver of change is that social work approaches of facilitating ground up self-development have gain wider support from the United Nations and other policy institutions as they have proven to contribute to positive social transformation. Yet, more challenges lie ahead for the profession with increasing numbers of refugees fleeing worsening climate change or armed conflict, the global economic crisis forcing hundreds of millions into poverty, the Covid pandemic and likelihood of further pandemics.

The definition of Global Social Work provided by the International Federation clarifies the importance of international social work in addressing many of the problems that will face the world's population who live in difficult economic and social conditions. Climate change will make the situation more difficult, and this encourages us to enhance the awareness of governments and non-governmental organizations of the importance of international social work and we are working for that

In these presentation we aim to:

- Foster multidirectional shared learning to strengthen social work graduates understanding of international best 'social development' practices ,
- Ensure that social work students have gained international experience from a variety of settings to maximize their capacity to work with communities under climate change .
- Build linked centres of cooperation including local institutions social work departments and professional associations to support community development and find sollutaion of the effects of climat change.
- Increase the visibility of the impact of social work to solve the problems of climate change.

To commence this vision, Moroccan association of social workers and its partners have established a different projects in International Social Work. We seek for them to be the pioneers in creating ongoing international relationships between the partner organisations. We would like to enter into a cooperation agreement with each other in a letter of intent.



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Millersville University

***Organizational Protective Factor Combatting Burnout and Various Trauma: A Qualitative Case Study***

Abstract

This session will focus on qualitative research data that explores policies and strategies one local organization has put in place to help its direct service employees combat burnout and vicarious trauma. This qualitative study gathers knowledge on innovative practices this local organization adopts to encourage self-care and reduce role stress amongst its employees. The information from this study will be discussed and shared in collaboration with participant's own professional experiences and input



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Ms. Bria Brown  
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***Cognitive impairment among aging adults in Agincourt, South Africa***

Abstract

**Introduction:** Aging increases the odds of cognitive impairment. This study examines influences on cognitive health, focusing on orientation to time and person among aging adults in Agincourt, South Africa.

**Methods:** The Health and Aging in Africa: A Longitudinal Study of an INDEPTH Community in SA (HAALSI) Cohort from Agincourt data set was used. Binary logistic regression analysis examined factors associated with cognition.

**Results:** Ability to read and/or write positively correlated with correct recall of year, month, and date. Marital status, HIV status, hypertension negatively correlated with correct recall of year, month, and date. Correct recall of person is influenced by age, duration of residence, ability to read/write, marital status and hypertension.

**Conclusion:** This study adds to the nascent research on cognitive impairment in Africa. The findings support earlier research on factors that correlate with cognitive impairment. In order to achieve healthy aging, factors such as hypertension and HIV must be controlled not only among aging adults but people of all ages.



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SESSION 2B

Dr. Tamara Pace -Glover

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Dr. Rejoice Addae

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Arkansas State University-Jonesboro

Abstract

***The Social Impact of Climate Change from a Global Perspective: Implications for Social Work***

Climate change has become one of the most important challenges facing societies worldwide. Communities experiencing disasters induced by climate change require support of social workers to deal with the aftermath. As professionals, social workers focus on the 'person in the environment' from a human rights and social justice perspective to enhance the well-being of humans globally. Climate change has led to an increase in several related physical illnesses, mental health issues and death due to extreme change in weather. Specifically, asthma, and cardiovascular disease have been linked to pollution. Social educators must understand climate change and its impact on vulnerable populations globally. It is imperative that social work curriculum prepare students with the knowledge and skills to become competent practitioners, advocates, and community mobilizers to work with communities affected by climate change globally.

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