



## NATIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS' ASSOCIATION-Burundi

### THE CODE OF ETHICS OF THE NATIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS' ASSOCIATION IN BURUNDI

#### I. INTRODUCTION

To guide and regulate Social Work Practitioners in Burundi, the National Association of Social Workers in Burundi (NASWA-BURUNDI) voted the present code of ethics to govern the behaviors and conduct of Social Workers. It was thought of and validated by the concerned Professionals in order to set a living example. This code of ethics is important in handling situations of dilemmas which normally arise when exercising a profession.

This code of ethics is meant to protect Social Workers from any kind of invasion and/or abuse, and enable professional colleagues to live in harmony, preventing self-destruction from internal bickering. NASWA-BURUNDI believes that this code of ethics will help Practitioners prevent litigation and guaranty protection for any one if, by injustice, sued for malpractice.

Inspired by the 1990 National Association of Social Workers code of ethics, the code of ethics of NASWA-BURUNDI is the following:

#### II. PRINCIPLES

##### A. Conduct:

1. **Acting with propriety** in maintaining the highest standard of personal integrity, honesty and conduct in capacity and identity.
2. **Investing in competence and professional development** by striving to become and remain proficient in professional practice and the performance of professional function.
3. **Regarding as primary the service obligation:** NASWA-BURUNDI instills the spirit of servant-leadership among members.
4. **Promoting the identity** by acting in accordance with the highest standards of professional integrity.
5. **Engaging in scholarship and research** guided by the conventions of scholarly inquiry.



**B. Ethical Responsibility to Clients:**

6. **Promoting the primacy of clients' interests:** The primary responsibility is to promote the clients' interests.
7. **Protecting the rights and prerogatives of clients:** Every effort is made to foster maximum self-determination on the part of the client.
8. **Keeping confidentially and privacy:** The privacy of clients should be held in confidence with all the information obtained in the course of professional service.
9. **Ensuring fixed fees is reasonable:** The setting of consultation or intervention fee must ensure that it is fair, realizable, considerate and commensurable with the service performed and with due regard for the client's ability to pay and observe the principle updated by NASWA-BURUNDI.

**C. Ethical Responsibility to Colleagues:**

10. **Respecting fairness and courtesy:** Colleagues must be treated with respect, courtesy, fairness, and good faith.
11. **Dealing with colleagues clients:** Clients of colleagues are responsibly handled with full professional consideration and without favoritism.

**D. Ethical Responsibility to Employers and Employing Organizations:**

12. **Commitment to the employing organization and employer:** NASWA-BURUNDI adheres to commitments made to the employing organization and employer, except in the case of injustice.

**E. Ethical Responsibility to the Social Work Profession:**

13. **Maintaining the integrity of the profession:** NASWA-BURUNDI upholds and advances the values, ethics, knowledge, and mission of the Social Work Profession.
14. **Promoting community service:** NASWA-BURUNDI promotes the Social Work Profession in making services available to the general public.
15. **Developing knowledge:** NASWA-BURUNDI takes responsibility for identifying, developing, and fully utilizing knowledge, keeping accurate records and use technology effectively and safely in the practice of Social Work.



**16. Respecting the principle of the Māori as tangata whenua:** NASWA-BURUNDI ensures every member has space in expression vis-à-vis the Social Work Profession promotion and decision making.

#### **F. Ethical Responsibility to Society**

**17. Promoting the general welfare:** NASWA-BURUNDI promotes the general welfare of Society.

In addition to the above, the values followed by the members of NASWA-BURUNDI are:

1. Commitment to the primary importance of the individual in society.
2. Commitment to social change to meet socially recognized needs.
3. Commitment to social justice and the economic, physical, and mental well-being of all in society.
4. Respect and appreciation for individuals and group differences.
5. Commitment to developing client's ability to help themselves, including the strife to establishing and maintaining their trust and confidence.
6. Willingness to transmit knowledge and skills to others.
7. Willingness to help personal feeling and needs separate from professional responsibility.
8. Respect for the confidentiality of relationship with client.
9. Willingness to persist in efforts on behalf of clients despite frustration.
10. Commitment to a high standard to personal and professional conduct and performance.

### **III. Adjudication**

In order to uphold the integrity of its certifications, and the performance standards of its membership, the Board of NASWA-BURUNDI may reprimand or censure a member, or suspend or revoke his/her certification/membership, for any of the following reasons:

1. Breach of this code of ethics ;
2. Conviction of a felony or crime of moral turpitude ;
3. Misdemeanor based on professional shortcomings ;
4. Incompetence (professional or mental) due to proved narcotics addiction or habitual intoxication ;
5. Expulsion from other Social Work organizations due to own misconduct ;

**Bujumbura, March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015**

**Founding Members of NASWA-BURUNDI**

