Selected Published Material (Nigel Hall, IFSW) 1987-2017

   
   Refereed article in journal
   
   Social development is considered here in the context of Zimbabwe's transition from a state of colonialism to one of independence. During the colonial period massive injustices, inequalities and disparities of income and opportunity undermined any efforts to bring about this development. This article examines the need for transformative approaches where people are accorded a value and dignity and where their participation is welcomed. In this context the need for coordinated and participatory strategies is highlighted with regard to primary health care and resettlement programs in Zimbabwe's rural areas. Regional factors are also considered as they are likely to influence the success of such development efforts.

   
   Refereed article in journal
   
   Burial societies are local indigenous organisations which provide mutual help and assistance to members in the event of death and illness, and are an established feature of urban life in Zimbabwe. As such they are examples of self-reliance in practice, but despite this there has been very little in the way of concrete research in this area. This paper sets out to investigate the role that burial societies play in the lives of their members and is therefore concerned with the various functions that the societies' perform, the services that they offer, as well as establishing members' motivations for joining. Previous research into the societies is noted to provide background to this study and there is some speculation on the role the societies could perform in the future.

   
   Refereed book
   
   This manual was the first comprehensive guide to social work field instruction in Africa. It is targeted at social work educators, students and social workers in practice and also serves to emphasise the need for dialogue among those involved in field instruction. The first part of the book provides an overview of social work practice in Africa and provides some justification for promoting a social development orientation in social work and explores the potential of practice placements in an African setting, while the second part explains in detail how practice placements are structured and
organised in Zimbabwe. The appendix contains a glossary of social work terminology and a detailed list of social work and social development training institutions in Africa offering field practice as part of their training.


Published keynote paper in workshop report
Keynote article describing the structural adjustment programme (economic liberalisation) in Africa, drawing lessons for social work practice. The article highlights some of the social and economic consequences to the rural and urban poor of this programme.


Published keynote paper in workshop proceedings
This paper is based on a study of social work in relation to refugees, primarily from Mozambique, who have settled in camps in Zimbabwe. It emphasizes the need for social workers to respect the right of self-determination of refugees as far as possible, where social workers will build on the refugees own strengths and abilities. Even though this is a very vulnerable group it is important to work with the refugees in designing programs to assist children and youth living in the camp and to remember that the refugee community is a system with its own sources of strength and self-help.


Published keynote paper in workshop proceedings
This keynote address to a southern African regional workshop on poverty and urban social work explores some of the causative factors behind poverty within the cities and urban areas of Africa. It considers appropriate social work roles and considers effective strategies for tackling deprivation and marginalisation of the urban poor. The paper links this to appropriate social work values and international commitments aimed at poverty reduction.


Workshop report

This report considers the concept of diverting juvenile offenders away from the formal justice system and the author compares diversionary schemes operating in South Wales, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Diversionary options in no way intend to make offenders less accountable or responsible for their actions, but rather to provide offenders with the opportunity to rethink their lives without getting a criminal record. In principle a case is eligible for diversion when it is not in the best interest of the offender, the victim, the criminal justice system or society that he/she should be prosecuted and convicted. The primary aims of diversion are to make offenders responsible and accountable for their actions; to provide an opportunity for reparation, and to prevent offenders from receiving a criminal record.


Refereed article in journal

This article considers the social costs to the adoption of economic structural adjustment programs (ESAPs) in the context of Zimbabwe. In a situation of financial cut-backs, retrenchments, reduced subsidies and devaluation of currencies, the pressure on low- and middle-income households to secure and then maintain affordable housing becomes critical. The argument is made that sympathetic policies on the part of government and local authorities towards those in difficult circumstances is vital.


Refereed monograph

This is part of a published series of Occasional Papers highlighting key developments in social work practice. This monograph examines the use of practical fieldwork as a means of training student social workers to engage in professional practice. Aspects of the practice curriculum are discussed as well as the structure and general orientation of this method of training students. There are four main sections to this Occasional Paper. Section One outlines fieldwork issues in the United Kingdom, particularly with regard to the accreditation of practice teachers and concerns over the quality and methodology of fieldwork training. Section Two examines the use of fieldwork in one Third World country (Sri Lanka) and its orientation towards social development. Section Three offers some comments and observations on theories of adult learning and their relevance to fieldwork training, while Section Four draws together some practice lessons which Schools of Social Work may wish to consider with regard to developing their fieldwork programmes.

Refereed chapter in book
This article reviews topics related to social policy ad administration with respect to social welfare within the Zimbabwean and southern African context. It considers a broad range of factors which social workers need to take into account when planning policy initiatives and administering social welfare / social work services in Africa.


Refereed article in newsletter
This article was prepared for the United Nations World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen in 1995 and is translated into French and Spanish. It examines the extent of global poverty and suggests appropriate social work roles in ameliorating its worst effects. The article suggests that a higher profile for the social work profession needs to be achieved through an active involvement in National Associations and the International Federation of Social Workers, which will bring many of the key issues concerning poverty to wider attention. Social workers should develop an awareness of the availability of local resources and try to mobilise these. Local resources should not be seen as extrinsic to those persons in need of help; it is important that social workers make use of the many strengths and positive factors to be found even with the most disadvantaged and seek to find ways to empower those with whom they are working.


Contribution to policy statement
This is a compilation of definitions of social work within Africa and indicates that social work is coherent with a social development orientation in terms of values, focus and theory. Both share a commitment to the eradication of poverty and an awareness that power structures and policy makers need to be responsive to people’s needs in the broader context of social justice.


Refereed chapter in book
This chapter provides an introduction to the topic of housing and considers the contribution of housing cooperatives as an alternative to other housing schemes that,
although aimed at the low income, are unaffordable to many. The role of the nongovernmental organization (NGO) Housing People of Zimbabwe (HPZ), which supports and promotes the housing coop movement, is outlined. The paper then provides a series of case studies of a selected sample of housing cooperatives in three urban areas – Kwekwe, Bulawayo, and Harare—to provide direct insight into how co-ops are structured and managed, and how they are coping with their task of providing homes for their members. Observations and comments are provided on each co-op. These comments are consolidated in the conclusion to this paper as a series of suggestions for consideration by service agencies working in partnership with co-ops.


Social workers’ associations have been formed in many countries around the world to benefit and support their members – i.e., professionally trained and qualified social workers. Their mandate is to provide the necessary professional expertise and networking capability to assist in building and develop their members' skill base and to protect and strengthen the profession generally. As social work is very closely linked to social development in the developing world, social workers also have an important societal and national role to play in this respect. However, one of the critical problems facing the rather weak social workers' associations within Africa is how they can sustain the interest of their members and build their organisational base in such a way that they can contribute in a positive way to social development. This article examines the situation of the National Association of Social Workers (Zimbabwe) and outlines an organisational development strategy which aims to mobilise and educate members of the Association in order to bring them more fully into the mainstream of the country's development.


This report provides the overall summary and recommendations from this study of Harare City Council. The Consultation examined the contribution of various stakeholders – the city authorities, political leaders, the private sector, community groups, charitable organisations, NGOs and other agencies to identify specific projects and programmes for urban poverty reduction. It emphasises that poverty is a cross-cutting issue and that it is important for Harare City Council to think in terms of an holistic approach to poverty alleviation.

_Referenced article in journal_

This article looks at some of the serious social and economic problems facing Africa, including poverty and underdevelopment, structural adjustment programmes, gender and development, refugees and civil conflict, and HIV/AIDS. In each case, strategies are suggested for social workers, including the need for their involvement in social development activities and improving their own professional associations in order to become more socially relevant to the complex issues that require their attention.


_Referenced chapter in book_

In the African context social workers are involved at the level of ‘social development;’ where the major focus with regard to mental health is on developing community-based rehabilitation and community care solutions to the problem of the isolated mentally ill. Social workers can promote caring networks of family friends, helping groups, volunteers and others which should be able to offer viable community alternatives to institutionalization. In addition, they have an important role to play in the care and rehabilitation of those suffering from mental illness as they are professionally trained to work in a multi-disciplinary way with various other professionals. On a preventive level, social workers can advocate for more sensitive policy measures which can relieve some of the overwhelming social pressures on vulnerable groups. This paper explores some of these points and suggests that social workers can contribute usefully in a variety of ways: they can raise concerns about the endemic poverty and harsh social conditions which often trigger mental illness, develop caring support networks for those who are mentally ill and work closely with other concerned professionals to bring about an improvement to mental health care delivery systems.


_Referenced research report_

This publication by the United Nations represents the author’s original research into how Departments of Social Welfare and training institutions in selected eastern and southern African countries were managing with regard to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The methodology involved both country visits with interviews with personnel in five countries, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and
questionnaires administered to heads of university or school departments of social work, university librarians and heads of government departments of social welfare. The results indicated both deficiencies in service provision and the potential in both practice and education to assist persons affected by HIV and AIDS.


**Refereed advocacy document**
This advocacy document was commissioned by UNAIDS in order to contribute to building an awareness of the consequences of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on children and orphans in Africa; to enhance understanding of the social welfare sector in relation to HIV/AIDS, families, children and orphans; to increase awareness of the role of social workers, as professionals working in the social welfare sector in the field of HIV/AIDS; and to suggest an action plan to guide social welfare workers in strengthening the capacities of vulnerable children and orphans.


**Published workshop presentation**
This paper was prepared for a Conference on *The HIV/AIDS Crisis: the Commonwealth’s response*, organized by the combined Commonwealth organisations – the Commonwealth Associations, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Commonwealth Foundation – at Marlborough House, London on Thursday 7 December 2000. HIV/AIDS has had a devastating effect throughout the Commonwealth and particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. With 29% of the world’s population, Commonwealth countries are disproportionately affected with over 60% of the world’s HIV infections. The epidemic is not just a health issue even though in many Commonwealth countries it is putting an enormous strain on the already meagre resources available for health. Its effects are far wider. This paper suggests Commonwealth collaborative action within the social services sector through developing clear operational guidelines on working with HIV/AIDS and identifying the contribution that the social service sector can make.


**Refereed booklet**
This report summarises the results of an international workshop held by the Southern Africa HIV/AIDS Information Dissemination Service (SAfAIDS) concerning the gender dimension regarding vulnerability to HIV infection. Unprotected
heterosexual contact where men are the major transmitters of the virus and women represent the majority of infected persons indicate that a transformation of gender relations and roles within Africa is needed urgently.


*Published keynote paper in professional journal*

This article is the published keynote paper from a conference on the topic of globalisation and its social consequences. It examines the topic of globalisation including its major benefits of increased global connectivity through technological advances such as the Internet, and the creation of new vulnerabilities such as the spread of HIV/AIDS and the opportunities now made available to international paedophile groups. New challenges arise for the social work profession, which are being addressed through global agreements such as the Millennium Development goals and the social work profession becoming more actively involved in political and social issues. Social workers need to champion the interests of the poor and oppressed throughout the world, and do this as part of the profession’s commitment to human rights.


*Refereed chapter in book*

This chapter covers social work training within hospital-based settings in the context of Zimbabwe. Using case studies, the role of social workers in rehabilitation and medical care is covered, including the issue of working with traditional healers. Social work in medical settings is a challenging area of social work practice in resource poor countries, particularly where epidemics such as HIV/AIDS are prevalent, and this requires careful handling and cooperation with the family and the patient. The multi-disciplinary working arrangement of the general hospital provides opportunities for students to develop their professional skills and growth as practitioners. The variety of cases and the many demands made of social workers in the general hospital is a fruitful area for training and confidence building of social work students.


*Refereed edited book*

This edited book is the fourth edition of the series Social Work Around the World and was produced to mark the 50th Jubilee of the International Federation of Social
Workers. The book contains articles on social policy with a focus on poverty; human rights; ethics; and the public “image” of the social work profession, written by practitioners and academics from various regions of the world and describing important challenges for the social work profession as well as social work practice around the world. The editorial describes the various contributions and notes that this book reminds us that social work’s value base must maintain a central base within the profession.


Published book marking historic event
This book celebrates the Golden Jubilee of the International Federation of Social Workers. It explores the background to the establishment of IFSW and notes key milestones in its 50-year development. It also provides examples of regional development projects, the main publications produced by IFSW over the years and details on IFSW’s policy papers, commissions and international partnerships. There are also profiles of the pioneers and significant persons who helped to shape IFSW into the organisation it is today, representing nearly a half million social workers in 90 organisations around the world.


Refereed chapter in book
This article explores the attitude of the social work profession to the challenge of HIV/AIDS, which has impacted all levels of society from the individual to the macro-economic. The continuing spread of infection around the world means that traditional methods of care and support are put under extreme pressure and many families lose their capacity to cope. Social workers are involved in providing care, counselling and support to those affected, and in developing programmes and other interventions to prevent the spread of the disease. Prevention and behaviour change are vital, but access to treatment is an ethical imperative, particularly in developing countries where the epidemic is most prevalent. Social work is a profession uniquely situated to demonstrate leadership in multi-sectoral collaboration in responding to this pandemic. Consequently, this paper briefly reviews the scale and current nature of the epidemic and then considers how social workers can help build more compassionate policies at an international level.

Refereed contribution to encyclopedia
This entry in the International Encyclopedia notes that the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) is an international organization representing the interests of social workers around the world, with its secretariat based in Berne, Switzerland. IFSW works in cooperation with regional social work bodies, and national organizations and associations of social workers. IFSW organizes international events, publishes policy statements, encourages cooperative initiatives between its members and links to other international bodies. Recently celebrating its jubilee centennial, the organization is active in the area of human rights and social development, and in the promotion of best practices and high professional standards.


Refereed chapter in book
This book chapter traces the history and development of the three main international organisations that represent the social work professions – the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW), the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) and the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW). The authors suggest that there is a compelling need to speak with a unified voice in order to represent social work and social welfare concerns more forcefully on the world scene. The impacts of neoliberalism and globalization have only intensified the need for progress on issues of poverty and human rights. For IFSW and IASSW, a future challenge will be to see how with ICSW the organizations can promote social welfare and social development without losing the professional focus, and a key consideration will be to ensure that the definition of social work remains up-to-date and relevant to global concerns.

This paper starts from the contention that there is a common value base to the social work profession that has global validity. This may be a contentious statement, particularly where values are seen to be culturally determined, indigenous and specific to certain parts of the world - or where globalisation has eroded local diversity, creating a homogenous world culture based on neo-liberal values. However, the argument in this paper is that there is a common value base to social work, founded on empowerment and respect for people and the international definition of social work; and this is considered from the perspectives of Latin America, Africa and the UK

Refereed contribution to encyclopedia
Safeguarding is an area of social work activity concerned with the care and protection of children or adults who have care and support needs and who may be at risk of abuse or neglect. This is a major concern for social workers who usually have prime responsibility for ensuring as far as possible that the vulnerable clients they work with are protected. A person’s ability to keep themselves safe is partly determined by their individual circumstances, and this may change at different stages in their life, so it is important that safeguarding is always considered in relation to the wishes of the person concerned. Effective safeguarding depends on a careful consideration of the factors involved and will almost always involve a multi-agency partnership approach. This article examines the situation regarding safeguarding adults in the UK, although comparisons elsewhere in the world are made.


Chapter in refereed book
This chapter examines policy and practice abroad in connection with the significance and effectiveness of troubled family approaches in social work. The relevance of the concept of ‘troubled families’ is considered cross-culturally by reviewing the international literature on family oriented social work. The chapter considers initiatives with regard to working with families in difficulty in a variety of contexts from around the world.


BASW magazine article
This article examines where human rights fit into day-to-day practice and provides some examples from the UK and across the globe of where they are under threat. The post-Brexit climate of xenophobia in the UK, displaced and refugee children, gender inequity, TTIP and air pollution and the environment are all considered. Promoting sustainable communities is, in essence, about respecting human rights and reducing social exclusion. It is important that social workers are active in achieving this throughout society, working closely with families, communities and civil society in a variety of areas that may even be new to social work.


BASW magazine article
This article examines the establishment of a social work training course in Malawi. A crucial requirement of establishing social work as a profession in another country is the development of the profession’s educational base. This article reports on a UK-based project called Supporting Social Work in Malawi (SSWIM) which is helping develop a degree course for social work at Chancellors College, University of Malawi in Zomba (known as Chanco). SSWIM is run by the Children and Families International Foundation (CFIF), a charity that aims to promote and safeguard the welfare of orphans and vulnerable children.