

Position Paper Related to Social Injustice and/or Policy Advocacy

(Points = 2; required length of paper 5-7 pages, double spaced)

Social Injustice is at the heart of many of the social problems we face today and are rooted in historical issues of racism, discrimination, and intolerance. Social workers have traditionally been agents of social change and have been instrumental in grassroots movements targeted at alleviating social injustices.

Social workers have a responsibility to be knowledgeable and sensitive to issues of racism, discrimination, and disempowerment. Social Workers need to be leaders in advocating for laws, local, state and national policy initiatives to ensure equitable and consistent treatment of all people. Advocacy and empowerment also need to be addressed at the direct practice level where social work practitioners assist in the education and empowerment of individuals, families, and groups.

This assignment can address social injustice in a variety of different ways:

1. Discuss an area of social injustice at the local, state, national or international level and develop a proposal to address through public policy, law and judicial interventions.
2. Discuss a plan for policy advocacy to address the social and economic oppression of a specific population. A sample letter to a congressional representative or other politician may be included.
3. Discuss the issue of race and class and how these dynamics interface with the criminal justice system in our country.
4. Describe ways to assist clients in self-empowerment and self-advocacy through education and action.
5. Discuss the economic benefits to the wealthiest individuals, corporations and groups in maintaining oppression and perpetuating a permanent underclass in the US.