Social Work Speaks (13th Ed.) Call for Authors

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) invites professional social workers to participate in the development of the 13th Edition of Social Work Speaks. First published in 1958, Social Work Speaks is a comprehensive and unabridged collection of 62 NASW policies on a broad range of issues including, but not limited to: voter rights and participation, mental health, juvenile justice, homelessness, family violence, environmental justice, and economic justice. Each edition of this valuable resource represents the collective, expert thinking of scores of social workers across all fields of practice. In addition to social workers, key audiences for this publication include the media, students, educators, and policymakers. The publication is a crucial resource in shaping public policy and practice.

We seek a diverse group of prospective social work authors to participate on writing committees for each statement. Ideal candidates will include social work practitioners and faculty who have practice experience and expertise in statement topics. Social workers of color, LGBTQIA+ people, those with disabilities and others with lived experiences, being part of marginalized communities, are encouraged to apply.

We have included 23 statement topics that we intend to revise and update over the next 3 years. After receiving applications, we will review, select authors, and initiate writing committees for the first 8-10 statement topics. Selected authors will serve on a writing committee convened by NASW. Guidance will be provided, including an orientation.

We are seeking authors for revision of the following Social Work Speaks policy statements. We ask that prospective authors select only one statement topic.

» Affirmative Action  
» Capital Punishment and the Death Penalty  
» Child Abuse and Neglect  
» Child Welfare Workforce  
» Cultural and Linguistic Competence in the Social Work Profession  
» Disasters  
» Early Childhood Care and Services  
» Education of Children and Adolescents  
» Electoral Politics  
» Employee Assistance  
» End-of-Life Decision Making and Care  
» Healthcare  
» Homelessness  
» Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Issues  
» Long-Term Services and Supports  
» Peace and Social Justice  
» Racism  
» Social Services  
» Substance Use Disorder Treatment  
» Women in the Social Work Profession  
» Women’s Issues  
» Workplace Discrimination  
» Youth Suicide
Application Requirements: Prospective authors are invited to submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) and CV or resume by May 10, 2021. The LOI should detail relevant applicant experience and expertise related to the topic, including recommendations on the policy positions NASW might consider. Access the Call for Authors Form to submit your materials.

Please review the statement that you intend to apply to revise, prior to submitting the LOI. You may access a copy of the Social Work Speaks statements that require revision. Applicants will need to login to the NASW platform to read the statements.

Authors must be NASW members in good standing. For information about membership, go to https://www.socialworkers.org/Membership. We will accept applications from non-members with the understanding that selected authors will need to join the association as part of a writing committee.

Time Commitment: The time commitment required depends on the length and complexity of the policy statement and ranges from approximately 10 to 40 hours over the course of a 3-month writing period, followed by brief interactions to complete copy editing and finalize the statement. There are circumstances where the time commitment exceeds the estimate above. Each statement takes about a year to finalize because of various NASW processes, including public comment and Delegate Assembly approval.

Questions, please contact NASWpolicy@socialworkers.org.

NASW National Social Work Speaks Steering Committee

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