

Campaign for A National Council for Social Work Education

Email: ncswe2021@gmail.com Cell no: 9811516636

Address: C/o Room No. 8, Department of Social Work, Delhi University, Delhi-110007

26.01.2021

Shri. Narendra Modiji,
Prime Minister,
Government of India
New Delhi

Subject: Request to enact the legislation to establish a National Council for Social Work Education in India

Dear Shri. Narendra Modiji,
Greetings on the Republic Day and Namaskar!

We are approaching you today with an appeal to support enactment of a law to establish a National Council for Social Work Education in India, to enhance quality in social work education, including its linkages with practice, knowledge, and ethical conduct; and to create national registers of accredited social work education institutions and programmes. For more than a century now, social work is an internationally recognised practice-based profession where students are imparted training through a scientific body of knowledge, values and ethics, as well as methods and skills of working with people and systems. Social work is being included as an academic discipline in colleges and universities spread over 145 countries. Most of these countries have a national council for social work and all the other professions in India also have such statutory councils.

India has had a rich history of voluntary work, development work, social reforms, and social movements, promoted by religious and philanthropic organisations as well as social reformers. Training for professional social work started with one institution of social work education as early as in 1936. Today more than 500 Institutions of Social Work Education offer programmes in the central, state, private and deemed universities and colleges in most of the states and union territories. Over five lakh professional social workers are estimated to be currently working with civil society organisations, government and in the corporate sector, as well as with the UN agencies at the state, regional, national and international levels.

Professional social work is built on the foundation of values and ethics of human dignity, sensitivity to structural realities, and respect for diversities. It promotes social justice and social development, guided by the Indian Constitution, and by India's commitment to the International Human Rights Law. Professional social work contributes to community and social development through rights-based universal provision for basic needs and adopts culture-sensitive, strengths-based, gender-sensitive, collaborative, and participatory approaches to facilitate empowerment and inclusion of the socially excluded groups, for achieving social justice. Professional social workers also carry out policy analysis and programme development, conduct capacity building programmes, initiate and manage civil society organisations, implement interventions at the micro, meso and macro levels, and carry out their monitoring and evaluation. Thus, professional social workers can significantly contribute to the Government's vision which envisages a New India by 2022, by eradicating poverty and corruption, through inclusive and sustainable development.

Advisor: Prof Armaity S Desai, Former Chairperson, University Grants Commission

Convener: Prof Sanjai Bhatt, Former President, National Association of Professional Social Workers in India

Co-Convener: Prof Vimla Nadkarni, Past President, International Association of Schools of Social Work

Member-Secretary: Prof Murli Desai, Former Head, Social Work Education and Practice Cell, TISS

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In spite of the significant achievements of social work profession in India, there are several concerns regarding the profession that need to be urgently addressed. In the past, the University Grants Commission (UGC) sponsored two reviews of social work education and the development of two model curricula on social work which were very useful for developing benchmarks for quality in social work education. What we need is a statutory mandate to ensure upgrading social work education in India, that can revolutionise our nation's social development. To achieve this goal, both the review committees made recommendations for setting up a National Council of Social Work Education to strengthen social work education.

Recently, on July 14, 2020, a meeting of social work educators was called by the social sector division of NITI Aayog, where the need for a National Council for Professional Social Work was discussed. As a follow up to the NITI Aayog meeting, an informal voluntary Working Group was formed of eminent social work educators most of whom were invited to the above meeting and those who had contributed to the earlier initiatives (listed in Annexure 1). This voluntary Working Group has proactively prepared a new draft bill which was widely shared with different stakeholders. Their feedbacks were incorporated in the enclosed draft. In this process, We have been ably guided by Prof A S Desai, former Chairperson, University Grants Commission.

Overall, 15 professional social work associations, 15 institutions of social work education and one non-government organization, in partnership with the Working Group, organised consultation webinars for educators as well as practitioners, at institutional, state, and regional levels, covering large parts of India (listed in Annexure 2). Students and research scholars also participated. The feedback from these webinars facilitated the redrafting of the Bill namely "*The National Council for Social Work Education (NCSWE) Bill, 2021*". This will be a landmark Bill for a professional council, which is based on maximum consultation in the history of professional council and it is aptly in tune with National Educational Policy announced by your government.

The NCSWE Working Group earnestly requests the Government of India to process this important Bill urgently and enact it as a legislation to provide for the establishment of a National Council of Social Work Education. If you have any queries and suggestions for the attached Bill, we will be happy to visit you as a delegation and/or organise a zoom meeting with you.

Sincerely yours,

Sanjai Bhatt and Vimla Nadkarni
NCSWE Working Group
Contact: ncswe2021@gmail.com

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Annexure 1: Working Group Members

Name	Designations
Working Group Coordinator: Prof Vimla Nadkarni	Immediate Past President, International Association of Schools of Social Work & Former Dean, School of Social Work, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)
Working Group Advisors:	
Prof Armaity Desai	Former Chairperson, University Grants Commission & Former Director, TISS
Late Prof R.R. Singh	Former Director, TISS & Former President, Association of Schools of Social Work in India (ASSWI)
Prof L S Ghandi Doss	Former Head, Department of Social Work, Bangalore University & President, India Network of Professional Social Workers Associations
Prof Sanjai Bhatt	Former Head, Department of Social Work, Delhi University & Former President, National Association of Professional Social Workers in India
Drafting Committee Members:	
Convener: Prof Murli Desai	Former Head, Social Work Education & Practice Cell, TISS & Former Convener, Working Group for Maharashtra Council for Social Work Bill
Prof B. Devi Prasad	Former Head, Department of Social Work, Andhra University & Former General Secretary, ASSWI
Prof Helen Joseph	Former Faculty Member, College of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan & Former President, Bombay Association of Trained Social Workers
Dr Shewli Kumar	Faculty Member, School of Social Work, TISS

Annexure 2: Partners that Organised Consultation Webinars

Professional Associations

No	Name of the Representative	Name of the Association
1	Prof LSGhandi Doss, President	India Network of Professional Social Workers Associations
2	Prof Sanjai Bhatt, President	National Association of Professional Social Work in India
3	Dr Jose Antony, President	Association of Schools of Social Work in Kerala
4	Mr Vasudev Sharma, President	Karnataka Professional Social Workers Association
5	Dr Ipe Verghese, Secretary	Kerala Association of Professional Social Workers
6	Dr Ambadas Mohite, Founder President	Maharashtra Association of Social Work Educators
7	Prof Andrew Sesuraj, Secretary	Professional Social Workers' Association
8	Mr Syed Rizwan Ali, President	Uttar Pradesh Association of Professional Social Workers
9	Ms. Sneha Mishra, President	Odisha Professional Social Workers Association
10	Mr. Sanjay Jangde, President	Social Work Association of Chhatisgadh
11	Dr Sobhana Hariharan, President	Association of Psychiatric Social Work Professionals
12	Ms Jaspreet Singh, PhD student	Professional Social Work Association of Jammu and Kashmir
13	Ms Chitra Shah, President	Puducherry Professional Social Workers Forum
14	Dr Rajiv Maikhuri, Secretary	AIIMS Medical Social Service Officers' Association
15	Ms Michelle Crasto, Member	College of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan, Alumni Association, Mumbai

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Institutions of Social Work Education

No	Name of the Representative	Name of the Institution
1	Dr Lidwin Dias, Principal	College of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan, Mumbai
2	Prof Anandi Patel, Head	Department of Social Work, Gujarat Vidyapeeth, Ahmedabad
3	Prof Archana Dassi, Head	Department of Social Work, Jamia Milia Islamia University, New Delhi
4	Prof Shubhada Maitra, Dean	School of Social Work, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai
5	Dr S. Srinivas	Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Hyderabad
6	Prof Kalpana Sarathy, Deputy Director	Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Guwahati
7	Prof K Visweswara Rao	Department of Social Work, Andhra University, Vishakhapatnam
8	Prof Prashant Ghosh, Former Head	Department of Social Work, Visvabharati University, Shriniketan
9	Dr. Miriam Samuel, Head	Department of Social Work, Madras Christian College, Chennai
10	Prof Victor Paul, Head	Department of Sociology and Social Work, Christ (deemed to be) University, Bangalore
11	Prof R. Dhanasekara Pandian, Head	Department of Social Work, the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bangalore
12	Dr Deepak Walokar, Principal	Karve Institute of Social Service, Pune
13	Dr Swati Dharmadhikari, Principal	Tirpude College of Social Work, Nagpur
14	Prof R. Nalini, Head	Department of Social Work, Pondicherry University, Pondicherry
15	Prof Pratibha Mishra	Department of Social Work, Guru Ghassidas Vishwavidyalaya

Non-Government Organisation

1	Mr G. Gopala Krishna Murthy, Member Secretary	Academy of Gandhian Studies, Tirupati
2.	Mr Harsh Jaitley, CEO	Voluntary action Network of India (VANI)

Students that Organised Webinars

1	Mr Deepak Kumar Nanda	TISS Research Scholars Association, Mumbai
2	Mr Mridul Jain	Social Work Students Association, Department of Social Work, University of Delhi

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