
Crossing Over: SDGs as a Framework for Connecting Social Workers Across Cultures

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Abstract

The Council on Social Work Education provides accreditation to US based social work education programs. The most recent Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards highlight the importance of having a global perspective in US-based social work education and “enhancing the quality of life for all persons, locally and globally” (p. 5). One of the main intentions of the Sustainable Development Goals is to provide broad-based goals which can be implemented at the most local of levels with the intent to create ripple effects for societal change. This workshop presented by five US-based undergraduate social work students, will offer a fun and engaging activity to illustrate how we as social workers can connect beyond borders and cultures while we use the Sustainable Development Goals as a framework to bridge the gaps between us. The students, having completed the second semester of their senior year field placements while enrolled in an advanced policy course which uses the SDGs as a framework, will be in Kenya shadowing social workers in the field. They will use the knowledge gained in their classrooms, their US based field placements, and their initial experiences in Kenya to create a space of sharing, exchanging, and humility. Participants, in addition to engaging with one another, will have the opportunity to hear briefly from each student on their personal experiences. The professor for the course will be available to talk about the structure of the course and how the same framework might be applicable in other classrooms.

Key Words: social workers, culture, SDGs

