



The Official Newsletter of the NASW-NYC Chapter

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NYC SOCIAL WORK: NAVIGATING HUMAN RIGHTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE



Take a Look At What's In This Issue

- Remarks from the NASW-NYC Board President, Emilio Tavarez, MSW
- Remarks from the NASW-NYC Board President Elect, German Sanchez, LMSW
- Meet the NASW-NYC CARES Member Ambassadors 2023-2024
- In Memoriam: Mildred "Mit" Joyner, DPS, MSW, BSW, LCSW --NASW NATIONAL PRESIDENT JULY 2020 - JULY 2023
- AND MUCH MUCH MORE!

A NOTE FROM THE CHAPTER:

The views, opinions, and experiences expressed by contributors to CURRENTS do not necessarily reflect those of NASW-NYC. At the chapter, and in the spirit of equity, justice, and inclusion which are the foundation of the [NASW Code of Ethics](#), we create spaces to engage and understand discourse from a wide perspective. While we affirm the first amendment protected right of freedom of speech and expression, NASW-NYC will not intentionally publish articles with derogatory or hate-based language.

REMARKS FROM THE NASW-NYC TEAM FALL/WINTER 2023-2024

Greetings, NYC Social Workers –

Welcome to the Fall/Winter 2023-2024 issue of the official NASW-NYC Chapter newsletter CURRENTS. This issue's theme is NYC Social Work: Navigating Human Rights & Social Justice.

Firstly, the NASW-NYC Chapter does not exist without the support of its members. It is through membership that we can continue to grow, expand, share, and support. We thank you all for continuing to support NASW-NYC Chapter programming and encourage you, if you haven't done so already, to invest in yourself and take advantage of the benefits of [NASW membership](#).

Upon release of this issue, 2023 is almost complete and as we reflect back on the work we've accomplished and the work we continue to do, we'd like to take a moment to congratulate you all. The jobs and roles social workers hold require grit and knowledge and empathy, especially in a city like ours. What social workers do and bring to the table is not easy and it is because of this that we say fully and loudly: THANK YOU. WE APPRECIATE YOU. YOUR WORK IS IMPORTANT. YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROFESSION AND THE COMMUNITIES YOU SERVE ARE IMPORTANT.

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REMARKS FROM THE NASW-NYC TEAM CONT...

New York City has faced countless hurdles since the onset of the COVID-19 global pandemic in 2020. As the public health emergency has been lifted, social workers continue to sift through the issues left behind: the changing laws in our nation around [reproductive care](#) and [LGBTQIA+ rights](#), sweeping [book bans and censorship across the country](#), a [continued teacher shortage](#), [the current migrant influx](#), a [rise in domestic violence homicides](#), and more. This in addition to extreme weather conditions such as [this summer's dangerous air quality caused by Canadian wildfires](#) and [recent flooding like we've never seen before in the boroughs](#). All of this is in combination with concerns regarding social work salary, positions, authority, and respect for the profession in many work spaces that are undergoing significant underfunding of programs, high caseloads, and the burden of efforts to change organizational culture. This speaks to the many plates social workers spin in their work, while advocating for policies that serve to benefit all. It is a true testament to the fortitude and determination of social workers that we remain steadfast in our work and efforts to serve communities in need and to support New Yorkers.

In this issue, we aimed to speak to the ways NYC social workers, specifically, have been navigating their work post-COVID. You'll hear from Emilio Tavarez, current NASW-NYC Board President and German Sanchez, NASW-NYC Board President Elect. You will be introduced to the NASW-NYC CARES Member Ambassadors of 2023-2024 and read about the work that the Weinberg Center for Elder Justice is doing regarding elder abuse. You'll get access to a policy brief that the NASW-NYC Immigration

and Global Social Work Committee have collaborated on with the chapter about the NYC migrant influx (released October 16, 2023). Most of the submissions we received this issue speak to this ongoing influx in NYC as it is a direct and urgent matter happening right now.

Some items coming up that you'll be able to get involved with soon: The chapter is currently undergoing a massive restructuring of the chapter committees to ensure we are in accordance with association wide practices. We are so excited to soon roll out chapter committees again as a chapter member benefit and create accountable spaces where our members can engage and initiate conversations and actions towards change.

Additionally, the NASW-NYC CARES Member Ambassadors will be creating student support events throughout the academic year, community engagement offerings like the 2024 Social Work Month Series will soon open for registration and information about the 9th Annual Social Work in the City Continuing Education Conference will soon be available.

STAY TUNED! This next era of the NASW-NYC Chapter is an exciting one and we hope you'll all continue your support.

Make sure you've signed up for the NASW-NYC Chapter email list by visiting the website, www.naswnyc.org and filling out the simple pop-up form that appears. This gets you access to job listings, updates, news, statements from the chapter, and Continuing Education offerings. It is one of the best avenues to get engaged with the chapter and to ensure that you have the information you need.

Once again, the NASW-NYC thanks you for your continued support of the chapter and the programming we offer. We appreciate your work and your continued efforts to support the profession and the communities you serve. We look forward to engaging with you.

In Solidarity,
The NASW-NYC Team

REMARKS FROM THE NASW-NYC BOARD PRESIDENT

Emilio Tavaréz, MSW
NASW-NYC Board President

Hello NASW-NYC Members and NYC Social Workers,

I hope you all had a fun and refreshing summer and are prepared for the fall and winter seasons.

As you may be reading in the media, NYC is currently going through a migrant influx that is pushing its shelter system beyond capacity. Social workers are on the front lines of this crisis as we help immigrants acclimate to their new environment in the shelters, help these children heal from the traumas of relocation, and support these patients in our hospitals. I thank you all for the compassion and service that you offer to all of your clients as we continue to be the ethical backbone of NYC's social services system.

In anticipation of the 9th Annual Social Work in the City Continuing Education Conference theme, "Walking the Walk: Social Work Practice in Action", I want to encourage you all to think about how to position yourself to build the society we want to see. Federally, the recent 2023 SCOTUS rulings follow the conservative trend set with last year's Dobbs decision to continue to dismantle the rights, opportunities, and protections of immigrants, women, the LGBTQ+ communities, racial and ethnic minority communities, and low-income families. Though we are a vital part of the social safety net as case workers and clinicians, we can also be a critical part of changing the policies and government agencies that make decisions about our funding.

I've recently learned that the State of New York has over 1600 jobs across various agencies, which presents an opportunity for us to become the institutions that we serve under. Personally, I

Click on the picture to engage with
Emilio on LinkedIn!



recently took a job with the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) which has placed me in the thick of decision-making around providing services for immigrants throughout the state and where supportive housing for vulnerable populations is needed. There are opportunities for all of us through the [civil service exam](#), the [Excelsior Fellowship](#), and the [Empire State Fellowship](#). State government was not where I thought I would end up, but I'm learning to take these opportunities to make a difference as they present themselves and I want to pass on that knowledge to all of you. I encourage you all to stay tuned for opportunities to become fully involved in advocating with NASW as a whole and with the NYC chapter.

Finally, I'm excited to welcome German Sanchez, MA, P-RDT, LMSW, to the NASW-NYC Board as President-Elect! He has a wealth of knowledge in clinical practice, so I am happy to pass the torch of leadership on to him next year. Additionally, I am continuing to work with the board and the staff to ensure that we continue to provide important programming and opportunities for all of you. There are changes coming to the Chapter in how we coordinate volunteer activities and committees, so we are working with Board members to increase the diversity of our continuing education programming as well as networking opportunities.

I want to build institutional knowledge over time

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REMARKS FROM THE NASW-NYC BOARD PRESIDENT CONTINUED...

and I want the membership to get to know each other better, so I encourage you all to keep an eye on your inbox on news about our volunteer committees and I hope you will like what we are planning and spread the word.

As I said in my remarks in the Spring/Summer 2023 issue of CURRENTS, I know every social worker is unique and every community is different, so we must remember that we are stronger together and maintain a united front against oppression and suffering.

Thank you all for your commitment and support.

Emilio Tavaréz

SOME CHAPTER RESOURCES

CLICK ON ANY IMAGE IN THIS ISSUE TO ACCESS MORE INFORMATION!



REMARKS FROM THE NASW-NYC BOARD PRESIDENT- ELECT

German Sanchez, LMSW

NASW-NYC Board President-Elect

Tenure beginning July 2024

First, I would like to start off by saying thank you for electing me as the President-Elect of NASW-NYC Chapter.

A few weeks ago, I recently visited the birthplace of social work, Hull House in Chicago, Illinois and sat at the same desk that Jane Addams worked on. As I sat there, I couldn't help but draw parallels between what Jane Addams and the settlement workers faced in their time and what we are currently dealing with now in 2023. In 1889, America was transitioning into an industrial nation powered by the labor of immigrants. This population lived in cramped tenements and lacked basic amenities such as running water, safe housing, and healthy air ventilation. On top of it all, the immigrant population of the time faced discrimination based on their ethnic, racial, and religious beliefs. This parallels what NYC is navigating with the current migrant influx.

I think that we can all agree that the immigration system is broken, but many local and state governments are passing laws that target the migrant community, heightening dangerous and racist rhetoric that can grow and spread. As NYC resources are stretched to capacity and individuals who are trying to better their lives are met with resistance by some, I see NYC social workers navigating these complications with tenacity and ethical consideration. I am reminded of the important work that Hull House did during their time, which provided immigrants with a sense of community and the opportunity to promote education and provide resources for children, women, and families.

There are parallels there, too.

Click on the picture to engage with
German on LinkedIn!



As social workers, we know that communities help build an inclusive environment that make residents feel empowered. Community can bring people together to solve problems based on the group sociometry. As we have seen time and time again, when people come together using their experience and knowledge to solve community problems, that's when social change happens. This is what social work has done and continues to do here in NYC: foster community, strive for change, and speak for those in need. This is what YOU do, NYC social workers.

That day in Chicago was amazing to soak in the importance of what Hull House provided for its community 134 years ago, and to grasp the parallels of how social workers continue to advocate and fight for social change today. As the NASW-NYC Chapter President-Elect, I am inspired to continue advocating for those in vulnerable, oppressed, and marginalized communities. With a path laid out by those that came before me, I will use my tenure to support our profession and strive for social change, hand in hand with my colleagues, and with the hope that future social workers may see the work we are doing and have done.

I encourage you all to stay informed on the NYC migrant topic and to continue to support NASW-NYC through maintaining your membership and engaging with chapter efforts and programming. Stay tuned for ways in which you can support

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REMARKS FROM THE NASW-NYC BOARD PRESIDENT-ELECT CONTINUED...

NASW-NYC efforts to address the migrant crisis and to implement policies around the various issues that are affecting the NYC community.

Political action IS social work and it is our ethical duty to advocate for human rights and social justice.

Thank you,
German Sanchez



MORE CHAPTER RESOURCES

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NASW-NYC HIGHLIGHT: DR. ANTHONY ESTREET NEW CEO OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS AS OF FEBRUARY 2023

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE AND WORDING OF THIS PIECE IS FROM A [NASW NATIONAL NEWS RELEASE FROM JANUARY 3, 2023](#).

Anthony Estreet, a professor and former chair of the Master of Social Work Program at Morgan State University and chief executive officer of a behavioral health company in Baltimore, became the new chief executive officer of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) beginning February 6.

Estreet, PhD, MBA, LCSW-C, succeeds former CEO Angelo McClain, PhD, LICSW, who retired on December 31, 2022. Janlee Wong, MSW, who retired as executive director of the NASW California Chapter in 2020, will serve as interim CEO of NASW and interim president of the NASW Foundation until Estreet takes the helm.

"We are delighted to have Anthony Estreet as our next CEO at NASW after doing an extensive search," said NASW President Mildred "Mit" Joyner, DPS, MSW, LCSW. "He has a wealth of experience in managing successful mental health services companies and is a respected thought leader in the social work profession. We are confident he will build on the successes of Angelo McClain and lead NASW's accomplished staff to take our association to greater heights."

Estreet earned a bachelor's in science in psychology from Bowie State University, a MSW in social work at Virginia Commonwealth University, a doctorate in social work at Morgan State University, and an MBA at the University Maryland-College Park. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha, the oldest intercollegiate African American fraternity.



He has been a professor and chair of the Master of Social Work Program at Morgan State University since 2013. Estreet is also founder and chief executive officer of Next Step Treatment Center in Baltimore, which provides substance use treatment and mental health services. He was vice president of the NASW Board of Directors but stepped down from that role after being considered a candidate in the search process. Estreet also served as president of the NASW Maryland Chapter and is an active member of the Council on Social Work Education and the National Association of Black Social Workers.

While at Morgan, Estreet was awarded more than \$6 million in extramural grant funding for social work workforce development, research, and training. He also led the development and expansion of the first MSW program in the United States, and at a historically Black college or university, to have an area of specialized practice focused on addressing substance use disorders.

During his career, Estreet has also been tapped to turn around and expand an underperforming clinical program and speed up public health action to address HIV health disparities among men in Baltimore and Jackson, MS. Estreet has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals, is a prolific national conference presenter and keynote speaker, and has two published books.

In his new role as CEO of NASW, Estreet says he plans among other things to increase membership

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NASW-NYC HIGHLIGHT: DR. ANTHONY ESTREET NEW CEO OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS AS OF FEBRUARY 2023 CONT....

especially among student members; keep the association focused on addressing social justice issues, including racial equity and reproductive rights; and work to strengthen the social work workforce by expanding efforts to increase compensation for social workers.

"I am honored and humbled to be the next CEO of NASW," Estreet said. "I have been a member of this great organization since 2007. As a former member of the NASW Board I know NASW is committed to supporting social workers and the communities they serve. This organization has done phenomenal work especially in the past three years, including supporting social workers in the delivery of mental health services during the pandemic and addressing systemic racism. However, we have much more work to do, and I stand ready to work collaboratively to support our great profession."

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW), in Washington, DC, is the largest membership organization of professional social workers. It promotes, develops, and protects the practice of social work and social workers. NASW also seeks to enhance the well-being of individuals, families, and communities through its advocacy.

**The NASW-NYC Chapter
congratulates Dr. Estreet
on his appointment as CEO
of NASW and looks
forward to continuing a
collaborative relationship.**

#NASW Essential Chats with Mit

Feb. 16 at 3:00pm ET

VIEW THE RECORDING HERE

**Meet Dr. Anthony Estreet,
NASW's New CEO**



CLICK HERE





Featuring NASW President Mit Joyner
and NASW Chief Executive Officer
Anthony Estreet, PhD, MBA, LCSW-C

**Click on the Above Image to
View the Recording**



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Tips & Tools
FOR SOCIAL WORKERS



National Association of Social Workers

THE CULTURAGRAM: A TOOL FOR WORKING WITH IMMIGRANT CLIENTS

Dr. Elaine Congress, LCSW-R

Associate Dean and Professor

Fordham University - Graduate School of Social Services

Immigration is not a new phenomenon in New York City as almost all of the 8.5 million people who live in our city are immigrants. Of these, 3.3 million are foreign born, almost 40% of the NYC population. With the recent influx of migrants, we are very aware now of the many people who have migrated from south of our border but in reality, NYC residents come from 150 different countries.

Unfortunately, some generalize about immigrants from specific countries. This leads to stereotyping, bias, and microaggressions in the workplace and in schools. Often negative myths develop about personal, work, or educational patterns. Too often we hear faculty generalizations based on the behavior of one immigrant such as criminal behavior, educational difficulties, or family violence.

In practice, we learn about how different people are in general, and immigrants in particular, even when from the same country or from the same family. So, how best can we explore and understand differences among members of the immigrant families we service?

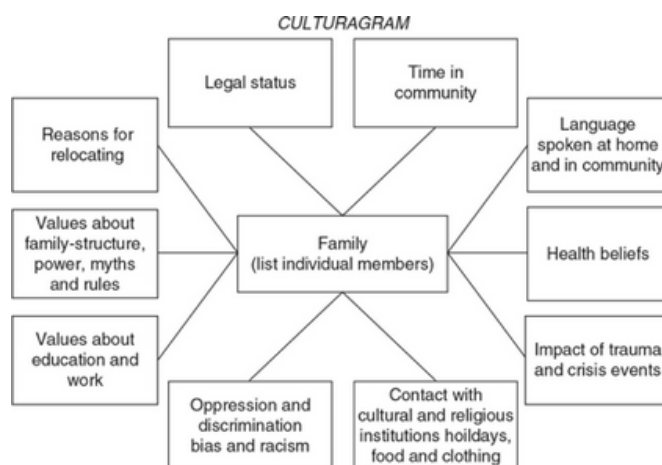
Before receiving my doctorate and entering into academia, I worked in a community mental health clinic and I often struggled with understanding the complexity of the diverse experiences that immigrant clients present. This led to the creation of a culturagram, a 10-point diagram that looks at important characteristics of each person in an immigrant family. This is the immigrant's own story, not what we, the provider, think we know about immigrants. Thus, it emerged as an initial attempt to move cultural competency toward incorporating a culturally humility approach.

Click on the picture to engage with Dr. Congress on LinkedIn!



The culturagram includes these ten factors:

1. Reasons for relocation
2. Legal status
3. Time in the community
4. Language spoken at home and in the community
5. Health beliefs and access
6. Impact of trauma and crisis events
7. Contact with cultural and religious institutions, holidays and special events, food and clothing
8. Oppression and discrimination, bias and racism
9. Values about education and work
10. Values about family structure—power, hierarchy, rules, subsystems, and boundaries



Congress, E. (1994). The use of culturagrams to assess and empower culturally diverse families *Families in Society* 75 (9), 531-540.

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THE CULTURAGRAM: A TOOL FOR WORKING WITH IMMIGRANT CLIENTS CONTINUED...

My first article on the culturagram was published in 1994 and since then, has been used in work with children, older people, people in health, substance abuse, and in social service settings. It has also been used in work with Asian and Latino populations. In December 2008, the culturagram also was featured in [an episode of the Social Work Podcast](#). Most recently, the culturagram appeared in chapter nine of the first edition of [Psychosocial Experiences and Adjustment of Migrants: Coming to the USA](#) and in my book, [Social Work With Immigrants and Refugees: Legal Issues, Clinical Skills, and Advocacy](#).

Below, are the ten characteristics in more detail.

1. Reasons for Migration:

What were the push and pull factors that led to an immigrant and their family's decision to migrate? Common reasons for push factors are violence, climate change that affects food productivity, and conflict. Some first choose internal migration but when the whole country becomes affected then migration to another country seems to be their best alternative. In the past, food deprivation seemed to have been the main precipitating reason for migration as with the Irish who first came to the US in the mid 1800s because of the Potato Famine in Ireland. Now, violence in many South American countries often leads to migration. Migration is often not in the family's control but often a decision that is made as the safer choice than staying in their country of origin.

Additionally, migration is often a physically difficult and challenging process as many coming from South America may have to cross the Darien Gap. Immigrants coming from Africa to Europe may also have faced a dangerous water crossing in the Mediterranean to reach Europe.

What are pull factors? With the use of the internet, potential immigrants may have been able to view what life is like in the US but what they see across the internet may not be the most accurate picture of the place they are coming to. Relatives and friends who migrated previously can share more accurately what life is like in NYC.

2. Legal Status:

Immigrant families often have members with a different legal status. Some immigrants may be UN designated refugee status. Since 1967, immigrants who can demonstrate that they have had to leave their country because of a "[well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of \[their\] nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail \[them\]](#)" has the right to seek refuge in a destination country. Each year, the US decides how many refugees they will accept into the country. In 2023, Biden has raised the refugee ceiling to 125,000 people. Some apply for refugee status while in their country of origin, but the majority seek asylum and refugee status after they arrive. Many of the 110,000 immigrants who have arrived recently in NYC are awaiting hearings that will determine if they will be permitted to remain legally in the United States.

While an immigrant family may have some members who have refugee status and others who are asylum seekers awaiting refugee hearings, other members may have green cards, are naturalized citizens, American citizens, or are undocumented. Many immigrant families may have children who are born here and thus because the United States have the [jus soli policy](#), these children are now American citizens. Despite rhetoric to the contrary, undocumented people who do not have citizenship or asylum seeker status is very few. In working with immigrants, it is important to find out about the various different legal statuses that exist to support. Immigrants who are able to should engage with an immigration lawyer to help them complete their asylum papers.

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THE CULTURAGRAM: A TOOL FOR WORKING WITH IMMIGRANT CLIENTS CONTINUED...

3. Length of Time in the United States:

In an immigrant family, members may have arrived at different times. This often affects how acclimated immigrants are to their new environment.

4. Language Spoken:

[In NYC, it is estimated that there are over 600 languages spoken](#) which gives NYC the distinction of being the most linguistically diverse city in the world. Half of all New Yorkers also speak another language with Spanish being the most common other language followed by Chinese. As children attend school, they very quickly learn to speak English. This unfortunately may lead to children being kept from school to accompany their parents to health and government interviews. Fortunately, many city agencies and health facilities are now providing interpretation so children are not needed as much for this task.

5. Health Access and Use:

Some immigrants may have difficulty accessing health care. In New York State, children may have access to needed immunizations and health care but preventive health care may be available for adults. Thus, immigrants are forced to resort to emergency rooms for acute treatment and are not able to avail themselves of ongoing health care. Immigrants who have work permits may receive health care as part of their work benefits but many immigrants, especially those lacking work permits, work off the books as delivery men, and in construction.

6. Impact of Trauma and Crisis Events:

The lives of many immigrants have often been continually besieged with crisis and trauma events. First the circumstances that let an

immigrant and their family to migrate such as food shortages, climate changes, violence, or war are often very traumatic. Additionally, the migratory trip for many through mountains, jungle, and water is often very traumatic for migrants. And lastly, when the migrating family arrives in NYC they may experience additional traumas and crisis events with relocating to an urban city with a different language and customs.

7. Contact with Religious Institutions, Holidays and Special events, Food and Clothing:

Migrating families take within them customs and traditions that are known and valued to them. [The NASW Code of Ethics 2021 Amendments](#) speak to our responsibilities as social workers to be culturally competent in our work. In working with migrants, it is important to learn about these traditions and the roles that they play in migrant lives.

8. Oppression and Discrimination, Bias and Racism:

Unfortunately, oppression and discrimination are often what new immigrants experience when they arrive in NYC. In recent years, with the large influx of migrants from our southern borders there has been an increase of violent attacks of migrants on the subways and street.

9. Values about Education and Work:

All immigrants want their children to pursue an education and do well in school. School for children might have been severely disrupted during the migration trip. Also, [NYC struggles with accommodating](#) the many immigrant children who have recently resettled in NYC. And finally, the structure of the school system here might be very different than the education that children have had previously.

Other complications include educators who might mistakenly think that parents who are overwhelmed with work and economic problems are not interested in their children's education or that immigrant children who have faced many traumas are not interested in education.

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THE CULTURAGRAM: A TOOL FOR WORKING WITH IMMIGRANT CLIENTS CONTINUED...

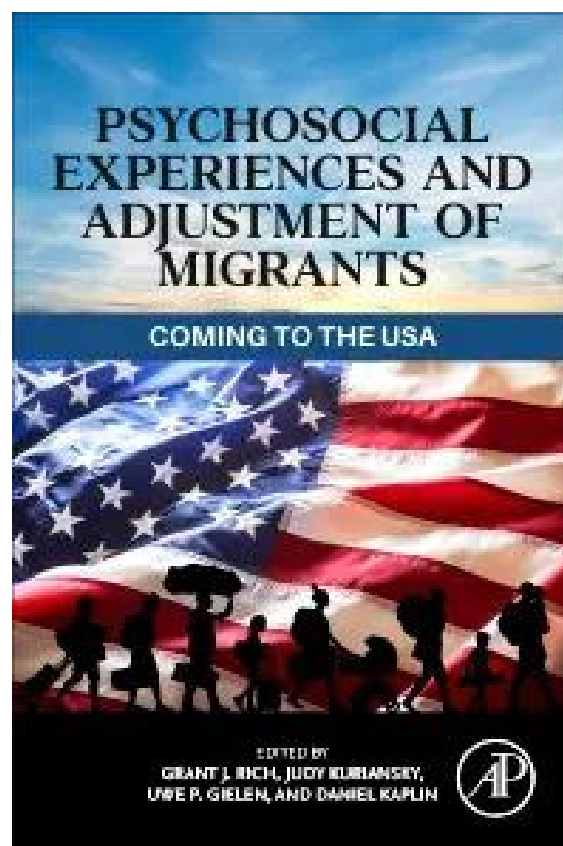
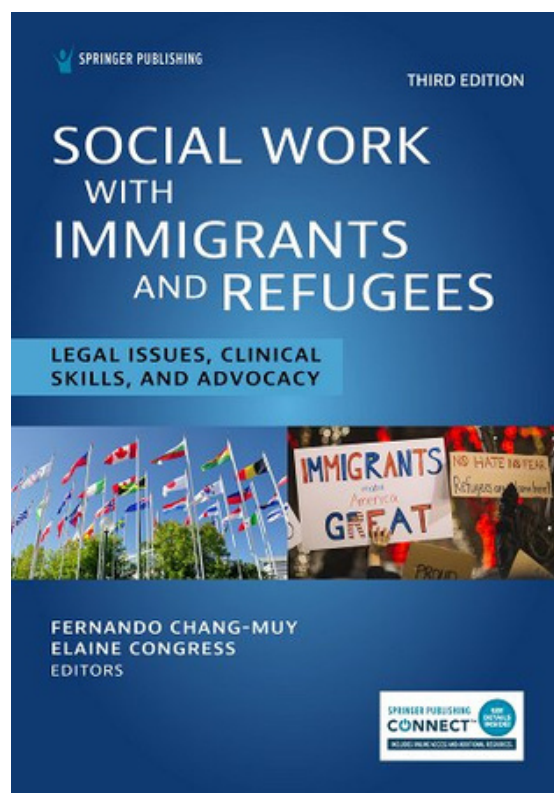
Immigrants are often eager to find work and many of them have quickly become involved in off-the-books delivery services, child and elder care, and construction work. Currently, there are ongoing efforts to speed up the process to issue immigrant work permits so they can work legally as they await their immigration hearings.

10. Values about Family Structure – Power, Hierarchy, Rules, Subsystems, and Boundaries:

Each family has different values about internal family interactions. There are also very different norms for gender roles in the home, as well as their role and relationship with each other and their children. It is very helpful for social workers working with immigrant families to learn more about the values and type of interaction within the families that they work with.

First developed in 1994, almost 30 years ago, the Culturagram continues to be seen as a useful tool in better understanding the immigrant experience, providing a helpful guide in working with immigrants from diverse countries and backgrounds. If you have any questions or comments about the culturagram, feel free to email me at congress@fordham.edu.

**CLICK ON THE IMAGES TO
PURCHASE THE TITLES
REFERENCED IN THIS ARTICLE!**



IN MEMORIAM:
MILDRED "MIT" JOYNER, DPS,
MSW, BSW, LCSW
 NASW NATIONAL PRESIDENT JULY 2020 - JULY 2023

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE
 AND WORDING IS A DIRECT REPRINT FROM A
[NASW NATIONAL NEWS RELEASE FROM JULY
 10, 2023](#)**

The National Association of Social Workers is devastated by the passing of Mildred "Mit" Joyner, DPS, MSW, BSW, LCSW, who served as president of the organization from July 2020 through June 2023. We offer our condolences and support to her husband, daughters, grandchildren and all who love her.

Over a remarkable career, President Joyner served every major social work association in various volunteer leadership roles and mentored thousands of professionals across the country. A proud Howard University and Central State University HBCU graduate, she established scholarship funds for social work students of color, showcased emerging leaders in the profession, and celebrated the contributions of numerous unsung pioneers in social work.

In her most recent [Social Work Advocates column](#) Joyner wrote, "My advice to all members is to please commit to reading the code of ethics yearly. Some social workers seem to forget the purpose of social work, often placing personal values over professional values."

During her term as president, NASW reviewed its policies, procedures, and levels of access to create a more just, diverse, and inclusive environment. The Association increased public awareness of the social work role in promoting social justice, addressing trauma, and improving mental health and well-being for all communities.

Joyner was also enthusiastic about increasing member engagement with NASW and uplifting the



Voices of diverse members of the profession, including younger social workers, social workers of color and social workers who are LGBTQIA2S+. And she encouraged social workers to get involved in NASW leadership and members to participate in the association's elections.

President Joyner created the Facebook ["Essential Chats with Mit"](#) series — 23 online forums that examined social justice through a social work lens. And earlier this year, she hired a new CEO to ensure NASW remains forward-facing and focused on social justice advocacy.

"NASW has a responsibility to prepare and assist all social workers in their duty to eliminate systemic racism and achieve liberation for all racial and ethnic groups; serve as a major disruptor and take deliberate actions against the uprising hate of the LGBTQIA2S+ community; protect, uplift, advance, and advocate for reproductive rights; promote a fair, livable wage; and ensure pay equity for all social workers across our nation," she wrote recently.

Joyner led NASW during the global pandemic and the nation's racial reckoning. Her advocacy on voting rights expanded NASW's visibility and impact during the 2020 and 2022 elections and created new connections with the Biden-Harris administration.

"President Joyner was an extraordinary role model in teaching, leading, and community activism for

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IN MEMORIAM: MILDRED "MIT" JOYNER, DPS, MSW, BSW, LCSW NASW NATIONAL PRESIDENT JULY 2020 - JULY 2023 CONT...

more than 30 years, focusing on the areas of gerontology and multicultural issues. She served in multiple leadership positions in the largest social work organizations, including NASW, the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), the Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors (BPD), the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) and the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW). Mit represented the social work profession domestically and internationally with undeniable passion, grace, and strength," says NASW CEO Anthony Estreet, PhD, MBA, LCSW. "Our profession has lost one of its brightest stars."

A lifelong Pennsylvania resident, President Joyner began her career as a child welfare worker in the Chester County Children, Youth, and Families Agency. She then held leadership positions at West Chester University School of Social Work for more than 25 years, establishing the first MSW program in the Pennsylvania state system of higher education.

She also served as board chair of Living Beyond Breast Cancer, a national education and support organization, and as board chair of the Chester County Food Bank. She served on the boards of the NASW Foundation and NASW Assurance Services, Inc. and was the first Black woman to serve on the board of directors for DNBFIRST, a community bank.

"Mit was an absolute positive force in social work and a wonderful person. My thoughts are with her family and colleagues," said Joan Davis-Whelan, MSW, RSW, President of the Canadian Association of Social Workers and President, North America Region of the International Federation of Social

Work. Joyner was also the President and Vice President of the IFSW North America region. In 2010, Joyner was an invited presenter at the Congressional briefing for the Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act. In March 2011, she received the BPD Lifetime Achievement Award, and in 2013 was named a [Social Work Pioneer](#) by the NASW Foundation. She received the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2019 from the NASW Pennsylvania Chapter, having participated in countless conferences, legislative advocacy days, award ceremonies and "welcome to the profession" events for new graduates across the state.

"President Joyner often said that we stood on the shoulders of giants in the profession such as Whitney Young, a social work legend. We now stand on the shoulders of Mit Joyner, a true social work pioneer, a voice for social justice and the power of social work, even in these turbulent times," said Yvonne Chase, PhD, LCSW, ACSW, NASW President.

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW), in Washington, DC, is the largest membership organization of professional social workers. It promotes, develops, and protects the practice of social work and social workers. NASW also seeks to enhance the well-being of individuals, families, and communities through its advocacy.



**The NASW-NYC Chapter
honors and acknowledges
the work and legacy of
Mildred "Mit" Joyner.**

AMERICA'S MIGRANT ISSUE

Christiana Best, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Department of Social Work and Equitable Community Practice/ Co-Chair of the NASW-NYC Immigration & Global Social Work Committee

www.christianabest.com

Please give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door! (Lazarus, 1883)

There is much controversy today over the “[migrant surge](#)” in [cities](#) and [states](#) throughout the United States, and New York City is no exception. Some political leaders have claimed that the recent surge in migrants stresses the infrastructure and institutions (i.e., shelters, healthcare, transportation, and schools) in their cities, states, and the country at large. In addition to [politicians](#), [community leaders](#), and [other public figures](#), some members of the general public (including immigrant communities and their native-born family members) have protested against the new arrivals, using [physical](#), [psychological](#), and [legal](#) means to keep them out of their neighborhoods. These new migrants are the current “huddled masses yearning to be free.” But instead of lifting a lamp to welcome them, many people are shutting the door and rejecting them. As fellow human beings and social workers, this is a critical time in our history, where we need to tap into our values centering social justice and the dignity of all people to guide our work instead of being silent or engaging in activities that cause harm to migrant communities. This essay aims to help social workers understand who the recent migrants are in NYC, the reasons behind the current surge, and some of the [push/pull factors](#). It also identifies the various immigration statuses and related resource eligibility. Moreover, it defines key immigration terms, explains the roles

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social workers in immigration, and proposes a policy for addressing the migrant surge.

Today's Migrants

This new influx of [migrants](#) to our country and city is due to the worldwide movement of people fleeing [human rights violations](#), [political conflicts](#), the effects of [climate change](#) and [natural disasters](#). According to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), as of the end of 2022, [108.4 million](#) people globally were forcibly displaced. Forced displacement is not an anomaly; UNHCR began to see this global trend of displaced people in 2010 due to persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations, and natural disasters, leading large groups of people to travel by land, sea, and air to find refuge. It is important to note that approximately 76% of all refugees are hosted by low- and middle-income countries, as opposed to high-income countries like the United States.

America's Relationship with Immigrants

Immigration in the United States is a complex and divisive issue. While we are a “[nation of immigrants](#),” we are not a [pro-immigrant country](#) – aside from a [few exceptions](#). Historically, some Americans, particularly interest groups have [rarely welcomed refugees](#), which is consistent with our anti-immigrant laws and activities, such as the [1790 Immigration and Naturalization Act](#), the [Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882](#), the [Asian Exclusion Act of 1924](#), the [Mexican Repatriation](#), the

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AMERICA'S MIGRANT ISSUE CONTINUED...

[Japanese American Internment](#), the “[Zero-tolerance](#)” policy, and [Executive Order 13769](#) otherwise known as the “Muslim ban.” Yet, there have been rare exemptions to this general policy.

The [Displaced Persons Act of 1948](#) was the first refugee-specific act passed by Congress and provided refuge to seven million displaced Europeans after World War II. The [1951 Refugee Convention](#) and the [1967 Protocol](#) are the key documents that established the UNHCR's foundational definition of a [refugee](#) as “someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion.” It also outlined their rights and the international standards of treatment for their protection. Some significant refugee policies following The 1951 Refugee Convention were the [Refugee Relief Act of 1953](#), the [Hungarian Escapee Program](#), the [Azorean Refugee Act](#), the [Cuban Refugees](#), and the [Refugee Act of 1980](#). Many of today's newcomers are refugees or people seeking asylum. An [asylum seeker](#) is a person whose request for sanctuary has not yet been processed. They are legally permitted to travel to a country and request sanctuary. Today's refugees and asylum-seekers are often displaced persons, not unlike their predecessors mentioned above and other [European](#) immigrants who [came to the U.S.](#) throughout the centuries, passing through [Ellis Island](#). The recent [refugees and asylum-seekers](#) are diverse - they emanate from [Europe](#), [South and Central America](#), [Africa](#), the [Caribbean](#) and the [Middle East](#).

Ukrainian Refugees

European refugees are escaping the war in Ukraine and landing on neighboring shores. To date, more than [280,000 Ukrainian](#) immigrants have arrived in the United States. The refugees from Ukraine - like all other refugees - are vetted with background checks and medical screenings before arriving in

the U.S. They are eligible to receive services, such as Medicaid and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and are authorized to work. What is unique for this group of [immigrants](#) is that they have been given refugee status as well as a network of resources through [sponsorship programs](#) with American families who agree to support them - helping with resettlement, employment, education, medical care, and fostering social connections with people who share their cultural heritage. The [NYC's Ukrainian Response Initiative](#) is supported by non-profit organizations that are contracted to provide Ukrainian refugees with immigration legal services, translation services, social services and additional resources.

Afghan Migrants

In addition to the 280,000 Ukrainian refugees, approximately [75,000 Afghans](#) were evacuated last year from their country by the U.S. military, because their lives were at risk under the incoming Taliban government. This group of people supported the U.S. mission in Afghanistan or worked as human rights defenders or political activists, yet when they first arrived, they were not given asylum status. Those Afghans who were [employed](#) by or on behalf of the U. S. government were given [Special Immigrant Visa](#), the rest received [parole](#), and recently, received [Temporary Protective Status \(TPS\)](#) for 18 months, which means they are able to work, travel and are temporarily protected from deportation. However, the temporary immigration status prevents them from being eligible for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Venezuelan Migrants

Along with the Afghans, approximately 500,000 Venezuelans received TPS from the Biden Administration on September 20th, 2023 - but not the more permanent immigration status of asylum. Venezuelans are the newest migrant group arriving by the southern border and being transported to New York City (NYC), Chicago and other cities. Since 2014, an estimated [7.1 million Venezuelans](#) left their country and moved to other [Latin American](#) and Caribbean countries. The

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AMERICA'S MIGRANT ISSUE CONTINUED...

[2022 - 2023 U. N. Humanitarian Response Plan](#) for Venezuela estimates that 5.2 million Venezuelans need support in health, food, water, sanitation, and hygiene. [Malnutrition](#) is widespread with 10.9 million people found to be undernourished or chronically hungry and 4.3 million deprived of food. The [economic condition](#) of the country is bleak and getting worse with minimum wage at \$50 per month, and an inflation surge of 398% as of July 2023. Also, the country is contending with a humanitarian crisis. Several indigenous territories are contaminated by the government's mining zones and [Indigenous people](#) are being poisoned by the mercury used to separate gold from impurities. Furthermore, there is no protection for same-sex couples and sexual violence against women and girls is widespread. Likewise, authorities [persecute](#) opponents, journalists, and human rights defenders.

Migrants in New York City

New York City has made every effort to continue to serve the more than [116,000 migrants](#) since last spring. However, with an average of between 300 and 500 people still arriving in the five boroughs asking for shelter each day, and more than 60,000 migrants currently in the city's care, they are struggling. While some City officials view the surge in migrants as a [humanitarian crisis](#), both [NYC](#) and [NYS](#) are working hard to get financial support from the federal government to address the needs of the migrants, while simultaneously providing [support](#) to asylum-seekers. NYC leaders have utilized the [city's shelters](#) and [200](#) additional locations, including 140 hotels, school gyms, churches and other religious institutions which were previously vacant. They have also partnered with [universities](#) to get help from students in completing the asylum applications.

Recently, a small group of the NYC chapter of the National Association of Social Workers' (NASW) Immigration and Global Social Work Committee (IGSWC) met with Nathan Sherfinski, Advisor to Mayor Adams to discuss how social workers can be

of support. As a result of this meeting [a comprehensive humanitarian policy](#) was developed by key members of IGSWC that is guided by the core social work values and members' knowledge and experience from years of working with immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers led by Dr. Bragin, professor at Silberman School of Social Work. The policy outlined several recommendations for addressing the current migrant surge in NYC, including a model for welcoming and integrating migrants during the first 90 days and beyond, while supporting all New Yorkers, including long-time residents.

Social Work History with Immigrants

The social work profession has a long history of supporting [immigrants](#) beginning with the [Settlement House Movement](#) of the 1800s. At the time, large numbers of poor immigrants were arriving daily - primarily from Europe - looking for housing, employment, food, and for some, a place to learn to speak English. Back then, settlement houses were both a residence and a community center that aimed to help migrants, the poor, and the disadvantaged to adjust to urban life and industrialization. While these [organizations](#) provided educational services, social activities, and welfare services to immigrants and migrants in industrialized cities, it failed to do so for African Americans who were [migrating](#) from the rural South to the northern cities. This rejection of Black American citizens by social workers was consistent with the segregated world of the 19th century, and led to the creation of the [Black Settlement House Movement](#) and the emergence of leaders like [Birdye Henrietta Haynes](#), a black social welfare pioneer, among many other [Black leaders](#) who remain invisible to this day.

The Role of Social Workers in Immigrant Welfare

The work of social workers with immigrants (migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and the undocumented) can be located on micro, mezzo, and macro levels. The NASW was highly active in their opposition to the Trump Administration's Zero Tolerance Policy and the poor treatment of migrant

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AMERICA'S MIGRANT ISSUE CONTINUED...

children, particularly regarding the [family separation](#) policies. During the immigration debacle of the Trump administration, the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), which was responsible for reuniting children with their families employed social workers, along with psychologists and medical professionals, to work with the children while they were detained.

Social work practice with immigrants also includes standing up against inhumane conditions, speaking up against family separation, supporting family reunification, addressing violence against women, and advocating for immigration policy and legislative reform. Social work practice with immigrants is conducted in institutions such as hospitals, government, and social service agencies, in schools, refugee camps, or at the border. Some social workers working with immigrant communities provide [case management services](#), which include helping secure education, English-language classes, housing, employment, health care, mental health services and legal services. Clinical social workers working with immigrants provide individual and group therapy to address mental health issues related to trauma, acculturation, and racism. They also conduct bio-psychosocial assessments and use trauma-informed therapy, culturally sensitive care, narrative therapy, and cognitive behavioral therapy. Mezzo level social work is an important part of the work with immigrant communities. These social workers work in institutions and are focused on programming, administration, community organizing, and working collaboratively across institutions and systems. On a macro level, social workers work in advocacy, research, policy development and leadership roles. They are often developing policies and procedures in institutions that serve immigrant communities. They advocate for immigration policy reform and human rights as well as work to prevent violence against women, poverty, gangs, and domestic violence in immigrant communities.

Social workers today - like their predecessors in the 19th century - are well intentioned people who are guided by the NASW core values. However, today's immigrants are People of Color and social work practice requires more than good intentions. Social workers working with immigrants must be skilled, racially conscious practitioners that understand the impact of racism on People of Color and are able to explicitly integrate this knowledge in their practice, programing, policy, and research. Social workers must likewise be cognizant of how White culture impacts People of Color and White people - internalized, interpersonal, institutional, and structural racism. Social workers working with Black people and other immigrants of color must integrate [racial justice](#) and [anti-Black racism](#) principles in their practice. It is a matter of survival for these immigrants to be able to navigate life in the United States which includes orienting immigrants to the [cultural differences in child rearing practices](#) as defined in U.S. child welfare laws and understanding the culture of the American school system and the racial disparities that exist, like [harsher punishments](#) for Black children - [school to prison pipeline](#), as well as the [unfair treatment](#) of Blacks by the police - "[the talk](#)."

Summary

In summary, immigrants today are coming for many of the same reasons as earlier groups - humanitarian reasons (religious, political, and economic persecution). However, with the impact of climate change over the last three decades and the increase in natural disasters (in both frequency and power), the world's population is even more vulnerable to being displaced. People worldwide are displaced every day, and they are moving to higher grounds to survive, thrive, and avoid persecution; this means they are traveling all over the world to seek refuge, not just the United States - some as refugees, others as asylum-seekers. Many of them are People of Color arriving from countries where America's minority groups represent the majority, so while they are familiar with colorism and interpersonal racism, many of them are unfamiliar with systemic racism. So, until we have addressed systemic racism, we will continue to oppress and

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AMERICA'S MIGRANT ISSUE CONTINUED...

[dehumanize](#) the same people who are trying to flee persecution. While it's easy to identify those who demonstrate or engage in overt, explicit forms of racism, there are many people - including well-intentioned mental health practitioners, educators, administrators, researchers, citizens, and political leaders - who perpetuate [racism](#) daily in the workplace in their decisions and activities. These [microaggressions](#) as coined by Chester Pierce and later defined by Sue and his colleagues are everyday verbal, nonverbal and environmental slights, snubs or insults whether consciously or [unconsciously](#), communicate hostile, derogatory and negative messages to marginalized people. Yes, people with the best of intentions can be racist and cause harm.

CLICK ON THE IMAGE BELOW TO ACCESS THE POLICY BRIEF MENTIONED IN THE ARTICLE!



MORE IMMIGRATION RESOURCES:

[NASW Child Migrant Protection TOOLKIT](#)

[The UN Refugee Agency - Global Trends Report 2022](#)

[Mayor Adams' Statement on President Biden's Extension and Redesignation of Venezuelan Asylum Seekers for Temporary Protected Status September 20, 2023](#)

COMING UP: INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS (IFSW) - WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY MARCH 19, 2024

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ADDRESSING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST OLDER ADULTS

On behalf of The Weinberg Center for Elder Justice at the Hebrew Home at Riverdale

Rachael Domanico, LMSW
Elder Justice Specialist

John Holt, Esq.
Senior Staff Attorney

October was [Domestic Violence Awareness Month](#), a designation created in 1987 to show support for those affected by intimate partner violence and to reflect on the broader impact of domestic violence on individuals, families, and communities in the United States.

More than thirty-five years later, our perception of domestic violence continues to reflect our own biases and stereotypes. Domestic violence transcends age, gender, disability, and sexual orientation, affecting a wide spectrum of relationships. While society has made strides in addressing sexism, racism, and anti-LGBTQ ideologies, one form of discrimination persists: ageism.

Ageism, characterized by stereotypes and prejudices against older adults, distorts our understanding of the types of relationships they maintain and hinders the effectiveness of reporting and response systems for domestic violence. Domestic violence against older adults constitutes a unique form of elder abuse, with distinct dynamics and manifestations that require specific understanding and support.

Elder abuse within an intimate partnership can be an extension of a lifetime of domestic violence and trauma. However, changes in an older person's functional abilities, social environment, and financial situation introduce new risk factors

Click on either picture to engage with the Weinberg Center for Elder Justice website!



and barriers to seeking help. Physical and cognitive decline can lead to increased dependence on those causing harm and reduced ability to identify and report abuse. Isolation, caused by shrinking social circles, as well as by elements of our social infrastructure like transportation which are not easily accessible to older adults, further conceal abuse. Older adults may find it challenging to leave long-term relationships or envision a different future for themselves outside of an abusive partnership. Financial constraints can limit their options for escape, unlike younger adults who can enter the workforce and thereby more easily access market-rate housing.

Take the case of Carol, a 78-year-old woman living with her husband, who subjected her to threats of violence and death and has been physically abusing her. Isolated from her friends and family, physically dependent on her husband to assist with her medical needs, and living on a modest monthly social security payout, she lacked the means and support to leave her home, instead enduring this abuse for years. It was only when she found herself alone at a routine medical appointment that she had the courage to disclose what she was experiencing to a social worker.

Addressing domestic violence against older adults requires tailored and targeted responses and programs. The Weinberg Center for Elder Justice at the Hebrew Home at Riverdale offers a model for such interventions. Located within the Hebrew Home by Riverspring Living, a continuum of care community, the Weinberg Center is the first elder abuse shelter in the country, and provides legal,

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ADDRESSING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST OLDER ADULTS CONTINUED...

social, and therapeutic services tailored to the complex needs of older adults, who often have complex medical needs which make it difficult to access domestic violence and homeless shelters. This evidence-based program operates as a trauma-informed medical-legal partnership, recognizing how physical and cognitive decline can obscure signs of abuse and inhibit reporting.

Founded with support from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation in 2005, the Weinberg Center has and is committed to continuing to assist more than twenty-five organizations in fifteen states in establishing and maintaining elder abuse shelters based on its successful model. The Weinberg Center for Elder Justice, alone has also provided shelter for 218,982 days to older adults who have experienced abuse.

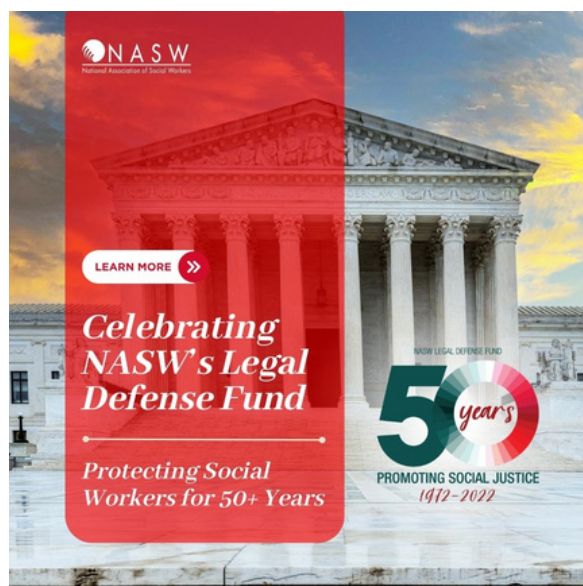
Carol, the 78-year-old woman described above, was almost one of those clients. Her medical provider took her to the hospital, where she was referred to the Weinberg Center. There she might have received medical care and rehabilitation services, alongside therapeutic counseling. Simultaneously, professionals planned to help her navigate the criminal justice system. Instead, Carol discharged herself from the hospital and returned home to her husband. Unlike a younger person, there was no hope of finding her at her job or her children's school. She had effectively disappeared from view again.

During Domestic Violence Awareness Month and beyond, it is crucial to acknowledge the unique needs of older adults like Carol. Awareness is essential but insufficient to prevent harm, especially when systemic barriers and societal attitudes obstruct our comprehension of the problem's scope and impact. To bring about lasting change, the United States needs the political will to invest public funds in innovative programs, rigorously evaluate their effectiveness, and replicate successful interventions.

Two pending federal legislations—the [Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act](#) and [the Elder Justice Reauthorization and Modernization Act](#)—could provide significant funding to state agencies on aging. These funds could be used to gather better data on elder abuse, address risk factors like isolation, train professionals and ombudspersons to recognize the unique manifestations of elder abuse, and support innovative programs like elder abuse shelters. If you or anyone you know is experiencing elder abuse, please ask for help. If you are interested in a training on the different kinds of elder abuse, or in starting a shelter in your community contact us at: weinberg.center@theweinbergcenter.org.



CLICK ON THE PICTURES FOR MORE INFO



NASW-NYC HIGHLIGHT: DR. YVONNE CHASE, LCSW, ACSW, MSW NEW BOARD PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS AS OF JULY 2023

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE AND WORDING OF THIS PIECE IS A DIRECT REPRINT OF A [NASW NATIONAL NEWS RELEASE FROM JULY 7, 2023](#).

Alaska social worker Yvonne Chase is the new president-elect of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and has pledged to keep the association focused on social justice issues while advocating for innovations to prepare the fast-growing social work profession for future challenges.

Chase, PhD, LCSW, ACSW, MSW, who is an associate professor at the University of Alaska, Anchorage, will begin her three-year term as NASW president on July 1, 2023. She will succeed Mildred "Mit" Joyner, DPS, MSW, LCSW.

"I am honored and humbled to be the president-elect of NASW and I promise you three things – respect, integrity and service," Chase said. "NASW has also done a great deal of advocacy in addressing systemic racism in this nation and protecting voting and reproductive rights. I will help the association continue this important work while ensuring NASW is continuing to give members of our great profession the tools and training they need to address issues that challenge our nation, including the need for more mental health services."

Chase also promised transparency and making sure members are aware of developments at NASW and are a part of shaping the association's vision as it moves into the future.

Chase received her doctorate from Norfolk State



University and her master's degree in social work from Howard University. She has extensive leadership experience at the NASW chapter and national level, including serving as the president of the NASW Alaska Chapter; member of the boards of NASW and the NASW Assurance Services Inc.; and chair of the NASW National Committee on Inquiry and Professional Review Task Force.

Chase has been a member of NASW for more than 30 years and is a Social Work Pioneer. She currently serves as board member and treasurer of NASW Assurance Services Inc. Her organizational affiliations include the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice (formerly the American Orthopsychiatry Association), and the editorial board for the Journal of Child Abuse and Neglect.

Her professional interests have included social work ethics, child welfare, serving diverse client populations and the global social work community. She is currently the project coordinator for a U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) funded project that provides training for masters and doctoral level students to expand the number of graduate behavioral health professionals within Alaska who have core competencies in interprofessional practice in integrated health care settings.

Chase was born and raised in Michigan, and has lived in Chicago, Washington, DC, San Francisco,

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NASW-NYC HIGHLIGHT: DR. YVONNE CHASE, LCSW, ACSW, MSW NEW BOARD PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS AS OF JULY 2023 CONT...

and Seattle, before moving to Alaska, which has been home for more than 30 years. She credits her decision to become a social worker to her first supervisor in what was then the Department of Child Welfare in Chicago, Illinois.

"I have seen many changes in our society over the years and seen this association becoming stronger and more progressive," she said. "NASW has influence and responsibilities and during my presidency I will work hard to ensure this association continues to have a seat at the table in setting policies that benefit the profession and the clients we serve at the local, state and federal level."

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW), in Washington, DC, is the largest membership organization of professional social workers. It promotes, develops, and protects the practice of social work and social workers. NASW also seeks to enhance the well-being of individuals, families, and communities through its advocacy.

**The NASW-NYC Chapter
congratulates Dr. Chase on
her appointment as
President of NASW and
looks forward to continuing
a collaborative relationship.**



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TALKS PODCAST
EPISODE 90:**

**Meet NASW President-
Elect,
Dr. Yvonne Chase**



Leading with Purpose: Dr. Yvonne Elder Chase

Learn more about Dr. Chase's path to becoming NASW president and about the people and experiences that have shaped her personally and professionally.



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NYC SOCIAL WORK STUDENT VOICES:

INTRODUCING THE 2023-2024 NASW-NYC CARES MEMBER AMBASSADORS

[The NASW-NYC CARES Member Ambassador Program](#) identifies students from accredited schools of social work within New York City who serve as liaisons between their respective programs and the NASW-NYC Chapter. As links between the NASW-NYC Chapter and their respective schools, the primary roles of Member Ambassadors are sharing Chapter and community resources, events, legislative and advocacy matters, educational and continuing education offerings and other pertinent information related to the social work profession with their student body, faculty, field placements, and staff of their respective institutions.

Member Ambassadors lead various student support events throughout the academic year, aiming to continue engagement with social work students and schools in NYC.

This year, we introduce to you, in no particular order, our five incredible NASW-NYC CARES Member Ambassadors from across New York City.

**WANT TO ENGAGE WITH
THIS YEAR'S MEMBER
AMBASSADORS?
CLICK ON THEIR IMAGE
TO ACCESS THEIR
LINKEDIN PROFILES!**



Karen A. White

Wurzweiler School of Social Work
Yeshiva University
DSW Program - Class of 2025



Monique Murray

CUNY Lehman College
MSW Class of 2024

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NYC SOCIAL WORK STUDENT VOICES:

INTRODUCING THE 2023-2024
NASW-NYC CARES MEMBER
AMBASSADORS
CONTINUED...



Jasmine Dearman

Columbia University - SSW

MSW Class of 2024

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Sashagay Callam

CUNY Hunter - Silberman School of SW

MSW Class of 2024



Nayab Quereshi

CUNY Hunter - Silberman School of SW

BSW Class of 2024

NASW-NYC CARES MEMBER AMBASSADOR-LED STUDENT SUPPORT EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

CLICK ON ANY IMAGE TO ACCESS REGISTRATION!



NASW • NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER
National Association of Social Workers

A NASW-NYC CARES Member Ambassador Student Support Event

NASW STUDENT MEMBERSHIP
An Informational Session

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2023
6:00 – 7:00 p.m. ET

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NASW • NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER
National Association of Social Workers

A NASW-NYC CARES MEMBER AMBASSADOR STUDENT SUPPORT EVENT

Checking In:
A SUPPORT CIRCLE FOR NYC SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2023
3:00 – 4:00 P.M. ET

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NASW • NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER
National Association of Social Workers

A NASW-NYC CARES MEMBER AMBASSADOR STUDENT SUPPORT EVENT

Q&A
WITH A NYS SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2023
7:00 – 8:00 P.M. ET

WITH KARINA ESTRELLA, MSW
NYS SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER

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NASW • NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER
National Association of Social Workers

SOCIAL WORK VOTES
A CONVERSATION WITH GALE BREWER ABOUT WHAT'S AT STAKE IN THE UPCOMING ELECTION

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REGISTER AND ATTEND ON NOVEMBER 29, 12-2 PM EST



NASW • NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER
National Association of Social Workers

COMPLETE THE 2023-2024 NYC STUDENTS OF SOCIAL WORK INTERNSHIP SURVEY

DEADLINE DECEMBER 31, 2023

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NASW • NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER
National Association of Social Workers

A NASW-NYC CARES Member Ambassador Student Support Event

Envisioning Our Social Work Journeys
A Vision Board Event

Friday, December 8, 2023
7:00 – 8:00 p.m. ET

CLICK HERE

WHAT IS YOUR WHY?

Pia Hargrove, LMSW

Adjunct Assistant Professor at NYU Silver School of Social Work

www.professorpia.com

As we take this time to reflect on and examine who we are and what we bring to practice, we are called to, “meet each client where they are,” but arguably they meet us at the same intersection and junction. The most beautiful thing about New York City is that we are common dwellers. From the person experiencing homelessness to the billionaire, we take the same subway, walk the same streets, and call the same blocks our own. At the same time, that beauty can bond us, break us, or simply separate us by the boardroom table. We, as social workers, can truly meet people where they are, engage in an empowering way, and still make sure that everyone has a seat at the table, or as Brooklyn-born, Bajan sister Shirley Chisholm said, “...and where there’s no seat at the table, bring a folding chair.”

We all must take a moment to examine “What is Our Why?” When I think about why I arrived at this powerful profession called social work, it is clear to me that it is less of a profession and more of a lifestyle, a passion for and commitment to change through growth. In the urban star called Brooklyn, at the luminescent points of Flatbush and Crown Heights, I was raised—a 5th generation, Brooklyn Girl, on my Mom’s side and descendant of Carolina Natives and liberated Africans on my Dad’s side. I was taught that education was freedom, and that prayer would guide the rest. Our family opened an awards business at the corner of Nostrand Avenue and Park Place that I eventually owned, carrying Legacy Awards for almost 50 years. With the street soundtrack of Big Daddy Kane’s Ain’t No Half Steppin’ and Eric B. & Rakim’s, “...no tricks in ’86, it’s time to build,” we were a driving force in economic development, truly building a burgeoning Black community.

And then we experienced...

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Pia on LinkedIn!



Believe it or not, I was barely tall enough to reach the counter’s edge in our awards and sporting goods store and needed a milk crate to be tall enough to, “meet people where they were.”

My favorite time was after school when the Madison High School cheerleaders would shop for pom-poms and saddle shoes. I admired their amplified voices and their raw beauty. What we know of children is that they are acutely aware of their surroundings and experiences. Children often present as the, “identified patient” or, “IP,” simply because they often manifest the symptoms of the septic state of their surroundings. The star of the cheerleading squad was no different. I watched her beauty wane as her chocolate skin grew ashen and her ebony tresses thinned and her rose colored lips became blistered and chalky. Her eyes bulged, her cheeks sunk, and her body weakened while her attitude and behavior became erratic. No one knew what was happening to her, but from my Sunnydale milk crate, I knew because red plastic vials littered my elementary school yard every morning when we returned for recess before school. I knew because drug dealers lined our school block after school enticing us with shiny cars and snakes. Well, that cheerleader was the, “IP,” just a manifestation, symptomatic of the pain that would pursue and subsequently ravish our community. The crack epidemic claimed lives and claimed souls. From free basing fires to mass murders, suicide, sexual

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WHAT IS YOUR WHY? CONTINUED...

assault, kidnappings, and abandonment, our communities suffered, they struggled, they were ignored.

Simultaneously, HIV/AIDS attacked our bodies and ignorance divided families. Our children were trying to grow in a minefield of debris, but where there is any drop of moisture and any ray of sun, growth is always possible and the growth that comes from challenge is resilient. I was blessed to live in an amazingly nurturing home environment in an historic enclave in Brooklyn. However, I was clear that we are purposed to grow collectively, and I have a responsibility to inspire vitality anywhere I go. I didn't know that the name for this was social worker, but I was clear that this was who I was, and who I will forever be.

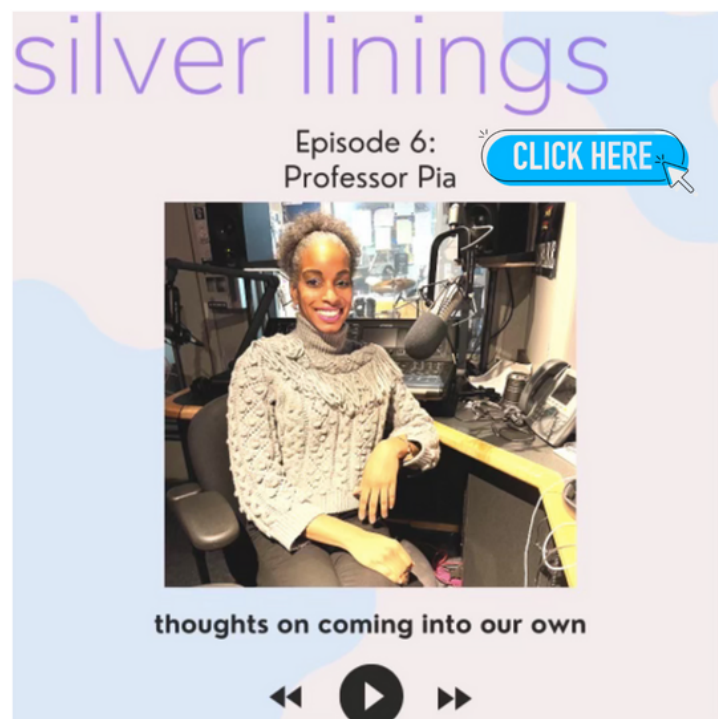
Examine implicit bias in our experience. How do we judge and what have we been judged for? How do we identify, and what identities are assigned to us? Like LL Cool J said, "I Can't Live Without My Radio." As a Brooklyn Girl and Big Daddy Kane head, I responded to his refrain: "A yo, it's '88 time to set it straight." Our community was warned by KRS 1 and the Stop the Violence galvanization, "You're headed for self-destruction." We were being scapegoated. We took control of our experience lead by our youth and young adults. As Queen Latifah called for, "U.N.I.T.Y.," I stepped to the mic. Now, we are inspiring and empowering families as we are Creating Legacies. Please join me as WE write the next verse in our rhyme book called community.

Yours in service,
Pia J. Hargrove, LMSW

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THE CRISIS IS NOT THAT PEOPLE ARE HERE: WE NEED PEOPLE

Linda Levin, LMSW

Co-Chair of the NASW-NYC Immigration & Global Social Work Committee

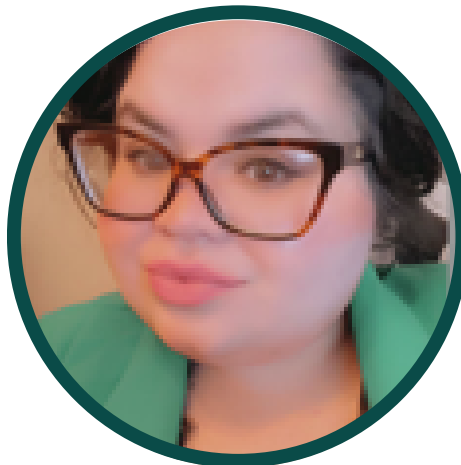
As the great American philosopher and songwriter, Taylor Swift wrote, "Welcome to New York, it's been waiting for you," the over [116,000 migrants seeking asylum](#) who have come to our city are in a position to create multiple benefits for all New Yorkers. So not only have we been waiting for them, we need them.

In August, an advisor for Mayor Adams reached out to the NASW-NYC Immigration and Global Social Work Committee in an effort to discuss the City's response to the incoming migrants and asylum seekers and assist the Mayor's Office in increasing engagement of the social work community. Members of our committee prepared a comprehensive policy brief which established recommendations with an organizational approach to funding and structure that would address many of the human rights violations that have occurred in NYC's ongoing response.

NASW-NYC's Committee on Immigration and Global Social Work, established in 2016, provides thoughtful leadership and endeavors to change the narrative around immigration in the public's consciousness. Its main strategies have been to inform, educate, motivate, and mobilize the social work community and to collaborate with many advocacy coalitions, social work organizations, and schools of social work, among others.

We feel it is imperative that as social workers committed to upholding human rights that we share who migrants are, why they move, and what they contribute to their communities while upholding the dignity and identities of immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers, strengthening social cohesion, and emphatically working to eliminate xenophobia and discrimination. A core principle that was added to the current [2021 NASW Code of Ethics](#) which advises social workers to avoid, condone and

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advocate against discrimination on the basis of immigration status.

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) has also addressed the needs of immigrants in their [Immigration Policy Toolkit 2006, pg. 8](#)

NASW supports immigration and refugee policies that uphold and support equity and human rights, while protecting national security. Although the challenge of competing claims is formidable, immigration policies must promote social justice and avoid racism and discrimination or profiling on the basis of race, religion, country of origin, gender, or other grounds. Respect for due process must be demonstrated for immigrants as well as citizens.

NASW has a special interest in the effect of immigration policies on families and children and supports policies that ensure that children do not grow up permanently disadvantaged by the immigration status of their parents. In keeping with this principle, immigrant families should not suffer the penalties of deportation for family-related stresses and violence except in the most extreme cases.

These migrants are facing unbelievable circumstances that force them to flee to seek safety and ensure their well-being. According to the [UN High Commissioner for Refugees report](#) published in June 2023, 108.4 million people worldwide were forcibly displaced as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations and events seriously disturbing public order.

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THE CRISIS IS NOT THAT PEOPLE ARE HERE: WE NEED PEOPLE CONTINUED...

With the approximate loss of [468,000 residents between 2020-2021, 5.3% of New York City's total population](#) we lost one seat in the House of Representatives, the Department of Education lost state funding because of lower numbers of students enrolled in New York City public schools and there are almost 100,000 jobs that are still vacant in areas such as social services, caregiving and government. Even before the current influx of migrants, [40 % of New York City's population is foreign born](#), demonstrating our positive history and economic success is ineradicably strengthened by the acceptance of immigrants.

For a workable systemic response we understand that state and federal support is necessary as well as building a Model System of Care for Asylum-Seeking Migrants in NYC by utilizing the immigrant support networks, mutual aid societies, and formal and informal community agencies, where many social workers are employed. It also recommits to the licensed nine voluntary social work agencies in New York City designed to do this work with the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM) which provide basic emergency services during the first 90 days following a refugee family's arrival. This is just a brief summary of what our recommendations include:

Organizational Structures

-“Nothing about us without us.”- Building support with established migrant communities and establishing consultation mechanisms to allow migrants political participation.

-Create a working advisory committee to oversee the Model System of Care- A committee overseeing the creation, implementation, and effectiveness of the Model System of Care which includes representation from immigrant organizations and

-organizations providing key services, including legal assistance, and housing, DOE, ACS, HHS, and NYC Bar Association.

Reception and Basic Services: First 90 Days

-Immediate provision of essential basic services. - New York City Agencies formerly designed to do this work for BPRM to meet migrants at the welcome centers and prepared through the advisory committee to provide essential basic services.

Beyond the Initial 90 Days

-Access to Ongoing Social Health and Mental Health Services

-Access to Education

Special Services for Unaccompanied and Separated Children, or Children with Special Needs:

-Family Unity

-Emergency Work Permits

-Ongoing family/ child and family support can be provided by The Agency for Children's Services (ACS)

Services Requiring New Federal Action:

-Access to the Labor Market and Financial Inclusion

Elements Necessary to Include in a Model System of Care for Asylum-Seeking Migrants in NYC

-Anti-discrimination Initiatives: NYC must take action to reduce and prevent anti-immigrant discrimination and oppression, especially anti-Black, anti-BIPOC, anti-LGBTQ+, and other oppressed populations.

-Promote and Ensure Civic and Political Participation

-Eliminate Fear and Confusion Blocking Access to Government Services

The well-being of our city depends on the well-being of immigrant New Yorkers and our committee applauds the diligent interventions that the NYC government and many not-for-profit organizations have given to newly arrived migrants since the summer of 2022. Our comprehensive policy brief and recommendations for the ongoing response includes our commitment to partner and support

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THE CRISIS IS NOT THAT PEOPLE ARE HERE: WE NEED PEOPLE CONTINUED...

the initiatives for a more efficient, more effective model of welcoming and integrating migrants into NYC while supporting all New Yorkers migrants and long-time residents alike if possible.

Around the world, growing numbers of people are being displaced and migrating because of conflicts, political dysfunction, natural disasters made worse by the effects of the climate crisis, and economic frustrations and desperation. As social workers it is imperative that we continue to protect, respond, empower and help solve the human rights injustices while striving for transformational change.

To learn more or join the NASW-NYC Immigration and Global Social Work Committee email naswimmigration@gmail.com

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