

SNCC West Coast Regional Conference...Sunday Workshop...Nov. 13th-15th  
Social and Public Welfare Workshop

Concerns of the workshop were:

1. Can Social Workers as professionals be active in Civil Rights?

a) Problems raised were:

Social workers possibly being fired from jobs if active in demonstrations, trials and serving jail sentences.....  
Inherent conflict exists between the social workers role of the mediator and role of non involvement in the community (i.e. taking sides on issues).....and between the need for those active in civil rights to take sides.

Suggestions:

1. Set up a social action or human rights committee in your agency to promote discussion, education and action programs.
2. Take summer vacations and go to South with SNCC
3. Adopt a Freedom School
4. Think twice about becoming a social worker if you want to be a professional in an agency and work on civil rights unless you are willing to help pave the way to their being welcome.

What can professionals (or students) do voluntarily, outside their agencies

1. Set up tutorial programs
2. Organize grass roots programs in neighborhoods such as Freedom House is doing, San Francisco
3. Raise money to send student or agency staff member to the South.
4. If required to do research in colleges, check with SNCC to see if there is anything that could be done that will help SNCC.

What can Professional organizations like NASW do?(National Association of Social Workers)

1. Encourage the raising of scholarship money to put southern Negro college graduates thru schools of Social Work.
2. Take stands and pass resolutions on civil rights programs.
3. Educate members especially those in charge of clubs, gangs etc. which might be looking for a fund-raising project such as SNCC.
4. Hold SNCC benefits run by local chapters of NASW, i.e. cocktail parties, speakers, etc.
5. Keep in touch and work with NASW in the South. Put pressure on NASW chapters which do not conform to the values of the organization. Find a local NASW member who could be a liaison between SNCC and NASW.

IMPLICIT IN THE ENTIRE DISCUSSION WAS THE NEED TO APPLY POLITICAL PRESSURE ON LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL LEVELS BY PROFESSIONALS, STUDENTS, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE ORGANIZATIONS - LIKE NASW.....