



Educator Q&A

1. *How can I use this resource?*

This resource constitutes a course that can be adopted in its entirety or in segments across multiple other sources. This content would be particularly suitable for courses in diversity, practice, policy, international social work, and human rights. Certain course contents may be used in topical courses such as those on health, mental health, and family interventions. The teaching approach in this resource uses the flipped-classroom model, in which class time is spent in hands-on application as opposed to lecture. This approach enhances student engagement and thereby learning. This course is presently taught in a hybrid format; that is, half the semester is spent in class and the other half online (alternating weeks). Thus, the material is adaptable to online, in-person, or hybrid formats. Additionally, the class activities can be modified for individual or small group application.

2. *What have been students' reactions to this content?*

Most students come into the course with a keen commitment to social justice (since this is an elective course, self-selection is a possible contributing factor). They generally are aware of the injustices facing many immigrants, refugees, and migrants, but their knowledge of legal, theoretical, and practice considerations is limited. This course helps channel their passions into evidence-based actions.

3. *You have been teaching, writing, and researching in this area for more than 25 years. What changes have you seen over time?*

In terms of the larger global context, certainly immigrant, refugee, and migrant issues seem to be much more prevalent in the public consciousness. Clearly, this issue is a lightning rod in many parts of the world, including the United States. With growing anti-immigrant sentiment, it is more critical than ever that social workers advocate for the human rights of this population and for intergroup dialogue to promote social inclusion. In the scholarly arena, the knowledge base and research infrastructure on immigration and refugees has exploded through the proliferation of journal articles, books, and global centers and institutes dedicated to this topic.

Within social work, this subject was rather marginalized 25 years ago but has now become much more mainstream. Evidence about how to work effectively with members of these populations is also much stronger now and is being used in practice. Although we are living in difficult times, I am heartened by the activism of young people such as DREAMers and other social justice warriors (a term I use with pride).

Miriam Potocky, Ph.D.
Professor
School of Social Work
Florida International University
Modesto Maidique Campus, AHC5-568
Miami, FL 33199
(305) 348-6324