



# **Global Connections: Building International Social Work Pathways**

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# INTRODUCTION

- **Professor and Interim Dean of the School of Social Work at Monmouth University, New Jersey, USA**
  - **Chair, Advisory Board of the Katherine A. Kendall Institute for International Social Work Education, CSWE**
  - **President of the North American and Caribbean Association of School of Social Work (NACASSW)**
  - **Vice President of the International Association of School of Social Work (IASSW)**
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# KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR BUILDING INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORK PATHWAYS

**1** International Social Work

**2** International Social Work  
Networks

**3** International Pathways

**4** Core Values Guiding Global SW

**5** Academic Partnerships

**6** Competencies for  
International Engagement

**7** Ethical Considerations

**8** Implementation Roadmap



# WHY INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORK?

- **Globalization reshapes social challenges**
- **Migration, climate displacements, inequality cross borders**
- **Interconnect policy and practice systems**
- **Growing demand for globally competent professionals**

# INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORK NETWORKS

- **International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW)**
- **International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW)**
- **International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW)**
- **International Consortium for Social Development (ICSD)**

# WHAT ARE INTERNATIONAL PATHWAYS?

- **Academic mobility and exchanges**
- **Cross-border field practice**
- **Global research collaborations**
- **International policy engagement**
- **Virtual global partnerships**



# CORE VALUES GUIDING GLOBAL SOCIAL WORK

- **Human rights-based approach**
- **Cultural humility**
- **Anti-oppressive practice**
- **Equity and reciprocity**
- **Global solidarity**



# ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS–CURRICULAR

- **Student/faculty exchange programs**
- **Joint/dual degree programs**
- **International field placements**
- **Collaborative curriculum design**
- **Virtual global classroom**



# ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS-INTERNATIONAL- FIELD PRACTICE

- **Refugee and migration services**
- **Disaster response initiatives**
- **International NGO partnerships**
- **Humanitarian coordination**



# ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS-GLOBAL POLICY & ADVOCACY

- **Participation in UN forums**
- **Human rights monitoring initiatives**
- **International policy consultation**
- **SDG focused program development**



# COMPETENCIES FOR GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

- Cultural reflexivity
- Comparative policy literacy
- Ethical decision-making across systems
- Intercultural communication
- Global leadership skills



# ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- **Address north-south power imbalances**
- **Avoid short-term “voluntarism”**
- **Ensure reciprocal knowledge exchange**
- **Support community-led initiatives**
- **Commit to long-term sustainability**



# IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP

- **Assess institutional readiness**
- **Identify strategic global partners**
- **Secure funding and policy alignment**
- **Develop structured student pathways**
- **Evaluate impact and sustainability**



# KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Global engagement strengthens local practice**
  - **International partnerships require equity**
  - **Competency development is essential**
  - **Sustainable pathways demand long-term commitment**
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**THANK YOU!**