

Growing Together as Allies Fall 2021 Speaker Series Voices for Change: Voting, Advocacy, and Action

SESSION 1

SOCIAL WORKERS, THE VOTE AND U.S. DEMOCRACY

Sept. 14, 2021 || 12-1:30 p.m.

Zoom Link: bit.ly/3jzOueZ

Library Guide: guides.monmouth.edu/SW2021speakerseries



Terry Mizrahi, PhD, MSW is a Professor (Emeritus) at the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College. She is currently Co-Chair of a national movement—The Special Commission to Advance Macro Practice in Social Work. She also co-chairs the National Social Work Voter Mobilization Campaign which she founded in 2017 (votingissocialwork.org). Her expertise is in community development, health-care policy and patients' rights; areas of research and training in professional socialization and physician behavior, social work in health care, interdisciplinary collaboration, interorganizational coalition-building and community organizing. She is the author of several books, monographs, guides, and articles.



Mimi Abramovitz, the Bertha Capen Reynolds Professor of Social Policy at Silberman School of Social Work, Hunter College and The CUNY Graduate Center, is often introduced as an activist and a scholar. Her research interests include the US welfare state, poverty, inequality, activism and the impact of public policy on human service organizations—all viewed through the lens of race, class and gender. Mimi currently co-leads the National Social Work Voter Mobilization Campaign also known as Voting is Social Work. She is the co-founder of the Welfare Rights Initiative at Hunter College and works with the Special Commission to Advance Macro Practice, Influencing Social Policy (ISP).

SESSION DESCRIPTION:

Social workers who sit at the intersection of the individual and society are well positioned to reach large numbers of unregistered voters. The field education department of social work schools represents the hub of National Social Work Voter Mobilization Campaign (Voting is Social Work). Since 2018 the Campaign, endorsed by more than 25 major social work organizations, has been working with schools of social work and their associated agencies to register large numbers of students, clients, and constituents to vote. This presentation discusses the historic role of social workers in voter registration, the benefit of voting, and the mounting barriers to a fair vote. It focuses on voter suppression designed to demoralize the electorate, to make people believe that their system is rigged and that their vote does not count, and suggests that voter suppression and systemic racism increasingly represent dangerous threats to democracy in the US.