

Who We Are

The Social Welfare Action Alliance (SWAA) is a national organization of radical social workers and other human service workers. Founded in 1985, the Alliance is based on principles that reflect a concern for social and economic justice, peace and coalition building with transformative social movements.

SWAA chapters determine their agendas and provide forums for discussions and debates around local, national and international issues.



Our Roots

Bertha Capen Reynolds was an eminent social worker, educator, author, trade unionist and social activist. She courageously challenged the basic tenets of her field by calling for greater attention to the full range of human needs. She was equally committed to eradicating the root causes of war and the inequalities in the structure and values of society. At a gathering celebrating the centennial of her birth in 1985, her friends and supporters formed the Bertha Capen Reynolds Society (BCRS) to continue her radical legacy. In 1999, BCRS members changed its name to Social Welfare Action Alliance to better identify its values to the public.

What We Stand For

Fostering communication, support and Collaboration among human service workers, activists, and scholars.

Building collaborative agendas for alternative social policies aimed at both incremental and fundamental social change

Understanding the requirements and methods of humanistic direct practice that support individual, community and broad social change

Participation of social service workers, educators and students in the struggles of low income and other oppressed peoples

Furthering coalitions with social movements whose objectives are integral to the achievement of a just, caring and humanistic society

Combating discrimination, oppression, and exploitation in all forms

Promoting the tradition, mission and methods of radical social work by facilitating the presentation, publication and distribution of radical research and literature

Educating people about the life and work of Bertha Capen Reynolds.

***Don't Forget to Check Us Out at
Facebook.com/SocialWelfareActionAlliance
Or on Twitter at @NationalSWAA***

***Then become a member today at
www.socialwelfareactionalliance.org***

What We Do



“The real choice before us as social workers is whether we are to be passive or active.”

Bertha Capen Reynolds

Protest activities on a range of issues from globalization to welfare rights

Create alliances with and support numerous transformative social movements

Organize highly attended, community-wide conferences with a special focus on ending poverty

Sponsor workshops by nationally known educators and activists

Document Economic Human Rights Violations and sponsor Truth Commissions on these violations

Work as allies with local and national poor people's organizations to organize marches, speak-outs, and voter registration campaigns

Sponsor community Human Rights Dialogues on such issues as: immigration rights, housing foreclosures and homelessness