



## R A D C H A T T E R

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*Welcome to our quarterly member newsletter: Radchatter!*

*This is a space where we provide updates on SWAA initiatives, relevant news, upcoming events, and recommendations for what to read, watch, or listen to in the radical sphere of our world today.*

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# **Call to Action Continues: Social Workers, Advocates, Organizers, and Human Service Workers Unite against The War on the People**

Perhaps we knew that in the span of the timing of one RadChatter, all would not be won. But we came out BIG, STRONG, and HARD last issue, which may have contributed to burnout among our members and supporters. This risk seems increasingly likely as bad actions at every level of government, with disappointment

by many for the actions of some nonprofits, and, less surprisingly, many corporations. Ongoing threats, now voted in cuts, reports regarding human service programs of Medicaid and SNAP continue to target alongside threats and actions against both personhood and free speech rights of so many people that our heads spin. THIS IS JUST WHAT THEY WANT!

### ***Being fully HUMAN is a HUMAN Right!***

So, our Call to Action from last issue is a **STANDING CALL to Action** - new actions that can be brought to bear here, webinars/#Radchats, member emails, and social media for radical perspective and analysis. We can draw comfort, courage, and perseverance from the fact that we are not alone in these tremendous struggles. We have so many allies and accomplices that just a few minutes on Instagram, TikTok, or YouTube (and maybe Discord and others) reveals new protest songs, riveting research summaries by lay people, pundits, political junkies and consultants, as well as the new journalistic standard bearers. Perhaps you have a favorite? We are not alone. You are not alone. We are in this together, with those known and unknown to us, for those known and unknown to us - as it always has been.

Now for the rest of our stories. . .

But first, one important action we all must take now. Yes, radical, systemic change is what we want, especially in conceiving of a just way of caring for each other beyond today's social welfare status quo. . .and yet, people will go hungry, suffer, be diminished, left with less dignity, or die or watch those they love perish due to the many cuts outlined in [H.R. 1](#), passed in the House last week and heading to the Senate - where brakes are expected. We can be those brakes and cause a BREAK in the hate. This "death by legislation" has to end and one step towards that is your call to your Senators today. Sharing for a friend. . .

From [MLK, Jr's FB Post](#) - When it was a War on Poverty Not an (outright) War on the People:

Find your U.S. Senators [HERE](#). There are TWO from each state so two calls, emails, and letters - or even visits!!

[Vote In or Out Reel from 5/26/25](#) - soon to have sample scripts for contacting your Senators and other elected and appointed officials!

**Call your Senators**  
**(202) 224-3121**

**Tell them to VOTE NO on the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," which does some ugly things, like:**

- Slashing spending on critical programs such as Medicaid and SNAP**
- While hampering federal courts' ability to "hold government officials in contempt when they violate court orders"**



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**From an Impacted SWAA Member**



Recent federal policy changes are having a significant ripple effect on academic institutions, including major medical schools and research departments. At the Department of Medicine at Washington University in St. Louis, we are witnessing firsthand how shifting federal priorities—especially those from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF)—are reshaping the research landscape. Several lawsuits have been filed against the federal government, challenging new restrictions that many argue compromise both academic freedom and scientific progress.

A key area of concern is the increasing scrutiny of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) content in grant applications. Researchers are now being advised to revise biosketches and proposals to avoid DEI-related language that could trigger red flags under the new guidelines. This has placed a heavy administrative burden on faculty and staff, and raises serious ethical and strategic dilemmas, particularly in fields where addressing health disparities and equity is central to the research mission.

Critically, some of the research currently at risk involves life-saving studies on LGBTQ+ health, cardiovascular disease, Alzheimer's, lung cancer, HIV/AIDS, maternal mortality, and substance use and abuse—areas where health disparities are well-documented and where continued research is vital. These are diseases that do not discriminate, and halting progress in these fields threatens the well-being of millions across communities.

In response, the university is proactively exploring additional non-federal funding opportunities to sustain this essential work should federal support be reduced or withdrawn. This effort ensures that critical research continues without interruption, even amid policy uncertainty.

As this situation evolves, it underscores the importance of advocacy, resilience, and institutional support to protect the future of inclusive, impactful scientific inquiry.

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## Remembrances to Honor this Month!

## PRIDE MONTH 2025

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.

### Pride Month\*

June, 2025

In light of this ongoing [ACLU report](#) on attacks on LGBTQIA+ rights in recent years, we might think it is hard to gather pride - as persons who identify directly, those who support and love those persons and those who live as allies and accomplices with and for persons who identify as LGBTQIA+ (where PLUS is doing a LOT of work here today). Joyful resistance, action, and rest when needed are all antidotes to despair, neglect and attempts to make people invisible and silent. Celebrate PRIDE month however you can - and keep celebrating because we are NOT broken - bruised, maybe, but not broken. **Social Workers Celebrate PRIDE !!**

\*Flag identifications by Date [HERE](#)



### Disability Pride Month

July, 2025

There's no shortage of issues and challenges that persons with disabilities face - within and outside of the "movement spaces." Some of those challenges have been documented in this Wikipedia page which lists, to an aching degree, the number of types of laws enshrining discrimination, bias, bigotry, and fear of physical "otherness." But, for a while now, persons with disabilities and allies have worked and celebrated tirelessly to increase their visibility, voices, strength, collective strength for action. Disability Pride Month shows how far we've come and points to the many milestones yet to be won! **"Nothing about us without us!"**

**TRANSGENDER JUSTICE: WHAT WE ARE FACING & HOW TO FIGHT BACK**

**REGISTER HERE**  
OR GO TO  
SOCIALWELFAREACTIONALLIANCE.ORG

**Thursday, May 15th**  
**7-8:30 pm ET**  
**Virtual**

A panel discussion on the challenges to trans rights at the national and local level, and what people can be doing to support, featuring:

- **Dara Adkison (they/them)**, Executive Director of TransOhio
- **Mryl Beam (he/him)**, Associate Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Macalester College
- **Angelica Christina (she/her)**, Queer Latina, activist, actor, model, producer and trans consultant
- **Devon Ojeda (they/he)**, Senior National Organizer for Advocates for Trans Equality

presented by  
**SWAA**  
SOCIAL WELFARE ACTION ALLIANCE

**Watch our Panel on Transgender Justice**

## Reflections on Needs, Change, and Mobilizing for Action

TWO SWAA NSC Members reflecting on this time of upheaval and various paths to engaging in the urgent resistance we need from all human and social service workers. Not to mention FOR human and social service workers too!



"I was taught social justice meant more services. Now I understand that social justice means we don't need so many services."

**Rosemary Barbera, PhD - SWAA Steering Committee**

Listen to her recent podcast, from the University of Buffalo "In SocialWork". [Mobilizing Social Workers to Action: Frameworks for Social Change](#)

Also featuring University of Buffalo, SWASC chapter lead and SWAA Steering Committee member, **Dr. Nicole Cappozziello** reflects on social change through research with her ["It's the roots that need water"](#)



article about her recent doctoral research.

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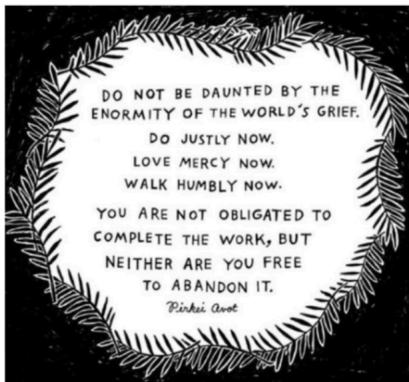
Need a little light reading to help you work through these MAGA times? We have started a [How to Organize Against MAGA reading list](#) for you. Have an item to add to make this a living, representative document? Send us the item or a note to chat about it.

Thanks to National Steering Committee member and Co-host Stephen Monroe ("Zak") Tomczak (he/him), for this [framework for analyzing radical policy priorities](#).

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## SWAA Chapter News and Events

### This Month's #RadChat



### Save the Date

June 24<sup>th</sup> 7:00 ET

Standing Up in Difficult Times

New Webinars, Classes, and #RadChats are being planned now. If you have an interest in suggesting a topic or issue to explore, have resources (people, materials, etc.) to assist in planning an announced topic, or would like to be considered as a panel member or #RadChat breakout room leader, we'd love to hear from you.

**Registration opens soon at [socialwelfareactionalliance.org](https://socialwelfareactionalliance.org)**

In the meantime, you can watch our very recent panel discussion titled [Transgender Justice: What we are facing and how to fight back](#).

*You can read speaker bios, get a summary of the issue and connect*

*with SWAA members to build  
solidarity across the justice spectrum!*

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## CHAPTER UPDATES



The [Connecticut Chapter](#) is working on its program of legislative advocacy and work for radical policy change in CT. We so-hosted our third Annual People's Forum, on **February 19<sup>th</sup>**, where we hear from grassroots activists and individuals with lived experiences, on the concerns they have over legislation that has been introduced in our current legislative session - and that which has not been introduced but should be. This [VIDEO LINK](#) takes you to all of the serious work and efforts of this important leadership event for all of Connecticut!

In addition to our legislative advocacy work, we are also in the process of working with existing advocacy coalitions to expand our ability to influence policy through organizing strategies to build power. The chapter continues to meet monthly, and our legislative advocacy committee is meeting weekly.

Find us on [Facebook](#).

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Social Workers & Allies Against Solitary Confinement has had a busy last few months! We presented at Columbia University School of Social Work's 15th annual Beyond the Bars conference in March.

We hosted a successful [CEU webinar](#) for mental health professionals in April.

Most excitingly, we are thrilled to announce that on May 12th, a bill that we have been working on since 2021 has been reintroduced in the New York State legislature! This bill, "***The End Health Professionals' Complicity in the Torture of Detained or Incarcerated Individuals Act of 2025***," will prohibit the involvement of health professionals in the torture and mistreatment of incarcerated people, a tragically common occurrence. To get this vital bill passed, we are getting support from NY state legislators, *gathering memos of support from organizations*, and actively expanding our coalition.

If you are a social worker or health professional with experience working in a correctional institution, someone with lived experience of incarceration, or a human rights advocate, JOIN US! Virtual meetings are usually held 7pm on third Mondays. Contact [swasc999@gmail.com](mailto:swasc999@gmail.com) to get involved or to get a meeting link.

To stay informed, visit [SWASC website](#) today!



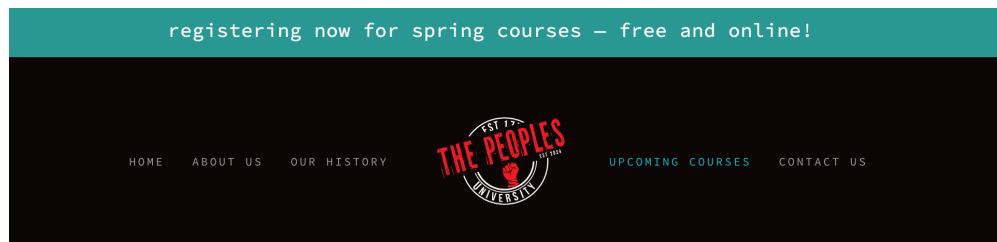
Social Worker Equity Campaign (SWEC) is the newest issue chapter to become a part of the SWAA alliance. You can read more about SWEC [HERE](#).

SWEC co-founder and SWAA Member Steve Burghardt is the author of a book that launched this organization and movement: [\*The End of Social Work: A Defense of the Social Worker in Times of Transformation\*](#)

**Welcome SWEC to the Social Welfare ACTION ALLIANCE!**

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## SWAA Allies Events: Making Connections; Building Solidarity



SWAA continues to work with [The People's University](#) to provide upcoming trainings and educational webinars throughout 2025. Look for fall webinars on topics like how people gain power and organizing strategies under MAGA.

### **UpEND Movement News**

**#StolenChildrensMonth** - Yes, you read right. Here is a summary from Insta page: We [UpEND and supporting organizations] declare **June 2025 the first annual Stolen Children's Month**: a time to uplift the voices of children STOLEN by the family policing and adoption industries, the ICE detention and deportation machine, and the prison-industrial complex. Save the date and learn more at [StolenChildrensMonth.com](https://StolenChildrensMonth.com) 🔥 [@stolenchildrensmnth](#)

All month long, impacted leaders will host vigils, storytelling projects, healing circles & more to honor stolen children and build toward healing justice. Will you join us?

- JUNE 2 - Kickoff: Virtual Rally & Vigil: [bit.ly/SCM-Kickoff](https://bit.ly/SCM-Kickoff)
- JUNE 3 + JUNE 24 - 2-Part Webinar Series: Mental Health & Community Care for Stolen Children: [bit.ly/SCM-Webinars](https://bit.ly/SCM-Webinars)
- JUNE 26 - Multi-City Vigils for Stolen Children (Planning Support Calls: May 21, May 28, June 4): [bit.ly/SCM-Vigil](https://bit.ly/SCM-Vigil)
- BY APPOINTMENT - Love Letter Writing to Stolen Children: [mjcfcoalition.com/love-letters](https://mjcfcoalition.com/love-letters)
- BY APPOINTMENT - Reunification Healing Circles for Families: [bit.ly/SCM-Healing](https://bit.ly/SCM-Healing)

 We are calling on individuals and orgs to join us in declaring June 2025 [#StolenChildrensMonth](https://bit.ly/SCM-Sign-On): [bit.ly/SCM-Sign-On](https://bit.ly/SCM-Sign-On)

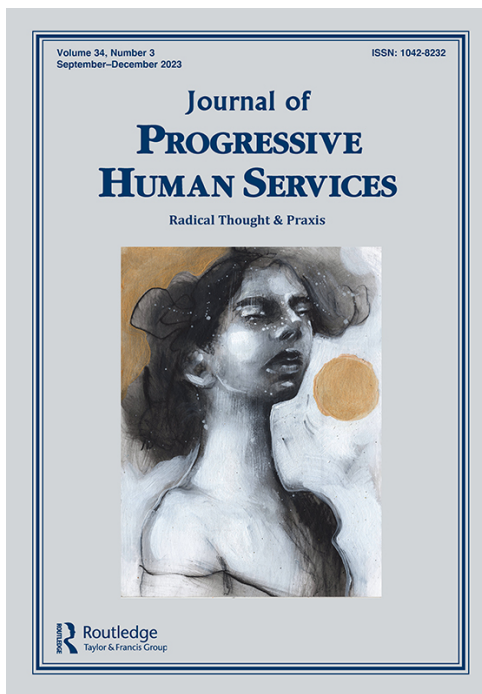
**Course** (ongoing): Think Abolishing Family Policing is a good idea or you want to learn more? UpEND Movement has a [\*\*6-module course\*\*](#) that can help you hear more about the issues driving this movement. We can mandate reporting but we should be mandating caring - said anyone of a thousand radical workers and families across the nation!

**Film** (July): *A vision of Event Grace* will be presented virtually Thursday, July 10 @ 6:30pm CDT. is free with a requested donation to UpEND. Register [HERE](#).

**[Don't be a CopAgandist!](#)**

Read more at the linked title above - - now that you are intrigued by this great twist of a phrase! (smile)

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**The *Journal of Progressive Human Services: Radical Thought and Praxis* covers political, social, personal, and professional problems in human services from a progressive perspective and has a long-standing affiliation with the [Social Welfare Action Alliance](#) (SWAA). Members of SWAA can now purchase a discounted print/online subscription to the journal for \$30. Contact [societies@tandf.co.uk](mailto:societies@tandf.co.uk) and include the name of society (SWAA) to subscribe.**

**To view recent published articles, visit [JPHS here](#).**

**Interested in reviewing books and articles for the JPHS? Contact Flower Noble at [jphsflower@yahoo.com](mailto:jphsflower@yahoo.com)**

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## RadWork

*Welcome to our recommendations section, where you can read, listen or watch people and organizations who align with our principles of social justice, peace and coalition building with progressive social movements.*

### May Article Recommendation

*Recommended by SWAA Member Barbara K*

BCR REPORTS

A Publication of the  
Social Welfare Action Alliance

**SWAA will be 40 years old this fall.** That really is something to brag about. In 1985, we started as the [Bertha Capen Reynolds](#) Society, and when too few people had heard of [her](#) when recruiting members, we made the difficult, but important, decision to become the *Social Welfare **ACTION ALLIANCE***. This is an important distinction and de-emphasizes social work as the only collective of workers doing the caring and bureaucratic work to make the provision of services to the masses possible (see R. Barbera's quote above about services).

From time to time, we may share newsletters from the archives, published as BCR Reports. This article "[Bertha, SWAA, Social Work and Walking Funny](#)"- was written by one of BCRS/SWAA's founders, **Fred Newdom**. The issues raised remain relevant today, since – as radical social workers – we continue

to straddle the grounding of radical politics while operating in the professional world.

For more reading of our PDF versions of most of our *BCR Reports*, please turn to our [ARCHIVE](#) and enjoy! Let us know if you found a favorite or want to follow up on something that you read from our archives. Scroll down to *BCR Reports* Newsletters and click on any of the dates provided.



## How SWAA members can get involved

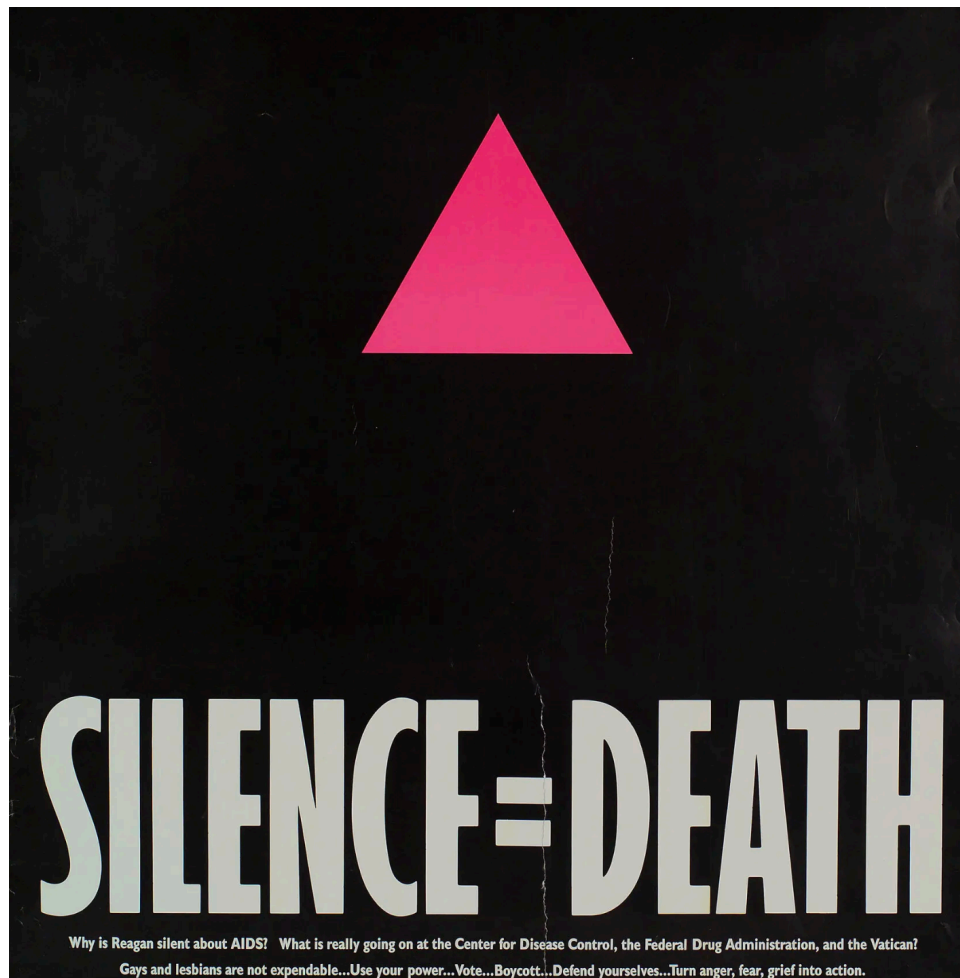
**CONNECT** - If you are interested in connecting with other members and perhaps starting an affinity group or chapter your area, email [nsc@socialwelfareactionalliance.org](mailto:nsc@socialwelfareactionalliance.org). A SWAA steering committee member will reach out to you to discuss options.

**WRITE** - SWAA is always interested in opinion pieces or brief articles about radical social work. Email the above address with your ideas!

**EDUCATE** - Our education committee welcomes ideas for future webinars or #RadChat topics. If you have ideas for a panel, conversation, etc., we'd love to hear about them! Email [nsc@socialwelfareactionalliance.org](mailto:nsc@socialwelfareactionalliance.org)

**GUIDE** - Finally, if you are interested in learning more about becoming a member of the national steering committee, reach out via email and someone will connect with you.

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Silence still equals death. It was true in 1987 when [ACT UP](#) encouraged us to "Use [our] power...Vote...Boycott...Defend yourselves...turn anger, fear, grief into action. And it remains true now - a continuous call to action (including self-care for resistance) is in play now. We can learn from Act Up - who are back organizing again for visibility. If Silence = Death then NOISE = Life and NOISE requires Action!

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# Consider [joining SWAA or renewing your membership](#) today!

Your membership dues help us fund technology, communication, outreach, and infrastructure efforts, including, but not limited to:

- Organizing a safe space to learn from radical social workers doing challenging work in advocacy and organizing across a variety of social issues
- Ensuring strong advocacy and political education efforts with our SWAA Chapters, including Social Workers Against Solitary Confinement (SWASC), Social Workers Ending Poverty Together (SWEPT), and Social Worker Equity Campaign (SWEC)
- Maintaining a large network of radical social workers across the country
- Developing materials for public use regarding radical social work and human service practice and teaching
- Reduced subscription rate for *The Journal of Progressive Human Services: Radical Thought and Praxis*
- This quarterly newsletter, *SWAA RadChatter*
- Supporting ongoing #RadChats and webinars
- Maintaining an updated website with videos and resources on radical social work



**Social Welfare Action Alliance**

Contact: [nsc@socialwelfareactionalliance.org](mailto:nsc@socialwelfareactionalliance.org)

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