



IASSW AIETS



International Women's Day

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS & SOCIAL WORK

WEBINAR by the Women
Interest Group of the IASSW

March 7, 2023
12.00 hrs. CET



Raewyn Connell
Professor Emerita,
University of Sydney



Prof. Liz Beddoe,
University of Auckland,
New Zealand



Assoc. Prof. Jane McPherson
University of Georgia,
Athens, USA



Minenhle Matela
University of Johannesburg,
South Africa



Prof. Laura Guzmán Stein
University of Costa Rica,
Costa Rica



Prof. Darja Zaviršek
University of Ljubljana,
Slovenia

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REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS & SOCIAL WORK

International Women's Day



10.00 pm
Sydney, Australia

Raewyn Connell, Professor Emerita, University of Sydney
Reproductive Rights and Social Justice

Why have reproductive rights become a major issue now? There's a convergence of cynical politics by right-wing parties and governments, religious 'anti-gender' campaigns that attack feminism and also gay and trans rights, and pro-natalist campaigns by authoritarian governments. In this environment, 'human rights' framing of the issue is no longer enough. We need responses based more strongly on principles of social justice - which can draw on a long tradition in social work education.



12.00 am
New Zealand Time

Prof. Liz Beddoe, University of Auckland, New Zealand
Reproductive justice, abortion rights, and social work education

Escalating threats to reproductive rights are rarely discussed in contemporary social work literature. Discomfort in the profession about addressing challenges to abortion rights exposes a lack of courage to treat abortion as essential healthcare. A strand of ambivalence about taking a progressive stance on abortion is a challenge for feminist social work educators.



6.00 am
EST/EDT (US)

Assoc. Prof Jane McPherson, University of Georgia, Athens, USA
A Social Work Response to Threats to Reproductive Rights in the U.S

The presenter will provide an overview of the fallout from the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade (the decision that had guaranteed the right to abortion in the U.S. for nearly 50 years) and describe the social work response.



1.00 pm,
South Africa Time

Minenhle Matela, University of Johannesburg, South Africa
Women's Reproductive Health Rights and Bodily Autonomy

The presentation looks at the evolution of women's reproductive health rights in South Africa in the democratic dispensation, whilst not losing sight of the antecedents which gave birth to women's reproductive health rights during the colonial-apartheid era. It advocates for the promotion and protection of women's bodily autonomy and integrity to fully advance sexual and reproductive health rights.



5.00 am,
Costa Rica Time

Prof Laura Guzmán Stein, University of Costa Rica,
Challenges for social work education and practice

Women's sexual and reproductive rights are human rights that are not fully recognized in most Latin American and Caribbean legislations. Since the early 1970s, schools of social work in this region have been committed to promoting human rights and empowering women. However, internal and external factors have had a serious impact on women's reproductive rights. The economic crisis, the role of Catholic and evangelical churches, and the rise of populist governments are challenges to social work that social workers must creatively address.