

Malta: Green Social Work - Working Toward Environmental Sustainability

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Abstract

The climate crisis is producing whole nations and peoples who are vulnerable to the devastating effects of climate hazards - a reality in which different sectors of threat, such as water shortage impact other sectors including agriculture, health, and eco-systems. One certain phenomenon that climate change is creating is that of environmental migration. Various authors assert that the environmental degradation being created by the climate crisis we are witnessing is precipitating the deterioration of environmental, political, and economic systems that are leading to a global migrant crisis. This article discusses the role that social workers could play in developing eco-wisdom knowledge for themselves and for the communities they serve. They can foster innovation in climate adaptation and resilience for disadvantaged communities. This article explores the response that social work could provide because it recognises the interconnectedness of humans and the broader ecosystems within their physical surroundings. Contemporary social work needs to commit to include environmental justice in its practice. This would be one pivotal way of promoting inclusionary social work that meets some of the 21st century challenges.

Keywords: green social work, eco-social approach, environmental inequality, sustainability, environmental migration, climate crisis, environmental justice

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Introduction

"The science is clear; climate change affects us all." That is how the International Organization for Migration (IOM) introduced the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP 27) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which took place in Egypt in November 2022. It is a "threat to human wellbeing and the health of the planet" (Pörtner et al., 2022, p. 7).

This article sheds light on the vital need for environmental justice and the pivotal role of social work in shaping a more inclusive and sustainable future for all. Through an analysis of the interconnected realities of the climate crisis and environmental migration, this article uncovers innovative and holistic approaches that can help communities adapt to the profound transformations of our world.

Through this article, I wish to advocate for the need to place green social work on the agenda of social work practice and education. The role of social work in combating climate change and its ramifications is still underestimated. While in some countries social workers have already started to implement practices that safeguard the climate, much more could be done. This article also advocates for a paradigm shift in professional ethics that should embrace eco-wisdom, recognising our total dependence on our environment. It addresses the need for university education for social workers to incorporate green social work into their curriculum.

Patricia Espinosa, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), introduced her foreword to the 2019 UN Report on Climate Action and Support Trends with stern words: "Once a distant concern, climate change is now an existential threat and the greatest challenge facing this generation. It is abundantly clear that business as usual is no longer good enough" (United Nations Climate Change [UNCC] Secretariat, 2019a, p. 4). The climate crisis is producing whole nations and people who are vulnerable to the devastating effects of climate hazards - a reality in which different sectors of threat (e.g., water shortage) impact other sectors like agriculture, health, and eco-systems.

One certain phenomenon that climate change is creating is that of environmental migration. Various authors assert that the environmental

degradation being created by the climate crisis we are witnessing is precipitating deteriorating "environmental, political, and economic systems that are creating a global migrant crisis" (Powers, 2018a, p. 1023). The human mobility implications of the climate crisis are profound. In 2021 alone, disasters led to 23.7 million internal displacements (Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre's Global Report, 2022), and "over 216 million people could become internal climate migrants by 2050" (p. 80).

More than ever before, discourse on the environment has been focused mainly on climate change, depletion of natural resources, and energy issues, as well as other factors such as the increase in urban population and territorial expansion. We have all followed the young climate activist Greta Thunberg's impassioned pleas in her TED talks and to world leaders: "What we do or don't do right now, me and my generation can't undo in the future" (Thunberg, 2019), appealing to us that hope is not enough and action is now needed. This video has been watched over 6.2 million times. Her speech to the UN has been viewed more than 8.6 million times on YouTube, and we are all familiar with her challenging words, "How dare you!" (Guardian News, 2019). She has been applauded, admired, ridiculed, and called names. I dare say what she has been doing and saying is creating a lot of discomfort amongst those of us who should be listening, observing, and acting, and amongst those of us who tried but then fit comfortably into the social milieu and abandoned their crusade.

The UN has described climate change as one that defines our time and one that is happening far quicker than was feared. In his remarks at the Climate Action Summit (2019b), UN Secretary General António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres pointed out that "the climate emergency is a race we are losing, but it is a race we can win" (para. 2). Eleven thousand scientists from 153 countries, including Malta, united to declare a global climate emergency in 2019. They have warned that untold human suffering is unavoidable without huge shifts in the way we live.

We have seen several governmental bodies across the world make climate emergency declarations. In June of 2019, the UN Human Rights Council described an impending "climate Apartheid" (UN, 2019c, para. 9), where an even greater rift will appear between the global haves and have-nots, with many people being left without means to escape the worst effects of the climate crisis.

Climate change will have devastating consequences for people in poverty and will exacerbate inequality. More than 20 years ago, Daniel Hogan (2001), Professor and Researcher in Population Studies, already emphasised the need to understand environmental change and population dynamics in all their complexities, not only in growth rates but also through the processes of internal migration in metropolitan areas. The integration of environmental considerations into social work practices becomes imperative, aligning with the current global agenda on sustainable development and fostering a synergistic approach between social work and environmental advocacy.

Green Social Work and The Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development

Green social work is an emerging field within social work that focuses on the intersection of social justice and environmental sustainability. It recognises the profound impact of environmental issues on social wellbeing and seeks to address these challenges through a holistic and ecocentric approach. Powers et al. (2018b) described green social work as an ecocentric perspective that “respects not only humans, but also values the natural environment in its own right within the ecosystem” (p. 63). It has become increasingly clear that “humans are in a symbiotic relationship with the environment, but the impact humans have on the ecosystem often puts the environment and humans at great risk and have created a global, ecological crisis” (Powers et al., 2018b, p. 63). Green social work advocates for environmental justice, ecological integrity, and sustainable development while promoting equitable and inclusive practices.

It is not a new specialisation of social work. Rather, it is a transversal concept that cuts across all specialisations of practice. Green social work presents a new paradigm for the management of social problems in the sense that it seeks to secure the wellbeing of people and the planet through reforming sociopolitical power structures (Dominelli, 2012). It also attempts to deal with the negative consequences brought upon the environment by the industrial society of mass consumption (Dominelli, 2012, 2018).

For instance, the production and utilisation of harmful substances result in the contamination of soil, air, and water, thereby causing insufficient or unsafe access to sustenance and clean water for all forms of life. These ecological issues additionally precipitate societal and political

discord as individuals vie for access to and authority over the dwindling natural resources, often culminating in unparalleled levels of human anguish and involuntary displacement (Dominelli, 2012).

Addressing the multifaceted ecological crisis necessitates global, multidisciplinary, and community-centric responses (Schmitz et al., 2012). While the ecological crisis affects the entire ecosystem, the central focus of environmental justice endeavours remains the specific repercussions of these perils on disadvantaged and historically marginalised populations (Dominelli, 2012). This requires another shift in the core competencies of social workers that “should include co-building the sustainability of indigenous eco-societies” (Wang & Altanbulag, 2022, p. 2).

Social work, in its efforts to continually redefine itself in a dynamic world, continues more than ever to utilise and implement a person-in-environment perspective in its teaching and practice. It was Harriet Bartlett, in the 1950s, who pointed out the importance of the interaction between the person and the environment. She was among the first to articulate social work’s domain as “person-in-environment” (Bartlett & Saunders, 1970, p. 162).

The focus on the person and the environment is a core defining feature of social work, and the person-in-environment approach has been a widely accepted principle of social work practice since its inception (Rothery, 2016). Green social work has taken this person-in-environment perspective to new grounds. In fact, the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) Climate Justice Programme has been drawn up in order for social work to redress the injustices we contribute to with our personal and professional consumption patterns. Green social work is highlighting the direct connection between human activities and the climate crisis.

“Much of the burden of unsustainable consumption patterns has fallen disproportionately on the most vulnerable people in the world, who typically have the smallest consumption patterns” (IFSW, 2019, para. 4). Green social work is reframing how we talk about social issues, the planet, and the intersection between the two. It is a branch of social work that deals with the impact of faltering environmental stability on human populations. It is essentially a broadening of the definition of environment, sociologically speaking, from referring exclusively to someone’s immediate surroundings to referring to the planet that we all share. Put simply, it urges social workers to

broaden the concept of "a client's life space and assist clients in expanding it to encompass the natural environment" (Norton, 2009, p. 300). Achieving the integration of ecosocial work in practice involves a multifaceted approach. Here are some key strategies that the world of social work must consider:

- **Education and Training:** Social work practitioners should receive training and education on ecosocial work principles. This includes understanding ecological systems, sustainability, and the dynamics of ecological oppression. This knowledge equips practitioners with the tools they need to address the unique challenges faced by vulnerable communities.
- **Intersectionality Awareness:** Recognise the intersectionality of social issues. Vulnerable groups often face a combination of ecological, economic, and social challenges. Social work practitioners should be trained to understand these intersections and how they impact the lives of their clients.
- **Strengths-Based Approach:** Continue to apply the strengths perspective in ecosocial work. Identify the strengths and resilience of the communities and individuals affected by ecological oppression. Building on these strengths is crucial to fostering a sustainable solution.
- **Community Engagement:** Involve the affected communities in the design and implementation of interventions. Social work practitioners should work closely with community members to understand their specific needs and aspirations. Empower these communities to be part of the solutions.
- **Advocacy:** Social workers can advocate for policies and practices that support ecological justice. This may involve working with local and national governments to ensure that vulnerable groups are considered in disaster preparedness and response plans.
- **Environmental Justice:** Promote the concept of environmental justice within the practice of ecosocial work. Ensure that the distribution of environmental benefits and burdens is equitable, and work to rectify environmental injustices.
- **Collaboration:** Collaborate with experts in

various fields, such as environmental scientists, urban planners, and community organisers. This interdisciplinary approach can lead to more comprehensive and effective solutions.

- **Resilience-Building:** Help vulnerable communities develop resilience to ecological challenges. This includes providing resources, skills, and knowledge to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of ecological oppression.
- **Cultural Competence:** Understand the cultural contexts of the communities being served. Cultural competence is crucial for effective engagement and intervention, as it ensures that solutions are culturally sensitive and relevant.
- **Holistic Assessment:** Take a holistic approach to assessment, recognising that ecological oppression and catastrophes affect various aspects of individuals' and communities' lives. Assess not only immediate needs but also long-term wellbeing and sustainability.

Incorporating ecosocial work into practice can be complex, but it is essential, especially when working with vulnerable populations impacted by ecological crises. There are already some initiatives we can learn from. In Croatia, social workers helped people save water in times of shortage. In Malta, community social workers collaborate with the national Water Services Corporation on a campaign called Water: Be the Change, aimed at teaching people how to save water. During the 2019 Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, social workers recognised that the slogans, Stay Home, Stay Safe and Wash Your Hands bore an implicit privilege, assuming that individuals possessed homes and had access to clean water (Dominelli, 2021). International social workers adopted new roles (Banks et al., 2020b), such as in the Global South, where many became involved with community health protocols, including hygiene and distributing personal protective equipment (Banks et al., 2020a, 2020b).

Through our interactions with social workers from across Europe, we are hearing of stories where green social work is becoming more and more part of social workers' methods, including care farms, common gardens, green mental health, and projects to make neighbourhoods greener. Dominelli (2016), in fact, regarded social work as an important actor for building capacities

in communities as well as in working with families, groups, and individuals to achieve social and environmental justice.

The three major international social work organisations, namely the International Association of Schools of Social Work, the International Council on Social Welfare, and the International Federation of Social Workers have established a Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development (2018). One of the key pillars of this agenda is the promotion of Community and Environmental Sustainability. Throughout the history of social work theory and practice, the significance of community has remained central. Social work has consistently focused on the individuals' welfare and wellbeing within their communities, as well as the social contexts that shape their lives. The changing environmental and societal context necessitates not just the advancement of theoretical knowledge but also the integration of environmental concerns into the education of social workers (Närhi & Matthies, 2018). In recognising the interconnectedness of humans and their ecosystems, it becomes apparent that equipping social workers with a holistic understanding of the dynamic relationships between individuals and their environments is essential for addressing the multifaceted challenges posed by the evolving landscape.

Humans and their Ecosystems - Ensuring Environmental Sustainability

Environmental sustainability has many definitions but has broadly been defined as the "capacity of the environment to endure human manipulation" (Norton, 2011, p. 304). At the core of environmental sustainability lies the crucial connection between humans and the natural world, emphasising the need for a relationship based on interconnectedness and mutual dependence. Helne and Hirvilammi (2015) asserted that "in order to be sustainable, the pursuit of wellbeing and the struggle to meet the needs of mankind should be grounded in a balanced and responsible human-nature relationship" (p. 170).

This relationship is not only vital for human survival but also essential for the planet's wellbeing. Disconnected from the environment, humans become less concerned about engaging in activities that contribute to the destabilisation of the climate. This disconnection also fosters conditions that support conflict and undermine their ability to meet collective needs such as access to water, food, land, safety, and security

(Fry, 2011).

Environmental sustainability encompasses the preservation of biodiversity, which is crucial for human survival, social sustainability, and achieving social and environmental justice. Schmitz et al. (2011) asserted that when social workers engage with the field of environmental sustainability, they possess the necessary training and skills to effectively collaborate with interdisciplinary teams, bringing together different perspectives and facilitating collective efforts towards sustainable solutions. As a result, social workers are best placed to promote environmental justice due to their expertise in collaboration, networking, advocacy, community development, and capacity building.

Their skills and knowledge enable them to work effectively with individuals, communities, and organisations to address environmental injustices, advocate for equitable distribution of environmental resources, and empower marginalised groups to participate in decision-making processes related to environmental issues. By leveraging their unique skill set, social workers can contribute to creating a more just and sustainable society (Schmitz et al., 2011, p. 301). They are prepared and experienced in "integrating theoretical perspectives, such as ecosystem theory, strengths perspective, intersectionality perspective, and green development, to promote the innovation and application of the social work practice approaches of harmonious coexistence with nature" (Wang & Altanbulag, 2022, p. 1).

Social work is being called upon to, more than ever, promote environmental justice, which entails the fair distribution of environmental benefits and burdens across different populations. Social work must acknowledge that marginalised communities often bear the brunt of environmental degradation and climate change impacts. Recognising the interconnectedness between social and environmental issues, social workers are called to address environmental injustices and advocate for equitable access to resources, clean environments, and opportunities for all.

This includes collaborating with communities affected by environmental injustice to empower them in decision-making processes, supporting community-led initiatives, strengthening their voices in policy discussions, and helping them advocate for their environmental rights. Social workers could be involved in educating communities about the environmental issues they face, including the potential health impacts, and

providing resources for informed decision-making. This may involve teaching sustainable practices and the importance of protecting the environment.

Social workers can become advocates for policy change at the local, regional, and national levels. They are called upon to work towards changing policies and regulations that perpetuate environmental injustices and promote more equitable and environmentally sustainable solutions.

Social workers must engage in research and data analysis to document environmental disparities and their impact on vulnerable communities. This research could be used to raise awareness, support advocacy efforts, and inform evidence-based interventions.

Social workers already adopt an intersectionality perspective in their work. Green social work calls upon them to recognise how various forms of oppression (e.g., racial, economic, and environmental) intersect and compound the challenges faced by marginalised communities. This helps tailor interventions to address these complex issues.

As mentioned earlier, social workers are already being called upon to respond to environmental crises such as natural disasters, global health crises, or resource scarcity in ways that prioritise vulnerable communities. This sees them supporting the recovery of whole communities and resilience building. Green social work should push social workers to request to participate in environmental impact assessments to ensure that the potential consequences of development projects are thoroughly considered, particularly regarding their impact on marginalised populations. They should also be used to enter homes and teach communities about sustainable living practices, which could include energy efficiency, waste reduction, sustainable agriculture, and responsible resource use.

One major way in which social workers could contribute to environmental justice is through collaboration with environmental organisations, governmental agencies, and other stakeholders. Social workers can serve as intermediaries to ensure that the concerns and needs of marginalised communities are heard and addressed. Furthermore, in cases of severe environmental injustice, social workers can collaborate with legal experts to pursue legal action on behalf of affected communities or individuals.

Social Work and Climate-Induced Displacement: Addressing the Challenges and Building Resilient Communities

One of the most profound consequences of climate change is the displacement of people from their homes and communities due to the adverse effects of climate-related events. Climate-induced displacement, also known as environmental migration, refers to the forced movement of individuals and communities due to environmental degradation, natural disasters, or other climate-related factors, such as sea-level rise, extreme weather events, desertification, and resource scarcity (Baldwin et al, 2014; Beniston, 2004; Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2018).

The concept of environmental migration is controversial, largely because of the difficulty in measuring the extent to which environmental factors compel people to move (Bronen, 2012). As Powers et al. (2018a) stressed, “environmental migration occurs at the nexus of complex and interwoven concerns: the global climate crisis, and the global migrant crisis” (p. 1025).

The factors that contribute to migration are complex and encompass a range of influences that both “push” and “pull” individuals to leave their homes (Warner et al., 2010, p. 690). These factors include economic, social, political, and environmental aspects and they are often interconnected. This means that people's decision to migrate is not solely driven by a single factor but rather by a combination of various factors that interact and shape their circumstances. Economic factors, such as lack of job opportunities or economic instability, can push individuals to seek better prospects elsewhere. Social factors, such as conflicts or discrimination, can also contribute to the decision to leave. Political factors, such as oppression or a lack of political freedoms, may create a push factor for migration. Additionally, environmental factors, such as natural disasters, climate change, or environmental degradation, can play a significant role in displacing people from their homes. It is important to recognise the interplay between these different factors and their impact on migration patterns, as it helps us understand the complex dynamics that lead individuals and communities to leave their place of origin in search of better lives or safer environment (Warner et al., 2010).

Social work's involvement in shaping the discussion on and response to the growing issue of environmentally induced displacement is critical (Besthorn & Meyer, 2010). Social workers must

have a comprehensive understanding of the complex factors driving displacement, including the interplay between environmental, social, and economic dimensions. With their expertise in micro, meso, and macro systems, social workers possess the ability to analyse intricate matters concerning the relationship between humans and their environment.

Climate-induced displacement disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, including low-income communities, indigenous peoples, and marginalised groups. Estimates of the number of environmental migrants vary widely, with the most generally accepted estimate of 200 million (McAuliffe & Ruhs, 2018). As defined by McAuliffe and Ruhs (2018) in the 2018 IOM World Migration Report, environmental migrants are those displaced and/or migrating because of natural and human-made disaster events, as well as ongoing, deteriorating environments that create conditions that are not sustainable for life.

According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (2019), an estimated 17.2 million people were displaced by climate-related disasters in 2018 alone. These numbers are expected to increase as the impacts of climate change continue to intensify. Displacement due to climate change can take many forms, including coastal erosion and sea-level rise, increased frequency and severity of storms and floods, droughts and desertification, loss of biodiversity, and agricultural productivity (Brown, 2008).

Displacement due to climate change is often linked to social and economic factors, including poverty, inequality, and conflict. Displaced persons often face significant challenges, including loss of livelihoods, food insecurity, and limited access to basic services such as healthcare and education. Displacement due to climate change can have profound psychological impacts on individuals and communities.

Social workers play a vital role in providing trauma-informed care, psychosocial support, and mental health services to help individuals cope with the stressors and uncertainties associated with forced migration and displacement. Social work principles, such as the promotion of human rights, social justice, and the dignity and worth of individuals and communities, align with the needs and rights of displaced populations. Social work acknowledges the intersectional nature of displacement, considering the intersecting identities and social inequalities that influence individuals' experiences. This includes considering

gender, age, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status in providing support and advocating for policy changes. Social workers can therefore apply their expertise to address the psychosocial, economic, and environmental dimensions of displacement.

While international human rights law provides protection for individuals who migrate due to environmental reasons, the practical implementation of these rights can often be challenging, both during the process of migration and in the new location. Individuals who are displaced within their own country because of natural or human-made disasters are covered by the provisions outlined in the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (IOM, 2015). Additionally, McAuliffe and Ruhs (2018) in the 2018 IOM World Migration Report officially recognised environmental migrants as:

Persons or groups of persons who, for reasons of sudden or progressive changes in the environment that adversely affect their lives or living conditions, are obliged to have to leave their habitual homes, or choose to do so, either temporarily or permanently, and who move either within their territory or abroad. (para. 1)

This definition acknowledges that environmental migrants are forced to leave or make a voluntary decision to migrate due to deteriorating environmental conditions and extreme environmental events. Such migration may occur for varying durations, including brief, prolonged, or permanent periods of time (IOM, 2015).

Environmental migrants encompass a diverse range of individuals, where some may be eligible for legal refugee status based on criteria related to other forms of displacement. However, existing international policies do not explicitly recognise climate change and environmental hazards as grounds for refugee status, and the term environmental refugee does not hold legal standing or status (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2016). The differential recognition and provision of aids and resources to migrants based on their specific hardships, with environmental hardships often being excluded, adds to the complexity of the issue.

The communities that receive displaced individuals also experience significant effects. In countries that host migrants, many of whom face trauma, vulnerability, exploitation, and immense challenges as they try to cope with legal,

economic, social, cultural, and personal difficulties for which they are ill-equipped, lack sufficient financial resources, and adequate social support (Ross-Sheriff, 2011).

Social work is a profession that operates at the nexus of various systems and disciplines, making it well-placed to address the issue of environmental migration within the broader context of the complex migrant crisis. Social workers play crucial roles in supporting environmental migrants throughout their journeys, addressing challenges at various stages. This includes engaging in efforts to mitigate the underlying climate change issues that contribute to displacement, facilitating the rebuilding and reestablishment of individuals in their original homes, assisting with the resettlement process and the establishment of new lives, and advocating for policy and legal changes to incorporate environmental refugees. In addressing the needs of environmental migrants, social workers collaborate not only with professionals in the social and natural sciences but also with communities worldwide to contribute to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (IFSW, 2017).

Promoting resilience among climate-displaced populations is essential for long-term wellbeing and adaptation. Social workers can contribute to building individual and community resilience by facilitating access to social support networks, fostering community cohesion, and assisting in the development of adaptive strategies and livelihood opportunities. Social workers have a crucial role in advocating for the rights of these populations, ensuring their access to essential services, and addressing the intersecting social inequalities that exacerbate their vulnerability to displacement. "Professionals are challenged to create transdisciplinary, community-based response systems which are holistic, multi-pronged, and inclusive of migrants' voices and strengths" (Powers et al., 2018a).

Addressing climate-induced displacement requires a comprehensive and collaborative response from various stakeholders, with social work playing a crucial role. By understanding the complexities of climate-induced displacement, advocating for the rights and wellbeing of displaced populations, and implementing effective interventions, social workers can contribute to building resilient communities. It is imperative to prioritise ethical considerations, engage in ongoing learning and collaboration, and work towards sustainable and inclusive solutions that promote the dignity and rights of all individuals affected by

climate-induced displacement.

Conclusion

In the context of working towards environmental sustainability, green social work recognises that vulnerable and marginalised populations are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation and climate change (Drolet, 2014). It aims to address these inequalities by advocating for the fair distribution of environmental resources, access to clean air and water, and protection of human rights in relation to the environment. It encourages social workers to incorporate ecological perspectives and sustainability principles into their practice. This involves promoting sustainable lifestyles, advocating for environmentally friendly policies and practices, and supporting community-driven initiatives for environmental conservation and resilience.

Green social work acknowledges the urgent need to mitigate the impacts of climate change and adapt to its effects. It involves supporting initiatives that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promoting renewable energy sources, and assisting communities in building resilience to climate-related disasters (Dominelli, 2013). Green social work promotes sustainable development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the opportunity of future generations to meet their own needs. It encourages social workers to engage in sustainable community development practices, such as promoting local economies, sustainable agriculture, and ecofriendly infrastructure.

Green social work recognises the importance of systemic change and policy advocacy to address environmental issues effectively. It involves engaging in policy debates, influencing decision-making processes, and advocating for environmentally conscious policies and legislation at local, national, and international levels (Norwegian Refugee Council, 2011). It emphasises the role of education and awareness in promoting environmental sustainability. It involves educating individuals, communities, and organisations about the interconnectedness of social and environmental issues, raising awareness about environmental challenges, and empowering individuals to take sustainable actions.

By incorporating these principles and practices, green social work seeks to foster a more sustainable and equitable society that respects the

environment, promotes social justice, and ensures the wellbeing of present and future generations. It is paramount that social work continues to build capacity “in community development, advocacy, and anti-oppressive social protection initiatives, rather than clinically individualised social work interventions, in order to create interventions that bridge the needs of affected populations and policy development” (Drolet, 2014).

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