

Social Welfare Action Alliance

Who We Are

The Social Welfare Action Alliance (SWAA) is a national organization of progressive 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 progressive social movements. These principles articulate a need by social service workers for a practice and theory that responds to progressive concerns.

SWAA chapters determine their own agendas, provide forums for discussions and debates around local, national and international issues. Local chapters are represented on the national steering committee to help shape the organization's direction. In addition, the Alliance holds annual national gatherings that focus on critical issues, tools and ideas for action to promote social change.

Our Roots

Bertha Capen Reynolds was an eminent social worker, 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 progressive legacy. In 1999, BCRS members changed its name to Social Welfare Action Alliance to better identify its values to the public.



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

Bertha Capen Reynolds

What We Stand For

1. To promote the study and practice of the progressive tradition in social welfare policy by critiquing the nature of social services, social work and social change.
2. To foster communication, support and collaboration among human service workers, activists, scholars and the people who receive the services, thereby reducing the gap between theory and practice to build a base for unified action.
3. To develop collaborative agendas for alternative social policies aimed at both incremental and fundamental social change.
4. To understand the requirements and methods of humanistic direct practice that support individual, community and broad social change.
5. To promote the participation of social service workers, educators and students in the struggles of low income and other oppressed peoples.
6. To further coalitions with all social movements whose objectives are integral to the achievement of a just, caring and humanistic society through community-based activism.
7. To combat discrimination in all its forms.
8. To promote the tradition, mission and methods of progressive social work by facilitating the presentation, publication and distribution of progressive literature as well as stimulating research and contributions to progressive publications.
9. To educate people about the life and work of Bertha Capen Reynolds.

What We've Done

- Social Security Primer;
- Annual national gatherings;
- Protest activities on a range of issues from globalization to welfare reform;
- Alliances with and support of numerous progressive social movements;
- Fact sheets on welfare reform, incarceration and other topics to support local analysis and action.

How to Contact Us

Social Welfare Action Alliance

Columbus Circle Station

P.O. Box 20563 New York, NY 10023

www.socialwelfareactionalliance.org

Member Benefits

By joining the Social Welfare Action Alliance, you will receive:

- Access to a national network of activists with whom you can coordinate strategies on issues you care about;
- A semi-annual newsletter with information on activities of the national organization and a progressive voice on human service concerns;
- Discounted subscription to the Journal of Progressive Human Services;
- Discounted rates for the annual conference;
- A membership directory identifying SWAA members in your area;
- Access to books and articles by Bertha Capen Reynolds;
- Electronic information access via SWAA's website and e-mail discussion list;
- Opportunities to promote your work to SWAA members

Join the only organization of social workers and human service workers dedicated to activism for social and economic justice.



**Social Welfare
Action Alliance**

A National Organization of
Progressive Workers in Social Welfare

Formerly Bertha Capen Reynolds Society



**Social Welfare
Action Alliance**

Columbus Circle Station
P.O. Box 20563
New York, NY 10023



www.socialwelfareactionalliance.org

Join the Social Welfare Action Alliance

- Please send me more information about the Alliance.
- I would like to join the Social Welfare Action Alliance. Enclosed are dues (in US dollars), in the amount checked below.
- Enclosed are my renewal dues for continued membership, in the amount checked below.
 - \$10.00 Student, unemployed, low-income member
 - \$35.00 Member
 - \$100.00 Sustaining Member
 - \$250.00 Institutional Member
- The enclosed check includes an additional \$25.00 (US) for SWAA member discount subscription to the *Journal of Progressive Human Services* (formerly *Catalyst*).
- I would prefer not to be listed in the Membership Directory.
- Please add me to the Bertha_SWAA e-mail discussion list.

Name (Please Print or Type) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Institutional/Organizational Affiliation: (optional) _____

Telephone: (Home) _____

(Work) _____

E-mail: _____

*Please make your check payable to the Social Welfare Action Alliance and return to:
Social Welfare Action Alliance, Columbus Circle Station, P.O. Box 20563, New York, NY 10023*