



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

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*Welcome to our bimonthly 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 out there in the radical sphere.*

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# **Immediate Call to Action: Social Workers, Advocates, Organizers, and Human Service Workers Unite!**

Rarely has the unity or solidarity among and across people and workers been so necessary to defeat authoritarianism and oligarchy in the Gilded Age. Attacks on DEI; voting; reproductive freedom and women's health care; health care for all and on public health; unions; immigration and deportations; climate change and environmental protections; the unconstitutional firing of Inspector Generals; the

threats to resign to many administration leaders; the deletion and disappearance of information and data access on government websites; supporting widespread agency deregulation; recommitting to the federal death penalty; cuts to international aid; suspension of federal holidays, and the freeze and temporary "thaw" of much federal funding impacting non-profits in every corner of the U.S. The challenges are enormous but we are stronger - especially when we work together! Solidarity!

The following resources are a starting point for building knowledge about fighting back and resisting at the local level, particularly since we, our families, neighbors, and communities are under direct attack with the strokes of a federal pen!

**NASW Responds** to recent [Executive Orders](#) and warnings related to Project 2025.

[What's the difference between an Executive Order, a Presidential Proclamation, and a Presidential Memorandum?](#) Note: *Executive Orders* must be published in the [Federal Register](#).

NASW-IL: [A Second Trump Term: Coping Strategies for Social Workers](#)

Detention Watch Network: [Detention 101](#)

Immigrant Legal Resource Center: [ILRC Calls for Permanent Ceasefire and Local Policy Interventions for Protecting Immigrants](#)

We Have Rights: [Dealing with I.C.E.](#)

LA Taco: [5 Attorney-vetted ways to protect yourself and the employees of a restaurant for both customers and restaurant owners.](#)

Muslims for Justice Futures: [Community Defense Resource Hub \(in multiples languages\)](#)

ACLU: [Immigrant Rights \(select a scenario\) - Know Your Rights](#)

[List of Legal Challenges to Trump Administration Actions as of 2/1/25](#)

**And last but far from least - our brothers, sisters, and all were marching in the streets over the past 72 hours! Here's a look at where. . .**

[List of Protests as of 2/2/25 with source links](#)

**Were you there? If not, you can support the next one. Organizing is relationships. The time is now - organizing is how.**

**[Top 100 Protest Songs of All Time - Rolling Stone \(2025\)](#)**

LatinX Therapists Action Network: [Care Practices Guide](#)

- An overview of the intersections of trauma, oppression, deportation, and detention.
- A framework for healing justice and a working understanding of healing and well-being as a daily practice.
- Over 25 practices to ensure that organizers support their mental health and inspire the creation of a supportive, trauma-and-healing-informed

organizational environment.

- Recommendations for building a culture of care in our organizing with community members.

# Remembrances to Honor this Month!



## World Social Justice Day

Thursday, February 20, 2025

Every year on February 20th, the World Day of Social Justice promotes the importance of fair and just relations between the individual and society. The day also tackles issues such as poverty, exclusion, gender equality, human rights, and social protections.



## Black History Month

Yes, we are still celebrating and lifting up the real and true Black history - today and in spite of contemporary attempts at erasure and silencing. Here are some ways to celebrate: [BLACK HISTORY](#). Check your local calendars for events near you - or schedule one! Some [Black Social Work Pioneers](#) you should know!





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.

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# Upcoming SWAA Events

This Month's #RadChat

*Are you concerned about how the current administration will affect social work and the people you work with?*

*Are you wondering how we will talk about what is going on?  
Who to talk to?*

*Do you want to learn about resources you can share with others?*



**Then join us for SWAA's virtual**

# #RadChat

**TOPIC: RADICAL PRACTICE 101**

**Thursday, February 6th at 8 PM ET**



#RadChats are hour-long open ended conversations hosted by SWAA members. These sessions are not recorded. This month we'll discuss what radical practice means in general and specifically at this moment in time. We'll reflect on how our professional responsibilities may be affected by anticipated harmful policies and practices, and share resources and action plans to ensure we sustain momentum in radical social work.

**TO LEARN MORE AND REGISTER, VISIT  
[SOCIALWELFAREACTIONALLIANCE.ORG](https://socialwelfareactionalliance.org)**



**[Register for the #RadChat here.](#)**

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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 are in the process of planning our third Annual People's Forum, scheduled for **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 forum is intended to provide an opportunity for progressive/radical activists to have input into the legislative process. It will be held at the State Capitol in Hartford.

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.



Social Workers & Allies Against Solitary Confinement (SWASC) hosted its first meeting of 2025 on January 27th. The meeting featured a slideshow presentation of our 2024 accomplishments; anyone interested in learning more about our work can [view it here](#).

In 2025, we are looking forward to collaborating with Columbia University's Justice Center by presenting at their 15th annual [Beyond the Bars Conference](#), leading educational webinars, and reintroducing our bill, "Detention Facility Healthcare Privacy and Protection Act" into the NY state legislature. To join us in our work, reach out to Nicole at [swasc999@gmail.com](mailto:swasc999@gmail.com).

ALSO, the documentary [The Strike](#) premiered on PBS this week. After many years of filmmaking, and over a decade since 30,000 incarcerated people organized a paradigm- shifting protest to end long term

solitary confinement, *The Strike* is publicly available at this link on [PBS' Youtube channel, through May 3rd, 2025.](#)

Show your students, organize a watch party, or watch on your own. A discussion guide is available [here.](#)

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## Re-cap of our October 10th **#RadChat**: What are Policy Priorities for Radical Social Work?

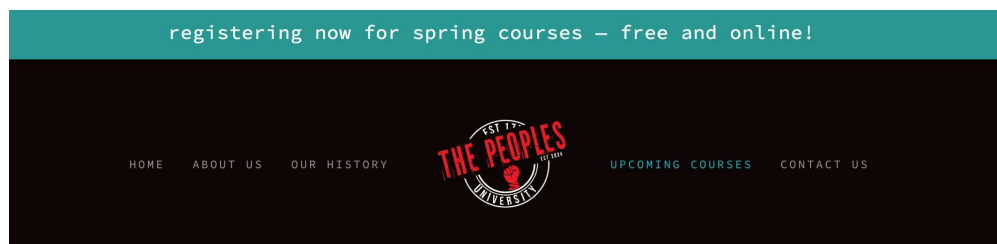
During this pre-Election **#RadChat**, we examined the moment we are in as radical social workers given the upcoming election and the moment we are in politically. Do current policy proposals further economic, social, environmental, and racial justice? Or, do they further the neo-liberal agenda? Do they address the root causes of oppression and suffering? The moment has changed but we thought reminding our members and guests to have a review of these moving into the new Solidarity Times.

Thanks to National Steering Committee member and Co-host Stephen Monroe ("Zak") Tomczak (he/him), Professor of Social Welfare Policy and Community Organization at Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) Department of Social Work for this [framework for analyzing radical policy priorities.](#)

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# Making Connections

*Upcoming events that may be of interest*



**SWAA will be working with The People's University to provide upcoming trainings and educational webinars throughout 2025. See their free organizing class schedule [HERE.](#)**



# TEACHING PEOPLE'S HISTORY

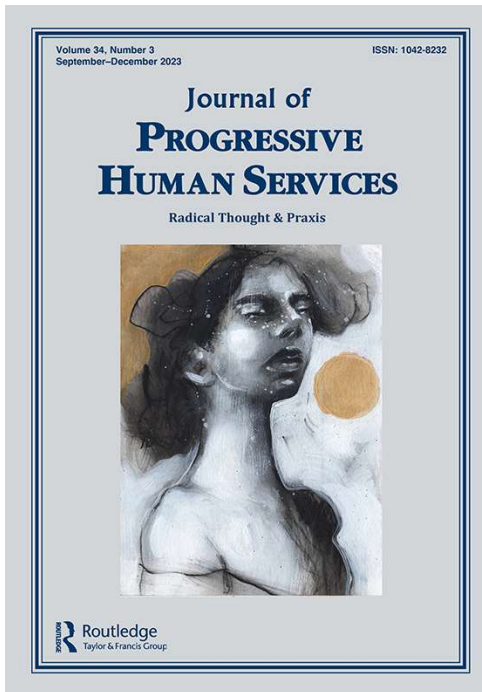
Zinn Education Project's Teaching Black History, Struggles and Organizing Events. Materials for community meetings and classrooms with new materials on immigration!

## [This Day In People's History](#)



The [Rainbow Resilience Summit](#) is a two-day, interactive professional development event dedicated to the well-being of the LGBTQ+ community. Two tracks of workshops are offered: one focused on policy and advocacy, and the other on clinical mental health care. This gathering will bring together social workers, mental health practitioners, nonprofit leaders, policymakers, and advocates to strengthen the community's health and empowerment. **Friday, March 28 and Saturday, March 29, 2025**





**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.**

***If you're interested in being a reviewer for the JPMS, contact Flower Noble at [jphsflower@yahoo.com](mailto:jphsflower@yahoo.com)***

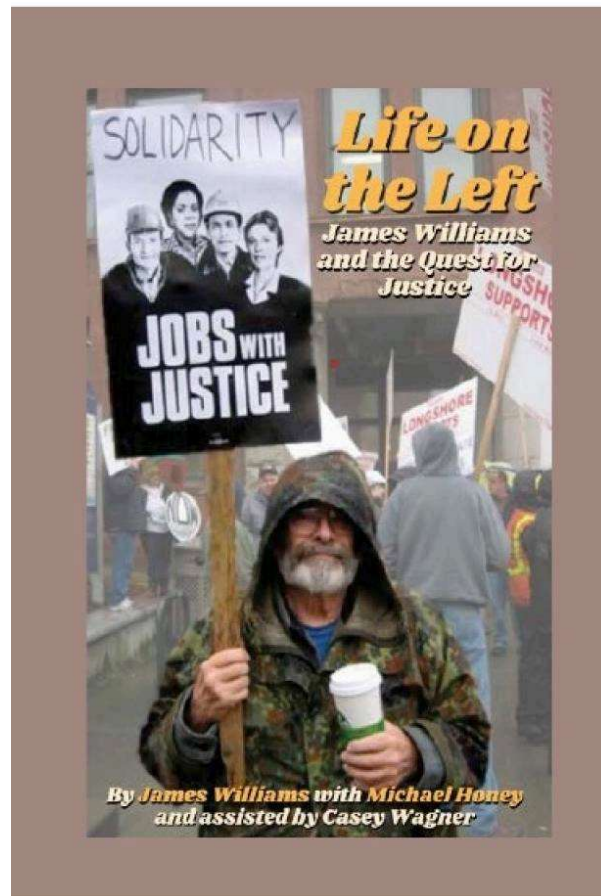
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## RadWork

*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.*

### **February Book Recommendation**

*Recommended by SWAA Member Rosi B.*



Excerpt about this interesting social worker includes:

"...On the way to a different life, he had one more curious experience: representative of a Moscow-based publisher of children's books, from a little office in Chicago. At last, he had become a Midwesterner of sorts, and soon he transitioned to social worker, with an MSW degree and a second marriage, this time to the daughter of a distinguished Jewish Left family.

Williams reflects notably, after all this life experience, that training as a clinical social worker in the middle 1990s, he "learned how enormously empowering and healing it is to be involved even if the outcome is not so good." (59) In the end, he won a prestigious award at the Jane Addams College of Social Work, and went on to teach in the social work college in Tacoma. A Senior Citizen Socialist, he offers this advice: struggle is hard."

**Purchase *Life on the Left: James Williams and the Quest for Justice***

**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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In a time of hate  
Love is an act of resistance  
In a time of fear  
Faith is an act of resistance  
In a time of misinformation  
Education is an act of resistance  
In a time of poor leadership  
Community is an act of resistance

In a time like this  
Joy is an act of resistance

Resist. Resist. Resist.

- Loryn Brantz



**Social Welfare Action Alliance**

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

This email was sent to [akaspershaw@gmail.com](mailto:akaspershaw@gmail.com) · [Unsubscribe](#)

