



R A D C H A T T E R

Welcome to our member newsletter: Radchatter!

This is a space where we provide updates on SWAA initiatives, relevant news, upcoming events and actions, and recommendations for what to read, watch, or listen to out there in the radical sphere.

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On the Ground in Minneapolis

By Mallory Knipe, DSW, SWAA Member, Human Rights Commissioner for the City of Brooklyn Park-Minneapolis, MN

“Every single individual [detained by ICE] has committed a crime.... vicious

As we sit at the next great crossroad in American history, I think often of a quote from Lois Mark Stalvey’s decades-old novel, *The Education of a WASP*. In her writing, she describes meeting a man who had participated

murderers, rapists, child pedophiles, and incredibly dangerous individuals." As I listen to these words from Secretary Noem blaring from a news clip in the background, I'm staring at a picture of a 5-year-old boy on my CNN news tab, who was taken from his family's vehicle by ICE and used as bait to lure "potential illegals" from their home. This is just one of hundreds, if not thousands, of blatant human rights violations occurring in our city of Minneapolis during ICE's siege. Many well-intentioned folks around the country, while concerned, simply think what's happening in Minneapolis is the same thing that has been happening for years along the border, in Chicago, and in LA. Let me be very clear - *it is not*. This sinister "Operation Metro Surge" goes far beyond the standard tactics typically employed by ICE, thrusting our community into something resembling an Orwellian dystopia as agents walk door-to-door, interrogating citizens, using violent force against peaceful protesters and bystanders, and even detaining local police officers for "not looking American." Masses of BIPOC citizens and legal immigrants, with IDs and passports in hand, are detained daily, based simply on the color of their skin, the sound of their voices, and the bias of their captors. We are exhausted by the façade of "keeping Minnesota safe" while immigrants and citizens alike are terrorized on a daily basis, with no regard to due process, constitutional amendment protections, or basic human dignity.

as a soldier in Hitler's Youth Group. He and his peers had heard rumors of brutality toward Jews, but like so many of Hitler's followers, simply could not believe them. They thought, as so many did, that these must be isolated incidents by rogue soldiers, and likely exaggerated at that. If Hitler thought Jews were dangerous, well, then, they must be. His parents, he claimed, lived only ten miles from the Dachau concentration camp - and were completely ignorant of the insidious goings-on just a short distance from their home. And so, Stalvey's words continue to echo in my mind as I grieve for my city today -- "And somewhere there is a skillful white demagogue becoming aware of how effortlessly he could exploit white fear and convince the white majority it is 'necessary' to intern those we fear. He could so easily persuade us to trade our morality and our freedoms for our "safety" and his power. And we would be, all of us, ten miles from Dachau." - Lois Mark Stalvey, 1989.

And still, hope lives here. It lives in the neighbors documenting, the local businesses providing a safe haven from tear gas, and the protesters refusing to be silent. Hope does not mean denial - it means resistance. What is happening now will one day be judged by history, and our hope lies in the fact that many of us are already choosing to stand on the right side of it. May this time in Minneapolis be remembered not for what was done here, but for how fiercely its people, and their allies around the nation, refused to accept it.

SUPPORTING MINNESOTA

Here are a few ways to support communities in Minnesota - this is by no means a comprehensive list, but some actions and resources we have come across that

anyone can participate in.

- Support local organizing and mutual aid efforts in MN being compiled on this [Stand With Minnesota website](#)
- Take action targeting corporations with this [ICE Out of MN Corporate Power Toolkit](#)
- [Call](#) and [email](#) your Members of Congress to tell them to oppose increased funding for ICE and Border Patrol
- Check out [HIP's Immigrant Justice Guide and Talking Points](#)
- [Sign the Solidarity Pledge](#) and check out the ongoing work of [May Day Strong](#)

In a land that normalizes cruelty and indifference, kindness and empathy become radical ideas.

Educate, Inform, and Act: Solidarity for Social Workers, Human Service Workers, Organizers and Advocates

Responding to ICE/Community Defense Training:

- Slides: [Documenting and Responding to ICE](#)
- Video (No Kings - 1/26/26): [Eyes on ICE: Document and Record](#)
- Muslims for Justice Futures: [Community Defense Resource Hub \(in multiple languages\)](#)

Legal Resources:

- [Immigration Defense Watch](#): Rights training and ICE Raids
- Immigrant Legal Resource Center: [ILRC Calls for Permanent Ceasefire and Local Policy Interventions for Protecting Immigrants](#)
- ACLU: [Immigrant Rights \(select a scenario\) - Know Your Rights](#)
- We Have Rights: [Dealing with I.C.E.](#)

Additional Resources:

- Detention Watch Network: [Detention 101](#)
- [IceList](#) - whistleblower database of ICE officers
- [Who Profits from ICE Detention?](#) Video

- [Calls to Abolish ICE are back](#) - Editorial
- Haymarket Books- [Free E-books](#) and [Events](#)



Music for Resistance

->["Singing for our Lives"](#)

[Spotify Playlist](#)

Ice Crusher! (circa 2026)



This is the result!



Upcoming SWAA Events

WAS TRUMP NECESSARY?

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION ABOUT
OUR CURRENT AUTHORITARIAN CRISIS



Wednesday, February 11th
7:00 PM ET
VIRTUAL

Why have political and economic elites had to resort to reliance on a president who ignores Congress, sends ICE into hospitals, and deports immigrants to foreign prisons? Managing the U.S. government to benefit elites did not used to require such extraordinary behavior. What is different now that has made such policies acceptable?

Join us for an engaging presentation and discussion. NOTE: this a continuation of a conversation initiated on 12/2/25. Go to socialwelfareactionalliance.com to register and, if you like, view the 12/2 video.

Presenter: Joel Blau, D.S.W., is Professor Emeritus of Social Policy at Stony Brook University School of Social Welfare. He is the author of *The Visible Poor: Homelessness in the United States* and the co-author of the textbook *The Dynamics of Social Welfare Policy*. He is a founding member of SWAA.

Moderator: Stephen Monroe Tomczak, Ph.D., L.M.S.W., is Professor of Social Welfare Policy & Community Organization, Southern Connecticut State University and member of the SWAA National Steering Committee.

Presented by



To register, go here
or socialwelfareactionalliance.org



With Joel Blau, D.S.W.

February 11, 2026
7:00 pm ET

“Why Trump? Why have political and economic elites had to resort to reliance on a president who ignores Congress, sends ICE into hospitals, and deports immigrants to foreign prisons? Managing the U.S. government to benefit elites did not used to require such extraordinary behavior. What is different now that makes such policies acceptable?”

REGISTER

How Did We Get Here?

Invited Member Response to our December 2025 Webinar. You may watch our recording of that presentation [HERE](#).

By Sam Coleman, PhD, MSW, SWAA Member, Lifetime Associate Member of Veterans for Peace, and Retired Lecturer, California State University, Long Beach

My thanks to SWAA for graciously inviting me to write a newsletter piece after our latest SWAA webinar (December 2, 2025), provocatively titled "Responding to the Current Authoritarian Crisis: How We Got Here." After gnawing my way through several drafts in as many days, I realized yet more fully the enormity of the struggle confronting us. Certainly, "raising awareness" is not enough because we have to drill down to the root causes of this crisis, and then devise realistic road maps to victory based on that knowledge.

How could I best contribute--however modestly-- to this vital effort? In 2011, I began writing for fellow social workers about books that analyze our country's rotting socioeconomy and politics. In this brief space, at risk of looking like a self-promoter, I suggest four of my articles as introductions to consequential published writing by men and women of vision. This chat piece cannot thoroughly review all of the relevant published works, but it does strive for paradigmatic consistency. (You won't find a single postmodernist in the bunch.) Please regard this as starter fuel for shared reading and discussion among us.

I offer the 2020 book review essay, ***"Understanding--And Misunderstanding-the White Working Class: Two Must-Read Studies for the***

One peculiarly American effect of this massive socioeconomic transformation, our country's deadly love affair with firearms, gets a radical social work treatment in "The Social Worker and Gun Violence." There you'll find the social work imagination, complete with action steps that we can take.

We can't understand the stress, pain, and insecurity that morphed into Trumpist resentment without considering America's widening geographical inequality--the deepening divide between rural versus urban communities. I offer "Poor, White and Male," my review of self-described leftneck journalist Joe Bageant's *Deer Hunting with Jesus* for his observations, especially for you rural social workers among us.

Unfortunately, we must see through the liberal nostrums that confuse us along the way, despite their good intentions. When I began reading Desmond Matthew's 2023 *Poverty, by America*, I was anticipating a love fest, but by the time I finished the book, I was thoroughly disillusioned and exasperated. I identified three cardinal sins in Matthews' book: ignoring middle-class precarity; accommodating the military state and its metastasized spending; and -- all the more damnable because Matthews is a sociologist -- shirking the intellectual and moral responsibility to analyze the dynamic relationship between race and class.

So, where, ideally, can we discuss all this? Never underestimate the importance of "third places" such as

Helping Professions," to help explain the seismic effects on social and political life resulting from America's deindustrialization and automation.

libraries, progressive bookstores, and-- my personal favorite for social workers--universities. Let's meet, talk, and plan!



SWAA Drop-in Hours

Would you like to chat with a radical social worker without attending a webinar or #RadChat? Like to brainstorm an action or a practice dilemma for brainstorming? Just want some "radical" space to call your own? Then join us for our virtual, non-recorded Drop-In sessions on Thursday, February 19; Thursday, March 19; and Thursday, April 16 at 7:30pm EDT. Register for any or all of these monthly, one-hour sessions. Drop on in - a little or a lot!

REGISTER

Save-the-Date

"So You Want To Decolonize Your Clinical Practice...Are You Ready?"

Tuesday, March 10, 2026, 7-8:30 pm EST

[Early registration](#) - more info soon!

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 fourth **Annual People's Forum**, scheduled for **February 19th**, where we hear 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.



SWASC has had a busy last several months! Sadly, our work has been more relevant than ever with the growth of ICE detention facilities and the horrendous treatment of people in detention, including the use of solitary confinement. Our work continues to focus on the areas of education, legislative advocacy, and clinical support.

In the education realm, we have developed and are hosting a new webinar: Straight Talk About Solitary Confinement & Race; you can learn more and register [here](#).

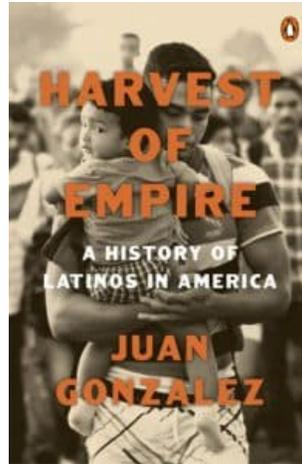
Our legislative efforts are focused on the NY state bill End Health Professionals' Complicity in the Torture of Detained or Incarcerated Individuals Act, which recently got some attention with an [op-ed](#) in the NY Daily News.

We have also recently convened a clinical committee with the goal of providing support to survivors of solitary confinement who are experiencing the mental

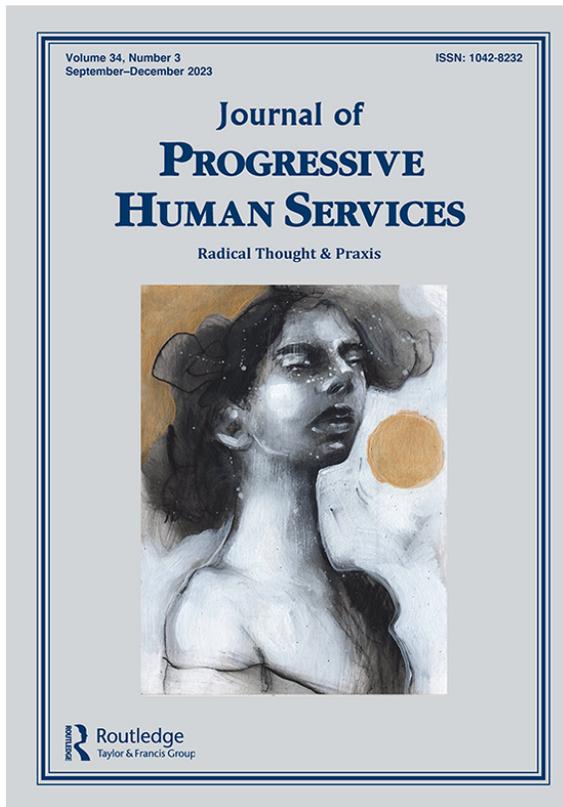
health impacts of this treatment. To join any of our efforts,
email swasc999@gmail.com.

RadWork: Recommendations Section

Recommended by Rosi Barbera, SWAA NSC Member



There are many books and other resources to look at to understand the history of immigration in this country. The one to start with is *Harvest of Empire: The Untold Story of Latinos in America* by Juan Gonzalez. There is also a documentary by the same name that you can watch on [YouTube](#). You can listen on [Google Play](#). Gonzalez discusses how the US has interfered in other countries in the Americas, leading people to flee their homelands. While the book is a little old, its reasoning is still sound, and the situation of US interference is still current. And US interference is not limited to the Americas. We can apply what we learn from this book/documentary to other parts of the world. You can listen to an [author interview](#) from Democracy Now! on the Zinn Education Project website.



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 and include the name of society (SWAA) to subscribe.

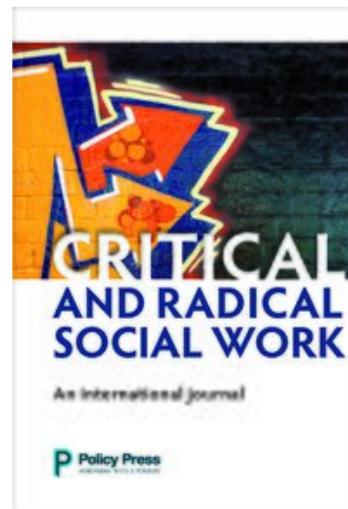
To view recent published articles, visit [JPHS here](#).

Interested in reviewing books and articles for the JPHS? Contact Flower Noble at jphsflowern@yahoo.com

Article to Check Out:

Practices of resistance in social work: navigating power in a local social work programme in Germany

By Laura Einhorn (2025)



How You Can Get Involved

PROGRAMMING: We invite *SWAA Radchatter* readers to be involved with our future programming. The National Steering Committee is particularly looking for folks with interests in immigration activism or radical social work student issues (current students, recent grads, or faculty who support them). The events would be in the format of a #RadChat (informal discussion) or a webinar. (See our website for examples of past events.) We are particularly looking for people who are passionate and knowledgeable about immigration or radical social work students.

WRITING: SWAA is always interested in opinion pieces or brief articles about radical social work.

Email nsc@socialwelfareactionalliance.org to contribute your ideas or get involved!



Did you know that a remarkably small number of Americans can help stop the nation’s slide into authoritarianism? Political science [research has quantified](#) that when a mere **3.5% of a nation’s population** mobilizes in peaceful protest at a key moment, it becomes nearly impossible for the government to ignore the people’s demands for transformative change. **(This is known in political science as the 3.5 percent rule!)**

Civil Resistance Tactics for the 21st Century: a free PDF download



Social Welfare Action Alliance

Contact: nsc@socialwelfareactionalliance.org

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