

Neil Thompson

PROMOTING ANTI-DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICE

Dr. Neil Thompson is a senior lecturer of social work at North East Wales Institute of Higher Education.

This paper reviews the development of anti-discriminatory practice and explores why this is such an important aspect of good practice. It highlights a number of key issues which have played a major part in developing current approaches to understanding and challenging discrimination and oppression. The basic components of anti-discriminatory practice are explored, potential barriers to progress identified and possible strategies for promoting further development are outlined.

Darja Zaviršek

PEOPLE WHO NEED HELP FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

Dr. Darja Zaviršek is an assistant lecturer of anthropology at University of Ljubljana School of Social Work.

The essay was written after the first national conference on advocacy and help for the people with special needs, their parents, friends and professionals, which took place this April. It was the first time that the concerned people were included into such educational programme. The aim of the conference was to empower the people who are bereaved of some human rights. Of particular importance here is how they are called. Some years ago the term »people with special needs« was introduced, but today, people who need help for independent living seems more appropriate. The author argues for the new term and compares it with related terms used in the West. She also presents the mutual influencing of primary and secondary handicap and points out that users gain power, if they operate in groups with other users and not with professionals who take it away and offer charity instead of human rights.

Tanja Lamovec

REFLECTIONS ON THE CHANGING OF THE LAW OF COMPULSORY DETENTION
IN MENTAL HEALTH ORGANISATIONS

Dr. Tanja Lamovec is a professor at University of Ljubljana Philosophical Faculty, Department of Psychology, and chairs the Advocacy section of ALTRA - Association for innovations in mental health.

The procedure of compulsory detention is described as experienced by a user. The flaws and the gaps of the existing legislation are outlined. Specific proposals for change are made. Examples of how some more developed European countries have been trying to resolve these issues are presented. The first part of the article includes descriptions of the current practice regarding different sequences of detention. The commonest violations of the existing Law are pointed out, as well as the reasons for their being so widespread that indeed, they have become the rule. The second part deals with the more general issues which must be clarified before any new Law can be conceptualised. As a warranting measure that the new legislation will in fact be carried out in practice, independent advocacy should be made obligatory for all institutions where users are held against their will.

Violeta Irgl

DISCRIMINATION OF THE AGED

Violeta Irgl is a graduate student of School of Social Work.

The author presents the development of discrimination, self-discrimination and re-discrimina-

tion of the aged. The vicious circle of double and multiple discrimination of the aged begins with their exit from professional activities the borders of which are socially determined. In the society that particularly values productive capacities of its members, the aged whose working abilities are actually diminished are also stereotypically ascribed dependence, uselessness and disabilities. Hence the aged themselves accept their stereotype social role and finally begin to act according to the stereotypes of old age.

Suzana Kristanc

PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AND DOUBLE DISCRIMINATION

Suzana Kristanc is a graduate student of School of Social Work.

The author highlights the problems of the people with special needs. On account of their being different – and the children on account of their attending a school with adjusted programme – and because of additional problems in their living circumstances, they are doubly discriminated. Included, there are the experiences and considerations of the children and others themselves. The author stresses that their choices need to be increased, and the services and rights should be ensured for them.

Sonja Puhar

DISCRIMINATION OF WOMEN IN THE PENAL PROCEDURE
AND IN THE EXECUTION OF A PRISON SENTENCE

Sonja Puhar is a social worker at the prison in Koper.

The research on how women endure their prison sentences is based on the analysis of regulations in the field of execution of penal sanctions, the data collected in penal institutions, and the direct communications and statements of a sample of women prisoners in the prison in Ig. The greater part of the article consists of the results of the research on the status of women enduring prison sentences and in custody, and on their feelings and experiencing penal institutions. Specific women's issues related to the execution of a prison sentence is also reviewed. The author particularly emphasises the discrimination of imprisoned women, in comparison with men, in many legal, status-related and other fields.

Urša Ogrin

WOMEN AND ALCOHOLISM

Urša Ogrin is a graduate student of School of Social Work.

The article deals with double discrimination experienced by drinking women. The woman's addiction, namely, becomes not only a legal or medical issue but also a moral one, leading to double discrimination. Initially, the significance of culture is noted, determining behaviour and influencing mutual evaluation and the notions of acceptable and unacceptable behaviour. This is followed by an historic review of women's alcoholism with examples from European and non-European countries. Central, however, is the description of the characteristics of women's alcoholism and the social view of it. Examples from the interviews conducted by social work students in 1994 are presented.

Violeta Irgl

HETEROLOGICAL THINKING METHOD IN SOCIAL WORK

Violeta Irgl is a graduate student of School of Social Work.

The author presents heterological thinking method, one of the fundamental scientific methods that is far too little known and used in social work. She brings it from anthropology into social work and demonstrates the imminence of its application there. Heterological thinking method dissolves prejudices against the different and contributes considerably to understanding, accepting, respecting and non-evaluating the different by translating it into our ordinary experience. Thereby, it introduces a new quality of human relationships into social work.