

## EDITORIAL

### History, Truth, and Social Justice

In this, our third issue for 2021, the authors continue to inform, educate, and present research, with attention to global urban environments, underrepresented populations, advocacy and human rights. Lung, Ho, Tam, and Wong focus on work enterprises in Hong Kong, while Sarabia explores the utility of Portugal's drug policies for the United States. Wang, Tice-Brown, Smith, and Lipovsky's work on mindfulness advances knowledge on the important issue of mental health for urban high school youth. Bowie, Banks, and Oliver bring our attention to outcomes for women who are often disenfranchised, utilizing case management, and employment training. The breadth and scope of this content-rich issue continues with Adam's attention to teaching advocacy while Black, male, and untenured, while Johnson and Chiarelli-Helminiak address human rights in a major urban city.

From policy to practice, across populations and oceans, each of the articles embody the social work values of service and social justice embedded in our Code of Ethics. *Urban Social Work* exists in a context of contemporary times, and complex issues. Part of the mission of this journal is to present scholarly research useful to global urban communities while also highlighting their strengths, resiliency, and challenges. The editors are proud to create opportunities for new voices, celebrate seasoned experts, and promote diverse scholars and world views. These opportunities create new ways of knowing, social change, and social justice and requires forward thinking, vision, and knowledge of the past. The journal also provides a means to share critical thinking on social discourse that impacts the urban environment.

In 1948, Winston Churchill said, "Those who fail to learn from history are condemned to repeat it." He could not have imagined the lengths to which some would not only fail to learn from history, but that revisionists would stare down facts, knowledge, and experiences to create an altered reality where the truth is a myth to be ignored and discredited.

Whether it is downplaying and recasting the events of January 6th to support the status quo and privileged power brokers or needing to revisit the fight for the 1965 Voting Rights Act, again after 56 years, in the For the People Act (HR1) and the John Lewis Voting Act (HR4), the message is that truth can be reconfigured when it becomes an inconvenience.

When reconstructing reality, it is often necessary to have a buzz phrase to point to as the real risk. Currently, some are hijacking the advanced academic construct, critical race theory for this purpose, using it as an explanation for school boards to

reject a true telling of our country's unsavory history of the economics and brutality of slavery. Societies that have risked the pain to remember and acknowledge past wrongs do not battle over what artifacts of their painful past belong in a museum, nor do they distort their history. Working towards an anti-racist existence requires us to walk through, not avoid, our history. It is noteworthy that the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) has inserted anti-racism in its dialogue thus expanding truth in educating the next generation of social workers.

The works presented in this Issue embrace truth, and social justice and an awareness of history.

*"The great force of history comes from the fact that we carry it within us, are unconsciously controlled by it in many ways, and history is literally present in all that we do."*

—James Baldwin, *Dark Days*

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