

The radicalization of social work practice with refugees in Greece. Frontline experiences from the public and NGO sectors.

Abstract of the Thesis by  
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Since 2015, social workers have been at the forefront of the "refugee crisis," dealing with neoliberal, anti-migration policies, and racism, leading to violations of refugee rights. This qualitative study examines the radicalization of social work in Greece with refugees. Semi-structured interviews involved eleven practitioners from public and NGO sectors, examining conceptualizations of radical social work, advocacy and the interplay between social work and social movements in safeguarding refugee rights. Findings reveal that radicalization involves a shift from traditional approaches in its radicalized manifestation, embracing emancipatory values and disrupting oppressive narratives. Macro advocacy emerges in response to the absence of refugee policies, with social workers engaging in mobilization and sociopolitical action. Social workers serve as mediators and informants, benefiting from their interaction with social movements while contributing to these movements and knowledge exchange. This study emphasizes a politicized paradigm in social work, empowering practitioners to include radicalism in their daily work.

Keywords:

Radical social work, social work with refugees, advocacy, social movements and social work, human rights