Role of Social Work in Recognised Refugees Access to German Citizenship and Right to Vote in Berlin

An Abstract of the Thesis by Taher Kouhestani, Elaheh

Access to German Citizenship affects recognised refugees' entitlement to their rights in the host country such as right to vote. Naturalisation law and integration policies in Germany play a major role in this regard. Therefore, limited access to naturalisation, not only affects refugees' integration in Germany, but also discriminates against them for social justice and inclusion. In this study, the role of social work as a human rights profession has been explored in order to identify the gaps between policies and lived experiences of the vulnerable group in Berlin. However, the profession itself confronts limitations working with refugees and institutions. Therefore, this research seeks social justice for recognised refugees, by identifying the barriers for both the marginalised group and the social work profession.

Keywords: Citizenship, naturalisation, recognised refugees, right to vote, social justice