

## **Abstract**

### **Exploring Alumni Understanding and Practice of Social Work as a Human Rights Profession Through Photovoice**

An Abstract of the Thesis by

Mirjam Sophie Kern

This master's thesis examines how alumni of the Master's program Social Work as a Human Rights Profession (SWHR) at Alice Salomon Hochschule Berlin *understand, practice, and reflect on SWHR within contexts of global violence and oppressive structures*. The study explores the transformative potential of SWHR for social change. Methodologically, the research employs a participatory qualitative design, combining Photovoice and semi-structured interviews to foreground the visual and reflexive knowledge productions of ten alumni participants.

A key finding is the further development of the Human Rights-Based Approach into the cyclical praxis process *See–Feel–Change*: human rights violations are (1) recognized and contextualized, (2) emotionally and relationally experienced, and (3) translated into collective, creative, and political action. Visual methods reveal perception, empathy, and action as interconnected dimensions of transformative praxis.

Findings conceptualize SWHR as a holistic, relational, and political practice grounded in ethics, solidarity, critical reflection, and collective action, reimagining social work as a process of shared liberation and social justice.

Keywords: photovoice, social work, human rights, transformation, social change