Human Rights and Social Justice
Social Action and Service for the Helping and Health Professions
Second Edition

Joseph Wronka – Springfield College

“This book is a must for those who are working to make human rights an overarching way of life around the world.” —Shulamith Koenig, Founding President of the People’s Decade for Human Rights Learning, Recipient of the 2003 United Nations Human Rights Award, and 2011 Mikhail Gorbachev Human Rights Award as “Woman of the 21st Century”


“Joseph Wronka is truly a social work scholar and visionary of integrating human rights in the helping and health professions. His transdisciplinary approach offers a tangible model to realizing rights for all people in all places.” —Tina Maschi, Fordham University

“Human Rights and Social Justice is a compendium of ideas, reflections, strategies, and insights—a great resource for learners and an enjoyable read for the curious.” —Ana M. Sobocan, University of Ljubljana

Offering a unique perspective that views human rights as the foundation of social justice, Joseph Wronka’s groundbreaking text outlines human rights and social justice concerns as a powerful conceptual framework for policy and practice interventions for the helping and health professions. This highly accessible, interdisciplinary text urges the creation of a human rights culture as a “lived awareness” of human rights principles, including human dignity, nondiscrimination, civil and political rights, economic, social, and cultural rights, and solidarity rights. The Second Edition includes numerous social action activities and questions for discussion to help scholars, activists, and practitioners promote a human rights culture and the overall well-being of populations across the globe.

NEW TO THIS EDITION:

• An updated foreword by Dr. David Gil, Professor Emeritus of Brandeis University, The Heller School and Epilogue by Dr. Alfred de Zayas, UN Special Rapporteur shed light on humanity’s current state and its possible future.

• A preface reflecting recent global changes includes the continuing spread of exotic diseases, environmental degradation, the world refugee crisis, and growing inequality.

• A new section on political argument; summaries of two additional major human rights documents, the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Final Draft of the Guiding Principles to Eradicate Extreme Poverty; and content analyses comparing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

• Updated examples explore implementation mechanisms, such as world conferences, special rapporteurs, human rights reports, and the Universal Periodic Review.

• Updated practice illustrations of global interventions include four of the author's oral interventions before the Human Rights Council in Geneva on the rights of peasants, the world drug abuse problem, the efficacy of the Universal Periodic Review (especially as pertaining to the USA), a written intervention on eradicating extreme poverty, and his experiences in Pakistan as a Fulbrighter.

• A new chapter on world drug abuse provides a human rights/social justice approach to policy analysis/assessment within an advanced generalist/public health perspective and presents a direct non-violent social action approach to help resolve this issue.
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