A Last Farewell

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In Fall 2014, Dr. Shirley Gatenio Gabel asked me to talk a walk with her. We were at the Council on Social Work Education annual conference in Tampa, Florida, and she told me that she had been talking with the editor at Springer about starting a new journal in human rights and wanted to know if I would be willing to work with her as co-Editor-in-Chief in this new venture. Seven years later, I'm so grateful I said yes.

I am extremely proud of what we have built together through our shared vision of a place where scholars and practitioners around the world would have a place to share their thoughts and work relating to human rights and social work. We have now received manuscripts from over 60 countries and take an active developmental approach to support authors from countries whose voices are not heard as often in the peer-reviewed literature. I have learned so much due to thoroughly reading every article that is published, which I would not have otherwise done.

Our web of reviewers is almost as wide and I deeply appreciate the generous contributions of their time to provide feedback on these submissions. Our editorial board and reviewer board has been amazing in this regard and I can't say enough about how much I appreciated all those times you clicked "Accept" on the reviewer invitation. I treasure the relationships I have been able to build with all these individuals who I would not have otherwise been able to get to know.

However, I will be rotating out of this position at the end of this year and this will be my last editorial as co-Editor-in-Chief. I have enjoyed the opportunity to pontificate about current issues and wryly note that some of these editorials now have more citations than some of my peer-reviewed articles. Putting together the articles for this issue has changed greatly from our early days when no one knew about the journal and we always hoped we'd have enough accepted papers for an issue. Now we have too many accepted papers to publish in an issue.

These articles for my final issue span 8 countries and a wide range of topics from challenges faced by those migrating to a new country to substance abuse to violent extremism. Alcaraz et al. explore the experiences of non-status immigrants from the Philippines in Canada through qualitative interviews, while Palattiyil and Sidhva also use qualitative methods to understand the experiences of HIV-positive asylum seekers in Scotland. Lim completes this trio using qualitative methods to learn about experiences of those who have moved to a new country by interviewing refugees from North Korea who are now living in the United Kingdom.

Routhier moves the focus to the United States by looking at housing insecurity where inequity continues despite legislation that is now more than 50 years old. Hutson examines violent extremism, a topic little examined by US social workers despite its increase. Rivera-Díaz et al. complete this set of three through examining advocacy efforts for human rights in Puerto Rico through the collective Somos Dign@s, designed to emulate the Freedom Riders of the US South in the 1960s.

Bala and Kang'ethe then draw our attention to South Africa to educate us about Nyaope, a potent drug that causes hallucinations and delusions. They explore the impacts of it for girls through focus groups and interviews to better frame intervention methods. Adetoro and Adetoro the issue of intimate partner violence against men in Nigeria and advocate for more attention to this population. Lastly, Radpey educates us about self-determination issues faced by Syrian Kurds living in the region of Rojava through conflicts with Turkey.

I will miss the work with the journal, but I know that it will be in good hands. Thank you again to all our readers, authors, reviewers, and editorial board members. Most especially, thank you to Shirley Gatenio Gabel for inviting me on this journey; I wouldn't have missed it for the world.

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