PRACTICAL SOCIAL WORK

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BASW

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Social work is at an important stage in its development. All professions must be responsive to changing social and economic conditions if they are to meet the needs of those they serve. This series focuses on sound practice and the specific contribution which social workers can make to the well-being of our society.

The British Association of Social Workers has always been conscious of its role in setting guidelines for practice and in seeking to raise professional standards. The conception of the Practical Social Work series arose from a survey of BASW members to discover where they, the practitioners in social work, felt there was the most need for new literature. The response was overwhelming and enthusiastic, and the result is a carefully planned, coherent series of books. The emphasis is firmly on practice, set in a theoretical framework. The books will inform, stimulate and promote discussion, thus adding to the further development of skills and high professional standards. All the authors are practitioners and teachers of social work representing a wide variety of experience.

JO CAMPLING

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Women and Social Work

Towards a woman-centred practice

Second edition

Jalna Hanmer and Daphne Statham

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Dedication

Each generation of women has the task of reconfirming, if not re-establishing, the individual and social worth of women. We dedicate this book to the current and the next generation of sisters in recognition of their efforts and potential to achieve a better future for women, one that recognises and values those who generate and maintain life.

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Acknowledgements

The first edition of *Women and Social Work* acknowledged over 100 women who attended the Social Services Needs of Women courses, and we would like to do this again. Without them, the first edition would never have been written, nor the second. The concept of women-centred practice began with the courses held between 1983 and 1985, and developed through the participation of women in social and probation work.

We also wish to acknowledge the readers of the first edition for their contribution to raising the profile and increasing an understanding in social and care work of the central relevance of women in maintaining family and community life. This is part of the changed social context basic to the largely rewritten second edition.

With this second edition, we also would like to thank the many women who contributed to its completion: Charlee Brewsher, Audrey McCloud, Simone Standeven and Pam Todd who typed various drafts and prepared the text for publication, and Catherine Euler who helped in the completion of the bibliography. And finally, we wish to thank Jo Campling for ensuring, through her insistence and persistence, that we completed this overdue manuscript, and also Catherine Gray for her tolerance and patience.