

# Critical challenges for social workers

## International Recovery Perspective: Implications, Innovations & Implementation

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# Social workers' beliefs and values

✚ Social justice

✚ The intrinsic worth and dignity of every human being

The values of

✚ Acceptance,

✚ Self-determination

✚ Respect of individuality

From the code of ethics of CASSW

**A great fit for a Recovery model; then why not?**

# Critical challenges for social workers

1. Control agents
2. Hierarchical relationships
3. Binary and exclusive thinking
4. Alienation (individual pathology)
5. Institution
6. Expert knowledge

1. Change agents
2. Egalitarian relationships
3. Inclusive thinking
4. Solidarity
5. Local and community
6. Critical examination of knowledge (e.g. power relation, self-reflection, etc.)

# Critical challenges for social workers (Con'td.)

- Binary and exclusive thinking
- **Discontinuous model of sanity and madness\***
- **Expert knowledge & Expert view**
- **Biology has the answers to emotional problems.**
- Inclusive thinking
- **Continuous model of sanity and madness\***  
**A Recovery model**
- **Inclusive & transformative knowledge & views**
- **Social causes and social remedies**

\*Bainbridge, L.(1999). Competing paradigms in mental health practice and education. In B. Peace & J. Fook (Eds.) Transforming social work practice, pp.179-194, London: Rutledge.

# Meet challenges: Strengths-based Critical Social Work

Using reflection and de-construction, one examines a situation at hand

- 1) Social structure and systems
- 2) Oppression (GRACES)
- 3) Values, beliefs and ideologies
- 4) Power and control
- 5) Language, Words, Narrative (story telling)
- 6) Strengths and resiliency
- 7) Hope and opportunities
- 8) Collaboration
- 9) Resources