

National Capacity Building Project: Technical Assistance of the Survivor of Torture Programs

Integrative Social Work with Asylum Seekers and Traumatized Migrants

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The
CENTER for
VICTIMS of
TORTURE



Harvard
Program
in Refugee
Trauma



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Chat



Raise Hand



Q&A

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Q&A

Leave Meeting

Welcome and Overview



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- Welcome to today's webinar!
- This webinar is brought to you today by the Office of Refugee Resettlement.
- The National Capacity Building Project is a project of the Center for Victims of Torture in partnership with Harvard Program in Refugee Trauma and the National Consortium of Torture Treatment Programs.



Disclaimer

We will be talking about trauma today. Trauma impacts all in different ways but it is something we have all had some experience with. The information, images, and discussions can be triggering or uncomfortable at times. Make sure you monitor and take care of yourself when and if you need to.



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Objectives


After attending this webinar, participants will be able to:

- Discuss competencies of social work practice (SWP) with displaced populations across micro, mezzo, and macro levels of practice
 - Identify practice modifications to implement immediately in order to enhance provision of services to clients impacted by forced migration
 - Apply framework concepts to curriculum development and supervision planning for social workers new to practicing in this field
-




Starting with Ourselves: Reflection

- 1** - What brought you to this work?
 - 2** - What keeps you in this work?
 - 3** - What do you bring to this work that supports yourself, your clients, your colleague, or your agency?
-



What does a social worker need in order to support asylum seekers or other forced migrants?




Why is social work practice with forced migrants so complex?

- Narratives of suffering (& healing, & ups and downs)
- Complicated histories
- Missing & misunderstood information
- Often cross-cultural
- Many systems and disciplines
- Mis-information, bias, and stigma
- Trust-building threatened from injustices
- Trauma reactions

Also...

- Needs are great (>100M globally)
 - Limited workforce (in # and training)
 - Insufficient funding & resources
-



Why is social
work practice
with forced
migrants so
complex?


....Because its relational work with people
who have been hurt, within flawed systems.



Integrative Social Work

- Traditional SWP framework: micro, mezzo, macro
- Humanitarian relief, resettlement, and asylum support work calls for something different:
 - Practice that integrates and flows through all levels
 - Practitioners with knowledge and skills for all levels
 - Role flexibility
 - Robust collaboration & coordination with many people and disciplines
 - Specialized social work training
 - Resourced social workers and agencies


(Murakami & Akilova, 2023)



Areas of knowledge in this work

- Historical and current global events
- Global responses to forcibly displaced persons
- International treaties, conventions, & laws
- Domestic laws & policies impacting migrants and hosts
- Humanitarian coordination
- Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) policies & frameworks
- Durable solutions (resettlement, integration, return & reintegration)
- Clinical needs and best practice responses
- Specialized skills for specific individuals and communities

(Murakami & Akilova, 2023)



An under utilized discipline: Social Work

- A good fit....
 - Rooted in human rights and social justice
 - Person-centered values & principles
 - Strives to promote “social change, social development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people” (IFSW, n.d. Core Mandates para 1)
 - Multidisciplinary theories and Interdisciplinary training
 - Therapy to grassroots organizing (and all in between)
 - What else?
-



Social Work Values & Ethical Principles

- **Service:** Our primary goal is to help people in need and to address social problems
- **Social Justice:** We challenge social injustice
- **Dignity and Worth of the Person:** We respect inherent dignity and worth of the person
- **Importance of Human Relationships:** We recognize the central importance of human relationships
- **Integrity:** We behave in a trustworthy manner

(NASW, 2021)



Approaches of Social Workers

- Person-centered
 - Bio-psycho-social-spiritual
 - Person in environment
 - Anti-oppressive
 - Variety of theoretical perspectives and practice theories
 - Code of ethics
 - What else?
-



Social Work Core Competencies

1. Demonstrate Ethical and Professional Behavior
2. Advance Human Rights and Social, Racial, Economic, and Environmental Justice
3. Engage Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ADEI) in Practice
4. Engage in Practice-Informed Research and Research-Informed Practice
5. Engage in Policy Practice
6. Engage with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
7. Assess Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
8. Intervene with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities
9. Evaluate Practice with Individuals, Families, Groups, Organizations, and Communities

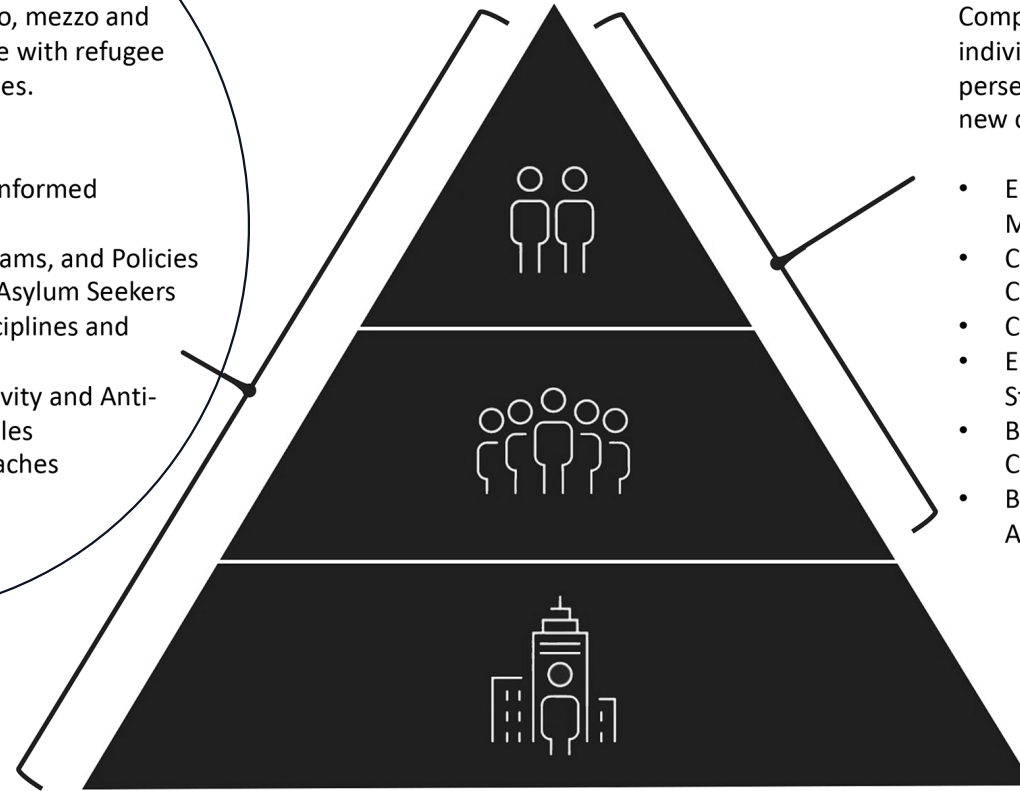
(CSWE, 2022)

Additional Social Work Competencies with Forced Migrants

Cross-cutting Competencies

Competencies needed for micro, mezzo and macro level social work practice with refugee and asylum-seeking communities.

- Center Culture in Practice
- Apply a Loss- and Trauma-Informed Approach
- Understand Systems, Programs, and Policies Pertinent to Refugees and Asylum Seekers
- Collaborate with other Disciplines and Systems of Care
- Practice Critical Self-Reflexivity and Anti-Oppressive Practice Principles
- Utilize Participatory Approaches
- Work with Interpreters



Direct practice competencies

Competencies needed for direct practice with individuals, families and groups fleeing persecution and navigating resettlement in a new country.

- Engage with Diverse Concepts and Meanings of Health and Wellbeing
- Conduct Loss- and Trauma-Informed and Cross-Cultural Assessment
- Culturally Adapt Services
- Engage in Community-Level Work to Strengthen Collaboration
- Build the Capacity of Allies and Receiving Communities
- Build Capacity for Self or Collective Advocacy

(Bunn, et al, 2023, p. 283)



Cross –Cutting Competencies

1. Center Culture in Practice

- Beyond cultural competence
- Explore cultural practices of daily life
- Explore cultural practices that have ceased since fleeing
- Explore cultural context of their trauma and loss
- Ask about current cultural healing practices
- Incorporate traditional healing into work with you
- Promote policies & practices that respond to cultural needs
- CHAT: Share ways that you do this

(Bunn, et al, 2023, p. 281)



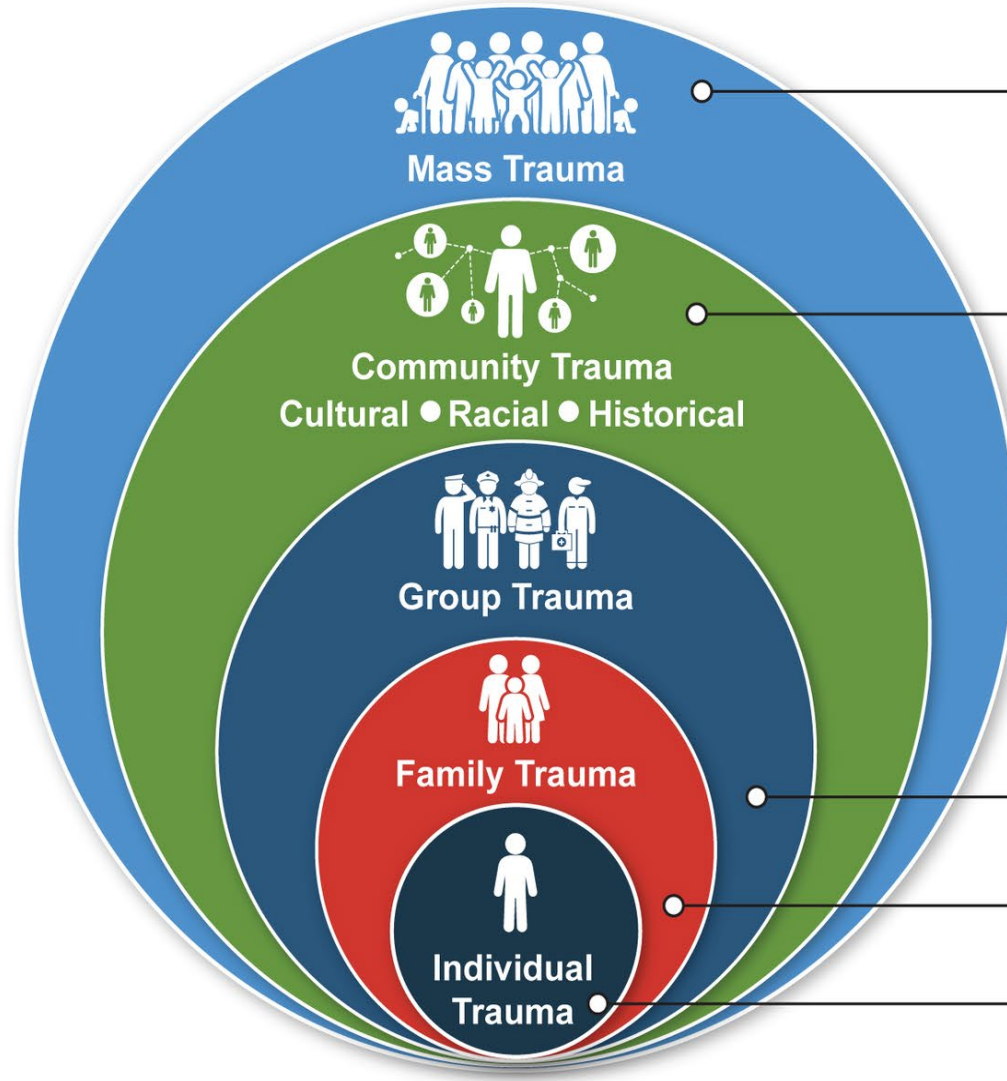
Cross –Cutting Competencies

2. Apply a Loss- and Trauma- Informed Approach

- Gain & maintain trauma knowledge
- Practice 4 Rs – Realize, Recognize, Respond, Resist re-traumatization (SAMHSA, 2023)
- Gain and maintain grief & loss knowledge
- Explore and promote rituals
- Name the repair work
- Monitor your own well being
- Promote policies, leadership, and governance that consider trauma
- CHAT: Share ways that you do this

(Bunn, et al, 2023, p. 284)

Levels of Trauma



Mass Trauma (Affects large numbers of people)

Community Trauma (Impacts a few people but has structural or social traumatic consequences).

Cultural Trauma – Type of community trauma that occurs when a group that shares a culture or identity experiences an event that causes lasting effects on group consciousness.

Racial Trauma – A reaction or response to racial discrimination, which is the direct experience of conflict, hatred, injury, or threatened harm to an individual based on their race.

Historical Trauma (Generational Trauma) – Widespread trauma that affects an entire culture and influences generations of the culture beyond those who experience it directly.

Group Trauma (Affects a particular group, e.g., military service members, first responders, LGBTQI+ community)

Family Trauma (Affects multiple members within a family)

Individual Trauma (Affects one person)

(SAMHSA, 2023, p. 3)

3. Understand Systems, Programs, and Policies Pertinent to Refugees and Asylum Seekers

- There are so many!
- Develop relationships with experts across systems
- Follow a variety of journals, news sources, organizations, listservs
- Facilitate survivor sharing of experiences, perspectives, and voices
- CHAT: Share ways that you do this

(Bunn, et al, 2023, p. 286)



Cross –Cutting Competencies

4. Collaborate with other Disciplines and Systems of Care

- Become familiar with other sectors' work
- Establish interdisciplinary working groups
- Offer trainings
- Facilitate conversations between survivors and policy makers
- CHAT: Share ways that you do this

(Bunn, et al, 2023, p. 287)



Cross –Cutting Competencies

5. Practice Critical Self-Reflexivity and Anti-Oppressive Practice Principles

- Consider positionality and influence of own social location
- Acknowledge biases and seek feedback
- Establish practices of reflection and self-examination
- Model discussions about power, privilege and oppression
- Challenge oppressive policies and processes
- CHAT: Share ways that you do this

(Bunn, et al, 2023, p. 288)



Cross –Cutting Competencies

6. Utilize Participatory Approaches

- Collaborate with those who have lived-experience expertise
- Practice as a co-learner/co-contributor in clinical work
- Promote programming that is client-driven
- Help establish a client advisory board
- Solicit client feedback on agency spaces and programming
- CHAT: Share ways that you do this


(Bunn, et al, 2023, p. 288)



7. Work with Interpreters

- Attend trainings on working effectively with interpreters
- Train agency interpreters in interpreting, trauma, and the services that you provide
- Have sufficient time for interpreted services
- Support interpreters at your agency
- Ensure interpretation is available for clients attending community events
- CHAT: Share ways that you do this

(Bunn, et al, 2023, p. 289)



Integrative Framework Cross-Cutting Competencies for SWP

- Center Culture in Practice
- Apply a Loss- and Trauma-Informed Approach
- Understand Systems, Programs, and Policies Pertinent to Refugees and Asylum Seekers
- Collaborate with other Disciplines and Systems of Care
- Practice Critical Self-Reflexivity and Anti-Oppressive Practice Principles
- Utilize Participatory Approaches
- Work with Interpreters

(Bunn, et al, 2023)



Application: Our Practice

- Identify 2 things that you will do for yourself this weekend to resource you for this work
 - Identify 1 thing that you will do with a client next week because of something you read, heard or experienced today
-



Application: Supervision

- Identify 1 thought/feeling/experience that was sparked today, that you will take into supervision
 - Give or seek mentorship around topics discussed today
 - Identify 1 ritual to introduce into your supervision
-



Application: Training and Teaching

- Name 1 thing that you read, heard or experienced today that you will talk with a colleague about
 - Identify 1 topic that you would like to learn more about
 - Identify 1 things to change in your agency's onboarding, interviewing, or training process for new staff
-



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Questions?

Have a question or something you want to discuss more in-depth? Here are some options for you:

- Type your questions in the Q&A, or
- Type your questions in the chat, or
- Raise your hand using the reaction button.

Have a questions after the presentation? Here is the contact information for our presenter:

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Integrative Social Work with Asylum Seekers and Traumatized Migrants

October 26, 2023

Thank you
for attending
this NCB
webinar!

The National Capacity Building Project is a project of the Center for Victims of Torture in partnership with Harvard Program in Refugee Trauma and the National Consortium of Torture Treatment Programs.



More resources are available at www.healtorture.org.

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