

NATIONAL STUDENTS-LED CONFERENCE 2026

Organized by:



**College of Social Work (Empowered Autonomous),
Nirmala Niketan, Mumbai**

**JUSTICE FRAMEWORK IN SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE:
*Best Practices in Social Work Education and Field Practicum***

Hybrid Mode: Online + Offline Participation



Dates: 16th & 17th January 2026

Venue for Offline Conference:

**College of Social Work (Empowered Autonomous), Nirmala Niketan,
38, New Marine Lines, Churchgate, East, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400020.**

ABOUT US & THE CONFERENCE



ABOUT US:

The College of Social Work (Empowered Autonomous), Nirmala Niketan, Mumbai, established in 1955, is one of India's leading institutions in the field of social work education. Guided by its vision to contribute to building a new social order founded on human dignity and social justice, the College upholds a Mission to work with a preferential option for vulnerable and exploited communities, both locally and globally, and to build a cadre of young, competent professionals with a global perspective and a strong value base of compassion, integrity, moderation, tolerance, and self-respect.

With nearly seven decades of academic and field excellence, the College offers programmes including Bachelor of Social Work, Master of Social Work, MA in Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship, PhD, and a variety of Continuing Education Programs/ Stand-Alone Courses. The College is accredited with the highest NAAC grade across all three cycles and was ranked 57th in the NIRF Rankings 2023. In 2024, the College was granted Empowered Autonomous Status. The College continues to contribute to social change through innovative Field Action projects, community interventions, and strong academic foundations.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL STUDENT-LED CONFERENCE

The National Student-Led Conference is an annual academic initiative led by final-year Master of Social Work and Bachelor of Social Work student social workers. The conference serves as a collaborative space for peer learning, critical dialogue, intellectual exchange and the way forward for social work education and practice. Student social workers are encouraged to reflect on the application of social work theories to real-world situations through fieldwork, reflective practice, and research that enriches both academic inquiry and professional preparation.

Justice Framework in Social Work Practice

Social work is a practice-based profession guided by the principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility, and respect for diversity. Rooted in the Person-in-Environment perspective, social work promotes holistic analysis of social issues through micro, mezzo, and macro systems.

Contemporary societal dynamics shaped by globalization, privatization, and technocratic reforms have contributed to new forms of inequality, exclusion, and oppression. These structural changes have created complex vulnerabilities and widened social gaps, especially among marginalized populations.

A Justice framework provides social workers with a lens to understand these inequities and to design ethical, context-specific, and empowerment-oriented interventions. The focus is to ensure fairness, dignity, and access to rights for all individuals, especially those disadvantaged by systemic barriers.

The National Student-Led Conference 2026 aims to bring together students of social work across India to share insights, field experiences, and research that highlight best practices emerging from a justice framework. As inequalities continue to intensify and new vulnerabilities surface, the conference becomes a platform for emerging social workers to explore alternative models, challenge structural injustices, and advocate for human dignity and social equity.

THEMES AND SUB-THEMES



Main Theme: Justice Framework in Social Work Practice

Sub-Themes:

1) Social Justice Framework in Fieldwork Practice

- Applying justice-oriented principles to address inequalities across micro, mezzo, and macro levels.
- Using rights-based, empowerment-based, and anti-oppressive frameworks in field interventions.
- Understanding how justice theories shape engagement, assessment, and intervention planning with communities, families, and individuals.

2) Reflective Practice in Fieldwork

- Strengthening students' ability to critically reflect on their biases, decisions, and interventions.
- Integrating classroom learning with field realities to develop ethical judgement.
- Using reflective tools such as journals, supervision, and discussions to refine professional identity.

3) Sustainable Development Goals and Fieldwork Practice

- Linking Sustainable Development Goals targets with social work interventions that enhance well-being and reduce inequalities.
- Demonstrating how fieldwork contributes to areas such as poverty reduction, quality education, health, gender equality, and sustainable communities.
- Exploring partnerships, community engagement, and evidence-based methods aligned with SDG commitments.

THEMES AND SUB-THEMES



4) Issue/Settings-Based Interventions

- **Community Organization:**

Facilitating participatory processes that strengthen community capacity, leadership, and collective action.

- **Feminist Social Work Practice:**

Addressing gender-based inequalities through empowerment, consciousness-raising, and advocacy for women's rights.

- **Child-Centred Practice:**

Promoting child protection, participation, and development while ensuring a rights-based approach to all child-related interventions.

- **Disability and Person-Centred Practice:**

Supporting inclusion, accessibility, and dignity through individualized intervention plans anchored in autonomy and rights.

- **Gerontological Social Work:**

Responding to ageing-related vulnerabilities, promoting dignity, and preventing ageism across institutional and community settings.

- **Social Work in Healthcare Settings:**

Combining psychosocial support, advocacy, and patient-centered care within hospital, community, or public health environments.

- **Trauma-Informed Interventions:**

Understanding the impact of trauma and applying sensitive, strength-based, and safety-oriented approaches in practice.

5) Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship

- Exploring creative, sustainable, and community-driven solutions to social problems.
- Understanding how social enterprises can promote equity, participation, and justice.
- Encouraging youth-led models that combine innovation, advocacy, and developmental impact.

GUIDELINES FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION & REGISTRATION

Abstract Submission Guidelines:

- Abstract must be 250–300 words.
- It should clearly state the topic, theoretical framework, methodology, key findings, recommendations, and relevance to the conference theme.
- Participants must indicate the appropriate sub-theme under which the abstract is submitted.
- Link for Abstract submission: Click Below:
<https://forms.gle/rcrrRpTP8MLwXpDA8>
- Last date for submission: **09th January 2026**
- Confirmation of Abstract acceptance: **12th January 2026**

Registration Details:

- Registration Fee: **₹500 (non-refundable)**
- The conference will be conducted in Hybrid Mode (Online or Offline). Please choose your mode and register accordingly through the registration link.
- Participants may register either as Presenters or as Participants, and may attend in both Online or Offline mode.
- Both online and offline participants will receive further conference updates and arrangements through a WhatsApp group after registration
- Payment to be made via NEFT:

Account Name: Nirmala Niketan Institute -

College of Social Work

Account Number: 38339112552

Bank: State Bank of India

Branch: Churchgate, Mumbai

IFSC Code: SBIN0001821



- Payment may also be made through the QR code attached in the Brochure.
- Participants must upload payment details in the registration form.
- For any queries, please contact the Student Conveners:

Ms. Vanshika Surve, Contact: +91 99874 61747

Ms. Danica Varela, Contact: +91 93215 38504

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Abstract Submission Deadline: **09th January 2026**
- Shortlisted abstracts will be informed via email.
- Final Paper & PPT Submission: **14th January 2026**

PATRON

Prof. Lidwin Dias
Principal, College of
Social Work (Empowered Autonomous),
Nirmala Niketan, Mumbai



STUDENT CONVENERS

Ms. Vanshika Surve, Contact: +91 99874 61747
Ms. Danica Varela, Contact: +91 93215 38504

CO-STUDENT CONVENERS

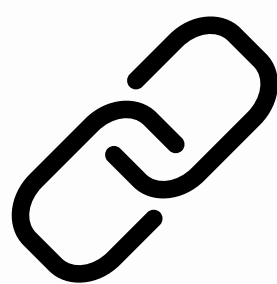
Mr. Ganesh Khanpat
Ms. Shelly Arya

Mr. Anuj Jagtap
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If you require any assistance regarding accommodation, you may contact:

- Mr. Aniket Magar, Contact: +91 7039613946
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Click for Registration Link:



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UPI ID: nirmalaniketaninstitute@sbi