NATIONAL COLLABORATIVE FOR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE,
INNOVATION, AND POLITICAL EDUCATION IN SOCIAL WORK

What Kind of Social Work Profession Are We Becoming?

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2026 2:00–3:30 P.M. EASTERN

PUBLIC CONVERSATION / POLITICAL EDUCATION / COLLECTIVE REFLECTION

Why we are here

A profession can speak the language of justice and still participate in systems of harm.

TODAY WE WILL

Examine the changes. Put them in historical context.
Listen across differences. Identify what comes next.

The lens we bring into this room

01	BLACK FEMINIST THOUGHT	Whose knowledge counts? Who is made invisible?
02	REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE	How do institutions shape the conditions of people's lives?
03	POLITICAL EDUCATION	How do we connect reflection, history, power, and action?

90 minutes. Space for everyone.

2:00–2:08	Welcome + community agreements
2:08–2:18	Justin Harty: why our history matters
2:18–2:28	Martell Teasley + Suzanne Pritzker: EPAS
2:28–2:33	Breakout instructions
2:33–3:03	**Small-group conversations**
3:03–3:21	What emerged? Full-group synthesis
3:21–3:28	Next steps + ways to participate
3:28–3:30	Closing

The collaborative members holding this space



Crystal M. Hayes, PhD, MSW

Founder & Director



E. Goldblatt Hyatt, DSW, LCSW

Co-Director



Simone Snyder, DSW

Collaborative member / meeting support



Nakita Joseph, LMSW, PMH-C and a DSW Candidate

Collaborative member / meeting support



Marissa Aitken, BS & MSW Student

Collaborative member / meeting support

A special acknowledgment: Jessica “Danuwoa” Pelletier, LCSWR



PhD Student | Graduate Assistant | LCSWR

WITH GRATITUDE

Before we move into our opening reflections, I want to pause and acknowledge the behind-the-scenes labor that helps make this gathering possible.

While she is not formally a member of the Collaborative, she has supported this work this year as my graduate assistant, and I wanted to make sure that contribution was named and acknowledged.

Thank you for helping make this gathering possible.

History is not background.



JUSTIN HARTY, PHD, MSW

Assistant Professor / Center Director
Arizona State University

What happens when the profession stops teaching its own history?



MARTELL TEASLEY, PHD, MSW

Professor / Executive Director
University of Utah

What did it take to name eliminating racism as a Grand Challenge?



SUZANNE PRITZKER, PHD, MSW

Professor / Associate Dean
University of Pittsburgh

What changes in the proposed 2029 accreditation standards?

What changes when we change the language?

2022 EPAS / COMPETENCY 3	PROPOSED 2029 / COMPETENCY 3
Engage Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ADEI) in Practice	Apply Person-in-Environment Perspective in Practice

Also examine changes to Competency 2 and where explicit anti-racist / anti-oppressive language appears—or does not appear—across the draft.

What is named can be taught. What is required can be assessed.

LANGUAGE	What is explicitly named in the standards?
ACCOUNTABILITY	What must programs teach and demonstrate?
HISTORY	What did it take to establish prior commitments?

We will also be precise about what justice- and diversity-related language remains in the proposed standards.

Dr. Justin S. Harty

Assistant Professor | Arizona State University
Director, Center for Child Well-Being (CCWB)



What happens when social work no longer requires students to learn and critically examine our profession's history?

Social work's record of complicity and resistance—and why remembering both matters now.

Dr. Martell Teasley

Professor | University of Utah

Executive Director, Center for Research on Race, Health Justice, & Public Policy



What did it take to make eliminating racism a stand-alone Grand Challenge— and what does this moment ask of us now?

Opening reflection on struggle, regression, and what it means to confront this moment in the profession.

Dr. Suzanne Pritzker

Professor | University of Pittsburgh

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs



A close reading of the proposed EPAS: what is changing, and what becomes harder to name, require, or assess?

Brief walk-through of the side-by-side comparison and the shifts that matter most before we move into breakout conversations.

The next 30 minutes belong to you.

Groups of approximately seven people
Listen with care. Leave room for disagreement.
Choose a discussion guide and a person to submit notes.

Three questions. One conversation.

01 What concerns you most?

What stands out in the proposed EPAS? What could it mean for social work education, practice, and communities?

02 What does our history tell us?

When has social work challenged racism and oppression—and when has it reinforced them?

03 What are we prepared to do?

What responses might we take individually, in our institutions, and together before November 20?

Before leaving your breakout room

Choose one person to submit a short group summary using the form shared in chat.

01 Our main concern

02 One action we want considered

03 A disagreement or unanswered question

We are documenting themes, not attributing individual comments. No group is expected to reach consensus.

What did we hear?

- **Shared concerns** — Patterns appearing across rooms
- **Different perspectives** — Where did people disagree—or ask different questions?
- **Possible next steps** — What ideas are concrete enough to take forward?

What are we prepared to do with what we heard today?

The window for response is open now!

OCT 22–25	CSWE ANNUAL CONFERENCE	Participants attending can bring questions into the EPAS sessions and report back. Sign up today!
NOV 20	PUBLIC COMMENT DEADLINE	Review the proposed EPAS and submit individual or organizational comments. The Collaborative will also prepare a response that participants can use or share to support their own advocacy.
AFTER TODAY	CONTINUED COLLABORATION	Invite participants to stay connected and help shape the Collaborative's next steps.

From conversation to collective action.

01

PUBLISH A COLLECTIVE RESPONSE

NCRJI-SW will develop a public letter responding to the proposed 2029 EPAS, drawing on the concerns raised today, social work's history, and our commitments to reproductive justice, anti-racism, and political education.

02

MAKE OUR RESPONSE VISIBLE

Publish the letter and invite colleagues, students, organizations, and professional networks to read it, sign it, share it, and participate in the public conversation.

03

BUILD A COMMUNITY BEYOND OCTOBER 20

Invite interested participants into a continuing political education and organizing space where we can examine professional standards, share resources, grow our community, and hold institutions accountable.

THE QUESTION WE LEAVE WITH

What kind of social work profession are we prepared to build?

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF THIS CONVERSATION

NCRJI–SW

Behind the scenes

HOST / CO-HOST	Waiting room, screen sharing, mute controls, security
BREAKOUT LEAD	Automatic rooms, timing, announcements, help requests
CHAT + ACCESS	Links, instructions, access questions, no-recording reminder
DOCUMENTATION	Collect forms and synthesize themes before plenary
FOLLOW-UP	Public comment information, next steps, opt-in process

SPEAKERS: 1:30 p.m. ET technical check • MEETING: 2:00–3:30 p.m. ET • RECORDING: OFF