

# Social Work Codes of Ethics: AASW and IFSW

High Distinction (85) Notes, UNSW Term 2 2026

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# AASW Code of Ethics (2020)

AASW 2020. AASW Code of Ethics 2020. AASW.

<https://aasw-prod.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/AASW-Code-of-Ethics-2020.pdf>

## Aims of the Code of Ethics

1. Enhance **'individual and collective wellbeing and social development'** (AASW 2020:5)
2. **'resolve personal and interpersonal problems'** (AASW 2020:5)
3. **Address systemic barriers** → comprehensive recognition, participation and engagement with broader society
4. **'Protect the vulnerable** from oppression and abuse' (AASW 2020:5)

## 3 Core Principles

### Respect for Persons

**Everyone has unique + inherent equal worth!** Wellbeing, self-fulfillment, self-determination, cultural rights and sustainable environments are human rights!

- **Respect the inherent dignity, worth, autonomy, + individual/groups' human rights**
  - Foster individual wellbeing, autonomy, justice & personal + social responsibility, considering the rights of others
  - Recognises + respects group identity, interdependence, reciprocity, & collective needs of particular communities
- **Provides humane service, fulfilling duty of care and duty to avoid doing harm**

### Social Justice

Protect human rights, dignity, worth + autonomy by **advocating for, promoting and upholding justice and social fairness!**

- **Policies, practices, social conditions → uphold human rights, access, equity + participation for all**
  - Oppose + eliminate all human rights violations → affirm civil, political, economic, social + cultural rights
  - Promote change to social systems + structures that preserve inequalities

- and injustice
- E.g. community participation and including service users in social policy/service development + implementation
  - Reduce barriers to expand choice + potential for all → consider the disadvantaged, vulnerable, oppressed or those with exceptional needs
  - Protect the natural environment 'inherent to social wellbeing' (AASW 2020: 9)

### **Professional Integrity**

More available in the full notes!

PREVIEW