



Call for Papers

For a special issue in the international online journal
'Social Work & Society' (SW&S)

'Solidarity Research and Social Work. Theoretical and Empirical Perspectives.'

Solidarity is the cohesive force that binds modern democratic societies. Welfare states and practices of solidarity are founded on political participation, social justice, and cultural self-determination, but solidarity's development and preservation are neither inevitable nor linear. Current political, ecological, economic, cultural, and social crises and conflicts pose threats to democracy and are undermining established forms and key aspects of solidarity. These crises and conflicts erode fundamental aspects of solidarity such as protection and recognition. In times of uncertainty, solidarity becomes not only a moral imperative but also a vital mechanism for sustaining trust and cohesion within diverse societies.

During periods of social upheaval when people face new challenges and existing relationships of solidarity weaken or become ineffective, the need for solidarity becomes apparent. Individuals are called upon to provide personalized support and assist community members in a spirit of solidarity. Individuals and social groups increasingly take the initiative to do so. However, when the foundations of solidarity erode at the political or moral level, institutional regulations may become vulnerable, which could compromise their existence and functionality.

Discourses and practices of solidarity appear in many forms in contemporary societies, spanning multiple domains including care work, healthcare, social inclusion, and sustainability. These practices become manifest informally within families, social groups, and social movements, but they can also become institutionalized and legally regulated by the state. When informal support is inadequate, specialized professions, such as educators, care workers, and social workers, assume a role in providing services. On the other hand, it has been observed that civil society assumes the responsibilities of professionals and welfare state institutions during periods of neoliberal policies, crisis, war, or natural disaster when societal demands exceed these institutions' capacity.

Across the globe, diverse communities articulate and practice solidarity in ways shaped by their histories, cultures, and struggles. Indigenous peoples express solidarity through land-based and intergenerational practices that sustain both their communities and the environment. Migrant and displaced populations redefine solidarity as mutual care and resistance in the face of exclusion and precarity. Feminist and grassroots movements in the Global South have developed forms of collective action rooted in reciprocity, care, and shared responsibility. These varied expressions remind us that

solidarity is not a fixed or universal concept, but a living practice that emerges from situated experiences of inequality, resilience, and hope.

Therefore, it is crucial for social work to understand how and what new forms of solidarity are emerging to meet the threats, address the concomitant social problems, and drive social change and innovation.

In this context, the Editors welcome contributions concerning different concepts and forms of solidarity which could tackle social work across the globe and based on theoretical or empirical analysis.

The proposal for a paper should be assigned to one of the following categories:

1. Conceptual Perspectives of Solidarity and Social Work.
2. Solidarity Research and Social Work.

Submission and format of the proposal

1. Proposals must be submitted **using the attached template to:** mariabernadetta.jastrzebska@fhnw.ch
2. Respondents are requested to specify to which of the categories their contribution belongs.

Deadlines

Submission of the paper

June 30, 2026

Feedback by

August/September 2026

General information: <https://ejournals.bib.uni-wuppertal.de/index.php/sws> - the submitted proposals will be peer reviewed.

Guest Editors

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