
BASW

● for students ●

BASW UK Student Conference 2025

Strengthening Next Gen Social Work

Thursday 20th March 2025

10:00 – 19:30

Drop in as you please to take part in keynote sessions, dynamic discussions and workshops throughout the day

Online – MS Teams



Time	Session	Details
10:00	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Tienga Ngale, Newly Qualified Social Worker Westminster City Council, volunteer with Social Work Without Borders and 2024 winner of the Student Social Worker of the Year award in England.</p>	
10:10	<p>Dynamic panel discussion: Placement Perspectives</p> <p>Dr Jenni Burton, Practice Educator & Practice Educator Assessor, Associate Academic Oxford Brookes University, Peer Reviewer Social Work Education, BASW Chair Professional Capabilities & Development Group Eleanor Hogan- Social Work Apprentice and BASW Student Ambassador Laura Goate - BA SWK student (Year 2), peer mentor, BASW Student Ambassador Jody Brown - Social worker apprentice and BASW ambassador</p>	<p>Chaired by Tienga Ngale, hear from current students about their experiences while on placement and gain insights and helpful advice.</p>
10:50	<p>Break</p>	
11:00	<p>Workshop: Looking after YOU first. Tools and techniques to promote your wellbeing and resilience</p> <p>Marion Rees – Registered Social Worker & Sophrology Practitioner & Beryl Palmer – Registered Social Worker & Sophrology Practitioner</p>	<p>Let’s face it social work is stressful. You will need to be able to practice good self-care not only for your own well-being but also to be able to give an optimum service to others. This workshop aims to give you tools and techniques to manage the daily challenges you will face. It is experiential and will involve short, guided practices including gentle body movements, breathing exercises, mental imagery and relaxation. A helpful “takeaway” self-care toolkit.</p> <p>The session is based on the method of Sophrology which is a fast-expanding wellbeing practice in the UK which helps you to restore balance, with a relaxed body and alert mind. Who doesn’t need that!</p>
12:00	<p>Break</p>	<p>2</p>

Time	Session	Details
12:45	<p>Workshop: Stronger Together: Social Workers Union and What Unions Do For Us</p> <p><i>Jessie Hoskin , National Organiser, Social Workers Union John McGowan, General Secretary, Social Workers Union</i></p>	<p>Learn what the Social Workers Union (SWU) is and why unions matter for social workers. This workshop explains in simple terms what unions have achieved throughout history—better pay, safer workplaces, and protected rights—and how SWU continues this important work today. Discover how being part of a union gives social workers a stronger voice and better working conditions, which helps both workers and the people they support. We'll then hear from you about how to best talk about unions with student social workers, what platforms work well, and what issues matter most to you. Whether you're already a union member or just curious, join us to see how SWU is carrying on the union tradition of standing up for workers' rights. Plus announcement of the essay question for the SWU Assignment 2025 competition!</p>
13:15	<p>Dynamic panel discussion: From Classroom to Caseload: Navigating the Student -NQSW Journey</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Karin Heber, Professional Officer, SASW Jade Daniels, Social Worker, Former BASW Student Ambassador & BASW Member Danielle Shull - former student ambassador and current Social Worker in the Third Sector (PAMIS) Juliet Elugabdebo, Practice Educating Professional, BASW Member</i></p>	<p>Be encouraged and inspired by previous BASW Student Ambassadors who have now moved onto the next steps in their careers. With time to ask questions and discuss your own experiences, gain insights and share helpful advice.</p>
14:00	<p>Keynote: Taking a cross-faculty stand against racism and inequality: “What are enabling and inhibiting factors influencing the placement experiences of Black, Asian, Ethnic Minoritised students in the Schools of Social Work, Education, and Health Sciences?”</p> <p><i>Dr Carlene Cornish, Associate Professor and Admissions Director in the School of Social Work at the University of East Anglia (UEA) and Tina Odu, final year social work apprentice at University of East Anglia and BASW student ambassador</i></p>	<p>Most Black, Asian, Ethnic Minoritised students on professional courses face racism on placement (Bernard and Harris, 2019). Our own university’s review of attainment data highlighted differential placement outcomes for students in the Schools of Social Work, Education, and Health Sciences. To investigate, qualitative research was conducted in April to October 2024, using focus groups and interviews with twenty students and nineteen staff (lecturers and placement supervisors from the NHS, County Council, and schools). Thereafter, a symposium was held, and students actively contributed to problem-solving strategies addressing inhibiting factors that jeopardise outcomes.</p> <p>These project findings confirm the painful racialised and oppressive experiences that jeopardise successful placement outcomes for ethnic minoritised students. Equally significant is the fact that the data illustrates the profound need for the university to seriously tackle the broken trust in a reporting system found to be lacking in rigour, accountability, and cultural sensitivity. There is a significant amount of work required, but this project is one of several steppingstones tackling race inequality and promoting greater success for all students.</p>

Time	Session	Details
14:45	Break	
15:00	<p>Workshop: Applying for your first Social Work role: what works and the pitfalls to avoid Andrew Reece, Professional Officer with BASW England and Registered Social Worker</p>	<p>So you need support with your social work job applications or interviews? Join us for some tips and support. This workshop is for BASW members who are seeking support to apply for their first registered social work role, perhaps in an field of social work that is new to them. The session will cover key tips in finding roles, the application process and the interview process. There will be time to explore your specific queries, and we will also provide information about the Professional Support Service who can offer coaching to support your job hunting.</p>
16:00	Break	
16:15	<p>Workshop: Introduction to Coaching in Social Work Kate Cuthbertson, Coach Supervisor (BASW), Accredited Coach (Registered with the AC), Registered Social Worker, Practice Educator, Best Interest Assessor, Action Learning Set (ALS) recognised facilitator</p>	<p>What is coaching? Why does it differ from supervision, mentoring and therapeutic conversations? Find out how it empowers, and builds strength, skills and resilience in social workers from student, to NQSW and beyond. This workshop will share information about why coaching is relevant to social work and how we can develop a coaching culture within the profession, with sharing of relevant research and literature.</p>
17:00	Break	
18:00	<p>Workshop: Making the most of your induction Tina Odu, University of East Anglia & & Ami Bryant, Christ Church University. BASW Student Ambassadors</p>	<p>A participative workshop with the aim to build a template/guide to ensure your needs are met by your employer during your induction, either on placement or an NQSW. Giving consideration to details of your relevant national standards that you need to achieve from your placement, to ensure your employer is aware and can support.</p>
19:30	Close	

Students & NQSWs

Jade Daniels is an early career registered social worker, employed part-time within the NHS and an aspiring researcher.

Tienga Ngale is a recent graduate of Brunel University Social Work Masters programme and is a qualified social worker, working with a local authority in Central London. He received the Gold Award at the Social Work Award event, making him the 2024 Student Social Worker of the Year. Tienga possesses several years of professional experience in community work, encompassing areas such as migration justice campaigning, homelessness, End of Life / later years of life care and support for carers. He co-runs a Death café in West London and is currently an education volunteer with Social Workers Without Borders, an organisation that utilises social work knowledge and skills to advocate for individuals affected by the UK's immigration system and to promote migration justice within social work practice.

Laura Goate

As a mum of two, my passion for social work drives me daily. Currently in my second year of a BA in Social Work at the University of East Anglia, I am keen on promoting networking, professional development, and inclusive practice. Since early this year, I've been a student ambassador for BASW, a role I am deeply committed to. Also, I am a mentor in peer-assisted learning at university, and through this have gained valuable experience in organising sessions, working with diverse groups, and effectively communicating feedback. These experiences have helped me develop a collaborative, approachable leadership style, which I aim to bring to the BASW student ambassador position and my future career. I am currently on my 70-day placement within a mainstream high school academy.

Eleanor Hogan, Social Work Apprentice and BASW Student Ambassador

I am a third-year social work apprentice with the university of East Anglia. Over the last three years I have been working in my 'base team' Adult Mental Health, completed my first placement in Children's services with the Early Help/Family Support team and I am now beginning my second (and final) placement in Adults Services, Older People and Physical Disabilities team.

Students & NQSWs

Danielle Shull is a social worker in the third sector, who is passionate about disability rights, long books and copious amounts of coffee. She earned her master's in social work from Dundee Uni, which pairs nicely with her hybrid social work and psychology BSc from the US.

Tina Odu is a third-year social work apprentice at the University of East Anglia in the UK and a BASW student ambassador. As an apprentice, she gains both academic knowledge at university and practical experience within a local authority setting. She has over five years of experience working with children and families in various roles, including child safeguarding, refugee services, and family support. In 2018, she moved from Nigeria to the UK to pursue a master's degree in international development at UEA. While studying, she began volunteering to support with refugee integration in Norfolk. She completed her first-level placement in an adult mental health team and is currently completing on her second-level placement in an Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children's team. She is passionate about social justice, promoting the well-being of individuals, and advocating for equitable access to resources and opportunities.

Eleanor Hogan, Social Work Apprentice and BASW Student Ambassador

I am a third-year social work apprentice with the university of East Anglia. Over the last three years I have been working in my 'base team' Adult Mental Health, completed my first placement in Children's services with the Early Help/Family Support team and I am now beginning my second (and final) placement in Adults Services, Older People and Physical Disabilities team.

Jody Brown

I have worked in children social care for 8 years and I am currently studying a social work apprenticeship with a drug and alcohol charity in my final offsite placement in a long term children team.

Dynamic Discussion

Subject Matter Experts

Juliet Elugabdebo, Practice Educating Professional, BASW Member

Founder of SocialWork Interactive - A space supporting students' readiness to practice during placements.

I am a Social Worker and Practice Educator with 12+ years of frontline experience in Youth Justice and assessing foster carers, including supervising and training others. I am passionate about supporting the next generation of Social Workers to enhance their professional development early in their career.

Dr Jenni Burton (PhD, MSc, PG Cert, PQA, BA)

Practice Educator & Practice Educator Assessor,
Associate Academic Oxford Brookes University,
Peer Reviewer Social Work Education,
BASW Chair Professional Capabilities & Development Group

Karin Heber is a registered social worker and social pedagogue. She currently works as a Professional Officer with the Scottish Association of Social Workers, SASW. She is working towards better working conditions for social workers and making sure that the voice of social work is heard and taken into account in the creation of relevant policies and legislation. She also delivers training and provides support for social workers and students in Scotland. Karin has worked both in Germany and Scotland in different roles from social worker to manager in residential, third sector and statutory settings in Children and Families and Mental Health. She has worked as a lecturer at university and as an Independent Social Work Consultant.

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Presenters & Workshop Hosts

Marion Rees – Registered Social Worker & Sophrology Practitioner

Marion Rees is a registered Social Worker with experience of working in both statutory and non-statutory settings (Adult Social Care and Ministry of Defence). She is also a trained complementary therapist specialising in Sophrology. Marion applies principles of Sophrology into her social work practice and uses Sophrology techniques both as a reflective and resilience tool and direct intervention with the individuals she works with.

Beryl Palmer – Registered Social Worker & Sophrology Practitioner

Beryl Palmer is a registered Social Worker with over 30 years' experience in the field; latterly as a senior manager in statutory services. Following a period of burn out she retrained as a Mind-Body Practitioner - a Sophrologist. She now works as a freelancer sharing her great passion for the benefits of practising simple mind-body tools and techniques to promote wellbeing and resilience.

Dr Carlene Cornish

I am Associate Professor and Admissions Director in the School of Social Work at the University of East Anglia (UEA). Originally from South Africa, I have both national and international academic and professional qualifications in Social Work, Criminology, Sociology and Education. These qualifications led to employment in Child Protection, Youth Offending Service, National Probation Service and Higher Education. My research interests include a specialist focus on Race, Racism, Social Work, and Educational Inequalities. I am a registered social worker with Social Work England and the British Association for Social Workers (BASW). I also hold external strategic leadership positions that include being a BASW England Committee Member, BASW International Committee Member, and Policy Governance Committee Member at the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC).

Presenters & Workshop Hosts

Kate Cuthbertson has worked in the Social Care sector since 1999. She qualified as a Social Worker in 2009 from Bournemouth University. Kate has worked in Children's, adults and commissioning services, in roles up to Deputy Service Manager level both in the UK and Internationally. Working for Local Authorities, NGOs and the charitable sector. Kate is a qualified BIA and Practice Educator as well as a Certified Coach and has a GradCert in Family Therapy. Kate is currently undertaking research into coaching and social work as part of her dissertation for her Coaching and Mentoring MA with Oxford Brookes University. Kate works as an independent SW/PE, as Coach Supervisor for BASW and is on the committee for the National Organisation of Practice Teaching (NOPT).

Jessie Hoskin has worked in politics and campaigns for over a decade. She is driven by a passion for creating big change through organised campaigning. With experience in mobilising groups and advocating for important causes, Jessie brings practical knowledge of how collective action can make a real difference for social workers and the people they support.

Andrew Reece, Professional Officer with BASW England and Registered Social Worker

Andrew qualified as a Social Worker in the last century and has worked in management roles since 1999, most recently as Head of the award winning Integrated Learning Disability Service in Camden.

Over the years he's recruited dozens of Social Workers, so is well placed to help you understand the application process from the perspective of the recruiting manager, and so increase your chance of success.