



The professional association for  
social work and social workers

## **LIVING OUR ETHICS**

**Living our ethics** is a statement of seven positive principles to support you as a BASW member to maintain the social work values and ethics in your professional life and when relating to other BASW members and staff.

The principles aim to promote a collaborative and respectful culture across the Association and help us act in accordance with our [UK Code of Ethics for social work](#) which is binding on all members - a significant breach of the Code of Ethics may affect your eligibility for membership.

The seven principles aim to encourage creativity and rich, diverse, inclusive ideas and discussion across the association. BASW aims to embody a spirit of professional curiosity and discourse imbued by our values and ethics.

### **Living our Ethics – the 7 principles**

As a member I will:

- Act in line with the BASW Code of Ethics
- Treat other BASW members, staff, experts by experience and other stakeholders involved with BASW with respect and professionalism
- Respect and use the democratic governance structures and policies of BASW to contribute to the work, life and development of the association
- Strive to build constructive and creative working relationships and communication with other BASW members, staff, experts by experience and others when collaborating on BASW business (e.g. as part of a committee, group, branch or other activity) or attending BASW activities
- Raise early any concerns about any aspect of BASW using informal means, dialogue with staff or lead members, or via the complaints and comments policy as appropriate, acting constructively and professionally to resolve issues
- Ensure BASW is informed of any change in circumstances that might affect my membership
- Promote social work and the values and mission of the Association

Members can expect that BASW lead members and staff will:

- Treat you with respect, fairness and professionalism at all times
- Encourage and facilitate professional debate and discourse amongst members and across our sector
- Listen to, investigate and respond effectively to member concerns and complaints in line with our complaints policy
- Ensure we promote anti-oppression, anti-racism, equality, diversity and inclusion in all our work and keep improving our approaches
- Ensure our services and activities are accessible and inclusive
- Keep you informed about BASW's activities, views and opportunities
- Welcome your feedback and act on it where needed

- Encourage all members to be involved and engaged in the life of BASW e.g. providing support and reasonable adjustments for protected characteristics and individual circumstances to enable members to take on formal governance, leadership or volunteering roles or to access our services
- Ensure all members have meaningful opportunities and information to participate in BASW's democratic processes (e.g. in elections and general meetings).

Members might also like to be aware of:

- **BASW's Objects and Powers as laid down in our (2018) Articles of Association** <https://www.basw.co.uk/system/files/resources/basw-articles-2018.pdf> . These define our purpose and priorities and how we run the Association fairly and consistently.
- BASW's Vision for Social Work for 2020-2025: ***'Social work will be a thriving, influential, respected profession, improving lives and upholding people's rights across the UK.'***
- BASW's Mission 2020-2025 which is to act ***'For social workers, for social work and for a fairer society'***.

Read more about BASW's vision and mission 2025 here  
<https://www.basw.co.uk/basw-2025-vision-and-annual-report>

BASW 2021