

# BASW Code of Ethics for Social Work

## VALUES

### key principles

#### Human rights:



- 1 Upholding and promoting human dignity and well-being
- 2 Respecting the right to self-determination
- 3 Promoting the right to participation
- 4 Treating each person as a whole
- 5 Identifying and developing strengths

#### Social justice:

- 1 Challenging discrimination
- 2 Recognising diversity
- 3 Distributing resources
- 4 Challenging unjust policies and practices
- 5 Working in solidarity



#### Professional integrity:

- 1 Upholding the values and reputation of the profession
- 2 Being trustworthy
- 3 Maintaining professional boundaries
- 4 Making considered professional judgements
- 5 Being professionally accountable



#### Ethical practice:

- 1 Developing professional relationships
- 2 Assessing and managing risk
- 3 Acting with the informed consent of service users, unless required by law to protect that person or another from risk of serious harm
- 4 Providing information
- 5 Sharing information appropriately
- 6 Using authority in accordance with human rights principles
- 7 Empowering people
- 8 Challenging the abuse of human rights
- 9 Being prepared to whistleblow
- 10 Maintaining confidentiality
- 11 Maintaining clear and accurate records
- 12 Striving for objectivity and self-awareness in professional practice
- 13 Using professional supervision and peer support to reflect on and improve practice
- 14 Taking responsibility for their own practice and continuing professional development
- 15 Contributing to the continuous improvement of professional practice
- 16 Taking responsibility for the professional development of others
- 17 Facilitating and contributing to evaluation and research

Download the full BASW Code of Ethics at:  
[www.basw.co.uk/codeofethics](http://www.basw.co.uk/codeofethics)

# BASW

The professional association for  
social work and social workers