

## INTRODUCTION

*Social work as a profession* can be approached from several points of view, interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary and is based on a series of paradigms and scientific researches that reflect the past and concerns towards this field of action. To better understand these concerns, we present the global definition adopted by the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) and the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) in July 2014: “*Social work is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people. Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work. Underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities and indigenous knowledges, social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance wellbeing. The above definition may be amplified at national and/or regional levels.*”

(<https://www.ifsw.org/what-is-social-work/global-definition-of-social-work/>)

The actions of social workers are based on a series of *ethical principles* that respect *peace and social justice*, the *rights of all people*, because we cannot build the well-being of communities and society, if we do not support and help those individuals who cannot achieve their own well-being. In other words, development and economic health is approached from the perspective of the direct link with development and social health. Social workers support people in building the environments they want to live in, in finding positive ways to overcome difficulties or crises in their lives. In this sense, we are not discussing charitable actions, but *social policies*, *social*

*protection systems* that have the responsibility of building a society based on *social cohesion and inclusion*. Thus, social workers must have that social and professional expertise, based on a series of knowledge and skills to support individuals and communities in building and achieving individual and collective well-being.

*Social protection* thus becomes an objective of all communities regarding the respect of the rights of all people, regardless of race, nationality, religious beliefs, sex, state of health, sexual orientation, etc.

*Social workers* support the building of communities through actions that involve social responsibility, co-determination, social change contributing to the improvement of social life and increasing the well-being of as many individuals, families, groups as possible.

# CHAPTER I: FROM PROTECTION TO SOCIAL WORK OF FAMILY

*1.1. Social work: from acts of charity to professional interventions in the modern period*

*1.2. The role of social work in social protection systems: welfare and social development*

*1.3. What needs do we have and how do we ensure them through social work services*

*1.4. Social work services for family: functions and principles of organization*

*1.5. The child in difficulty: protective measures and social work. Application: evaluation of the placement measure*

## **1.1. Social work: from acts of charity to professional interventions in the modern period**

The beginnings of *social work* in the world are linked to certain charitable actions, which, over time, were institutionalized through a series of legislative acts that legislated this profession. We could say that social work is related to the history of collectivities, of humanity, because there have always been individuals or groups who were in difficulty, unable to manage on their own, unable to meet their basic needs. The causes were different for those individuals or groups, from individual, genetic causes to those related to the natural or social environment in which they lived. In the same way, the members of the communities took care of those who were in difficulty, in poverty or unable to survive; in other words, no type of civilization has been without care and compassion for its citizens.

The emergence of the idea of *collective responsibility* highlighted that the individual rights of each person can be respected and fulfilled only if each of us assumes responsibility for others, for the development of relationships of support and help in the communities of which they belong. Social work will thus place a special emphasis on supporting people's rights and assuming responsibilities in order to achieve *individual and collective well-being*.

Social work as a profession in Romania is related to the School of Sociology from Bucharest, **Dimitrie Gusti**, academician and sociologist, being the one who lays the foundations for the training of specialists and organizes the interventions of practitioners based on sociological research. After the end of the first world war, in 1918 he founded the Association for Science and Social Reform, which will use the results of scientific research in future practical interventions. The year 1929 is a reference year for the training of specialists in social work, because the Higher School of Social Work in Romania "Principesa Ileana" is established, under the coordination of the Romanian Social Institute, recognized by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of those times (E. Zamfir 2002, in Pop L., coord.).

These innovative aspects were consistent with concerns at the international level, such as the actions and concerns of **Jane Addams** overseas, in the USA, the first woman who in 1931 received the Nobel Peace Prize. Also, in the USA in 1898 graduated the first degree in social work at Columbia University, specialists who developed social work services in various private and charitable organizations, to meet the needs of those in need (National Association of Social Workers, USA, 2022, <https://www.socialworkers.org/News/Facts/Social-Work-History>). J Addams' interventions were aimed at supporting immigrants at the beginning of