



The social service workforce in and beyond the pandemic

A global conversation on adaptation, innovation and the fight for social justice



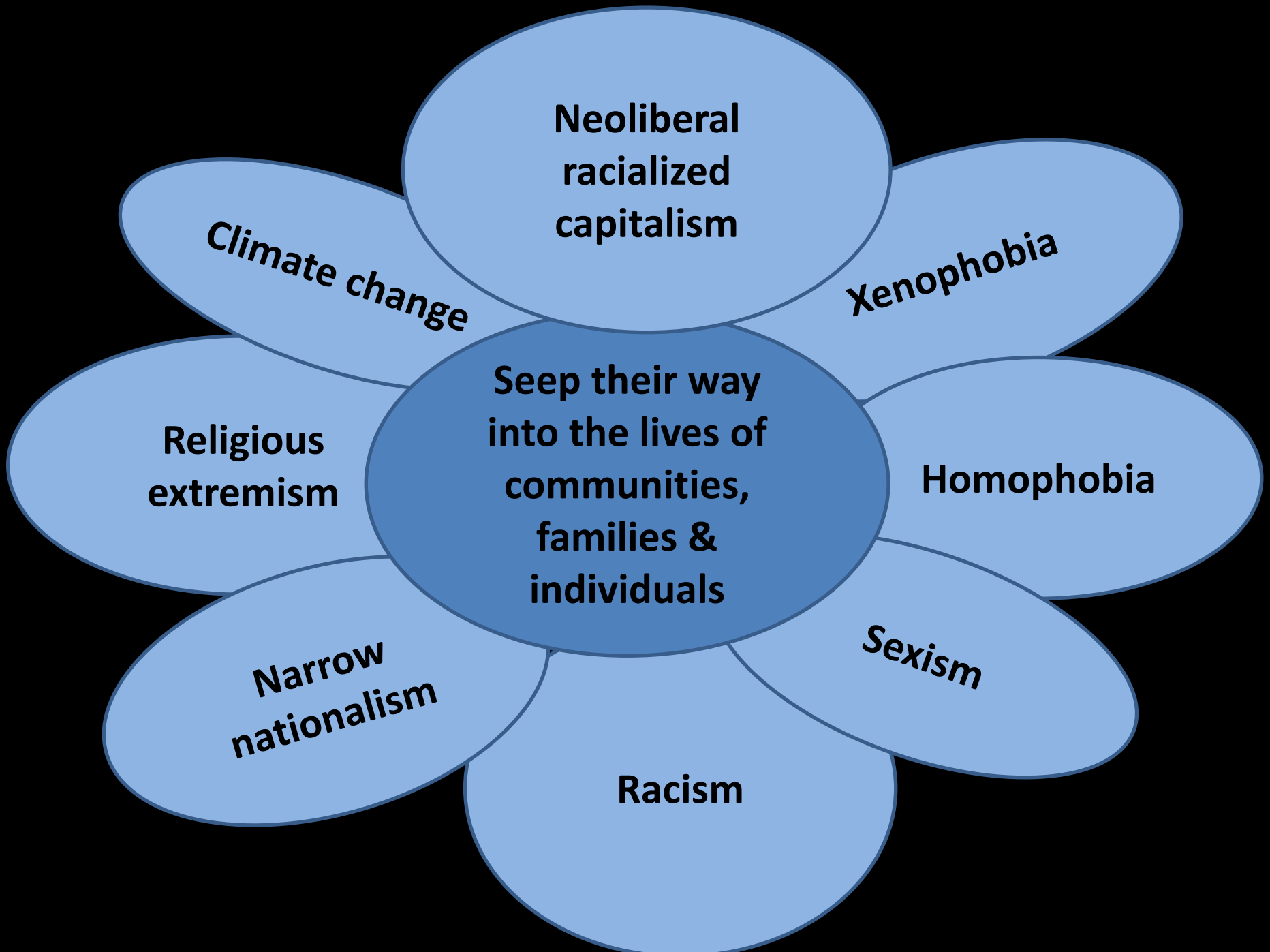
Partnerships **PLUS**



Session 3:

Role of social service workforce in advancing social justice

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The 2020 UNDP Report “The Next Frontier: Human Development and the Anthropocene” “the global financial crisis, the climate crisis, the inequality crisis and the Covid-19 crisis have all shown that the resilience of the system itself is breaking down”

Draws the link between the unleashing of viruses and the pressures we put on the earth.

The report says “humans have achieved incredible things, but we have taken the earth to the brink. Climate change, rupturing inequalities, record numbers of people forced from their homes by conflict and crisis – **these are the results of societies that value what they measure instead of measuring what they value.**”

**INDIVIDUALIZED,
PATHOLOGY BASED
RESPONSES TO DEEP
STRUCTURAL INJUSTICES**

**Dysfunctional/maladaptive
families & individuals**

“Dysfunctional societies” - silenced

THE MICRO-MACRO DIVIDE IS FALSE

SSW – function at the intermediary cite where “life politics” meets Politics with a capital P.

Translate personal problems into public issues.

SOCIAL WORK ACTION NETWORK, SA

- **Highlighting the psycho-social consequences of Covid-19**
- **Issue based advocacy – Social Relief of Distress Grant, BIG, Access to resources; Vaccines**
- **Gender based violence – National Strategic Plan – additional 200 social workers.**
- **Alternatives to neoliberalism**

Social justice initiatives must be directed at

... heightening awareness of external sources of oppression and/or privilege that hold the possibility of increasing people's self-esteem, courage and conviction so that they, themselves, begin to confront structural sources of poverty, inequality, marginalization, oppression, violence and exclusion

THE POWER OF:

- **EMANCIPATORY EDUCATION**
- **PEOPLE-CENTERED PARTICIPATION**
- * **GROUPWORK**  **SOCIAL ACTIVISM & COMMUNITY WORK**
- **GLOBAL JUSTICE MOVEMENTS**
- **ADVANCED CLINICAL SKILLS**

Authur Kleinman

We stand in the thick of human experience, in the space of human problems, in the real-life local places where people live in the face of dangers, grave and minor, real and imagined. Here is where fear and aspiration, desire and obligation, mesh in the close encounters of ordinary men and women with pain and disaster and with the infrapolitics of power that apportion those threats unequally and distribute responses to them unfairly across social fault lines in actual worlds.

Questions

What are the key drivers of social injustices?

How do these social injustices manifest in the communities that you work in?

How has Covid-19 exacerbated these injustices?

How have social service workers responded/how can they respond to social injustices?