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Racial Justice in Housing and Homelessness

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As a Social Worker how you maintain your integrity in environments that conflict with the Social Work value of social justice.

Integrity is an ethical behavior crucial in our line of work. As social workers, integrity is a conduct that defines who we are as social workers and the value we apply to our job. It is also a principle designed to help social workers maintain trust and respect for those we work for and work with.

As a social worker I believe that integrity requires honesty in order to promote social justice and to ensure we don't overstepped boundaries creating conflict.   It is our responsibility to engage people in achieving social justice by acting with rectitude and we have to be an example of this. This includes not abusing our positions of power and relationships of trust with people that we engage with; we have to behave in a trustworthy matter.

As a value, integrity is the knowledge that social justice promotes fairness and equity across different groups in society. Therefore, in order to avoid conflict in the various environments we have the opportunity to work in, we have to be mindful that all people

have equal rights, opportunities and they deserve respect so that social justice can be promoted in our communities, schools, hospitals, and society in general.

It is also important, for me as a social worker to take care of myself professionally and personally in the workplace, in my personal life and in society so that any issue does not interfere with my ethical performance. Any inadequate behavior jeopardizes the safety of my clients, the organization I work for and it can affect me as well.

Throughout history, we have seen how unfairness, inequality, oppression has brought so much conflict and many people have lost trust in the system. I believe that the respect I present and my integrity helps me build solidarity among the people, communities and organizations I work with working towards transformational change.