Lead the Way to Destigmatizing Abortion in Social Work

Know the Facts
1. The NASW supports abortion as a critical part of family planning & reproductive health.
2. Access to safe abortion is a human right. Most social work clients are women, and one-third of U.S. women have an abortion over their lifetimes.
3. First-term abortions are not associated with mental or physical health problems, and most abortion patients anticipate a feeling of relief afterwards.

Bust the Myths
4. 47,000 women die annually worldwide from unsafe abortion. Self-Inductions are increasing in the U.S.
5. Abortion restrictions contradict the NASW Code of Ethics and they do not reduce the need for or incidence of abortion.

Move Into Action
1. Assure clients that abortion is legal and safe.
2. Set aside personal beliefs & use neutral, trauma-Informed responses to promote client self-determination.
3. Refrain from referring clients to biased, non-medical crisis pregnancy centers.
4. Learn about abortion laws in your state.
5. Use the word “abortion” confidently in practice settings.
6. Offer clients trauma-sensitive, medically accurate resources and referrals.
7. Inform other social workers about the importance of abortion access.
8. Advocate for legislation that improves abortion access and work to repeal laws that don’t.

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socialwork.buffalo.edu/destigmatizing-abortion
Reference List

Know the Facts


Move Into Action


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