

# Lead the Way

## to Destigmatizing Abortion in Social Work

1

The NASW supports abortion as a critical part of family planning & reproductive health.

### Know the Facts

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.

1 Assure clients that abortion is legal and safe.

1

2

Learn about abortion laws in your state.

3

Set aside personal beliefs & use neutral, trauma-informed responses to promote client self-determination.

4

Use the word "abortion" confidently in practice settings.

5

Refrain from referring clients to biased, non-medical crisis pregnancy centers.

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.

## Move Into Action

University at Buffalo

School of Social Work

[socialwork.buffalo.edu/destigmatizing-abortion](https://socialwork.buffalo.edu/destigmatizing-abortion)

# Reference List

## *Know the Facts*

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National Network of Abortion Funds (n.d.) Fund abortion now: Get help.  
<https://fundabortionnow.org/get-help>  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America (n.d.). Find a health center.  
<https://www.plannedparenthood.org/health-center>



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