



PROVIDENCE
COLLEGE

Department of Social Work

January 19, 2021

On January 6 our nation experienced a collective shock as a violent insurrection occurred in the heart of democracy, the US Capitol building in Washington DC. The subsequent riot was a blatant attempt to disrupt the peaceful transfer of power that is a hallmark of American democracy. In his remarks sent to the Providence College Community last week, Fr. Sicard wrote: “we need to acknowledge with deep sorrow the fact that we as a nation seem to have lost our way in addressing sensitive and vitally important issues in appropriate and peaceful ways.” Fr. Sicard’s statement is a reminder of the important role of social work as our nation navigates challenges in our politics in the days, weeks, and months ahead. The social work profession is poised to help communities and our nation find our way and help build what Fr. Sicard calls “a beloved community”.

The preamble to the Social Work Code of Ethics states that “The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people.” Social workers can play an important role in enhancing the well-being of individuals and society, regardless of political affiliation or ideology. In pursuit of this goal, social work is guided by a set of core values: service, social justice, dignity and worth of the person, importance of human relationships, integrity, and competence.

The Providence College Department of Social Work denounces the violence and hate witnessed at the US Capitol on January 6, 2021. In our classrooms and across our department, we look forward to helping our students learn the critical thinking skills necessary to enhance individual well-being and foster peace in the midst of a charged political environment. The Social Work Department looks forward to partnering with students, fellow Providence College faculty, staff members, and community collaborators to put the Social Work Code of Ethics into action to facilitate healing, condemn hate, and build a beloved community. Please contact us if you would like to be part of this work. We look forward to learning, working, and collaborating with you.

In solidarity,

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