

Why you should come to this Conference

In May 2010, the UK General Election will return political parties united in one common aim - to make massive cuts in welfare spending and make ordinary people pay for the crisis. Rather than cut spending on nuclear weapons and immoral wars, or tax bankers and the rich, the poorest and most vulnerable in society will suffer the most.

The fifth annual conference of the Social Work Action Network, SWAN, will take place against this background of savage cuts in health and welfare provision. Those in need of social work support are likely to be faced with ever tighter eligibility criteria, 'Easy - jet' style personalisation schemes and huge cuts in both statutory and voluntary sector organisations, while those delivering services will be under even greater pressure to ration services and police poor families. At the same time, we are witnessing the growth of racist ideas, attacks on immigration and organised fascist groups; all of which need stopped.

It is widely recognised that Social Work as a profession needs defended, but we now face a period when the idea of the Welfare State itself is under potential threat. The 2010 SWAN conference will provide an essential opportunity for social workers, activists, service users, students and academics to come together, discuss the way forward and how we build the networks of resistance necessary to defend social work and public welfare more generally.

SWAN aims to be the radical campaigning voice of social work in the UK and further afield. Unlike other conferences, the SWAN conference is firmly aimed at activists and workers, and is based on participation - we strongly encourage you to come along, join the lively discussions and help build the fightback against the cuts.

We hope to see you in September in Glasgow!



SWAN members and banner on the march in Glasgow to defend the rights of refugees following the tragic deaths of 3 asylum seekers in March 2010

Further information:

For more details about the conference, please contact swanscotland@yahoo.co.uk

For more information about the Social Work Action Network - please visit our website -
<http://www.socialworkfuture.org/>

SWAN



2010 - 5th National Conference

**'Building a Social
Work of Resistance:
Cuts, Crisis and
Contradictions'**

**Friday 3rd and Saturday
4th September**

**Glasgow Caledonian
University
Cowcaddens Road,
Glasgow, G4 0BA**

What is the Social Work Action Network?

SWAN is a network of social work practitioners, academics, students and social welfare service users united in their concern that social work activity is being undermined by managerialism and marketisation, by the stigmatisation of service users and by welfare cuts and restrictions. We believe that good social work is a worthwhile activity that can help people address the problems and difficulties in their lives. Many of these difficulties are rooted in the inequalities and oppressions of the modern world and good social work necessarily involves confronting such structural and public causes of so many private ills.

The Social Work Manifesto: SWAN developed from the Social Work Manifesto, written by Jones, Ferguson, Lavalette and Penketh in 2004. The Manifesto is the basis for our understanding of the present difficulties facing social work

Join SWAN: SWAN is now a membership organisation, please sign up to help us fund the network.

SWAN AGM

SWAN will be holding its AGM on the Saturday of the conference. All members will be entitled to vote on office bearers and the constitution. More information on the AGM, membership forms and the Manifesto is available from our website <http://www.socialworkfuture.org/>



Programme:

Friday 3rd September

11.30: Registration:

1.15: Plenary—'Crisis, Cuts and Resistance'

3.15: Workshop streams

4.45: Keynote

6.00: Regional and student SWAN network meetings

7.30: Conference social

Saturday 4th September

10.00: SWAN AGM

11.15: Plenary—'Fighting Racism Today: Islamophobia and the BNP'

1.45: Workshop streams

3.30: Plenary—'Building a Social Work of Resistance'

4.30: Conference finishes

Workshops and Seminars:

We welcome workshop or seminar proposals on the main conference themes of the crisis in social work; anti-racism; radical social work and collective approaches, student activism; personalisation; climate change; mental health and radical therapy—other suggestions also considered and we would encourage activists and practitioners to submit ideas - please send proposals (200 words) to r.w.woodward@stir.ac.uk

Plenary Speakers include:

Mark Serwotka (General Secretary PCS Union), Dexter Whitfield (author of Global Auction of Public Assets), Helga Pile (National Officer, UNISON), Sarah Banks, John Harris, Peter Beresford, representatives from the Defend Whittington Hospital Coalition, Edinburgh Learning Disability Alliance, Kingsway Court campaigners against dawn raids. More speakers to be confirmed - Campaign against Climate Change

Accommodation:

We are unable to provide accommodation but have identified budget University accommodation and hotels in Glasgow close to the University and accessible via the web. See the SWAN website for more details.

Booking Form:

Please download, print off and send to:
Social Work Action Network (SWAN)
PO Box 29521
Glasgow
G63 0WS

Name:.....

Email:.....

Address:.....

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Post Code:.....

Organisation:.....

Designation:

Any dietary needs:

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Any access needs:

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Payment:

I enclose a cheque for

Please invoice me

Conference Costs:

In line with previous SWAN events, the conference is being run as cheaply as possible to encourage participation from students, practitioners and service users. The costs are **£50** academic staff, **£40** practitioners, **£20** students/unwaged. Asylum seekers, free. This cost includes morning and afternoon tea/coffee and lunch on the Saturday. Discounts available for group bookings from students, trade unions and campaign groups—over 5, get one booking free! Email for details swanscotland@yahoo.co.uk