

SECTION II. MICRO SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

SOCIAL WORK COMPETENCIES – HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

NASW Competency	
Human Relationships	<p>Social workers connect people who need assistance with organizations and individuals who can provide the appropriate help. Social workers recognize that facilitating human relationships can be a useful vehicle for creating change, and they excel at engaging potential partners who can create, maintain, and enhance the well-being of families, neighborhoods, and whole communities.</p> <p>Challenging social conditions, such as those created by the COVID-19 pandemic, highlight the essential role of human relationships in supporting health and healing. Social workers not only build and maintain strong relationships with individuals and communities, they also help their clients identify relationships that are helpful to them and let go of relationships that are not (Tulane University School of Social Work, 2023).</p> <p>The school social worker has a responsibility to assess and identify the people in Achara's life who can be a support to her during this difficult transition in her life. This may mean assessing Achara's peer group, academic personnel, and parents and family. What may be of upmost importance is the value and importance with which Achara places on her relationship with her boyfriend.</p>

SOCIAL WORK COMPETENCIES – HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS - MICRO PRACTICE ACTIVITY

NASW Core Principle: **Importance of Human Relationships**

Social workers understand that relationships between and among people are an important vehicle for change. Social workers engage people as partners in the helping process. Social workers seek to strengthen relationships among people in a purposeful effort to promote, restore, maintain, and enhance the well-being of individuals, families, social groups, organizations, and communities.

Foundation Activity: Consider the NASW definition above. Identify the people in Achara's life with whom Achara can engage as a partner(s) in supporting Achara to achieve her goals. Furthermore, identify which relationship(s), if any that Achara may evaluate as non-supportive, and ultimately, a hindrance to her success.

IFSW Core Principle: **Promoting Human Rights**

Social workers embrace and promote the fundamental and inalienable rights of all human beings. Social work is based on respect for the inherent worth, dignity of all people and the individual and social/civil rights that follow from this. Social workers often work with people to find an appropriate balance between competing human rights.

Advanced Activity: Consider the IFSW Core Principle above. The school vice-principal would like to educate the entire school about healthy romantic relationships, highlighting the grooming process for commercial sexual exploitation of children. As a future social worker, write a statement to the principal recommending three expert community agencies to invite to the educational forum. The agencies, and their representatives, may be trainers and could be trainees as well.
