



# Religion, Belief and Social Work: Making a Difference (Social Work in Practice Series)

By Sheila Furness, Philip Gilligan

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This book examines how religion and related beliefs have varied impacts on the needs and perceptions of practitioners, service users, and the support networks available to them. The authors argue that social workers need to understand these phenomena, so that they can become more confident in challenging discriminatory and oppressive practices. The centrality of religion and associated beliefs in the lives of many is emphasised, as are their potentially liberating (and potentially negative) impacts. In line with the "Social Work in Practice" series style, the book allows readers to explore issues in depth. It focuses on knowledge transmission, and the encouragement of critical reflection on practice. Each chapter is built around 'real-life' case scenarios using a problem-based learning approach. This book is the first to deal with social work and religion so comprehensively and will therefore be essential reading not only for social work students, but also for practitioners in a range of areas, social work academics and researchers in the UK and beyond.

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### **Editorial Review**

#### **Review**

This readily accessible book is most welcome. Written by authors who clearly understand the significance of spirituality and religious beliefs to social work, it provides both frameworks and insights to inform and develop sensitive and competent practice. Jan Horwath, Prof of Child Welfare, University of Sheffield

At last: a courageous, sensitive and comprehensive book on the place of religion and belief in everyday social work practice. An indispensable resource for those committed to delivering culturally-appropriate services to users and carers. Siobhan E. Laird, Centre for Social Work, University of Nottingham

This book makes a significant contribution to practice wisdom. Enhanced by thought-provoking case studies, it offers a strengths-based framework grounded in practice that will help social workers open some important doors. Bernard R Moss, Professor of Social Work Education and Spirituality, Staffordshire University

[Religion, belief and social work] will make you appreciate the need to consider these aspects in a more embracing manner. [There are] excellent case examples .. throughout the book. ... .the main thrust of this book is a plea for the integration of a consciousness of belief issues into daily social work. Roger Fowkes, 5% Review on Amazon

#### **About the Author**

Sheila Furness, Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Bradford and Philip Gilligan, Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Bradford

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