Making internationalisation a reality for occupational therapy students

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MIROTS programme: Solutions for life challenges

- Working in partnership to address social exclusion
  - Disability
  - Stereotyping
  - Lack of appreciation of diversity
- Occupational justice lens
OTs strength: Injustices as moral & ethical claims

• People are **worthy** of social & occupational justice
  • Willing & insightful
  • Making tremendous effort
  • Channelled towards poor choices
  • Suffering & struggling

• Gap between what people are capable of doing & their opportunities
Introduction
The WFOT fully endorses the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The purpose of this Position Paper is to state the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) position on human rights in relation to human occupation and participation.
Linking Human Rights, Occupational Injustice, & Occupational Rights ... an 18 Year Journey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1948</td>
<td><strong>Human Rights</strong>: Restricted participation in society undermines inalienable human rights (United Nations, 1948), a declaration that has sparked many global commitments to human rights</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td><strong>A Public Declaration on Occupational Injustice</strong>: “Recognising and providing for the occupational needs of individuals and communities as part of a fair and empowering society” (Wilcock &amp; Townsend, 2000)</td>
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<td>2018</td>
<td><strong>Linking Human Rights, Occupational Justice, &amp; Occupational Rights</strong>: e.g. “abuses of occupational rights are abuses of human rights” (Hammell, 2015, p. 5); <strong>Time for WFOT revision</strong> ...</td>
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Draft Revision

Introduction

• The WFOT fully endorses the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948).

• The purpose of the Position Paper is to state the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) position on human rights, which is that abuses of occupational rights are abuses of human rights that undermine occupational justice.
Human and Occupational Rights

• Occupational rights are secured by identifying and addressing the capabilities, opportunities and freedom of choice for individuals, communities and populations to participate in society.
• Universal rights to occupation – according to the cultural, social, and geographical context
• The right to engage in occupations that are:
  • Meaningful
  • Contribute to their own well-being and the well-being of their communities
• Occupational injustice is an abuse of occupational and human rights.
Occupational Justice – requires occupational rights for all to:

• **Choose occupations** without pressure, force, coercion, or threats but with acknowledgement that with choice comes responsibility for what we do (Sen, 2009).

• **Freely engage** in necessary and chosen occupations without risk to safety, human dignity or equity.

• **Participate in a range of occupations** that support health and well-being so that individuals, communities and populations can flourish and realize their potential, consistent with the Ottawa Charter (WHO, 1986).
Strategic Action

• Actions to promote occupational and human rights must over-ride occupational injustices that are aggravated by persistent poverty, disease, social discrimination, displacement, natural and man-made disasters, armed conflict, historic disadvantage, and physical and mental ill health.
Strategic Action

• Occupational therapists are obligated to enact our ‘client-centred’ aspiration by collaborating with those experiencing abuses and with diverse partners to eradicate abuses that undermine occupational justice.


Short Bibliography


