Abstract: Social justice is defined in the Oxford dictionary as “justice in terms of the distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society.” Indeed, many definitions would include not just privilege, but basic human rights, including access to healthcare. As mental health practitioners and scholars, social justice is an imperative for our field not only in terms of those we serve, but those with whom we work. Despite its importance, at times we may find ourselves as professionals unable, unwilling, or unsure of how to address social justice in our work, even as seasoned advocates. We may construe ourselves as constrained by system dynamics, policies, and regulations to neglect the needs of potential clients or to neglect responding to colleagues in caring and inclusive ways. How can we foster solidarity in professional settings and associations, thus nurturing one another as change agents within the systems in which we work? How do we engage in and elevate everyday dialogues and actions to help create social change? We will explore these and related questions together during this keynote presentation.

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