

A PERSONAL REFLECTION FROM EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: HALLA ANDERSON

Over the past year, Columbia has made one thing brutally clear: students—especially those at the School of Social Work—have been targeted and punished for daring to speak out. Expulsion, suspension, eviction, and doxxing have become the cost of conscience. Those who speak out for Palestine, for abolition, for transformative change have often done so at great personal risk.

As a student at the School of Social Work, I have watched the institution fail to protect the very values it claims to teach—transparency, accountability, and justice. In a program meant to prepare us to challenge systems of oppression, students have instead faced institutional retaliation. That contradiction has fractured the relationship between the school and the students it seeks to shape into ethical practitioners.

For me, the *Review* has become more than a publication—it has become a site of resistance. A student-led space where social work is reclaimed as a radical, liberatory practice. Where we refuse the depoliticized, bureaucratic versions of the profession and instead uplift visions rooted in abolition, decolonization, mutual aid, and collective care. A space that makes room for political clarity, grief, imagination, and rage.

I dedicate my work on this issue to all students who have been punished for embodying the true ethics of social work—ethics that demand we stand with the oppressed, even when it is inconvenient or unsafe. The work within these pages uplifts the voices of those most impacted by the very systems we are taught to critique—communities our profession has historically harmed and must now learn to serve with integrity.

I believe the Columbia School of Social Work must not only reckon with its complicity in systems of violence—it must rise to the challenge

of transformation. It must become a space that honors its deepest commitments to justice and to the people social work was always meant to protect.

In solidarity, and in defiance,



Halla Anderson
Editor-In-Chief, 2024-2025
Columbia Social Work Review

**The views expressed here are solely my own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Columbia Social Work Review, its editorial board, or the Columbia School of Social Work.*