

A PERSONAL REFLECTION FROM EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: STEPHANIE CHENG

This year, our country is experiencing a significant political transition. Critical programs that support immigration, mental health, and other essential services are losing funding. At the same time, international relations are shifting and deepening the uncertainty. As divisions within society grow, it's understandable that many—especially students—may feel hesitant to speak out. In such a polarized climate, it's easy to wonder if our voices matter, or if change is possible.

The truth is, systemic oppression has always existed. The events today are the result of deep-rooted historical trauma and inequality that have shaped society for generations. This reality can make many feel powerless and exhausted. Yet, it is in these moments that the voices, passion, and commitment to social justice matter the most.

In this 23rd edition of the Columbia Social Work Review, I hope to offer a glimpse of hope—that even in difficult times, progress is possible. Our authors dive into the complexities of inequalities in mental health, disabilities, race, healthcare access, and housing—issues deeply embedded in our history. They offered policy alternatives, technological innovations, increased cultural sensitivity, and adaptive strategies to build a just and equitable future.

This journal remains committed to elevating the voices of students and alumni, critiquing the status quo, and pushing for the rights of underserved populations. I hope that the Review can continue to strive to be a platform where ideas for change can thrive, and where the fight for justice can continue, even in the smallest of steps.

As you read through this edition, I hope you are reminded that your voice matters. No matter how small the step, every effort toward justice is a step forward.

In community,



Stephanie Cheng
Editor-in-Chief, 2024-2025
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