

Greetings from Dr. Silvana Martínez

President of the International Federation of Social Workers

As President of the International Federation of Social Workers, I am very honoured by the opportunity to express and share with readers a few words on the occasion of the launch of the first issue of the Journal *Propuestas Críticas en Trabajo Social - Critical Proposals in Social Work*. It is undoubtedly an excellent initiative by the colleagues of the Department of Social Work of the University of Chile, whom I congratulate for this publication and fundamentally for the effort and commitment involved in the hours dedicated to this project, which enriches the entire professional group.

As an Argentine and Latin American Social Worker, I want to particularly highlight the imprint and critical profile that colleagues have chosen as the editorial line for *Propuestas Críticas en Trabajo Social - Critical Proposals in Social Work*. It is a key ethical-political option of enormous value and importance in these times of strong neoliberal onslaught in Our America. Recovering and vindicating the processes of construction of critical thought situated in our Latin American historical-political reality is an arduous but essential and urgent task, to decolonize power, knowledge and the processes of subjectivation.

The launch of this first issue of *Propuestas Críticas en Trabajo Social - Critical Proposals in Social Work* is in itself a fact to celebrate, like any initiative that invites, provokes and calls for the production and socialization of knowledge in Social Work. However, in this case the significance is much deeper since it is an initiative that recalls the Social Service Journal that the University of Chile published until 1969, becoming a tributary of that journal. Then came the bloody military coup against the constitutional government of Salvador Allende, the dark dictatorship of Pinochet and the long closure of Social Work as a career that lasted until 2014 when the Department of Social Work was reopened.

With the reopening of the career and then the creation of the Department of Social Work, colleagues have taken up the idea of strengthening the profession and the production of knowledge, with a critical sense from a broad and multiverse perspective. In this sense,

Propuestas Críticas en Trabajo Social - Critical Proposals in Social Work condenses the meaning of a restorative political act, of vindication and resistance, since it clearly and forcefully demonstrates that “they have not defeated us” and that the struggle continues.

I celebrate the edition of this Journal, for the possibilities it brings to publish, disseminate and discuss research results, essays, reflections, make visible professional knowledge and intervention experiences, express ideas and build hope and political resistance. I celebrate the courage and convictions that animate this project, the construction of meaning and the option for an emancipating critical perspective in the production of knowledge, as a contribution to the ethical-political task of social transformation and the construction of rights and popular power.

I greet and congratulate the colleagues of the Department of Social Work of the University of Chile for this emblematic political gesture, for planting the flag of Social Work high and for demonstrating that "the only fight that is lost is the one that is abandoned", as Ernesto “Che” Guevara maintained. Without struggle there is no conquest and without conquest there are no rights. I wish you the best of success in this endeavour. Your success will contribute to the consolidation of the professional group and this will always be my greatest concern as President of the International Federation of Social Workers and my greatest pride as a Latin American Social Worker.

Mar del Plata, Argentina, April 2021.