Islam and social work: debating values, transforming practice. By Sara Ashencaen Crabtree

The presence of millions of Muslims, natives or immigrants, and their integration into Western societies pose a challenge to the field of social work and its practitioners. The lack of adequate understanding and skills necessary to deal with the various social problems confronted by Muslims in these societies, especially in the Islamophobic environment of the post-9/11 world, demands serious consideration of Islamic faith as a component of social work intervention. In the absence of a serious social work manual offering theoretical and practical information about Muslim families in the West, Crabtree (social work, Bournemouth Univ.), Husain (Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion, London), and Spalek (criminology, Univ. of Birmingham) have written a groundbreaking text providing social work practitioners with basic background information on the principles and practices of Islam as they relate to family values and practices, health issues, disability and caregiving, domestic violence, and social needs in the context of non-Muslim societies. By introducing faith as a relevant category along with the commonly used concepts of race, gender, class, and culture, the authors suggest the development of relevant, culturally specific practices for Muslim clients in social work intervention. Examples and issues are mostly drawn from European contexts, especially the UK. Summing Up: Essential. All levels/libraries.

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