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Implementing the WFOT Position on Human Rights

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In-Congress Workshop: Open registration

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Introduction: The World Federation of Occupational Therapists 2006 Position Statement on Human Rights connected the world of occupation and social participation with world initiatives to advance human rights and justice. Based on the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, the WFOT position raises a political challenge for occupational therapists to profile and advance occupation as a human right from diverse practice standpoints in clinical, community, policy, education, and research contexts.

Learning Objectives: This is a 1.5 hour, introductory skill-building workshop for occupational therapists on implementing the WFOT position statement on human rights by: 1. Naming and documenting occupational issues and key political, cultural and ecological forces in particular world contexts; 2. Distinguishing an occupational perspective of human rights and justice; 3. Using the WFOT position statement to spark ideas for visually displaying occupational rights and justice issues; and 4. Critically reflecting on occupational therapy competencies for enabling social change in local, national or international arenas.

Teaching Methods: Members of the WFOT International Advisory Group (IAG) will introduce the culturally variable concepts of occupation as a human right, underpinned by the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. Following a brief presentation on occupational rights and occupational justice, participants will form groups to name and document occupational issues, contextual forces, rights and injustice. Participants will display occupational rights and injustice using lists, sketches, role plays, etc., and use an enablement spectrum and continuum to reflect on occupational therapy competencies for enabling social change. Throughout, groups will examine, question and respond to the WFOT position paper.

Conclusion: This workshop is open to occupational therapists to develop critical awareness for collectively asserting the claim that opportunities and resources for health promoting occupations are a human right. The reflections and insights of participants will be synthesized to consider future actions for implementing the WFOT position statement on human rights in different parts of the world.

Contribution to the practice: This provocative workshop connects the world of occupation with the world of human rights. (No maximum participants)