

TOPIC 3: SOCIAL WORK & SOCIAL WORKER

TASK 2 THIS COULD BE YOU: THE MANY FACES OF SOCIAL WORK

TASK 2A In pairs try to come up with at least 3 pros and 3 cons of working as social worker.

Pros of working as a social worker	Cons of working as a social worker

RECORDING 5 SOCIAL WORKERS AS HEROES, TED^x

TASK 2B In pairs discuss the following questions.

- 1 In what life situations do people need social workers?
- 2 What opinion do people usually have of social workers?
- 3 The presenter believes that all people have their strengths and that social workers should help people find their strengths so that they can face the challenges that they are struggling with. How do you understand this position?
- 4 What philosophy, do you as a future social worker, believe in?

TASK 2C Before watching the video, translate the following phrases into Czech.

1 educated professionals who go through university accredited programs =

2 to promote and support individual and community well-being =

3 to fight social injustice =

4 evidence-based interventions that can help solve the problems =

5 *to face a big challenge in life =*

6 *to pay huge hospital bills =*

7 *to bully sb*

8 *to be bullied at school =*

9 *to drop out of school =*

10 *to implement anti-bullying -out prevention programs in schools =*

11 *a baby who is born prematurely =*

12 *to have a depression =*

13 *to have somebody to turn to for counselling and therapy =*

14 *licensed, clinical social workers =*

15 *social workers help people find their strengths =*

16 *to work as a volunteer =*

17 *to hire sb part-time =*

18 he has a mental illness and isolates himself in his apartment =

19 obsession =

20 he listens to the radio obsessively =

21 everybody has their strengths and weaknesses =

RECORDING 5 PART 1 TASK 2D Watch the FIRST part of the video and answer the questions.

1 Why according to the presenter all of us need a hero?

2 How does the presenter describe a good social worker? What typical social worker stereotypes does she challenge?

3 How does the presenter define a social worker?

4 What do social workers learn at school?

5 When in our lives do we need a social worker? What kind of social worker do you need?

6 What philosophy do social workers believe in?

TASK 2E In the SECOND part of the video the presenter is going to share her favourite social worker strength story. She is going to talk about a social worker and her client who isolates himself in his flat¹ and obsessively listens to the radio. Based on first part of the recording, what do you think this successful story could be about?

¹ The presenter uses the American equivalent which is an apartment.

RECORDING 5 PART 2 TASK 2E Watch the second part of the recording and answer the following questions.

7 What is the presenter's favourite social worker strength story?

8 What is the presenter's final message to her audience?

9 Do you think the presenter meant her presentation totally seriously?

10 Did YOU take it seriously?

Video taken from. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A27OjpQ_Leo

TASK 2B Below there are listed various employment opportunities for social workers in English-speaking countries. Do Czech social workers have similar opportunities? Choose one of the following positions and further specify it in terms of job responsibilities and benefits.

Addictions social worker

Child and youth care social worker

Correctional social worker

Family welfare worker

Gerontological social worker

Medical / hospital social worker

People with disabilities social worker

School social worker

Police social worker

Pros of working as a ...

Cons of working as a ...

Adapted from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_work

RECORDING 1 TASK 2C Watch the first part of the video and make notes about the social workers presented.

Kristen: legislative social worker

Kalina: gerontological social worker

Damarr: social work student

Jen: social worker in private practice

Paul: school social worker

Anu: medic social worker

Video taken from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=77UGDj48oHs>

RECORDING 1 TASK 2D Watch the second part of the video and complete the gaps with the words you hear. There is always one word per gap.

JENNIFER is a social worker in a 1 _____ hospital, we work with children 18 years and under. They come for 2 _____ care but also for any mental or 3 _____ needs they may have. Jennifer likes the fact that it is work with people. She

always tries to find 4 _____ to their problems. In her typical work day she has 5 _____ with her team which depends on what their patients bring every day. One day they could be dealing with someone who is 6 _____ and they have to find them somewhere to live. A few weeks ago they had a mum who found out that her son had a 7 _____ so they worked with her to get them proper care. Jennifer says she works with an 8 _____ team of people. They all come from various 9 _____ and they all bring their 10 _____ into the clinic and they all have different ways with working with people too.

PAUL - MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKER says that being a social worker really gives him an 1 _____ to build 2 _____ with families, with clients and individuals.

ANU MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKER thinks it is 1 _____ for her clients to see that she is with them through the negative times as well as the 2 _____ times.

JENNIFER thinks that if you are a social worker you are looking at the whole 1 _____, you are looking at the families, at the schools, you are looking at the whole 2 _____ that makes the person live. The sad stories can be 3 _____ but the 4 _____ is worth when you meet the family 5 years later and they are OK.

KRISTEN says she looks at the world differently now that she has her social work 1 _____. She sees everything through a social work lens which she really 2 _____.

PAUL - MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKER has always been a big fan of 1 _____. He thinks this job is about 2 _____ others.

KALINA likes being the vessel of 1 _____ and empowering other people. Being a social worker is truly a 2 _____ for her.

PAUL - SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER says the reward of social work is seeing the lives you 1 _____, touched or impacted in a 2 _____ way.

Video taken from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=77UGDj48oHs>

TASK ③ M.A. SOCIAL WORK STUDENT

RECORDING 2 TASK 3A Before you watch the M.A. study course in social work, study the following vocabulary. To get the right definitions, match the numbers in the left column with the letters in the right column. Complete the middle column with the Czech translations of the English words or phrases.

English	Czech	Definition
1 assignment		A help in the form of ideas, advice, or information, used in a process or in making a decision

2 feedback	B someone who has been chosen by a person or group to vote, give opinions, or make decisions for them
3 input	C work that you must do as part of a course of study or as part of your job
4 placement	D something that someone does really well
5 representative	E comments about how well or how badly someone is doing something, which are intended to help them do it better
6 strength	F a temporary job that is part of a course of study and that gives you experience of the work you hope to do at the end of the course. The American word is <i>internship</i> .

Definitions adapted from: www.macmillandictionary.com

TASK 3B Watch the video and complete the gaps with the words you hear. There is always one word per gap.

The student is doing her master's course in social work. One of the greatest **1** _____ of the course is the quality of its placements. Everyone has the opportunity to receive structured placement which is very important in getting a good **2** _____ in the future. This is very unique because not everybody has that opportunity of high level experience. Within those placements there is a high level of **3** _____, there is a lot of funding into a placement team which supports you and **4** _____ you through the process, that you prepared for practice and **5** _____ by the end.

There is professor Frost on the programme and we have a fantastic opportunity to go to his **6** _____ and there are also other academics, so you feel you are getting a high calibre **7** _____ from them as well. These are people who have seen social work change throughout the last 20, 30 years and are able to have the **8** _____ knowledge as well. So theoretically, academically you have incredible academics here which is extremely important especially in your early days when you don't have your own **9** _____.

As a student on the Master's you really do feel **10** _____ to. You are constantly consulted on what you think about the course, the structure of the course. They have **11** _____ for the course who attend meetings and are constantly giving feedback to the course leaders. And that feedback is listened to.

With regard to **12** _____ they've got a feedback time scale of 4 weeks which is always met and that gives you an opportunity for your next assignment so that you know where

you are going with it. The feedback is very thorough so you always feel that someone is taking their time to give you the right kind of **13** _____ for your next piece of work.

Video taken from: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_FZicVYkHV8

TASK 4 CAREER ADVICE ON BECOMING A SOCIAL WORKER

TASK 4A DISCUSSION. In pairs discuss the pros and cons of working as a social worker.

Pros of working as a social worker	Cons of working as a social worker

RECORDING 3 TASK 4B In the following video young social worker Rachel talks about her work as a social worker, her previous professional experience and how she manages to keep the right work-life balance in her life. Watch the video and say whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 Rachel Wilson is a newly qualified social worker.
T/F
- 2 She works with children as well as senior citizens.
T/F
- 3 Her job sometimes involves seeing a doctor with their clients.
T/F
- 4 She worked in an orphanage in Africa for a year.
T/F
- 5 In the orphanage there were about 250 children.
T/F
- 6 The work experience in Africa affected her career choice.
T/F
- 7 She calls her experience in Africa fulfilling and life-changing.
T/F

8 Rachel believes social workers should try to make dramatic changes in their clients' lives.

T/F

9 She admits her work can be emotionally difficult sometimes.

T/F

10 Rachel complains her job can be monotonous at times.

T/F

11 She also complains about the lack of work-life balance in her life.

T/F

12 Her general goal is to put children with bad biological parents in foster care.

T/F

Video taken from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x3qkXz9WGbc>