

## Editorial

The aim of the editorial board of RTS is to invite social workers to take part in the editorial section. As a result of their professional track records and reflective thought, they have the ability to broaden our perspective on a host of issues that are vital for society and social work at any given time. We at the editorial board reserve this section of our journal in order to share exceptional events with you the readers.

None of the previous editorials from this board has ever been influenced by such an exceptional situation as the one that compels us to fill this section now: the pandemic involving the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2.

Words are never devoid of meaning. The word *pandemic* comes from the Greek *pan* “all” and *demos* “people” and firmly defines what is taking place right now all around the globe. It is something that is happening to every one of us, to humankind as a whole. We are witnessing the rapid spread of a new disease.

The sheer scope of this tragedy is difficult to determine within the psychological parameters we are used to dealing with: excess pain, excess turmoil and excess uncertainty. In the face of what appears to be impalpable, incommensurable, it is easy to understand the reactions of those brave, daring individuals who take action as they are unable to remain idle; individuals extending solidarity. However, it would also be natural to lapse into paralysis, to wait, and even to hope someone else would make our decisions on our behalf; to wait for others to tell us what to do, and to place our security and our future in their hands.

Indeed, there is a third potential reaction: turning to reflective action; sober action based on critical thought, considering the benefits and drawbacks of each decision, leaving the door open to wise rectification. We are not referring to politicians, or agents, or indeed experts; we refer to each of us, the people, the neighbourhoods, the Greek *demos*. Although our lives have been locked down, our thought has been unshackled, and is strong. It must remain alert. We gauge which part of our independence we wish to delegate to others and what rights we are willing to sacrifice or put on hold as a result of a genuine fear of falling ill or due to a fear of death.

This issue of RTS was prepared before the health emergency broke out; as a result, the content does not illustrate everything we have been experiencing in recent days as we would have liked, although to a certain extent each of the papers does bring home the call to remain alert which we have just mentioned. We particularly wish to express our gratitude to Beth Bàrbara who in our guest editorial draws attention to the experience of the pandemic from the standpoint of social work and reminds us of its consequences for society, particularly among the most underprivileged sectors of the population.

The section “A fons” (In Depth) has papers that reveal the risks that come with the loss of rights and the need to overhaul social work models. The experiences set out in the “Compartint la pràctica professional” (Shar-

ing Professional Practice) section remind us of the remedial contribution that social work provides based on specific projects, on supervision from other professionals as a setting of healing, and on involvement in social policies which may again end up being severely affected. The section "Ressenyes" (Essays) again exhibits more publications that add to the developments taking place in our field.

We extend our unabated amazement and solidarity for the feelings of people who have suffered at the hands of this disease, people who have lost a loved one and those who have experienced the anguish of not being allowed to be by the sides of their ill relatives in hospitals and care homes. It will be a very tall task to overcome all this pain. We wish to devote this issue to every one of them and to all of us.