

[Home](#) > [Vol 9, No 1 \(2008\)](#) > [Besthorn](#)

Post 9-11 Terror Hysteria: Social Work Practice and The US Patriot Act

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Abstract

It was only weeks after the planes crashed into the twin towers on that bright, sunlit morning of September 11th, 2001, that it became apparent that the most important challenge now facing American democracy was how well would we strike a balance between liberty and security. This paper will look at the history of civil liberties in light of threats to national security. It will examine components of the US Patriot Act, how these provisions are being applied and the potential implication of the act on social work education and practice. Suggestions of how social work might respond to these new realities will be discussed.

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[TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

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