

2026 CSWE Election: Candidate Statement

Chathapuram (Ram) Ramanathan, PhD, ACSW, LMFT, CSW

Graduate Faculty Representative - CSWE Board of Directors

I am honored to be nominated to serve on CSWE's Board of Directors as a Graduate Faculty. I received an MA from the Madras School of Social Work, an MSW and PhD from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. I have been a social work educator, administrator, and practitioner for over four decades. I joined CSWE in 1986 as a doctoral student. My interdisciplinary research and scholarship addressed both micro and social development / macro content. It's my singular aim to bridge this artificial dichotomy. As a graduate faculty representative, I will work with colleagues to advance policies that impact social work programs; partner with other board members and universities to reverse the sinister developments at the Department of Education that excludes social work in its definition of professional degrees.

Throughout my career I have pursued diversity, inclusion, human rights, social justice, and interfaith dialogues. I am widely published and have presented over 50 papers and workshops in 18 countries. In 2002, I delivered a lecture through the prestigious US Speaker series program in Kuala Lumpur in the conference "Religious Pluralism and Democratic Societies: United States and Southeast Asia" and spoke on Diversity and Inclusiveness: A Hindu American View. First time in US history, I as Founding Chairman -- guided by democratic values, community organizing skills, strategic planning -- created a statewide political caucus for Indo-Americans. As part of my efforts with the caucus, I facilitated the Michigan legislature opening with a Hindu prayer, for the first time.

Noteworthy honors:

- Special tribute by the governor of Michigan for contributions to diversity, religious harmony, peace at the international, national, and state level
- Fulbright-Nehru Visiting Scholar, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bengaluru
- Senior Fulbright Specialist at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (established in 1936), Mumbai
- Community Achievement Award, School of Social Work Alumni, University of Illinois
- Jim Billups International Social Development Leadership Award, International Consortium for Social Development
- Lifetime Achievement Award, Friends of US, for advancing humanity globally through knowledge development, dissemination, promoting student and scholar exchanges and study abroad programs

I bring transferable experiences, skill sets, used in work with organizations such as CSWE, NASW, ICSD, to advance social work education:

- CSWE site visitor for over twenty years
- Served on the Global Commission
- Served on NASW's National Committee on Race Ethnicity and Diversity, promoted and actualized 'religion and spirituality' as part of cultural competence standards
- Served on boards: American Citizens for Justice, Salvation Army, academic journals
- Provided probono consults to Michigan economic development
- Facilitated a Memorandum of Understanding between NASW and the Indian Society of Professional Social Workers
- Vice President, International Consortium for Social Development
- Serve on CSWE's Kendall Institute Board

I bring enthusiasm, decades of grounded experience as CEO in private sector, academia, work consulting with city, county governments, and school boards, and to the CSWE board. I extend a hand of collegiality, partnership and ask for your vote.