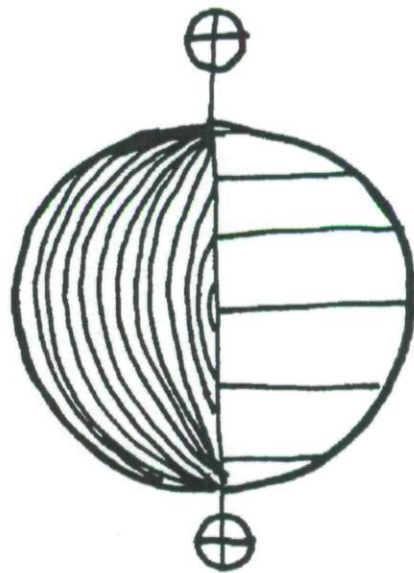


LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Jillian Jimenez, Ph.D.

The global economy is increasingly controversial among progressives who wonder if the reduction of trade barriers benefits only privileged corporate interests across the globe and diminishes the well being of ordinary people. The increased inequality that many argue is a consequence of globalization has led some to paint the result as a global class war. This issue of *Reflections* reminds us that before the global economy there was a global community. Here, we celebrate the work of social workers and other helping professionals in developed and developing countries across the globe. The narratives remind us that the alternative to the global economy as presently conceived is not isolation, but real connections among people who seek transformation and social justice. In the midst of the unregulated global market, social workers are creating innovative links among people and programs that transcend the politics of greed and exploitation. In spite of the new American imperialism masquerading as globalization, the struggle for social justice in developing countries has not dimmed, but has been enriched by the work of those who, like the authors in this issue of *Reflections*, understand the commonality of human experience across the world. I am grateful to Karen Smith Rotabi and Denise Gammonley for conceiving this issue and for bringing us the voices of those engaged in social work in global settings.



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