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### **Platform Statement for ASWIS Executive Committee Member-at-Large**

As an Associate Professor of Social Work at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, with a Ph.D. from Yeshiva University and extensive experience in macro practice, research, and human behavior, I am excited to nominate myself for the Member-at-Large position on the Alliance of Social Workers in Sports (ASWIS) Executive Committee. My research agenda centers on self-determination in sport social work as a pathway to fostering viewpoint diversity, open inquiry, and constructive disagreement in higher education and professional practice. Serving as the 2025 Symposium Committee Chair, I helped lead the planning and execution of the 11th Annual Symposium in New Orleans, themed "Sport Social Work is Everywhere," which brought together diverse voices to advance the field through collaborative dialogue and innovative sessions.

My contributions to sport social work span publications, presentations, teaching, and program development. I have authored or co-authored numerous peer-reviewed articles in the *Sport Social Work Journal*, including "Bridging Communities through Sport: A Social Work Study on Refugees Teaching Cricket to American Citizens" (under peer-review), which demonstrates how recreational sports can foster cultural integration and social cohesion; "Combat Sports as an Intervention for Intermittent Explosive Disorder" (2024), exploring boxing and martial arts as a therapeutic tool for anger management; and "Using Yoga for Emotional Regulation in Intermediate School Teenagers: A Program Evaluation" (2022), evaluating yoga's role in school-based mental health interventions. Other key works include "Post-Sport Male Athlete Nutrition and Mental Health" (2023), "Point/Counterpoint: Transgender Sport Participation Policy" (2023, with M.A. Moore), and "The Self-Care Dilemma: Providers Redefining Gym Culture to Conquer the Effort Paradox" (under peer-review, with D. O'Connell). These publications emphasize evidence-based approaches to athlete well-being, policy, and transitions, often integrating interdisciplinary perspectives.

As an instructor for the ASWIS Sport Social Work Certificate Program's "Sport Social Work Policy and Research" course, I equip practitioners with tools for ethical, diverse interventions. My vision for ASWIS is to expand the definition of "athlete" beyond elite competitors to include recreational participants, refugees, individuals with disabilities, and everyday community members, thereby broadening sport social work's reach. By leveraging sports like cricket, combat sports, and yoga as interventions, we can address social issues more inclusively.

My mission is to advance viewpoint diversity (encompassing varied experiences, values, ideas, and ideologies) through sport social work. This approach fosters constructive disagreement and open inquiry, empowering diverse populations. If elected, I will collaborate to enhance programming, research initiatives, and partnerships that amplify these principles, ensuring sport social work remains a dynamic force for social justice and well-being.