



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

The e-Bulletin is a monthly informal communicate to persons registered with the South African Council for Social Service Professions and other stakeholders.

MARCH 2021

This edition has a special focus on social work in celebration of *World Social Work Day* and month

From the desk of the Registrar



There is a concerning rise in the level of violence perpetrated by our social workers. One (1) case, is one too many. I am concerned about wounding amongst social workers where they cause harm to their generalised others. For example, a social worker in Limpopo who killed his partner (a nurse) and himself. The other case is recent, in KZN where a family of 6 were decimated in a few seconds by one of our very own. Wounded soldiers will find it very difficult to be able to care for others. They are harbouring too many negative and toxic feelings, thoughts and experiences which affect their behaviour. This requires deep self-awareness and connectedness with oneself.

Selfless sharing can only be attained if our imaginary tanks are filled up - *love, acceptance, recognition and security*. If these "tanks" are overflowing, we are then able to nurture and share a bit of ourselves with others in our immediate environments - children, family, colleagues, clients, communities, etc.

Ubuntu is about ongoing reflection and testing of our own personal values and ethical principles. It talks to deep sense of conviction which stems from knowledge stamped in the heart which make us wiser. Wisdom is knowledge applied. In embracing Ubuntu principles, we let go bitterness and hatred to avoid being perpetual prisoners of our own toxic thoughts and feelings. Ubuntu for me is about strengthening of relationships and connecting with your own spirit of discernment. Social workers have discernment of perfect timing, right time to act, right principles to use and right action to take.

I am going to unpack Ubuntu borrowing from the SACSSP vision "*Social service practitioners united in service excellence*" and from our solemn declaration statements which emphasizes standing for social justice, equality, and basic rights.



U **Unity** and affirmation of each other as colleagues in the profession. Appreciation for the **universe** - we are connected as a people belonging to one **universe** and have collective responsibility to work together for the preservation of the social work profession and the **universe** we inhabit. Our sustainable livelihoods programmes must indicate our commitment to preserving humanity by contributing to strengthening of relationships

B **Bravery** to stand for social justice and the promotion of human dignity and equality. **Beliefs** about the client's right to self determination. **Behaviour** that seek to protect the integrity of our profession. **Bonds** - ukuphilisana

U **Uniqueness** of each client's diverse skills and potential. Recognition of people's **ultimate** worth. **Ububele**. Deep awareness of the suffering of another, coupled with the wish to relieve it. **Ubudlelwane** - deep sense of community.

N Have a **non-judgemental** attitude towards self, clients, colleagues and others. Be **nurturing** in your engagements with people. Be in sync with **nature** so as to create harmony in everything we do. The spirit of *Tshwarelo - forgiveness* - must underpin everything you do because we believe that all people are good yet sometimes they venture off on a wrong path fuelled by wrong beliefs.

T **Transformation** to preserve human dignity of clients. We are one **Tribe** across the globe. **Treatment** to people must be as per the golden rule- treat others as you would like to be treated. Human **ties**.

U Embrace the **universal language** of love and be **unapologetic** about the values and principles you uphold. Strive for **uniformity** in the provision of services. We must always strive to **understand** each other, never **undermine** or **underestimate** one another and never **undervalue** our clients.

In closing, I want to borrow from the quotes by tata Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu "A person with ubuntu is open and available to others, affirming of others, does not feel threatened that others are able and good, for he or she has a proper self-assurance that comes from knowing that he or she belongs in a greater whole and is diminished when others are humiliated or diminished, when others are tortured or oppressed."

I am challenging all of us to introspect and rid the workplace of toxicity, negativity, enmity, bitterness so that we can enjoy UBUNTU living. There is so much we can achieve when we are connected than when we fight with each other. Today is our day, we are because we share a strong connection as practitioners. We have an obligation to ourselves and to colleagues to continue striving for unity and excellence so that we are able to share ourselves with the universe. Thanks

Langi Malamba
Registrar

Quote for the month

"Whatever you hold in your mind on a consistent basis is exactly what you will experience in your life "

- Tony Robbins

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3 questions to MODIRISHOLE

Member of Council



Tell us who is Modiri Patrick Shole the person?

I was born in Meadowlands Zone 1, Soweto, Johannesburg. I am a third generation in the family of the great Shole Traditional Leadership Clan Family in the Old Botshabelo, Pietfontein, near Coligny, North West Province. I am the first born of two children. I am blessed with three grown-up boys. I encountered God at the age of 12 and in 1972, my political journey started while still a young scholar. My political consciousness was sharpened during rough and tough times, social injustices, advocating for human rights at the early stage of my youth activism (1986 & 1992).

What is the biggest highlight in your career as an archbishop since 2016?

One of my biggest highlights and achievements in my career as an Archbishop was being the President of South African Union Council of Independent Churches (SAUCIC). It was founded with the overall objective of bringing churches together from different denominations, especially charismatic, evangelical and Pentecostal churches under one umbrella early as 29th day of August 2015 to date. I had further managed to establish joint ventures with the Higher Learning Institutions such as, University of Free State's Faculty of Theology and Religion in equipping the body of Christ with continued formal education about the kingdom of God.

What is your vision for social service professionals in the country?

We should go back to basics which genuine caring and protecting for social workers in rural areas and NGO's. In addition, be able to care for our most vulnerable members of our society and be selfless. To enhance the social environmental, economic state, human health and well-being among community systems especially the social justice and social change; to the vulnerable and the needy. The strategic planning ahead of District Model of NDP 2030 announced by His Excellency President Matomela Cyril Ramaphosa for working with Mayor's, civil society and community organisations. The other plan will be to reduce foster care backlog in the country.

RESOURCE Corner

In the spirit of *World Social Work Day 2021* (that is part of World Social Work Month) we share some resources on social work from across the world to celebrate and learn from our interconnectedness. Click on the hyperlinks (underlined) for more information.

Learn about the Codes of Ethics for Social Workers from other countries:

- **The Gambia's** [Code of Ethics](#) of Social Workers
- **Suriname's** [Code of Ethics](#) for Social Workers
- **Barbados' Code of Ethics** for Social Workers
- **Zimbabwe's** [Code of Ethics](#) for Social Workers
- **Ghana's** [Code of Ethics](#) for Social Workers
- **British** [Code of Ethics](#) for Social Workers
- **Canada's** [Code of Ethics](#) for Social Workers
- **Nigeria's** [Code of Ethics](#) for Social Workers

OTHER RESOURCES

- **Free book:** *To the Top of the Cliff: How Social Work Changed with COVID-19* can be downloaded [here](#).
- **90 days free access** to the *Journal of International Social Work* for World Social Work Day. You will find out how [here](#).

Learn more about the **COMMONWEALTH ORGANISATION FOR SOCIAL WORK (COSW)** has been established for citizens of the Commonwealth who are committed to the promotion and implementation of social development within the civil society of Commonwealth countries. It is recognised as a formal partner by the *Commonwealth Secretariat* and IFSW. Read about it [here](#).

LOCAL & international NEWS

SACSSP CELEBRATES WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY

The *South African Council for Social Service Professions* together with the Professional Board for Social Work and Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work celebrated World Social Work Day 2021. Messages of support from Members were published (available [here](#)) and Council translated the 2021 World Social Work Day 2021 Poster into all 11 official languages of South Africa (available [here](#)). The media statement issued can be downloaded [here](#).

SOCIAL WORK'S CONSTANT STREAM OF DEVELOPMENT: 2021 WSWD MESSAGE FROM THE IFSW SECRETARY-GENERAL*

For *World Social Work Day 2021*, Rory Truell, the IFSW Secretary-General has released a short video message titled: *Social Work's Constant Stream of Development*. In the [video message](#), he highlights the social work profession's successful learning processes in responding to the challenges of Covid-19 and the next development steps during this phase of the Global Agenda theme, Ubuntu.

IFSW AFRICA'S MESSAGE ON UBUNTU* for World Social Work Day 2021 is available [here](#).

NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT NEEDED SAYS UN AND SOCIAL WORK FORUM*

At a conference co-hosted by the *International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW)* and the *United Nations Research on Social Development Agency* (comprised of local and international social work and education organizations) at the *United Nations* stressed the importance of solidarity, social cohesion and the need to work together as important in making plans for the future. Find more information [here](#) and download the speech of Rory Truell, IFSW Secretary-General, delivered at World Social Work Day event at the United Nations in Geneva [here](#).

RECOGNITION OF SOCIAL WORKERS: WHO DECLARES 2021 THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF HEALTH AND CARE WORKERS*

At the General Assembly of the *World Health Organisation (WHO)* last November, the member states unanimously declared 2021 the International Year of Health and Care Workers. This also includes social workers. Read more about this [here](#) and download the toolkit [here](#).

Source*: International Federation of Social Workers

In Memoriam

Gert Erasmus Mouton (10-0636): *Professor Gert Mouton*, an icon in social work, passed away on 27 February 2021 – a few days before his 83rd birthday. He qualified as social worker in 1960 and worked in the field, mostly as director for "SKDB" (for 20 years) and since 1980 as lecturer at University of Free State's Department of Social Work where he retired in 2001 as Head of Department.