



# SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

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

# APRIL 2019

## From the desk of the Registrar



This month I am writing a tribute to social workers and social auxiliary workers as we wrap up the reflections series on *promoting healthy human relationships*. I must say I am filled

with a profound sense of gratification derived from exposure to practitioners at the coal face of service delivery. I have an intense sense of appreciation and respect for my fellow colleagues who graced the various celebrations of World Social Work Day 2019 which left me enthralled. The different events exposed me to the reawakening of the caring, indomitable spirit of the social workers and the social auxiliary workers. I have witnessed so much splendour and listened to heart rending stories of supreme excellence presented by community stakeholders, passion and commitment to the service end users which make me proud to be a social worker. In all provincial districts I visited, practitioners will break into unrehearsed song and dance with so much passion and a deep connexion- the very essence of *promoting deep healthy human relationships*.

I experienced goose bumps throughout the sessions hosted by Capricorn district; Gauteng, University of Limpopo; City of Tshwane-Unisa; and greater Sekhukhune when some gifted practitioners broke into a song or rendered a poem, I was dumbfounded at the level of natural talent amongst social workers and all I could mutter was "Wow, Wow..." I must have said it more than 5 times like I was captured because the guest sitting to my right said "I share the sentiment, I am at loss for words- are all social workers so versatile? I answered a proud 'Yes'. Social workers in the City of Tshwane were even daring enough to compose social work themed song. Two young MCs left everyone in stitches at Schoonord Peter Nchabeleng hall - you would have thought they are stand-up comedians and not social workers. What a rare mixed bag of talented artistes, dancers, poets, wannabe politicians, interior designers, fashionistas, choristers, masters of ceremonies, preachers and deejays, the list can go on and on.

The common thread for the success of each event was the unity amongst the coordinators because their work was underpinned by love and greater understanding of the last global agenda theme *promoting the importance of human relationships*.

Langi Malamba

*Quote*

**for the month**

"For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others." Nelson Mandela

## What's on *for social service professionals*

**27 April** - Freedom Day in South Africa

**6 to 12 May** - International Child and Youth Care Workers Week (#cycweek2019)

**7 May** (15h00) – closing date for submission of ballot papers by social workers for the election of one nominee to serve on the 4th South African Council for Social Service Professions. Ballot papers were mailed.

**SHARE** your important date or event in this column by sending an email before the end of any month to: [communications@sacssp.co.za](mailto:communications@sacssp.co.za)

## RESOURCE *Corner*

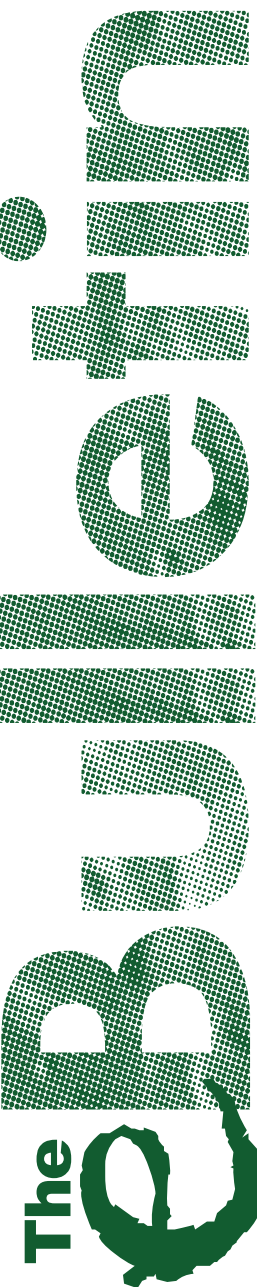
**The Society for Social Work and Research:**

ACYCP's is to engage practitioners in building the child and youth care profession. They build collaborative partnerships, promote innovative training and education, shape public policy, and inform developmental practice through research and scholarship. You can access it [here](#).

**Right to access to justice for persons with albinism:**

The Report of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism, available [here](#), provides an overview of her activities undertaken during the reporting period. The thematic segment of the report focuses on access to justice for persons with albinism. Barriers to access to justice are highlighted in the report as well as measures to address such challenges. The report focuses primarily on sub-Saharan African countries where attacks and trafficking in body parts of persons with albinism have largely been reported. It also provides recommendations to various stakeholders with a view to promoting the right to access to justice, which can ultimately strengthen protection for persons with albinism.

**Social grants:** Download the Government Gazette on the increase of social grants paid in terms Social Assistance Act 13 of 2004 [here](#). This reminds us during human rights month that the Constitution states that "everyone has the right to have access to social security, including, if they are unable to support themselves and their dependants, appropriate social assistance".



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# 3 questions to RIKASWANZEN

Chairperson of Council's Education, Training and Development Committee



## Tell us who is Rika Swansen the person?

A person who adores her family, animals, music, the ocean and someone who, regardless of the sometimes unsurmountable challenges we face in our field, still hopes to make a difference in the world. I can't cook, but I can read and write a lot if given the chance.

## What is the biggest highlight in your career as a social worker/child and youth care worker?

I was fortunate to experience two of the social service professions and my best memories of practice were when the multi-disciplinary team really worked. I saw young people flourish under focused attention of professionals who truly respected each other. Getting my doctorate degree did feel like a differentiation occurred between accepting limitations in how things are, to being part of creating different realities. My other highlights involved adventure camps with young people and seeing who they really are behind the labels society already gave them. Seeing the eagerness in students' eyes to also go out and make a difference is my more recent highlight.

## As chairperson of Council's ETD Committee, what do you think is the role of employers to ensure that social service professionals participate in continuous professional development (CPD)?

An organisation needs optimally trained professionals to meet the complex needs of our service users. In the information age knowledge changes much quicker and one of the most efficient ways to keep the workforce up to date on best practices is through CPD. With the choice of council-approved courses, employers can be assured that the content will be relevant to skill-building within the sector.

## LAW talk for social service professionals

Ever wondered what is the correct way to reference legislation in your reports. This article (based on the references below) will assist you.

**QUOTING AN ACT?** Lets start by understanding a few terms better:

**Principle Act** - this is the first Act published or sometimes referred to as the 'main Act'. For example the Children's Act 38 of 2005.

**Amendment Act** - this refers to Acts passed to amend or change the principle Act. For example the Children's Amendment Act 41 of 2007.

**Short title** - is the name given to a particular Act to facilitate reference to an Act. For example the Child Justice Act.

**RULE #1:** When we refer to legislation in our writing, the most simple and direct way i.e the short title, number and year of a statute is used. We only refer to the principal Act, e.g. the Children's Act 38 of 2005 or the Prevention of and Treatment for Substance Abuse Act 70 of 2008 without any punctuation (commas), no abbreviation for number, e.g. No., or repetition of the word Act and no reference to amendments (e.g. "the Children's Act 38 of 2005 as amended" is incorrect and add little value to the statement).

**RULE #2:** As a general rule we do not refer to an Amendment Act independently when you quote or refer to legislation, but only to the principal Act. For example "section 91 of the Children's Amendment Act 41 of 2007" is incorrect, while the correct way is "section 91 of the Children's Act 38 of 2005". You only refer to an Amendment Act if you want to highlight what changes that Amendment Act brought about in the principal Act. You do not quote it as an independent Act (see rule #1). **Remember:** The main purpose of an Amendment Act is to change the provisions of the principle Act. (Note: There are some exceptions, such as the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act 32 of 2007, but these are very few).

\* **Sources consulted:** Sources of Law and Modes of Citation (UNISA); Guide to Footnoting in Law (UKZN); Potchefstroom Electronic Law Journal: Standard for Style and Citation (NWU); IIE Law Style Guidelines and Legal Referencing 2017; Stellenbosch Law Review – Editorial Policy and Style Guide (US); South African Law Journal Style Guide; Referencing and Style Guide for Graduate Students (UWC); Department of Social Work & Criminology: Reference Techniques (UP); Juta & Company Style Guide; Editorial guidelines for publication in De Jure & Sources for Plagiarism and Referencing Guidelines (Law Faculty, UP)

## LOCAL & international NEWS

### NEW MEMBERS APPOINTED

Minister of Social Development has appointed the following persons, following two vacancies on Council, to the serve of the South African Council for Social Service Professions in terms of sections 5(1)(c)(v) and 5(1)(c)(iv) of the Social Service Professions Act 110 of 1978. *Mr Fani Amon Xaba* was appointed to represent business and *Ms Octavia Nomqibelo Malombo* to represent trade unions. Both were nominated by their respective constituencies. You can find the Board Notice [here](#).

### CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ALL LEGAL PRACTITIONERS

South African Legal Practice Council's Code of Conduct for all legal practitioners, candidate legal practitioners and juristic entities made under the authority of section 36(1) of the Legal Practice Act 28 of 2014 was published 29 March 2019. Download it [here](#). It is important that professionals working inter-disciplinary take note of each other's codes of conduct. Download it [here](#).

### GBV DECLARATION

The Declaration of the Presidential Summit against Gender-based Violence and Feticide was recently published. You can download the declaration [here](#). Download your copy [here](#).

### NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND RELATED INTOLERANCE

Cabinet has adopted the *National Action Plan to combat Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance*. On 25 March 2019 Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, the Honourable JH Jeffery, launched the National Action Plan where he reminded the audience that the "UN General Assembly proclaimed 21 March as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to signify the struggle to end apartheid in South Africa and called on the international community to redouble its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination". Download the Plan of Action, implementation plan and booklet [here](#).

### 36<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SOCIAL WORK DAY AT THE UNITED NATIONS

On 1 April 2019 the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Social Work Day at the United Nations took place as part of the annual programme of the International Federation of Social Workers and the International Association of Schools of Social Work. The theme of this 36<sup>th</sup> annual programme was *Strengthening Human Relationships; Policies and Programs to Protect Children*. Click [here](#) to watch the podcast.

You can also click [here](#) to see how other countries celebrated World Social Work Day 2019.

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