



# 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.

# March 2019

## From the desk of the Registrar



This month I am picking up from my message in the February 2019 eBulletin on promoting healthy relationships in the work place (part two!). March 2019 is abuzz with one

or another related message linked to 'how we can promote healthy positive relationships?'. When I joined the Mental Health Society many moons ago, it was not uncommon to hear someone say: 'mental health is 1-2-3', which emphasised a relationship with oneself - highlighting self-love and self-acceptance; acceptance of others; and coping with the demands in one's environment. What I learnt early in life is that building healthy relationships and interactions with others stems from having a strong positive relationship with yourself and the right mental attitude. Sounds clichéd, but it is so true. All of us are born with empty tanks that must be filled up by the loved ones in our environment. The tanks are for love, acceptance, recognition and security. One cannot self-actualize and experience equilibrium if the tanks are empty or half filled. Thus, a person with empty tanks is incapable of transferring love and acceptance to others, is unable to recognise good in others and cannot offer security to others.

If we reflect on the toxic state of some workplaces, one can infer that there are employees with empty tanks running organisations and departments. As social service professionals we need to endeavour to connect with ourselves, the people in our environment and also with the demands of our environment. Practitioners are encouraged to reconnect with their inner self and rediscover their strengths and weaknesses afresh in order to be responsive to the needs of others in their environment. Workplace bullying is an indication of a troubled soul, and such a person requires love and support. One act of selflessness or a good deed in the work environment will nurture a healthy working relationship amongst peers. Such deep connection with self and others requires one to be vulnerable, which is often misperceived as a weakness.

The workplace can be transformed into a healthy vibrant working environment if those in senior positions can let go of their fear to be vulnerable and reconnect and offer leadership as opposed to destroying their subordinates. Such practitioners must

## What's on for social service professionals

**19 March** is **World Social Work Day 2019**. The 2019 theme is 'Promoting the Importance of Human Relationships'. Click [here](#) to read more about World Social Work Day 2019. Be on the look-out for World Social Work Day event near you (or organise one).  
**#WSWD2019**

**21 March** is **Human Rights Day**

**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)

## your ANNUAL FEES 2019/20

ANNUAL FEES are due by **31 March 2019**. You have less than a month in which to bring your registration up to date.

### IMPORTANT:

1. EMPLOYERS who are willing to pay fees for their employees can send a list of registrants for verification and generation of a bulk invoice.
2. Employers in Government sector may use the central data base supplier (treasury) number **MAAA0676907** to make payments, however a list is still required to verify the registrants and generate an invoice.
3. Please use the SAGEPay option or electronic transfer option. Remember to put your registration number for reference (10-, 40-, 50-, 70- or 90-).

declare what they are struggling with (internal turmoil) so that they can receive external support.

Let us reach out to one another and spread love as we connect with our hearts and soul.

On 19 March the world celebrates *World Social Work Day* under the theme 'Promoting the Importance of Human Relationships'. I am taking this opportunity to salute all the social workers who have continued to serve with pride and joy in their hearts. Remember to care for yourself too because executive stress is a silent killer and it destroys human relationships. Reach out, connect with yourself and connect with your colleagues and clients and preserve the human relationships fostered.

Langi Malamba

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## Quote for the month

*I have always found that actively loving saves one from a morbid preoccupation with the shortcomings of society.* Alan Paton (South African author)

# RESOURCE *Corner*

In celebration of **World Social Work Day 2019** as well as Human Rights day, we share a few relevant resources with you this month:

Read the **Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development: Third Report. Promoting Community and Environmental Sustainability** [here](#) (choose 'pdf' version for free download). This is the third of a series of four reports on The Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development.

Watch this very powerful **Public Service Announcement** about the invaluable contributions of social workers everywhere published by the National Association of Social Workers (USA). Watch it [here](#).

Read and [download](#) the **Statement of International Federation of Social Workers UN Commission on International Human Rights Day (2018)**. The IFSW UN Commission has been established to work with others in supporting UN agencies and partners in bringing together the voices and aspirations of the communities where social workers work and the national and global strategies for rights and social justice.

**Global Social Work Statement of Ethical Principles** (IASSW) can be downloaded [here](#). The Global Statement of Ethical Principles was approved at the General Meetings of the International Federation of Social Workers and the General Assembly of the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) in Dublin, Ireland, in July 2018.

## LAW *talk* for social service professionals

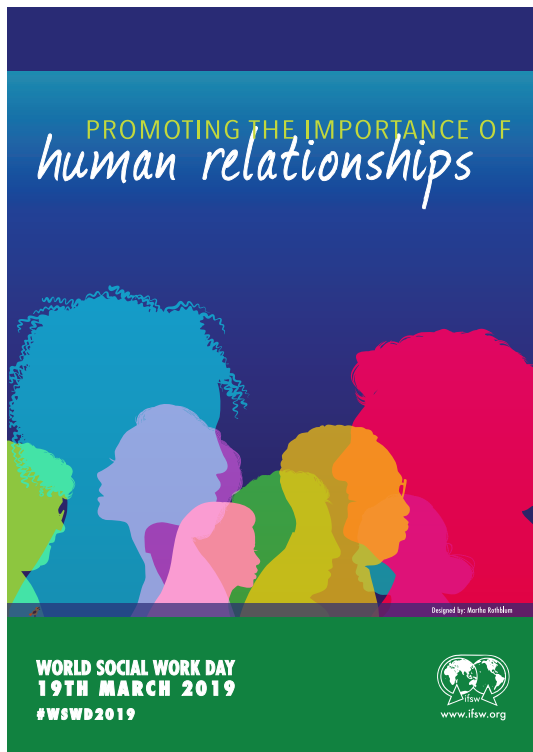
This is a new regular feature focusing on terms and issues related to law that will interest social service professionals.

**WHAT IS LAW?** Law refers to collective of rules that governs any society and includes Acts of Parliament, proclamations, ordinance, bylaw, regulations, rules or any other enactment that has a force of law. Legislation is also referred to as 'statute law' (written law), which is enacted by a legislative body, which include Parliament, Provincial Legislature and/or Municipal Council.

### How to cite the Constitution in reports and documents?

The Citation of Constitutional Laws Act 5 of 2005 changed the way in which the Constitution is referred to. It should be written in accordance with section 1 as the **Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996**, and that no Act number is to be associated with the Constitution. Thus, when we refer to the Constitution in text, one writes the **Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996**, as it is incorrect to write Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, (Act 108 of 1996).

**References:** Botha, C. 2005. *Statutory interpretation: An introduction for students* (4<sup>th</sup> ed). Cape Town: Juta; *Oxford Dictionary of Law*. 2013. Oxford University Press: Oxford; Interpretation Act 33 of 1957; and Citation of Constitutional Laws Act 5 of 2005.



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## LOCAL & international NEWS

### History of World Social Work Day

*World Social Work Day* was launched by the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) in 1983 and later other social work organizations such as the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) have joined as partners to the event. *World Social Work Day* has become a highpoint in the social work calendar with social workers all over the world celebrating and promoting the contributions of the profession to individuals, families, communities and wider society. The day is celebrated on the official date every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in March. On this date social work organizations throughout the world mark *World Social Work Day* bringing messages to their governments, communities, and peer professional groups on the unique and significant contributions of the social work profession. The actions highlight social work's approach to facilitating sustainable community outcomes by applying a developmental and capacity building approach coupled with advocating for social justice and human rights. The themes of *World Social Work Day* are set for two years according to the goals of the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development: 2019 to 2020: *Promoting the Importance of Human Relationships*.

Extracted from IFSW website ([https://www.ifsw.org/wp-content/uploads/ifsw-cdn/assets/ifsw\\_85801-10.pdf](https://www.ifsw.org/wp-content/uploads/ifsw-cdn/assets/ifsw_85801-10.pdf))

### History of World Social Work Day

IASSW and IFSW have special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) (IASSW since 1947 and IFSW since 1959). Jointly the representatives of both organizations have annually celebrated *World Social Work Day* at the United Nations in New York since 1983 and in Geneva since 2012. Sporadically *World Social Work Day* at the United Nations has also been celebrated in Vienna, Nairobi, Santiago de Chile and Bangkok. Objectives of *World Social Work Day* at the United Nations are:

- To strengthen existing or to establish new contacts, cooperation and partnership with United Nations organisations and with allied international NGOs.
- To spread knowledge about social work, its values, principles and methods in practice and theory among United Nations organisations and allied international NGOs.
- To highlight social work actions, policies and achievements in the pursuit of common goals.
- To disseminate the knowledge about United Nations' activities, goals, program and campaigns among social workers and social work organisations and schools.

Extracted from IFSW website ([https://www.ifsw.org/wp-content/uploads/ifsw-cdn/assets/ifsw\\_85801-10.pdf](https://www.ifsw.org/wp-content/uploads/ifsw-cdn/assets/ifsw_85801-10.pdf))

**Watch** the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Social Work Day at the United Nations (2018) [here](#). This year, it will happen again.

Let us know what your plans are for **World Social Work Day 2019**. You can send details of your events with or without photos to [communications@sacssp.co.za](mailto:communications@sacssp.co.za) and communications will publish those events on our communication platforms. Also let us know what your plans are for **International Child and Youth Care Week** which is celebrated every first week in May.