



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY 2024

World Social Work Day (#WSWD2024) is celebrated across the globe on the 3rd Tuesday of March (19 March in 2024) under the lead of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW). This year's theme is: **'Buen Vivir – Shared Future for Transformative Change'**, which is rooted in the Global Agenda and emphasises the need for social workers to adopt innovative, community-led approaches that are grounded in indigenous wisdom and harmonious coexistence with nature (available here: <https://www.ifsw.org/social-work-action/world-social-work-day/world-social-work-day-2024/>). This theme serves as a timely reminder of the transformative role social workers play in driving positive change and fostering communities that thrive on mutual respect and sustainability. "It serves as a reminder that to bring about meaningful change, we must embrace community-driven initiatives that are grounded in indigenous wisdom and harmonious coexistence with nature. It's a call for unity, collaboration, and transformative action," the President of International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) Sang-Mok Suh says.

In her reflection on the theme for the 2024 World Social Work Day, the Chairperson of the Professional Board for Social Work, Ms Ida Strydom stated *"through innovative and transformative approaches, rooted in our core values and principles, social workers must contribute to find solutions to uphold the rights of all vulnerable groups, respect for humans and nature and re-building peaceful communities."*

The profession is still living through parts of the pandemic which has affected our communities and colleagues and currently in Eastern Europe during the repercussions of the war in Ukraine and in Palestinian-Israeli which are far-reaching, our thoughts are with the people of these communities and the colleagues working in these areas. Social workers in these regions continue demonstrating empathy and respect, irrespective of their personal opinions or biases.

The SACSSP, the Professional Board for Social Work and the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work salute all social workers and social auxiliary workers in our country and reminds them and other social service professionals about our motto, **NON NOBIS – Not for Ourselves**.

The South African Council for Social Service Professions recognise this day and celebrates with 39,910 social workers and 13,130 social auxiliary workers registered with it in terms of the Social Service Professions Act 110 of 1978, together with the 9,629 student social workers and 6,585 student social auxiliary workers. They are advocates of social justice as they tackle serious social issues on a daily basis to help find solutions for those most in need. Their role is immeasurable.

For more information on World Social Work Day visit the:

SACSSP website: www.sacssp.co.za (and download the WSWD 2024 posters in all 11 South African official languages)

IFSW website: www.ifsw.org

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ABOUT THE SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SERVICE PROFESSIONS

The South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP/ Council) is a statutory body established in terms of section 2 of the Social Service Professions Act 110 of 1978 (the Act). Council has two Professional boards under its auspices: the Professional Board for Social Work and the Professional Board for Child and Youth Care Work. Council, in conjunction with its Professional Boards, guides and regulates the professions of social work and child youth care work in aspects pertaining to registration; education and training; professional conduct and ethical behaviour; ensuring continuing professional development; and fostering compliance with professional standards. It protects the integrity of the social service professions as well as the interest of the public at large. In order to safeguard the public and indirectly the professions, registration with Council in terms of the Act is a prerequisite before practicing social work and child and youth care work. Registration is mandatory for social workers, social auxiliary workers, student social workers, learner social auxiliary workers, child and youth care workers, auxiliary child and youth care workers and student child and youth care workers.