



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 2020

From the desk of the Registrar



We need reflection on many levels.

As we pause to ponder over what's happening around us amidst the coronavirus disease COVID-19 breaking news, we need to also pause and reflect as social service

practitioners in relation to the theme because the World Social Work Day celebration is a reminder of who we are and the choices we make as practitioners that impacts human relationships.

Start by asking yourself, "am I a good social worker to my community?" What have I done to improve myself in the last two years so as to remain relevant and connected to realities facing my community? For example - what do I know about COVID-19? Am I fit to practice? What is my mental health gauge revealing?

The mental health gauge require that one reflect on the following:

- Do I feel good about myself and the chosen career and/profession?
- Do I feel good about my colleagues and other professionals outside of social work?
- Do I feel good about my choice of employer, my race and ethnic group, etc?
- Am I coping with the demands of my many environments: work, family, social?

The theme begins with me having a good relationship with myself - knowing myself and being in touch with myself on all levels. For example: What type of person am I? Am I a pessimist or am able to see good in others? Am I overly self-critical and self-loathing and judgmental of others and not accepting of self and others?

Reflection

- Think back to your first year at varsity...
- What drew you to social work?
- Who did you meet on your first day?
- How did you choose your first acquaintance who became your friend for life?
- What connected you to that person? Values, principles, image, unique attributes, sound judgement, balanced view of others?

Think of the 4 imaginary tanks: one each for LOVE, ACCEPTANCE, RECOGNITION and SECURITY. Which tank did that friend fill and which one did you fill for them?

- How full are your tanks today?
- Who is filling your tanks currently?
- Identify one thing you are grateful for because of your

choice of career as a social worker.

- What do you commit to contribute to the social work community and to grow your own abundance and happiness as a practitioner?

I 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

Please remember: Annual fees were due on or before 1 January 2020. You can still pay before the 31 March 2020 to bring your registration up to date. It is illegal to practise without being registered. Pay your annual fees for 2020/21 on time. It is the right thing to do!

What's on for social service professionals

17 March - World Social Work Day See highlights on next page.

20 March - International Day of Happiness

21 March - Human Rights Day (SA)

21 March - World Down Syndrome Day

31 March 2020 - final date for payment of annual fees

2 April - World Autism Awareness Day

5 April - International Day of Conscience

7 April - World Health Day

Click on the word Day to find out more about the specific 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

RESOURCE Corner

Key Messages for Advocating for the Social Service Workforce developed by the Advocacy Interest Group of the Global Social Service Workforce Alliance. The messages are intended to convey the importance and value of the social service workforce to donor groups and policymakers, the media and general public, and others working within the social service sector. Let us know how you're using the messages and any outcomes. Download it [here](#).

The history of World Social Work Day provides background information on how 1983, IFSW United Nations Representatives in New York, led by Jack A. Kamaiko proposed a project to bring social workers of the area into the UN Headquarters in New York. This was the beginning of an annual celebration called Social Work Day at the United Nations. Read the rest of the history [here](#).

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Quote for the month

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others - Mahatma Gandhi

Around the world on World Social Work Day 2020



Around the world **World Social Work Day** is celebrated in different ways on the third Tuesday of March and is an opportunity for social workers and others in the social service sector to celebrate their achievements as well as to raise awareness and support for the important role that social workers play in the lives of vulnerable families and communities. This section takes a quick tour around the globe. Click on the [links](#) (underline words)

for more information.

Watch the message from the **IFSW Secretary-General, Rory Truell** for *World Social Work Day* [here](#). Dr Truell highlights that this year's theme: 'Promoting the Importance of Human Relationships' is evidenced in the social work response to the COVID-19 Virus.

[Download](#) the **2020 global poster** from the International Federation of Social Workers. The poster is translated into 70 languages for global use. The **South African Council of Social Service Professions** has translated the poster into all 11 South African languages and shared with the IFSW (see translations).

World Social Work Day at the **United Nations** in New York and Geneva has been cancelled as a preventative measure due to COVID-19. You can still read to concept note [here](#).

Social workers in **Pakistan** are using *World Social Work Day* to advocate for and take steps toward forming a national social work association.

Read the Message of **Iran Association of Social Workers** for *World Social Work Day* 2020 [here](#).

The **National Association of Social Workers in the US** will celebrate Social Work Month throughout March and has created infographics, key message, proclamations and other promotional and advocacy materials to download and use.

The **Japanese Federation of Social Workers** hosted IFSW Global President Dr. Silvana Martinez to share social work experiences in Latin America.

The **Department of Social Work at Osmania University in Hyderabad, India**, will hold a one-day seminar and workshop on March 17 on the global theme of *World Social Work Day*

In South Africa, the **City of Tshwane** in partnership with University of South Africa and other social partners, will host an event with a lecture and sharing of promising practices from various NGOs and Government entities.

Social workers in **Austria** will hold their 5th annual event in the City of Carinthia while advocating for the important role social workers play in supporting clients with issues related to poverty, homelessness and addiction.

In **Ghana**, a daylong symposium will include remarks from local government, UN agencies, INGOs and faith-based groups.

The **Malaysian Association of Social Workers** is co-organising with the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia for a National Social Work Symposium to be held on March 21. The symposium will emphasize the importance of social work competencies to address social, economic and ecological challenges within Malaysia.

In **South Africa** the **South African Council of Social Service Professions** will be engaged with media interviews and published messages from Member of Council and the Professional Boards.

LOCAL & international NEWS

NEW SUPERVISION INTEREST GROUP

Global Social Service Workforce Alliance established a new *Supervision and the Social Service Workforce Interest Group* that can be joined to discuss ways to improve supervision of the social service workforce. The purpose of this interest group is to advance knowledge, discussion, tools and information exchange pertaining to supervision of the social service workforce. Click [here](#) to find out more and how you can participate in this interest group.

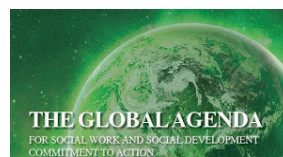
SOURCE: Global Social Service Workforce Alliance.

COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) DECLARED A NATIONAL DISASTER

President Ramaphosa announced on 15 March 2020 the measures that Cabinet has put in place to combat the COVID-19 epidemic (find it [here](#)). This was followed by classifying the COVID-19 pandemic as a national disaster (see [Government Notice 312 of 15 March 2020](#)) and a declaration of a national state of disaster (see [Government Notice 313 of 15 March 2020](#)).

SACSSP ISSUED STATEMENT ON COVID-19

The South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP) issued a media statement on 16 March 2020 indicating that the social service professions are ready to take up President's call for action on COVID-19 epidemic. The SACSSP appreciates the statement made by President Ramaphosa on 15 March 2020 and the measures that Cabinet has put in place to combat the COVID-19 epidemic. These measures are important to protect South African citizens as well as people from other countries within our borders, but most of all will play an important role to protect those most vulnerable and at risk, such as the elderly, children, people with compromised immune systems, among others. You can find it [here](#).



REMINDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONSULTATION ON THE 'GLOBAL SOCIAL WORK

AGENDA: THE NEXT TEN YEARS 2020-2030'

The *Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development* started in 2010 and has been an essential voice in proactively setting and fulfilling the Sustainable Developmental Goals, working towards more peaceful and just societies and strengthening the voice of the social work profession. Now, the social work profession needs to examine new themes and processes to expand the *Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development* for the years 2020 to 2030. The International Federation of Social Workers launched a consultation process, where your input is essential to build a robust and inclusive Global Agenda that meets the real needs of all people. The consultation period will end in July 2020.

Please make your contributions to the *Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development 2020 – 2030* by filling in the comments box at the bottom of this [page](#).