



ABSTRACT BOOK



2021 International Social Work Conference IFSW Africa

Kagali Rwanda

23rd to 26th November 2021.

**“Towards Ubuntu and Sustainable Development:
Social Work position in achieving SDGs”**

**Host: Umuryango Nyarwanda w'Abavugururamiberho
{Rwanda National Organisation of Social Workers
(RWA-NOSW)}**

IFSW Africa and RWA-NOSW

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IFSW AFRICA REGION - SWSD 2021 CONFERENCE

THEME: TOWARDS UBUNTU AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: SOCIAL WORK POSITION IN ACHIEVING SDGS

23RD - 26TH NOVEMBER, 2021 | KIGALI-RWANDA | VENUE: UR-GIKONDO CAMPUS, KIGALI AND HUYE CAMPUS

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Welcome

Greeting's ladies and gentlemen,

It is great pleasure to welcome you all to the IFSW Africa regional Hybrid International Social Work Conference.

This is the second international social work conference we host in Kigali, and this is of great importance since it brings together participants from all over the world with different backgrounds such as researchers, academicians, policymakers, students, social work practitioners, civil society organizations representatives to mention but a few.

The conference will be held in Kigali from 23rd to 26 November 2021 with the theme "Towards Ubuntu and Sustainable Development: Social Work position in achieving Sustainable Development Goals".

As the conference's main theme highlights it, participants will share their experience about the position of Ubuntu social work in achieving Sustainable Development Goals. Indeed, by bringing together researchers, academicians, policymakers, and practitioners, the conference will contribute to display new knowledge, discuss identified new knowledge gaps in terms of strategies accommodating the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

The conference is jointly organized by the Rwanda National organization of Social Workers, the International Federation of Social Work African region with support from partners, University of Rwanda, UNICEF Rwanda, and Hope and Homes for children Rwanda.

On behalf of the local organizing committee, and the Rwandan community, I take this opportunity to welcome you all. The organizing committee values the participation of everyone and wishes you all a warm welcome at the wonderful Kigali conference premises.



Dr. Joseph Hahirwa

Conference chairperson

Bio: Joseph Gumira Hahirwa is a senior lecturer at the University of Rwanda, College of Arts and Social Sciences, School of Governance, Development and Society, Department of Social Sciences. He has a PhD from the University of Gothenburg; Sweden on resistance to reforms in post genocide Rwanda. He has a master's degree in social work and Community Development and a Diploma in Health Promotion. His publications are on Conflicts, peace & peacebuilding, non-violent resistance, Security, and development.

Message from the IFSW Africa regional President and vice president

The International Federation of Social Workers Africa Region is pleased to announce the 2021 IFSW Africa regional conference in 'the land of a thousand hills,' Rwanda' from 23rd to 26th November 2021 themed: "Towards Ubuntu and Sustainable Development: Social Work position in achieving SDGs". For the first time, the conference will be hosted by two cities: Huye and Kigali.

Rwanda National Organization of Social Workers (RWA-NOSW) takes over from the Ugandan Association and will host us in Kigali and Huye. The conference is being held at the time that the whole world is grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic which has brought the whole globe to a near standstill. IFSW AR in collaboration with the Rwanda National Organization of Social Workers (RWA-NOSW) also known as the host decided to hold a hybrid conference in adherence to the COVID-19 regulations. As has become the norm, the first day of the conference will have a bias on the youth and young social workers.

Our regional conferences bring together social work practitioners, educators, key stakeholders, and professionals from other social work-related fields. We are convinced that the conference will avail us all an opportunity to share our practice experiences, foster linkages, and network in the spirit of Ubuntu as we co-build a post-COVID-19 future together. As a region, we also hope that this conference will present us with a platform for advocating for equity of access to COVID-19 vaccines, particularly for our people in Africa.

Allow us at this juncture to pay our heartfelt tribute to all social workers and other health and non-health frontline staff who lost their lives to the COVID-19 pandemic. You were indeed true men and women of valour, may your precious souls rest in power.

Last but not least, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Rwanda National Organization of Social Workers, the Local Organizing Committee, and all those involved in making this conference a success. We appreciate that organizing such an event during these difficult times requires great commitment and dedication. We also extend my unwavering appreciation to IFSW Global, all our partners, and conference participants for making this conference a great success.

Join us in Kigali- Rwanda for those opting to attend the conference in person as well as online for those opting for virtual attendance. We look forward to welcoming you in Rwanda. Stay safe and keep others safe from the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Murakaza neza



Dr Noel Garikai Muridzo

IFSW Africa Region President



Joachim Cuthbert Mumba

IFSW Africa Region Vice-President

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Message from the global Secretary-general and President

'Sharing and welcoming participants, Africa region and the global population to the people's summit 2022.'

[Watch the presentation here](#)



Rory Truell

IFSW Global Secretary-General

Conference sub-themes

Poverty, inequalities, hunger eradication
Health and sustainable social infrastructure amid COVID-19
Inclusive education and child protection amid the pandemic
Natural and manmade disaster management
Sustainable communities and cities, co-building the future with social work
Ubuntu sustaining peace, justice, and development
COVID-19, gender equality and violence
Indigenous knowledge decolonising social work (Ubuntu)

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Program

23 rd November 2021 (Day one)			
Time Rwandan	Kigali	Huye A	Huye B
Registration			
8.30 – 10.00	Registration by RWA-NOSW		
10.00 – 10.30	Youth connecting and settling for the youth program		
Youth session (Moderators - David Nshimyumukiza and Irankunda Kevin)			
10.30 – 10.45	Welcoming note conference chair, Rwa-NOSW, IFSW Africa President		
10.45 – 11.15	Presentation on Social Work: By Rwandan social work students Umwali Grace and Igrimbabazi Patrick		
11.15 – 11.30	Communique from IFSW Africa 2019; Uganda Johnmary		
11.30 – 12.00	Impact of Covid-19 on social work sharing experiences – (Mike & Alice)		
12.00 – 12.30	Opportunities and Challenges in Social Work education and practice youth voices Alice and Gerald		
12.30 – 13.00	Youth vision of social work in Africa by Alice and Gerald		
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch break		
Time	Kigali	Huye A	Huye B
14:00 - 14: 30	Workshop: IFSW Europe New Social Workers Project – Omar and New social work team		
14:30 - 15: 00	Open forum: Inter-continent exchange and networking of African young social workers and the New social work Europe coordinator Mayaka and Omar		
From 15:00	Official opening ceremony		
15: 00 - 15:15	Rwanda National Anthem, and RWA-NOSW President - opening remarks		
15:15 – 15:25	University of Rwanda representative - welcoming remarks		
15:25 – 15:35	Conference Chairperson - welcoming remarks		
15:35 – 15:45	IFSW Africa Region opening remarks		
15:45 – 15:55	IFSW global Secretary-General opening remarks		
15:55 –	Official opening by Guest: Representative from Government of Rwanda.		
	Entertainment – Rwanda Cultural Dance Troupe		
End of Day 1			

Ubuntu social work conference

24 th November 2021 (Day two)			
Time	Kigali	Huye A	Huye B
Child protection			
8.30 – 8.45	Is the reintegration of Children with disabilities living in institutions in Rwanda possible? Perspectives on those returned due to COVID-19 <i>by Epaphrodite Nsabimana, Murera Emmanuel & Ange Marius Uwurukundo (Hope for the children)</i>	Indigenous mentoring and monitoring system amongst Vatsonga speaking people towards child protection <i>by Samuel L Mahuntse-Simbine</i>	Factors influencing motivation of early childhood development and education caregivers in Lilongwe district, Malawi <i>by Naine Rehoboth Mkandawire</i>
8.45 – 9.00	Pilot closure of residential institution for Children with Disabilities <i>by Munyaneza Richard & Kayiganwa Aline (Hope for the children)</i>	Child marriages, food insecurity and the role of the social worker in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals <i>by Ajwang' Warria</i>	
Covid 19 and child/ social protection			
9.00 – 9.15	Synthesizing Narratives of lived experiences by street kids in Kigali city during Covid19; <i>by Hakizamungu Alexandre & Rutikanga Charles</i>	An Examination of the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy Rates in Malawi <i>by Stephano A. Joseph</i>	Social Work Responses to Poverty in PLHIV Associations in Huye district: the role of Intermediary Social Work Actors; <i>by Charles Kalingaire</i>
9.15 – 9.30	COVID-19 Pandemic: Opportunity for better Social Protection Programmes in Nigeria; <i>by Abiodun. Adewole, A</i>	Covid 19, gender equality and violence... <i>by Muhanguzi Brian</i>	Indigenous Governance Systems and Ubuntu-based Social Protection sustainability: A Pan

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			African Perspective; <i>by Vedaste Ndizera</i>
Social work, poverty, and social protection			
9.30 – 9.45	Equity, Public Health Education, and Community Development in the face of Covid19: Utilizing the Creative Power of Childrens Artwork <i>by Jean Paulin Mutatsineza</i>	Doing masculinity': Gang violence and the construction of masculinity in marginalised black African communities; <i>by Nokukhanya Ndhlovu</i>	Gaps and colonial legacies associated with incrementalism approach in South African social policies; <i>by Samkelo Bala</i>
9.45 – 10.00	Overview of Children Neglect in the Federal Capital Territory Abuja, Nigeria <i>by Michael Adedotun Oke</i>	Child poverty in Hong Kong: the role of social services sector in the production of social inequality; <i>by KUNG Wai Sum</i>	The burden of food insecurity on smallholder farmers in East Africa; <i>by Alexandre Hakizamungu</i>
10.00 – 10.30	Tea break		
Live streamed sessions			
10.30 – 11.00	Keynote: Dr. Jacob Mugumbate		
11.00 – 11.20	UNICEF Rwanda and Government of Rwanda Presentation on child protection systems		
11.20 – 11.40	Workshop: Sierra Leon National Association of Social Workers: Empowering community members into development facilitators.		
11.40 – 12.00	Workshop: RWA-NOSW - Social work education and practice in Rwanda		
12.00 – 12.40	Panel Disc: Charles Rutikanga: Panel discussion: Indigenous practice facilitator.		
12.40 – 13.00	Invited Speaker: Prof. Revd Adrian van Breda		
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch break		
Time	Kigali	Huye A	Huye B
Ubuntu and social work			
14:00 - 14:15	Decolonising the Social Work Curriculum in the UK: The Value of Indigenous Knowledge; <i>by Omar Mohamed & Diana Katoto</i>	Grassroot Community Development through a Parish Development Model in Uganda: Philosophy, Prospects & Implications for Social Work Practice; <i>by Venesio Bwambale Bhangyi, Silverno Tweshengyereze & Hiraly Asabahebwa</i>	Games, activities and narrative practice: Enabling sparks to emerge in conversations with children and young people who have experienced hard times; <i>by Serge Nyirinkwaya</i>
14:15 - 14:30	Workshop: Practice Education, Decolonisation and Ubuntu: Making Connections; <i>by Janet Walker, Simon Cauvain & Anstance Fometu</i>	An assessment of students-supervisor relationship and support offered to students during fieldwork placement of social work students: A case of University of Venda and University of Limpopo, South Africa; <i>by Jimmy Budeli & Jabulani Makhube</i>	Social Work Practice in Rwanda: Indigenous and Innovative Models of Problem Solving; <i>by Consolée w., A., Hakizamungu, Charles R., Théogène Bangwanubusa and Charles Kalinganire</i>
14:30 - 14:45	Culture and Ethnicity: Critical Factors in Irish Early Intervention Services; <i>by Ndemazia Asongleack Jingwa</i>	Effect of Religion and Culture on Practice of Family Planning among Couples in Ibadan, Nigeria; <i>by Dr Abimbola Afolabi & Mrs Oyindamola A. Ogunsan</i>	
14:45 - 15:00	Social work practice, an alternative paradigm to sustainable peace in Rwanda; <i>by Hahirwa G. Joseph</i>	Infusing an Eco social Worldview into Social Work Curriculum & Fostering International Collaborations for Climate Justice; <i>by Meredith Powers</i>	Help-Seeking Behaviours Beyond Traditional System: A Case of Victim Support Units (VSUs) in Malawi; <i>by Felix Kakowa</i>
15:00 - 15:15	Decolonizing Nature: Indigenous Strategies for Environmental Sustainability; <i>by Lacey Sloan & Cathryne Schmitz</i>	Ubuntu in Social work education <i>by Wilkins Ndege Muhingi</i>	The Tree of Life: Reimagining Ubuntu; <i>By Lyn E. K. Muzulu</i>
Gender, Reproductive health, Violence and Covid-19			
15:15 – 15:30	Beyond Masculinity; Boda-Bodas as Allies for Improved Maternal Health in Uganda; <i>by Bakshi Asuman</i>	Sexual and gender-based violence during the covid-19 lockdown: implications for social work practice in Nigeria; <i>by Prof. Chinwe R. Nwanna</i>	Inclusive Education and child protection amidst the Covid 19 pandemic in Malawi; <i>by Agnes Wizi-Kambala</i>
15:30 – 15:45	The nature of child to parent violence: children's experiences; <i>by Dr Zintle Ntshongwana & Prof Pius Tanga</i>	Gender prone and disability related violence experiences among women with physical disabilities; <i>by Yeukai Muruzi</i>	The effects of covid - 19 pandemic on social workers mental health: the case of Botswana; <i>by Masego L. & Relebogile K. Phiri</i>

15:45– 16:00	Childcare for autistic students at HVP Gatagara/ Gikondo special school: by Nteziryayo Jean Pierre	Social work and psychosocial experiences of people behind the walls during the covid- 19 lockdown in Nigeria; by Fatoye, Helen Ajibike	Amplifying access of information and services by addressing inequality: the role of gender transformative approaches in positive outcomes of Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR); by Bakshi Asuman
Day break			

Ubuntu social work conference

25th November 2021 - Day three

Time	Kigali	Huye A	Huye B
Indigenous practice and Knowledge			
8.30 – 8.45	Restoring the value of Local knowledge in agricultural reform in Rwanda: an alternative to seeds scarcity in Nyaruguru and Huye districts; by Hahirwa G. Joseph	Indigenous knowledge decolonizing social work; by Thaddeus Putheke	Negotiating Interdisciplinary Imperatives Towards A Culturally Competent Social Work Praxis; by Terence Qubekani Ndlovu
8.45 – 9.00	The concept of knowledge in social work: the missing pieces in African social work; by Rugare Jacob Mugumbate	Recognizing Women and Children as Social Actors (With Rights): Ubuntu Perspective; by Admire Chereni	How Rwandan homegrown initiatives might contribute to local and regional economic and social development; by Regine King
SDGs and Social Work			
9.00 – 9.15	Workshop: Forum theatre: Impact of COVID-19 on addressing gender equality and violence with communities; by Dr Karin Kooper, Mubakilay Tshinkola Yannick, Munyerere Bienvenu & Dr Lea Omari	Centering the Value of Public Impact Scholarship in Social Work Programs to Promote and Contribute to the Achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals; by Nicole Bromfield & Filipe Duarte	Achieving sustainable development goal in Nigeria through social work education: A gendered approach; by Samuel O. Ebimbo & Uzoma O. Okoye
9.15 – 9.30		Peasant Farmers' Participation in Decision Making on Radical Terracing for Food Security; by Emmanuel Murwanashyaka, Preston Orieko Chitere and James Gichuru Kariuki.	Achieving sustainable development goal in Nigeria through social work education: A gendered approach; by Samuel O. Ebimbo
9.30 – 9.45	"Are Social Workers at the Forefront of Developing and Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals; by Filipe Duarte	Trade under repression: A scoping review of Conflict experience of urban street vendors in Sub-Saharan Africa; by Marie Claire Uwamahoro	Workshop: By Centre Intiganda: Réinsertion des enfants de la rue dans les familles (Reintegration of street children in families)
9.45– 10.00	SMS Technology for disability-inclusive community services; by Habimfura Innocent (Hope for the children)	eLearning training for social workers in Mozambique; by Carolina Bascuñán	
10.00–10.30	Tea break		
Live streamed sessions			
10.30 – 11.00	Keynote: Dr. Godfred Boahen -		
11.00 – 11.30	Workshop: Uganda NASWU: Leveraging Information Communication Technology to Manage COVID-19 Pandemic. Lessons from a Six-Month National Advocacy and Capacity Strengthening Project Coordinated by the National Association of Social Workers of Uganda		
11.30 – 12.00	UNICEF ESARO: Quality Assurance System Framework of social service workforce		
12.00 – 12.30	Workshop: Challenges and opportunities of Associations: lessons from Botswana Association		
12.30 – 12.50	Invited speaker Prof. Uzoma Okoye: "The myths and realities of caring for older adults in contemporary Nigeria: What can social workers do?"		
Lunch break			
Time	kigali	Huye A	Huye B
Child protection			
14:00 - 14: 15	Workshop: Attitudes regarding residential care institutions for children with disabilities (CWD) in Rwanda and the perceived impact of Covid-19 on CWD's care in families; by Epaphrodite Nsabimana, Darius Gishoma & Evariste Karangwa (Hope for the children)	The role of the extended family in alleviating child poverty and inequalities in Namibia; by Janet Ananias, Emma Leonard & Vicky Sharley	Conceptualising the Pathways of Youth Homelessness in Nigeria: A Sociological Perspective; by Joseph Aigbolosimon Famous
14:15 - 14: 30			
14:30 - 14: 45	Protection of children with intellectual disability and sustainable development of their families amid covid-19 pandemic by Dr. Hakizimana Emmanuel	Everyone's and No One's Child. Uncovering Hindrances and Means to Fully Utilizing Child Adoption as a Sustainable Solution to the Orphanhood Crisis Experienced by	

		Communities in Zimbabwe; <i>by Charity Hutete-Makawa</i>	
Aged care			
14:45 - 15:00	Anthropological perspective of community care to elderly people: Evidence from Rwanda by <i>Albert Irambeshya</i>	Integration of Indigenous and Formal Social Protection Systems in Uganda: Experiences of Elderly Widows by <i>Deborah Atwine</i>	"The factors limiting care for elders in family..." by <i>IFASHABAYO Benjamin</i>
Topicals			
15:00 - 15:15	IFSW Sec-gen sharing on the 2022 global summit <i>by Rory Truell</i>	BSWA:	Workshop: Ethics under the pandemic by IFSW Ethics commission.
15:15 - 15:30	Harvesting rainwater and wellbeing of people in rural area; <i>by Ntezimana Alexandre</i>	Jongman Kgomo ASSWA president	
15:30 - 15:45	Workshop: Social work in East Africa: Re-imagining social work education in East Africa by Nielsen A. et.al	Workshop: working conditions for social workers David Jones (IFSW) and Jermaine Revalier of Bath Spa University	Centre Igiti cy' Ubugingo: Trauma healing and Women empowerment in post genocide Rwanda, Huye district.
15:45 - 16:00			
End of Day three			

Ubuntu Social Work Conference

26 th November 2021 (Day four)			
Time	kigali	Huye A	Huye B
Gender, Covid 19 and economy			
8.30 – 8.45	Effects of Lockdown caused by COVID-19 on Women's Businesses in Kigali. A case Study- Gahaya Links and Associated Suppliers (2020 – 2021); <i>by Innocent Iyakaremye & Bernadette Muteteri</i>	Entrepreneurships and the Challenges of the Barbing Saloon Businesses, during the COVID- 19 in Abuja. Nigeria; <i>by Michael Adedotun Oke</i>	The Role of Rural Farm Cooperatives in Community Development: An Analysis of Roles and Challenges of Selected Agricultural Cooperatives in Kenya and Rwanda; <i>by Emmanuel Murwanashyaka, Charles Kyalo Nzioka and James Gichuru Kariuki.</i>
8.45 – 9.00	"Rwandan family in the era of gender equality: A scoping review on Indigenous family values and the changing roles of men and women; <i>by Uwihangana Consolee</i>	Impacts of covid-19 pandemic to all aspects; <i>by Patrick Igirimbabazi</i>	
SDGs,			
9.00 – 9.15	The Policy Paper of IFSW on the UN SDGs (2021); <i>by Priska Fleischlin</i>	Sustainable communities and cities, co-building the future with social work: A Literature Review; <i>by Andiswa Pamela Mdlankomo</i>	Workshop: You Give Them Something...": A Collaborative Agenda for Health and Wellbeing in Uganda; <i>by Balyejjusa Senkosi Moses, Venesio B. Bhangyi, Sophia Namuwanga, Friday Toko & Kilama Dennis</i>
9.15 – 9.30	Implementation of community service sentencing in logos state: the role of social workers; <i>by Prof. Chinwe R. Nwanna</i>	Achieving sustainable development goals through traditional child nurturing: Lessons from the 'Uganda' culture in Uganda; <i>by Rosemary Nakijoba</i>	
Climate change, peace and human-right and Ubuntu			
9.30 – 9.45	"Social work practice during climate change induced disasters in Zimbabwe; <i>by Molly Shayamano & Poppy Masinga</i>	Scoping The Social Work Profession Nexus in the Context of Climate Change and Water Insecurity; <i>by Terence Qubekani Ndlovu</i>	Interdisciplinary Strategies for Cultivating Peace, Justice, Democracy, and Development; <i>by Felicia Tuggle</i>
9.45 – 10.00	Establishing the relevance of Ubuntu in Social Work: A Human Rights Perspective; <i>by Robert K Chigangaidze</i>		
10.00– 10.30	Tea break		
Live streamed sessions			
10.30 – 11.00	Workshop: Social Workers' Association of Zambia: Networking and organisation capacity development approaches		
11.00 – 11.30	Workshop: Liberian Association of Social Workers sharing		
11.30 – 12.00	Workshop: Zimbabwe (NASW-Z) - Supporting Continuous Professional Development among Social Workers.		
12.00 – 12.20	Invited speaker: Professor Paul Bukuluki		
12.20 – 13.00	Panel Disc: IFSW Africa (Noel and Joachim): Social Work Councils in Africa		
13.00– 14.00	Lunch break		
Time	Kigali	Huye A	Huye B
Live streamed sessions			
14.00 – 14.30	Conference Outcomes by IFSW Africa, RWA-NOSW, and UNICEF		
14.30 – 15.00	Keynote and closing remarks Prof. Jeannette Bayisenge - Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPF) Rwanda.		
15.00 – 15.25	Closing remark: Emmanuel, Dr. Joseph, Noel, and Rory (each 5 minutes).		
15.25 – 15.45	IFSW Africa/ Global communiqué'		
15.45 – 15.50	Rwanda National Anthem		
16.00 –	Entertainment and official closure of the conference		

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Keynote speakers



Prof. Revd Adrian van Breda

Social Work Lecturer - University of Johannesburg, Australia

Contribution of 'ubuntu resilience' to social work's achievement of sustainable development goals

The world is recognising that the future of the planet and thus also of humanity depends on significantly changing the way we live together with each other and with the earth. These ideals have been formalised in the 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs), adopted by all United Nations countries. Drawing on resilience language, the SDGs represent 'better-than-expected' outcomes – they are what we hope for and aspire to. Resilience concerns the processes that enable the achievement of better-than-expected outcomes in the face or wake of adversity. An understanding of resilience theory can help social workers better position themselves towards the achievement of these goals. An African construction of resilience, rooted in ubuntu, which will be termed 'ubuntu resilience', can be expected to make the greatest contribution to the SDGs. This paper presents the core building blocks of resilience theory and reconstructs resilience within African ubuntu paradigms, focused on four themes: relationality, radical inclusivity, sustainable human future, and protected earth. Finally, the paper provides pointers for how ubuntu resilience can contribute to the achievement of SDGs.

Authors: Prof Adrian D. van Breda	South Africa	Watch here
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Dr. Godfred Boahen

National Safeguarding Policy and Development Lead (Survivors Lead) & Responsible Officer: Learning Lessons Case Reviews at The Church of England.

Bio: <https://nitter.net/GodfredBoahen2>

Authors: Dr. Godfred Boahen	Ghana
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Prof. Paul Bukuluki

Social Work Lecturer – Makerere University, Uganda

Bio: <https://swsa.mak.ac.ug/staff/pbukuluki>

Ubuntu and decolonisation of social work

Authors: Prof. Paul Bukuluki	Uganda	Watch here
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Prof. Uzoma Okoye:

Social Work Lecturer - University of Nigeria

The myths and realities of caring for older adults in contemporary Nigeria: What can social workers do?

Bio: <https://www.unn.edu.ng/internals/staff/viewProfile/>

The myths and realities of caring for older adults in contemporary Nigeria: What can social workers do?

According to United Nations estimates, the population of older adults (60 years and above) in Nigeria will increase from 9.1 million in 2019, to 11.5 million in 2025 and 25.5 million in 2050. By this estimate, they will constitute about 10 percent of the total Nigerian population by the year 2050 from their current 4.5 percent. Though it is generally believed that older adults are beings cared for and supported by family and friends as was the case in traditional Nigerian society but economic forces, education, and changing family structure among other factors have changed the situation greatly. This paper seeks to present the facts on the ground as different from the myths. The fact is that at present there are no social security or dedicated programmes for older adults in Nigeria. A lot of myths surrounding aging and caregiving in Nigeria coupled with the "things will always sort themselves out" disposition of many policymakers which has made the life of older adults more frustrating. The reality needs to be told, especially from the perspective of a social worker, and recommendations are made in other to provide policymakers and the international community with alternative viewpoints and the way forward.

Authors: Prof. Uzoma Okoye | Nigeria



Dr. Jacob Mugumbate

Social Work Lecturer - University of Wollongong, Australia | Associate Editor, African Journal of Social Work | Mentor, African Social Work Network (ASWNet) | Chairperson, Social Work Taskforce, International League Against Epilepsy

Bio: https://scholars.uow.edu.au/display/jacob_mugumbate

The social work body of knowledge is often viewed as universal, but it is not. As Mbigi (2000) said, knowledge has nhorowondo, meaning it has a context in which it is sourced, created, or applied. This context includes worldviews but also the social and cultural environment. The African body of social work knowledge does not adequately include African understandings of reality. It also does not adequately acknowledge African sources of knowledge. This presentation will focus on sources of knowledge in Africa that are not often recognised in social work and discuss how they can be revalued. The sources include African philosophies, histories, oratures, theories, experiences, literatures, and policies. Examples will be provided to show how these could be revalued.

Authors: Dr. Jacob M. Mugumbate | Australia

Guest of Honour



Mrs. Claudine NYINAWAGAGA, the Director General of Local Administrative Entities Development Agency (LODA) representing the Minister of Local Government and Social Protection. She recognized the contribution of social work in rebuilding the country after the period of 1994 genocide against Tutsi. She added that a lot has been achieved in socio-economic development and poverty reduction thanks to a close collaboration between local government institutions and Non-Governmental Organizations, international and local including local social services agencies. She particularly emphasized the role of social workers and other youth volunteers in raising the awareness of the COVID-19 threat to the community. She concluded, recommending lasting collaboration with social workers involving them in the implementation of social protection programmes and national social development agenda. The main theme of the conference makes sense for SW students, educators, researchers, partners, Government, and practitioners. Concluding her message, she said *“the conference takes place in critical moment considering the progress of SDGS implementation; If we work together, we can achieve SDGs”*.



Mr. Silas NGAYABOSHYA, Director General for Gender Promotion and Women Empowerment in the **Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF)** – <https://www.migeprof.gov.rw/about> representing Minister of MINALOC. In his closing remarks he said, emphasized on the conference topic. He said that Ubuntu comes when everyone enjoys his /her rights. The recognized that social workers play a big role in the process of reconstruction, and recovery, reintegration of children and women victims of GBV, violence, neglect, malnutrition, drug abuse, etc. He added that empowerment of women is one way of achieving SDGs. To close his speech asks the following question: *“What kind of work we need to perform in Africa? How can we partner with institution?”*

[Watch here](#)

Abstracts

Inclusive education and child protection amid the pandemic

Title: Social Work and the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Home de la Vierge des Pauvres "HVP GATAGARA" is the institution working in favour of Persons with Disability. Its branch, HVP Gatagara/ Gikondo special school, continues to implement the main mission of the protection of the current 84 children of intellectual disability (63 boys/ 21 girls) through education and psychosocial rehabilitation of their parents regardless the effects of covid-19. Results from interviews with both parents and staff revealed that that having a disabled child may increase stress, take a toll on mental and physical health, make it difficult to find appropriate and affordable childcare, and affect decisions about work, education/training, having additional children, and relying on public support. The Social Work Unit has organized the poorest students' parents into Village Savings and Loan Associations where they meet regularly and get social and financial supports, which goes hand in hand with the individual, group and family therapies from the clinical psychology unit to effectively enable them to accept the disability of their children, integrate children's them into the households' activities depending on their capabilities and hence allow the family members pursue their socio-economic activities towards their own sustainable development. Keywords: child protection, psychosocial support, education, child with intellectual disability, sustainable development.

Keywords: child protection, psychosocial support, education, child with intellectual disability, sustainable development

Author: Dr. Hakizimana Emmanuel

Rwanda

[Watch here](#)

Title: Child marriages, food insecurity and the role of the social worker in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals

Child marriages are prevalent in sub-Saharan Africa, with one marriage in every three reportedly being a child marriage (UNICEF, 2018). Various factors influence child marriages - with food insecurity being both a cause and a consequence of child marriages.

Child marriages is a gender-based and child rights violation, with negative consequences for the child's development and psychosocial functioning and it undermines strategies to promote sustainable development. Despite this, child marriages continue in the face of economic strains, social network tensions, conflicts, pandemics, discriminatory gender, and cultural norms. This paper contributes to social work and child protection debates and on the SDG Target 5.3 on the elimination of harmful practices. This paper is based on document analysis. A review of literature was undertaken to understand the nexus between child marriages, food insecurity and sustainable development goals. Preliminary findings show child marriage and food insecurity are intersecting issues that are fundamental in addressing especially within the context of development. Furthermore, a social worker can play several roles such as advocating for the integration of child marriage prevention and response into food security and nutrition programmes. Child marriages is a gender relational and land exclusion-ownership issue and thus it is crucial for social workers to emphasize related interventions with other sub-populations such as men and boys and traditional leadership.

Keywords:

Author: Ajwang' Warri

South Africa

[Watch here](#)

AGED

Title: Anthropological perspective of community care to elderly people: Evidence from Rwanda

While elderly care has been relegated to the kinship sphere in the framework of intergenerational reciprocity, community care to elderly people in Rwandan society has been and remains among the main sources of care. In the current context of social changes, where adult children are living far from their old parents, community care fills the care gap left by children. However, this community care mechanism is overlooked by researchers and there is little knowledge about the practice and materialization of this form of care. This paper fills the gap and explores the everyday community care practice for elderly people as it is expressed in various forms of materialization. Furthermore, the paper discusses how everyday care practices for elderly people relate to elderly people's care expectations. The paper argues that care is not a fixed script that is located to a specified category of people rather it is always negotiated and keeps adjusting to the changing situation over time. Drawing on the data from the fieldwork in Karongi district, the paper depicts the relevance of the embodiment of Ubuntu philosophy by the community members in the provision of care to elderly people. The paper contributes to the debate on ubuntu philosophy in African societies and shows how this philosophy goes beyond the individualistic spirit in the Rwandan community and materializes in the everyday life of individuals through caring activities, which align with the perspective of fighting poverty and hunger among elderly people by the surrounding community.

Key words: elderly people, community care, ubuntu philosophy

Author: Albert Irambeshya

Rwanda

[Watch here](#)

COVID-19, gender equality and violence

Title: Beyond Masculinity; Boda-Bodas as Allies for Improved Maternal Health in Uganda

In Uganda, the motorcycle taxis locally known as boda-boda is dominated by youth (urban poor) males who are often viewed negatively as engaging in risky social behaviours including having multiple sexual partners and contributing to increased rates of teenage pregnancies and early marriage. Despite the dominant narratives of harmful masculinities that have been attributed to the boda-boda riders, they have become an intrinsic part of the country's maternal healthcare system in the peri urban and rural communities which is characterized with maternal health challenges, and increased maternal mortality caused by the three delays: delay in decision to seek health service, delay in accessing health facilities, and delay in receiving adequate health care. In this paper, I examine the role of boda-boda riders who are making a significant contribution to improving timely maternal health care by easing physical access to health facilities. The paper further explores their shifting identities by examining their involvement in diverse maternal health care interventions in various contexts in Uganda. This ranges from providing transportation for pregnant mothers to health facilities, care, and support during transportation to supporting the dissemination of information, and delivery of reproductive health commodities including during the COVID-19 lockdown. The analysis reveals how these interventions are supporting the making of positive masculinities for these young men through shifting of their identities from risky groups to individuals who emerge as allies for improving maternal health outcomes in Uganda.

Keywords:

Authors: Bakshi Asuman

Uganda

[Watch here](#)

Title: Amplifying access of information and services by addressing inequality: the role of gender transformative approaches in positive outcomes of Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

The Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Alliance Uganda has earned great experience and success in handling the sensitivity of SRHR at community, national and regional level by advancing gender transformative programming to reach gender equality, one of the root causes of the limited realization of SRHR among young people and increased cases of SGBV. Gender and SGBV are addressed as cross cutting.

The SRHR Alliance Uganda promotes strategies and activities that uphold the principles that ensure the program is gender transformative:

(1) Gender consciousness; by creating education, awareness, insight, and reflection including awareness of the cost of harmful masculinities and femininities on SRHR outcomes.

(2) Diversity - analysis of needs according to ethnicity, class, age, race, religion.

(3) Men and boys as part of the solution and engaged to become equal partners, clients of SRHR services and change agents. Activities clearly targeting men in these different dimensions will be carried out.

(4) Empowerment of women and girls - Girl's empowerment and engagement as leaders is promoted.

(5) Gender synchronized approach - by working with girls and women, boys, and men separately and together. When socio-cultural norms are addressed, an enabling environment with progressive policies around access to sexuality education and sexual reproductive health services is created by stakeholders committing to funding SRH programs and improved structures for delivery of SRH services and programs thus improved health outcomes for young people in Uganda.

Key word:

Author: Bakshi Asuman

Uganda

[Watch here](#)

Title: Sexual and gender-based violence during the covid-19 lockdown: Implications for social work practice in Nigeria

The main objectives of the study are to assess the types and magnitude of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) during the lockdown and its implications for social work practice. Extant literature from secondary sources were analysed qualitatively. Findings show that there was an increase in the scale and number of sexual and domestic violence, rape and murder, sale and trafficking of children perpetrated against women, young girls, and children. Over 3,600 rape cases nationwide were reported. Social workers were not involved in the frontline management of victims because the profession has not been recognized.

Most of the humanitarian work and social welfare services in emergency situations like the lockdown period were done by local and international NGOs some of which might not have qualified social workers. The lockdown brought about new challenges as all social work or social welfare agencies were forced to either postpone or limit their regular activities due to the movement restrictions. Victims of SGBV could not access social work services and justice was delayed for reported cases. Clinical management of rape, psychosocial support and case management were limited or unavailable.

It is recommended that Nigeria Association of Social Workers (NASOW) should expedite action in ensuring that Social Work Professionalisation Bill is passed. Once social work profession is recognized, it will be mainstreamed into the main team responding to emergencies and crisis situations such as COVID-19. Social workers may use digital technology in future to provide professional services to those who may need them.

Key words:

Prof. Chinwe R. Nwanna

Nigeria

[Watch here](#)

Title: The nature of child to parent violence: Children’s experiences

Child to parent violence (CPV) is still considered the most hidden and stigmatized form of family violence as many family studies have focused on other subtypes of family violence.

The aim of this paper was to explore the nature of child to parent violence from the perspective of children in Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality in the Eastern Cape of South Africa. Ecological theory was used to explain how child behaviour and development is influenced by various levels of the surrounding environment, which sometimes lead to them being violent towards their parents. This paper is extracted from a larger qualitative study with a sample of 30 participants that was selected purposively and made up of children, parents, and social workers. Different forms of child to parent violence which include financial exploitation, verbal and emotional abuse and neglect towards parents were revealed in this study. Findings further revealed that there is high prevalence of child to parent abuse due to a number of factors such as the absence of a father figure in the family, as well as the living arrangements.

The study also indicates that CPV has long lasting, devastating effects on children. Becoming trauma informed should be a fundamental practice standard for social workers who have professional contact with survivors of IPV and their children. Social workers who work in child welfare settings must be especially aware of the intersection of IPV and life-altering trauma.

Keywords: children, perspectives, experiences, parents, violence, social worker

Authors: Dr Zintle Ntshongwana & Prof Pius Tanga

Zimbabwe

[Watch here](#)

Title: Effects of Lockdown caused by COVID-19 on Women’s Businesses in Kigali. A case Study-Gahaya Links and Associated Suppliers (2020 – 2021)

The lockdown measures taken during historical pandemics and plagues had negative effects on the population and more impact on women. With the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic in China in December 2019 and its worldwide spread, lockdown measures were taken in different countries, including Rwanda but research is yet to highlight their effects on women in this country for better policy formulation and planning.

The present study was thus initiated to examine the effects of lockdown caused by COVID-19 on women’s businesses in Rwanda, with a case study of Gahaya Links. It analyses women’s experiences during lockdown caused by COVID-19, examines the extent to which this lockdown affected Gahaya Links, investigates whether there was financial support provided in order to overcome the economic effects of this lockdown on women’s business, and makes recommendations to better support women’s business recover from the adverse effects of lockdown caused by COVID-19.

This study was designed as qualitative and case study inquiry. It used purposive sampling in the selection of participants. Data was collected using in-depth interview with 27 participants and 9 key informants based in Kigali City, Rwanda. The findings show that women in non-essential business have been seriously hit by the lockdown. Although schemes were created to help businesses recover from effects of lockdown, many women couldn’t access them due to the lack of information and requirements to access them, which compromises the effectiveness of the policy of women’s economic empowerment. Therefore, recommendations were formulated in order to address the identified challenges.

Key words:

Authors: Innocent Iyakaremye & Bernadette Muteteri

Rwanda

[Watch here](#)

Title: Inclusive Education and child protection amidst the Covid-19 pandemic in Malawi

While the Covid 19 pandemic continues to pose tremendous impacts on everyone in Malawi, people with disabilities, especially children, are at a greater risk of significant and longer lasting impacts. Even before the pandemic, children with disabilities have always been amongst the most disadvantaged especially in the area of education, and prone to child protection risks including violence, abuse, exploitation, and neglect. Although there are no official statistics of children with disabilities who have tested positive or have succumbed to Covid 19 in Malawi, the nature of the pandemic has put this vulnerable group of people at great disadvantage of contracting the virus as well as suffering from the effects of the pandemic even when not infected. Focusing on measures that were put in place to contain the spread of the coronavirus (April 2020 – Dec 2021), this article seeks to highlight the effects of Covid-19 on the education and protection of children with disabilities in Malawi.

The article advances that measures that were implemented to contain the spread of the coronavirus did little to protect children with disabilities; rather they perpetuated the child protection risks that they face. In seeking alternatives to managing similar pandemics, the article advances the need for policy makers to take into account the specific requirements of children with disabilities in their implementation of measures.

Key words: child protection, inclusive education, children with disabilities

Author: Agnes Wizi-Kambala

Malawi

[Watch here](#)

Title: Rwandan family in the era of gender equality: A scoping review on Indigenous family values and the changing roles of men and women

The Government of Rwanda has put in place policies for gender equality, consequently, promoting the rights of women. The 2003 Constitution is the cornerstone for the country’s gender equality great effort. Rwanda has put in place policies and programs promoting the role of women in social-economic reconstruction. The new constitution has accelerated the initiatives that were in place earlier, such as the 1999 Law on Inheritance and Marital Property Rights that establishes gender equality in land inheritance and ownership for married women. The present scoping review intends to highlight major changes that have affected the family due to the promotion of gender equality. The aim of this scoping review is to find out what is known about successful/ unsuccessful stories in gender-gender policies, gender equality-, the possible implications for Rwandan family and what were indigenous family values guiding men and women in their roles in the family. In the framework of this review, the following questions should be answered to justify the necessity of the present research:

What are the successful/unsuccessful stories in gender policies (international and regional levels)? What are the possible implications for Rwanda and what is known about indigenous family values determining the roles of both men and women in the family?

Articles on gender equality and family life will be included. International publications were considered, and as the search will be narrowed, emphasis will be put on publications from Great lakes Regions and those in Rwanda in particular. Qualitative and quantitative studies will be included, except reviews.

Key words:

Authors: UWIHANGANA Consolee

Rwanda

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Title: Forum theatre: Impact of COVID-19 on addressing gender equality and violence with communities

Our panel discussion will focus upon a collaborative Global Challenges Research Funded project in Burundi with international social work colleagues (NGOs and academics). The project was foregrounded by the central theme of ‘sexual, gender-based violence and abuse’ and underpinned by, and aligned to, the Sustainable Development Goals; ‘Health and Wellbeing’ and ‘Gender Equality’. It will focus upon three key areas.

First, we will discuss how Forum Theatre offered a voice and space for 30 Burundian street children to unravel and explore issues of inequality and violence and how this culturally sensitive and participatory approach illuminated social consciousness and emphasized community during the project.

We will then discuss how this transformational process expanded the focus upon community and the social development goals. It will illustrate this through the development of the group EJO NIHEZA, clubs and the movement to working together to grow their own food and a movement away from the issues of inequality and gender-based violence illuminated in the project.

Finally, our discussion will end with a focus upon the impact COVID-19 had upon our future work, with an emphasis upon equality and violence (in all its forms). It will illuminate the complexities emerging and the pressing societal challenges faced by our Congolese and Burundian NGOs working in the context of COVID-19."

Key words:

Authors: Dr Karin Kooper, Mubakilay TshinkolaYannick, Munyerere Bienvenu & Dr Lea Omari

Burundi

[Watch here](#)

Title: The effects of covid - 19 pandemic on social workers mental health: The case of Botswana

Social workers have a long history of responding to affected populations during times of crises, disaster, and pandemics. Social workers often go out of their way to assist their clients, more often than not, with limited resources. Studies have indicated that social workers face many challenges when performing their duties ranging from unmanageable caseload, lack of resources, fatigue and burn out. When the Covid-19 pandemic unexpectedly hit the world, many countries including Botswana, were not prepared to deal with a pandemic of this magnitude and challenges that emanated from it. There was a lot of confusion and uncertainty amongst social workers who were tasked with the responsibility of providing psychosocial support as front line workers. The study aims to explore the effects of Covid-19 pandemic on social workers’ mental health in Botswana. It also examines the coping strategies that social workers utilize as frontline workers.

The study is qualitative in nature and will engage thirty (30) social workers across ten (10) Districts in Botswana.

Purposive sampling will be used to select the participants from across the different districts in the country, with a representative of those in rural and urban areas as well as those in government and non-government organizations.

Authors: Masego Lecha and Relebogile Karen Phiri

Burundi

[Watch here](#)

Title: Entrepreneurships and the Challenges of the Barbing Saloon Businesses, during the COVID- 19 in Abuja.

Introduction: The coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic is the defining global health crisis of our time and the greatest challenges we have faced since World War Two. The International community is racing to slow the spread of the virus, by proactively enforcing, the various testing of an individuals and potential patients, carrying out contact tracing, limiting travel, quarantining citizens, and cancelling large gatherings such as sporting events, concerts, and schools. The COVID-19 is much more than a health crisis, which has touched almost every nation, creating a lot of devastating, which it is social, economic, and political effects for an individuals, households, and communities at large. (UNDP, 2020). Does it affect the operations of the barbershop and the trainers?

Objectives: This study has a goal to investigate the challenges of skills acquisitions of haircut, such as the dressing, grooming and style, that some operators of the barbing saloon and the populace, including the customers, faced during the COVID- 19 lockdown in Nigeria and the extent to which has affects in the employment and income generations in some selected barbershop, how it affects sales, interactions in Gwagwalada areas council of the Federal Capital Territory.

Methodology: The study adopted a cross-sectional oral interview approached, of the different barbershops and the students, who were admitted for the haircuts training in 2019/ 2020 and the operators of the barbing saloon businesses. The populations of the selected were drawn from those, who are being trained and own the barbershops. Because they have severally, led experiences and challenges during the lock down. Closed and Open-ended questionnaire was used to collect, data from one hundred students, and customers, from the different population of that owns the different barbing saloon and proportionate sampling was used. Pictorial representations were also used to support findings. Visitations and observations, which examined the effects of Lockdown during the COVID-19 pandemic on the operational and businesses.

Results: During the period of the CONVID 19, operations of the skills barbing training was affected where some customers cannot move out to have their haircuts.it was not payable, in that most businesses were asked to close. Whereas the staff needs to being pay and house rent, the Government does not have a guided policy on the work space and the development of the business that will spelt out the various rules and regulations of opening and making sales, owner of the businesses, were on the receiving end and such affect, the customers coming to cut hair and flow of money.

Suggestion Online barbing skill learning, Government should try and support the barbers in terms of palliative and Capital and more trainings centre.

Keywords: COVID-19 pandemic, Entrepreneurships, Challenges, Barbing Saloon Businesses

Authors: Michael Adedotun Oke

Nigeria

[Watch here](#)

Title: Synthesizing Narratives of lived experiences by street kids in Kigali city during Covid-19

Street children phenomenon is not new in Rwanda as well as in the city of Kigali and other major towns. The genocide did not only kill people but also destroyed the whole society and its social fabric including social systems such as family and communities that would be taking care of children in difficult situations. For years, the government and other stakeholders have been trying to find remedies for the problem but in vain, instead, the numbers of children coming on the street continued to increase. Few research carried out have attributed the problem to poverty, family conflicts and violence. While living on street, children are frequently victims of lack of food, homelessness, and lack of health care, inadequate hygiene, delinquency, prostitution and drug abuse, lack of protection, marginalization done to them, or they are the perpetrators. This paper intends to map children who live in the city of Kigali, inquire about their living experiences during lockdown because of Covid19, and examine how they copied with the situation. It will be purely qualitative, and data will be collected using in-depth interviews with street children and key informants. Direct observation and desk review will as well be utilized to collect additional data.

Data analysis will adopt a content thematic analysis while a human rights-based approach will guide this study.

Keywords:

Authors: Hakizamungu Alexandre & Rutikanga Charles

Rwanda

[Watch here](#)

Title: Amplifying access of information and services by addressing inequality: the role of gender transformative approaches in positive outcomes of Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR).

The Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Alliance Uganda has earned great experience and success in handling the sensitivity of SRHR at community, national and regional level by advancing gender transformative programming to reach gender equality, one of the root causes of the limited realization of SRHR among young people and increased cases of SGBV. Gender and SGBV are addressed as cross cutting. The SRHR Alliance Uganda promotes strategies and activities that uphold the principles that ensure the program is gender transformative:

- (1) Gender consciousness; by creating education, awareness, insight and reflection including awareness of the cost of harmful masculinities and femininities on SRHR outcomes;
 - (2) Diversity - analysis of needs according to ethnicity, class, age, race, religion;
 - (3) Men and boys as part of the solution and engaged to become equal partners, clients of SRHR services and change agents. Activities clearly targeting men in these different dimensions will be carried out;
 - (4) Empowerment of women and girls - Girl's empowerment and engagement as leaders is promoted;
 - (5) Gender synchronized approach - by working with girls and women, boys, and men separately and together.
- When socio-cultural norms are addressed, an enabling environment with progressive policies around access to sexuality education and sexual reproductive health services is created by stakeholders committing to funding SRH programs and improved structures for delivery of SRH services and programs thus improved health outcomes for young people in Uganda.

Key words:

Authors: Bakshi Asuman, Venantius Bbaale Kirwana

Uganda

[Watch here](#)

Title: Covid 19, Gender Equality and Violence

Globally, the quest for gender equality remains number one priority on the world Agenda. In a broader sense, gender equality connotes to a state in which access to rights and opportunities is unaffected by gender. With the outbreak of Covid-19, a novel disease that was declared a pandemic by the WHO early 2020, the drive towards this cause has stalled more specifically due to measures that have been put in place to contain its spread especially the stay home decision that has caused tensions, school closure, crowded homes, substance abuse, loss of income, reduced access to peer support at micro and meso levels.

This has affected women in a sense that they have been either physically or sexually abused by their intimate partners due to economic hardships and girls being out of school, they are at risk of being abused by their parents or boy counterparts culminating into gross effects on their physical and mental health. At macro level, there has been budgetary re-allocations and cuts and shift of attention from the already existing services being given to Gender Based Violence victims to now COVID 19 because governments are over stretched.

Notwithstanding, it is everyone's responsibility to ensure that we live in a society where access to social services is not merely restricted by gender or social status and from a human rights perspective, all human beings have the intrinsic value and must be treated unequivocally.

Key words:

Authors: MUHANGUZI Brian

Uganda

[Watch here](#)

Title: An Examination of the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy Rates in Malawi

COVID-19 has brought a lot of social, economic, and political tensions in many sectors including education, especially in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) such as Malawi. The sector received its fair share of the challenges, where the pandemic increased child marriages and teenage pregnancies.

This study sought to bring out the experiences of Social Workers in Malawi who were involved in responding to such cases. The paper thus, outlines the steps that were followed in declaring Malawi the state of disaster, indefinite closure of schools, the increase in cases of child marriages and teenage pregnancies and their impact on the learners. It further examines the critical role Social Workers played in mitigating the increased cases of child marriages and teenage pregnancies in Malawi. Desk review, rapid assessment field study which the authors participated in, the media both print and electronic as well as shared experiences of practicing social workers were used in collecting data for the study. The study established that cases of child marriages and teenage pregnancies have been prevalent for some time, however COVID -19 has just worsened the situation. Cumulatively, Malawi recorded a total of 44,178 teen pregnancies and 20,109 child marriage cases. As recommendations, there is need to strengthen child protection structures at all levels;

Strengthen coordination, documentation, and monitoring of all child protection interventions; Empower the youth and young women to avert their dependence on men; And increase access to Youth Friendly Services and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights.

Key words:

Authors: Stephano A. Joseph

Malawi

[Watch here](#)

Title: COVID-19 Pandemic: Opportunity for better Social Protection Programmes in Nigeria

The paper examined the increasing inequality gap and the portion of people at risk of falling into poverty because of COVID-19 Pandemic as well as the government response by adapting the various existing social protection measures to enhance the take care of the vulnerable in the society.

A qualitative research design was adopted for the study while purposive sampling was used to select eight recipients and three operators of the social protection scheme. Data was collected through unstructured individual interviews and were analysed using open coding. Measures were also put in place to ensure trustworthiness while ethical research practices were strictly observed.

The study revealed that Federal Government response to the pandemic was poor. Furthermore, the absence of structured social intervention programmes made a mess of government relief efforts and packages for poor and vulnerable household during the lockdown. The lack of a national database of citizens in Nigeria and corruption further hamper the equitable distribution of assistance provided by the government.

The study therefore recommended that government should engagement relevant stakeholders particularly the Ministry of Social Welfare and relevant partners such as Non-governmental Organizations will enhance government welfare programmes. A well supported, equipped, and empowered social service workforce is essential to mitigating the challenges because of the COVID-19 pandemic. There is the need to put in place a formal social protection system in place to take care of future occurrence.

Key words

Authors: Abiodun Adewole, A

Nigeria

[Watch here](#)

Title: Gender prone and disability related violence experiences among women with physical disabilities.

The aim of the study was to explore the experiences of violence among women with physical disabilities living in Tshwane Metro, Pretoria. The study utilised a qualitative research approach and data was collected from a sample of twelve women with physical disabilities, through virtual and face-to-face interviews. The empirical findings revealed that the participants experienced various forms of violence such as sexual, emotional, financial, structural, and physical as well as neglect and deprivation. There were two risk factors that increased the possibility of the participants experiencing violence. These involved, not disclosing the violence experienced and the assumptions associated with women with physical disabilities. The study concluded that women with physical disabilities are not an exception to violence as they experience multiple forms of violence, gender prone violence and disability related violence unique to them.

Two factors of gender and disability therefore make them more likely to be faced with inequality or discrimination through violence. Therefore, there is a need for social work to facilitate public awareness on violence against women with disabilities.

Key words: Experiences, Gender, Physical disabilities, Violence, Women

Authors: Yeukai Muruzi

South Africa

[Watch here](#)

Title: Social work and psychosocial experiences of people behind the walls during the covid- 19 lockdown in Nigeria

The COVID-19 Pandemic wrought damaging consequences on people especially on the vulnerable population in developing countries like Nigeria. Literature review revealed that there is dearth of data on the psychosocial experiences of inmates during COVID-19 lockdown in Nigeria. This study therefore examined the psychosocial and emotional experiences of inmates and relevance of social workers in their coping strategies in Nigerian correctional facilities.

The study is exploratory and adopted cross sectional research design. Two correctional facilities including Agodi and Ibara correctional facilities in Oyo State and Ogun State were respectively selected as study sites. Interviews were used to collect data from 12 inmates, and 4 staff in correctional facilities including social workers. Data collected was analysed using thematic and content analysis.

Findings revealed that the inmates experienced feelings related to fear, tension, anxiety, depression, loneliness and mood swings during the lockdown. These experiences were due to misconceptions about COVID-19, fear of being infected with COVID-19 and death, delay in court appearance, ban on visitations from family members and loved ones. The coping strategies adopted by the inmates include prayers and talking to social workers. The place of social workers in addressing inmates' needs cannot be over-emphasized as they played significant roles in allaying the inmates fear and addressing other psychosocial and emotional experiences.

This study recommends that emphasizing the psychosocial and emotional needs of inmates and the relevance of social work is paramount when government and relevant stakeholders designs policies and programmes aimed at addressing COVID-19 and future possible pandemics.

Key words:

Authors: Fatoye, Helen Ajibike

Nigeria

[Watch here](#)

Title: eLearning training for social workers in Mozambique

In Mozambique, as well as in other countries around the world, many social service organizations had to quickly decide how to continue providing services in ways that reduced the risk of spreading the virus COVID-19 during the pandemic, with critical implications on the available time devoted to the staff training. Within this frame of reference, the staff needed help to adapt their services, learn how to use new tools and technology, and apply risk mitigation measures for continued in-person services.

In 2020, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action (MGCAS) with the support of the UNICEF Mozambique developed and approved the Standard Operation Procedures on case management that enables social workers to identify individuals facing social risks, provide adequate support and refer them to appropriate service providers. In one of the provinces of the country, several case management services tools were tested in the context of a cash and care pilot programme for families with children from 0 to 2 years old.

Based on that, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Action (MGCAS) started a classroom-based training to its staff to deliver case management services and psychosocial support to children, women, and other vulnerable groups fronting social risks, however, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the number, length, and monitoring of the training had to be adapted. As a matter of fact, at the end of 2020, the Ministry and UNICEF agreed to develop a blended training to continue with the support to the social workers across the districts and provinces of the country.

The face-to-face modality, so far implemented, has shown that the cost of the implementation was very high and with a limited impact upon the behaviour change, especially, because it is difficult to track the learning results applied in the field and proceed with the follow up after the training to measure its efficiency...

Key words:

Authors: Carolina Bascuñán

Mozambique

[Watch here](#)

Title: Childcare for autistic students at HVP Gatagara/ Gikondo special school

Autism as a neuro-developmental disorder which attacks children in their early ages brings difficulties in social interaction and communication, and by restricted and repetitive behaviours that is observed by parents during the first three years. It becomes a problem for them to accept that their child cannot speak not hear properly like other children in pre-schooling period. Fortunately, Home de la Vierge des Pauvres (HVP Gatagara/ Gikondo) established a special school for autistic children and other children with various intellectual disabilities at large. This exploratory study intends to investigate how teachers, social workers and psychologist cater for autistic students and help them acquire some basic capabilities. Semi-structured interviews will be conducted, and students' files will be visited for data collection while thematic analysis will apply in qualitative data analysis. This study is expected to come up with practical recommendations to teachers, social workers, and clinical psychologists for the improvement of their daily support for autistic students and their parents.

Key words:

Authors: Nteziryayo Jean Pierre

Mozambique

[Watch here](#)

Health and sustainable social infrastructure amid COVID-19

Title: You Give Them Something...”: A Collaborative Agenda for Health and Wellbeing in Uganda

The government of Uganda in 2020 adopted the National Development Plan III aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. This is grounded in the fact that previous national and local development interventions have been indeed covering many of these Sustainable Development Goals. Although this is the case, many times these efforts are hampered by resource limitation prevalent in many resource-poor countries, Uganda included. As a result of this, most of these SDGs are not given adequate resources. Sustainable Development Goal 3, which focuses on promotion of health and wellbeing of all ages is one of them. Due to this limitation of resources, usually the patients and their carers at the China-Uganda Friendship Hospital have some of their human needs inadequately unmet. This situation led to a collaboration between the Medical Social Work Department of the China-Uganda Friendship hospital and a community church, Lugogo Baptist Church, so as to meet these health and wellbeing needs. The aim of the collaboration is to offer resources (both physical and in-kind) to patients and their carers at the hospital in order to meet their social, spiritual and physical needs. In this paper we argue that a collaboration between medical social work departments with community organizations can lead to meeting the health and wellbeing needs of patients and carers in resource-poor countries. This is because community resources are easily accessible, plentiful, and trusted by the patients."

Key words

Authors: Balyejjusa Senkosi Moses, Venesio B. Bhangyi, Sophia Namuwanga, Friday Toko & Kilama Dennis

Uganda

[Watch here](#)

Title: SMS Technology for disability-inclusive community services

SMS has got enough popularity with the spread of its use with telephones to the extent that Short Message Service would look strange and appear to be something different. The initiated SMS technology application has revolutionized access to services by families of children with disabilities. This technology was initiated to increase community engagement in the identification of children with disabilities hidden in families for support and follow up particularly in far to reach communities. Of course, we were convinced someone in the neighbourhood would know and some other stakeholders such as the National Council of Persons with Disabilities' community-based structures and local authorities have a reason to know the situation of each child with disabilities to provide support to families.

SMS technology is an effective tool where children with disabilities facing child protection concerns are reported at zero cost to many service providers at the same time, calling them to take timely actions in a more coordinated way. As a web-based application, this tool facilitates information sharing, monitoring, and referral of delicate cases beyond the capacity of stakeholders registered on the platform. This tool has been even more useful amid COVID-19 with a standard message to many stakeholders, a kind of top down from the central level and from community volunteers (two per village) to service providers, a bottom-up way.

A district staff declared; "the SMS technology multiplied my daily work. More children and people with disabilities have access to services. I use facts to advocate with government and NGOs".

Key words:

Authors: Habimfura Innocent

Rwanda

[Watch here](#)

Title: Equity, Public Health Education, and Community Development in the face of Covid19: Utilizing the Creative Power of Children's Artwork.

In the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic, communities around the globe faced life threatening challenges including employment and business disruption, starvation, and movement restriction amongst many others. In a rural community of Musha, where 72.9% of the school-aged population is illiterate, there are limited resources to identify credible sources of accurate health information, which led to the spreading of rumours and misinformation. The combined effects of unmet socio-economic needs, the general turmoil caused by the pandemic and misinformation increased the emergence of such issues as alcoholism, and spousal conflict. Rwanda Education Assistance Practice's Ineza Community Learning Center and Library embodies the value of kindness. In the spirit of Ineza (kindness), REAP conducted the Kalendari Ineza project because of a grant from the U.S. Department's Citizen Diplomacy Action.

The project featured a five-month public health campaign to raise the community's awareness of COVID-19, to curb its spread, and to fortify community resiliency in the face of the pandemic's cascading side effects such as extreme poverty, child labour and food insufficiency. The culmination of the project was the production and distribution of the calendar to over 2,000 community members including families, government offices, schools, business and non-profit organizations.

Key words:

Authors: Jean Paulin Mutatsineza

Rwanda

[Watch here](#)

Title: Games, activities, and narrative practice: Enabling sparks to emerge in conversations with children and young people who have experienced hard times

Drawing on narrative practices – re-authoring conversations, the absent but implicit and collective narrative practices – and on experiential learning models, this paper describes a playful practice to assist children and young people who have experienced hard times to respond to traumatic memories from a safe territory, without requiring them to speak in the first person about their experiences. Games and other activities are used to create a shared experience in which young people employ skills and values. These experiences are used as the basis for a cycle of experiential learning in which children reflect on their experiences and make links with their pasts and futures to support alternative story development and rich acknowledgment of what they give value to and their skills of living and being. In addition to seeking ways to avoid retraumatizing, pathologising and stigmatising young people, this process has been developed to offer practitioners an easy to apply and locally resonant way of engaging with children and young people who have been through hard times. It uses indigenous metaphors like making visible young people's capacity to resist and endure (being mudaheheranwa), inviting young people to stand together on Akarwa k'amahoro (Peace Island), and enabling mutual contribution through features of Itorero indigenous schooling, including the use of stories of pride, songs and poetic mottos (ibyvugo).

Key words: games; experiential learning; re-authoring questions; children; youth; Rwanda; narrative therapy.

Authors: Serge Nyirinkwaya

Canada

[Watch here](#)

Inclusive education and child protection amid the pandemic

Title: Factors influencing motivation of early childhood development and education caregivers in Lilongwe district, Malawi.

The paper investigated factors that influence motivation of early childhood development and education (ECDE) caregivers in rural areas of Lilongwe District in Malawi. Descriptive survey research design was adopted for this study in which 30 ECDE caregivers were sampled from four ECDE centers using a stratified and purposive sampling methods. The results show that the caregivers are not remunerated and are given very little incentives. There is less recognition of the profession attested from the fact that caregivers are not formally employed by the government which makes their job status ranked within the communities they are working. The environments they are working in are predominantly uncondusive, characterised by lack or instructional resources and substandard infrastructure. The study therefore recommends that the government should take up the employment of the ECDE caregivers to begin remuneration them and strengthen their job status. All stakeholders in ECDE delivery including communities should, with synergy, explore more ways of incentivising the teachers under the backdrop of Covid 19 pandemic including deployment of more instructional and play materials and resources in the centers. In this way the caregivers will feel more motivated which will enhance their productivity and curb high turnover rates.

Key words:

Authors: Naine Rehoboth Mkandawire

Malawi

[Watch here](#)

Title: Is the reintegration of Children with disabilities living in institutions in Rwanda possible? Perspectives on those returned due to COVID-19

In 2012, the Government of Rwanda adopted the childcare reform and deinstitutionalization strategy. According to internal data from Hope and Homes for Children Rwanda, by 2020, more than 87% of residents in institutions for children, mostly without disabilities, have been reintegrated into their families or alternative family or community-based care services.

In this progress, children with disabilities living in residential care centers were left behind. A national survey aiming at gathering comprehensive and disaggregated data related to residents' characteristics, staff profile, and the minimum standards for the centers was conducted. The survey found that there are 34 residential centers in Rwanda accommodating 2,040 residents coming from all 30 districts of Rwanda. The majority of residents were placed in an institution by their parents/guardians (1,648 or 80.8%) or relatives (96 or 4.7%). to facilitate easy access to specialized education services (1,144 residents or 56.1%) and to have easy access to home care services (473 children or 23.2%). Following the Covid-19 pandemic, findings show that 1,585 (77.6%) of residents left the institution. Almost all returned to their family (99.1%) or extended family (0.63%). While this indicates the possibility of reintegration of CWD currently in institutions, CWD who have been reintegrated in those conditions should have post-placement monitoring support to ensure that families can cope and children with disabilities are safe and protected. A national strategy and plan should be developed to ensure all CWD currently in institutions are appropriately transitioned into their families or alternative family or community-based care services.

Key words:

Authors: Epaphrodite Nsabimana, Murera Emmanuel & Ange Marius Uwurukundo

Rwanda

[Watch here](#)

Title: Attitudes regarding residential care institutions for children with disabilities (CWD) in Rwanda and the perceived impact of Covid-19 on CWD's care in families

CWD should be at the heart of successful childcare reform efforts in countries that want to prevent family separation and provide quality alternative family-based care. To inform efforts towards the inclusion of CWD in Rwanda's national childcare reform, a Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) Study on CWD living in families and institutions in Rwanda was conducted. Findings suggest that parents and caregivers generally hold a positive attitude towards the deinstitutionalization of children with disabilities. Overall, 82.6% of participants agreed with the assertion that I believe we should transition from institutional care to family and community-based alternatives. Similarly, participants agree (90.7%) with the statement that I would consider raising my CWD in the family. However, most participants (77.2%) reported that there is a need for inclusive community-based services like schools to accommodate CWD when they come to live in the family. Regarding the impact of Covid-19; more than 65% of participants reported that the COVID-19 outbreak has had the same effect on their family as on any other family, while 24% of participants reported that the outbreak has had a profound effect on the families with CWD. Relevant stakeholders to consider a community-based strategy that cautiously interlinks the empowerment of families and communities with appropriate information and/or provisions (service and resources) while fostering their social and economic development.

Key words:

Authors: Epaphrodite Nsabimana, Darius Gishoma & Evariste Karangwa | Rwanda | [Watch here](#)

Title: Pilot closure of residential institution for Children with Disabilities

DE-INSTITUTIONALIZATION

The Rwanda national strategy for childcare reform aims at raising children in caring family environment. To ensure the reform does not leave any child behind Hope and Homes for Children, the National Council of Persons with Disabilities and the former National Commission for Children undertaken a pilot closure project to inform the operationalization of the inclusive childcare reform.

This abstract is constructed on the successful reintegration of children back to their families and in suitable alternative family-based care of the 26 residents of a center for children with disabilities located in a rural area. The closed center was transformed into a day care center, now serving 152 Children with Disabilities from the neighbourhood community, benefiting from specialized services. Beside this closed center, there is a second center in urban area which is under closure.

Among the 26 residents, 19 were reintegrated in biological families, 2 in Extended family, and 5 in Guardianship. After placement, positive impacts have been observed and learning from siblings and parents plays a huge impact on quick learning for Children with Disabilities. Along the presentation we shall discuss some of the successful stories. Creating linkages to community resources such as community volunteers, local leaders, specialized health facilities, schools, peer support groups, and parents around the placed children with disabilities provide a protective mechanism to secure their placement options.

This process of reintegration has demonstrated that it is possible to place Children with Disabilities in family-based care and observe post outcome.

Key words:

Authors: MUNYANEZA Richard & KAYIGANWA Aline | Rwanda | [Watch here](#)

Indigenous knowledge decolonising social work

Title: Decolonising the Social Work Curriculum in the UK: The Value of Indigenous Knowledge

This talk will present the process of social work student activism in the UK to decolonise the social work curriculum. Our aim as social work students were to critically analyse the social work curriculum at our University and through student group organisation through our Social Work Society, we successfully requested 27 books to our University library. These books include texts on the lived experiences of racially minoritized people in the UK, many written by social workers from racially and ethnically diverse diasporas and communities.

To further accomplish our goal, we have worked with our University through creating an anti-racist steering group with students and academics working together to critically analyse and improve the social work curriculum, addressing the themes of the curriculum being Eurocentric, whitewashed, and colonized with knowledge that dismisses and ignores indigenous knowledge and philosophies. This work was furthered through addressing the social work curriculum nationally within the UK through a collective activist group of social workers, academics, students, and leaders in social work. This activist group called for action to all those involved in social work and all social work qualifying programmes were asked to pledge towards a decolonised and anti-racist social work curriculum which has contributed to significant changes in UK policy and development of the social work curriculum. This presentation will also touch on why indigenous knowledge should be implemented and embedded in social work curriculums in the UK and how this can be done effectively from a student's perspective.

Key words:

Authors: Omar Mohamed & Diana Katoto

UK

[Watch here](#)

Title: Integration of Indigenous and Formal Social Protection Systems in Uganda: Experiences of Elderly Widows

Formal social protection systems have been embraced by many nations as crucial to preventing and reducing poverty. Despite efforts to expand formal social protection in Uganda, it is still limited in coverage. The majority of Ugandans rely on indigenous social protection systems to meet their needs. Despite the noble role played by indigenous systems in providing safety nets to the vulnerable, they remain underdeveloped and unsupported by the government in terms of policy, financial assistance, and planning. Underscored by the Afrocentric perspective, this study used qualitative case study design, to explore the indigenous social protection systems utilised by elderly widows in Kamuli district who are beneficiaries of the formal social assistance grant for empowerment programme, and how formal and indigenous social protection systems can integrate. Thematic analysis was used to analyse data. Findings revealed that all indigenous systems are underpinned by the ubuntu values of solidarity, reciprocity, mutual trust and sharing. Indigenous social protection systems included extended family and kinship ties, neighbourhood and community, and faith-based organisations. Indigenous and formal social protection are interlinked and rely on each other, but no deliberate effort is put in place to integrate them for improved service delivery. Findings call for the need to integrate the indigenous systems in the design of social protection policy. This helps to improve their capacity to address local risks and provide a conducive environment under which indigenous systems and formal social protection can complement each other, for improved policy and service delivery.

Keywords: social protection, integration, policy

Authors: Deborah Atwine

Uganda

[Watch here](#)

Title: Grassroot Community Development through a Parish Development Model in Uganda: Philosophy, Prospects & Implications for Social Work Practice

<p>Like many other countries in the Global South, poverty remains a major development challenge in Uganda despite numerous government prosperity interventions. Current estimates indicate that 21.4% of the country’s population live below the national poverty line while 39% of its households are outside of the money economy deriving their livelihood through subsistence activities. A most recent intervention in tackling this challenge is a Parish Development Model (PDM) aimed at achieving community social economic transformation through wealth creation and employment generation. This paper examines the efficacy of this model in mobilizing communities, neighbourhoods, and households to actively engage in the productive income economy in an effort to alleviate poverty at the grassroots and improve the quality of life of Ugandans. This study employs a systematic literature review methodology within a qualitative epistemology. In the first instance, the paper describes the origins, the philosophy, and the major tenets of the PDM. Secondly, it reviews scholarly and gray literature on related community development models. Thirdly, it discusses the progress of implementation of the parish development model and distils the role of professional social workers within this implementation framework. Fourthly, the paper articulates the underlying gaps and concerns within this development approach for action. In the fifth instance, the paper explores the lessons learned and implications for social work practice with communities and neighbourhoods. Conclusions from preliminary findings indicate that while the parish development model has an enormous potential to achieve its goal, its’ efficacy is susceptible to a theoretical framework rooted in its politicization. We conclude by offering a pragmatic implementation approach anchored in a collaborative and sustainable pathway.</p>		
<p>Key words: Parish development model, poverty, Grassroot community development, social development, social protection, Social work, Uganda</p>		
<p>Authors: Venesio Bwambale Bhangyi, Silverno Tweshengyereze & Hiraly Asabahebwa</p>	<p>Uganda</p>	<p>Watch here</p>

Title: Achieving sustainable development goals through traditional child nurturing: Lessons from the ‘ganda’ culture in Uganda

<p>Objective: This study explored how the traditional child nurturing practices in the Ganda culture in Uganda contributed to glooming children in a holistic way. It explored how traditional African cultures encouraged learning by doing and the related benefits.</p> <p>Methods: Literature review, in-depth individual interviews, and key informant interviews were employed. One hundred women and men aged 50-70; ten key informants (cultural and opinion leaders) were interviewed. Results: Primary training was done by the mother to the girl-child and the father to the boy child. Nurturing was done through story- telling, proverbs and wise-sayings, rituals, traditional poems, myths, legends and attaching meaning to signs and sounds. The above practices consisted of rich information such as promoting food security, organic farming, and soil conservation through farming rituals; maintaining sanitation in a family setting; on-job training and rewards to motivated children for creativity and hard work; sustainable growth through traditional poems with demonstrations; Hand craft skills using materials in the environment: talent development through forms of traditional music and games for solidarity and poverty eradication; value of human blood relationships to curb incest and defilement; value of meaningful taboos to guard against temptations and inculcate fear that protects; the marriage institution as foundation for future generations; and promoting human dignity.</p> <p>Conclusion: Most of these approaches to nurturing children remain unutilized today given the erosion of African culture and values through colonialism that provides other alternatives. These cultural practices can be replicated to address development challenges and improve scores on Sustainable Development Goals.</p>		
<p>Key words:</p>		
<p>Authors: Rosemary Nakijoba (PhD)</p>	<p>Uganda</p>	<p>Watch here</p>

Title: Social Work Practice in Rwanda: Indigenous and Innovative Models of Problem Solving

Professional social work practice requires cultural competencies to better serve clients. The research showed some of the traditional approaches of helping that have been reshaped to meet the current community needs and to effectively address contemporary pressing social problems. The research documented selected Home-Grown Solutions (HGSs) and the analysis was done in the lens of social work theories and practice. Research based findings from all the four Provinces and the City of Kigali in Rwanda highlighted the importance of looking back to what worked well in the past to be used in the search to strengthen social work education and practice at present and for the future. There is a need to integrate HGSs into the social work curriculum to equip students with the necessary knowledge and skills to deliver adequate services that take local contexts into account. This integration will allow students to be able to link up social work principles and values to the values enshrined in the cultural models, be proud of their profession, value culture and ensure that their training is not carried out in a vacuum. The research recommends the placement of social work practitioners in key local government positions to empower, support, and keep with people till they become aware of their crucial role in the process of their own development.

It further recommends promoting partnerships between social work practitioners, educators, researchers, the government, and its stakeholders. Such partnerships would, in turn, promote university-community linkages and social work evidence-based research that would inform policymaking.

Key words:

Authors: Consolée Uwihangana, Alexandre Hakizamungu, Charles Rutikanga, Théogène Bangwanubusa and Charles Kalinganire	Rwanda	Watch here or here
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Title: Practice Education, Decolonisation and Ubuntu: Making Connections.

The role of the Practice Educator in social work educator is viewed as the ‘cornerstone’ of student learning in practice settings. Traditionally Practice Educators are viewed as qualified and trained social workers that supervise, teach, and assess social work students on practice learning placements and make a recommendation to the awarding institution whether a student is ‘fit to practise at the point of qualification’. However, the principles and practice of practice education has been largely rooted in the philosophy and theories emerging from the west. This can dismiss, for example, the interconnectedness of family, community, and environment as sources of knowledge but also indigenous worldviews, epistemologies, knowledges, and dialogues evident in teaching and learning, for example as indicated through Ubuntu education. This session examines ‘practice education’ through a colonisation-decolonisation lens of knowledge and practice and the emerging issues for decolonised and developmental social work for student learning in practice. It examines how decolonisation and ubuntu can bring an alternative critical angle to teaching and learning for practice educators and their role with student social workers.

Key words:

Authors: Janet Walker, Simon Cauvain & Anstance Fometu	UK	Watch here
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Title: Decolonizing Nature: Indigenous Strategies for Environmental Sustainability

This presentation will explore the strength of Indigenous models in addressing the current destruction experienced across the globe with the changes in weather through processes that work to decolonize nature. Around the globe, local and Indigenous Peoples are rediscovering and reclaiming culture and balanced relationships with the ecology, leading others to follow. Decolonizing nature involves recognizing that humans are the cause of ecological degradation and re-visioning our relationship with each other and the earth. Although not homogenous, prior to colonization, Tribal and Indigenous (Coates et al., 2006), African (Gumo et al., 2012), and Asian and Pacific Islander worldviews saw humans as part of a greater ecology that was interconnected and required balance. While much has been lost to colonization, people who have been colonized have managed to retain some traditions and beliefs--even if now blended with European ideas (Gumo et al., 2012). There are inexpensive changes in practices needed to reverse land degradation, such as farming animals and crops together so the manure may be used to restore depleted soils to improve crops and increasing carbon storage in soil through "reduced or no-till farming practices, cover crops, green manures or intercropping" (IPBES, 2018, p. 19). Avoiding, reducing, or reversing land degradation could also reduce conflict and migration by improving food and water security (IPBES, 2018). These and other Indigenous practices are examined.

Key words:

Authors: Lacey Sloan & Cathryne Schmitz	USA	Watch here or here
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Title: The social work body of knowledge: how to revalue African social work sources of knowledge

The social work body of knowledge is often viewed as universal, but it is not. As Mbigi (2000) said, knowledge has nhorowondo, meaning it has a context in which it is sourced, created, or applied. This context includes worldviews but also the social and cultural environment. The African body of social work knowledge does not adequately include African understandings of reality. It also does not adequately acknowledge African sources of knowledge. This presentation will focus on sources of knowledge in Africa that are not often recognised in social work and discuss how they can be revalued. The sources include African philosophies, histories, oratures, theories, experiences, literatures, and policies. Examples will be provided to show how these could be revalued."

Key words:

Author: Rugare J Mugumbate	Australia	Watch here
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Title: Indigenous mentoring and monitoring system amongst Vatsonga speaking people towards child protection

Despite most countries in Sub-Saharan Africa being signatories to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, many children in the region experience conditions that infringe on their right to protection. It appears that the Southern African region traditionally had intact child protection systems, which has since become extinct or is at verge of extinction. This article is based on a qualitative study that investigated the potential contribution of indigenous knowledge to the protection of children, based on the indigenous knowledge systems (IKS) of the Vatsonga people of Southern Africa. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 40 participants drawn from Zimbabwe and Mozambique. The findings revealed several IKS that could contribute to the mentoring and protection of children. We conclude that the use of IKS could complement formal child protection services in indigenous communities hence the need to promote its revival

Key words:

Authors: Samuel L Mahuntse-Simbine	Zimbabwe	Watch here
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Title: Negotiating Interdisciplinary Imperatives Towards A Culturally Competent Social Work Praxis

The paper seeks to explore the inadequacies of the westernised intervention methods in addressing Africa’s ills, and the emergent need to negotiate interdisciplinary imperatives towards a culturally competent social work praxis. As a direct response to the underpinning epistemologies and ontologies that are deeply ingrained within existing hegemonies of westernised paradigms. Imperatively, the overarching objective of a culturally competent practice is to unveil these epistemic silences, hidden within these westernised hegemonic theories and discourses. The social work praxis in Africa is arguably envisaged to be thoroughly permeated by culturally incompetent intervention methods although still seen as a respected and important humanistic profession that competently addresses the different vulnerabilities as there arise within communities. The social work praxis has from the very onset sought its professional legitimacy from interdisciplinary imperatives and as such these must be encouraged in answering existing and emerging social ills. This then calls for a culturally competent social work praxis that acknowledges and incorporates at all levels the importance of the assessment of cross-cultural relations and that is vigilant towards the dynamics that result from cultural differences, cultural knowledge expansion and services that befits African communities.

Authors: Terence Qubekani Ndlovu	South Africa	Watch here
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Title: Re-imagining social work education in East Africa

Social work is an emerging professionalized field in most of Africa. As an academic discipline, social work builds on a broad and interdisciplinary spectrum of theories, whereof most are “Eurocentric”. In line with postcolonial thought, social work’s epistemic complicity with empire cannot be left unacknowledged. For social work theories to be relevant and responsive to local communities, they have to be contextualized, challenged and advanced. We argue that advancement of social work as an academic professional discipline in Africa requires an attentiveness to how theoretical knowledge can be indigenized. Indigenization is a contested term. In our usage, it refers to how social work can be culturally relevant and respond to diverse local contexts. We understand indigenization not as a replacement of dominant (colonial) knowledge systems, but as weaving together different knowledge systems so that learners can come to understand, develop, and challenge both. We address the following questions: What does indigenization of social work mean and what does it imply for the education of social work? What is the current situation like at three East African universities with social work programmes, and what are the challenges and opportunities for the emerging professionalization of social work in these contexts?

Empirically, the article will build on a review of the curriculum of undergraduate programmes in social work at three East African universities and, for comparison, one Norwegian university. Theoretically, it is informed by literature on indigenization in the legacy of standpoint epistemology.

Authors: Ann Christin C. Nilsen; Janestic Twikirize et.al	East Africa	Watch here
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Title: How Rwandan homegrown initiatives might contribute to local and regional economic and social development.

The current revelations about global economic imbalances, unending poverty, violence, and health inequities in the former colonies, particularly those in sub-Saharan Africa, have raised questions about whether the world could benefit from a different perspective and approach to development beyond the narrow Western economic development models. It has been argued that the economic model imposed by global powers has kept many former colonies in perpetual dependency. The present paper will challenge this dominant view by demonstrating how the homegrown initiatives the government of Rwanda adopted and institutionalized in the aftermath of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi has helped the country recover and attain the goals of its Vision 2020 strategy and the Sustainable Development Goals. The Rwandan homegrown initiatives are still in their infancy; however, with sustained efforts to center these initiatives, we can start to envision true decolonization in Rwanda and in other similar countries as they claim their knowledge and practices as the foundation of their socio-economic development.

Key words:

Authors: Regine King	Canada	Watch here
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Title: Restoring the value of Local knowledge in agricultural reform in Rwanda: an alternative to seeds scarcity in Nyaruguru and Huye districts.

In this article of restoring the value of local knowledge in agricultural reforms in Rwanda, the focus is on how farmers get seeds since the introduction of imported and hybrid seeds, their tough experience in getting them and how they used to access them before the introduction of the 2008- agricultural reforms and finally what to learn from the traditional practices of seeds conservation and accessibility. The article shows how in the past, seeds were sorted during the harvest and kept in small special granaries or pitchers for the following growing season, and how with the reforms, seeds are accessible through a chain of approved suppliers. The crux of the matter is that local vendors receive seeds with delay in relation to the start of the sowing seasons and this has repercussions on small farmers’ production. Other seed related problems include the fact that there is no law that protects small farmers in the event of injustice against them. The main recommendations include to increase the number of multiplication sites and the number of seed multipliers to discourage imported seeds, distribute seeds which can generate seeds at the harvest and at an affordable price, train many seed multipliers at least one per village and place them permanently at the level of each agricultural zone where the majority of famers have agricultural activities.

Keywords: Local knowledge, Agricultural reform, Rwanda

Authors: Dr. Hahirwa G. Joseph and Mr. Rene-Claude NIYONKURU	Rwanda	Watch here
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Title: Help-Seeking Behaviours Beyond Traditional System: A Case of Victim Support Units (VSUs) in Malawi

Marriages in Malawi have often involved two key ceremonies of engagement and wedding. During the former, marriage counsellors are unveiled and take up their roles of diffusing family disputes for the new family. Of late, many families have been seeking help from Victim Support Units (VSUs) mostly in domestic challenges associated with Gender Based Violence (GBV). The VSUs were established by the Malawi Police Service in 364 police formations including stations, substations, posts, and units across the country. In each formation, at least two officers have been trained to handle cases of violence in a childfriendly, gender-sensitive and victim-centered way. A UNICEF report indicates that client satisfaction surveys have revealed positive experiences of VSUs. This study sought to establish factors leading to the rise in popularity of VSUs; Suitability of Police Units as social work agencies; Capacity of the service providers; and a SWOT analysis of VSU approach. Key informant interviews, in-depth interviews and desk review were used to collect data for the study. The study established that there is a declining influence of marriage counsellors in many families; the VSUs are attractive avenues for the victimized but a threatening environment for the offenders; Receipt of many cases is overwhelming the service providers: and there are challenges, opportunities, strengths, and weaknesses that can be observed from the approach.

Key words:

Authors: Felix Kakowa	Malawi	Watch here
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Title: Indigenous knowledge decolonizing social work

Introduction: Social work professional activity which aims at helping people to help themselves in their communities to unlock social and economic problems through pragmatic solutions. In Malawi social work is being done by both professional and un professionals. These un professionals use indigenous knowledge to answer their daily problems which is a gradual decolonization of social work profession which can be a good platform to unlock ways on how to achieve some of the sustainable development goals in relation to the theme which is towards Ubuntu and sustainable development work position in achieving SDGs in relation to the current trends.

1 Problem Statement: For a long time, social work professionals have been helping local communities with knowledge and skills which was very powerful. By and large communities were just at the receiving end and no sustainability was there, as such to achieve national goals was a problem. This is why Indigenous knowledge decolonizing social work is the only way to turn around the world.

2 Main Objective: To critically analyse indigenous knowledge which subsequently decolonize social work professionals.

3 Specific Objectives: To relate social work activities, To analyse the role of social workers, Indigenous knowledge and its application

1.1 Methodology; 1.2 Study design

The study is cross-sectional in nature, and it will use quantitative approach and qualitative approach in which scientific methods will be used to enhance knowledge and skills.

1.3 Sampling: There shall be a feasibility study prior to the commencement of the project. Random sampling shall be used

2.3 Research Questions: Relating sustainable development goals; How social workers work in the fields? How indigenous knowledge is useful to achieve the SDGs"

Key words:

Authors: THADDEUS Putheke

Malawi

[Watch here](#)

Title: Effect of Religion and Culture on Practice of Family Planning among Couples in Ibadan, Nigeria.

The study investigated the effect of religion and culture on the practice of family planning among couples in Ibadan. The descriptive survey design method was used for the study. Random sampling technique was used to select respondents. The study was based on the health belief model and culture theory. The questionnaire was used to collect data for the study. Two null hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance, using Analysis of Variance (ANOVA). The study revealed that there was a significant effect of culture on family planning practice among couples in Ibadan ($F(2, 147) = 2.431$). It also established that there was a significant effect of religion on family planning practice among couples in Ibadan ($F(2, 147) = 8.880$). Based on the above findings the study recommended that Government should intensify efforts on sensitization of the general populace, the traditional and religious leaders on family planning.

Keywords: Religion, Culture, Couples, and Family Planning.

Authors: Dr Abimbola Afolabi & Oyindamola A. Ogunsan

Nigeria

[Watch here](#)

Natural and manmade disaster management

Title: Social work practice during climate change induced disasters in Zimbabwe

Natural and manmade disasters are increasingly affecting the world at an alarming rate. During the period 2000-2019, climate change-related disasters recorded were 6681, an increase of 82.7% compared to 3 656 climate change disaster events recorded between 1980-1999. In recent years, Zimbabwe was repeatedly affected by the following cyclones, Dineo (2017), Idai (2019), and cyclone Eloise in the early months of 2021. These disasters caused deaths, illness, infrastructure damage, livelihoods alteration, and further crippling the country's economy. This has resulted in increased interest and efforts by the government and various professionals inclusive of social workers in undertaking research and engaging in activities aimed at boosting the countries resilience to disasters. Therefore, this study seeks to explore the role being played by social work professionals in Zimbabwe towards contributing to disasters management in line with the Sendai Framework and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). The study employs focus group discussions and interviews with social work practitioners and social work lecturers. The study findings may have implications on the development of training guidelines that are imperative on disaster prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery strategies that can be utilised by social workers in strengthening their intervention during disaster occurrences. Recommendations will be made for curriculum review and design, programmatic interventions in the development of comprehensive national and sub-national disaster management strategies, and future research.

Key words:

Authors: Molly Shayamano & Poppy Masinga

Zimbabwe

[Watch here](#)

Title: Scoping the Social Work Profession Nexus in the context of Climate Change and Water insecurity

The paper seeks to explore how the existing epistemic ambivalent understanding of the role and relationship of the social work profession to the natural world has played to a larger extent, a part in perpetuating the violation of the principle of social and ecological justice in the context of climate change and water insecurity. Importantly, in heeding the call to address the challenges of environmental destruction, the social work profession has opened opportunities for the reviewing of existing foundational knowledge and interdisciplinary collaborations. The person-in environment construct can longer function outside the scope of the built and natural environment and the inclusion of environmental and community sustainability as one of the four priority areas in the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development, is indicative of the growing importance and impact of this largely ignored facet within the social work profession. The fact that social work has predominantly been seen as an academic discipline and a practice-based profession with a focused goal of promoting social change the social work profession has continually neglected and ignored the environmental threats like climate change and water insecurities that affect the social well-being of the people and communities disproportionately.

Therefore, the symbiotic embeddedness of the society to the natural world and the environment needs to be understood within an established and universally accepted environmental justice framework, that underscores and addresses these existing disparities that burden our communities.

Key words:

Authors: Terence Qubekani Ndlovu

South Africa

[Watch here](#)

Title: Leveraging information communication technology to manage COVID-19 pandemic. Lessons from a six-month national advocacy and capacity strengthening project coordinated by the national association of social workers of Uganda-NASWU

NASWU Coordinated a six-month online advocacy and capacity strengthening of frontline social workers with the objective of promoting resilience of individuals, families, and communities as a viable strategy to continue supporting children and families remotely between June 17, 2020- December 21, 2020.

The project used both social media and webinars to reach the targeted population and worked with early career professionals teaching institutions and agencies. Social media and Webinars were used to reached 5,000 frontlines social workforce, governments agencies and departments and partners demonstrating the role of professional social workers in situations of adversity. Community leaders were empowered to take lead in COVID-19 management. 100 early career professionals with knowledge and skills in strengths-based approaches and with large networks were selected while 20 technical agencies in child protection, mental health, community development took an active role in webinars.

The implementation team was oriented on online Advocacy social work values and principles including the use of technology and social media. NASWU supported younger social workers to develop, and share posts every week, the team conducted weekly reflective discussions to analyse responses in regard to promoting positive coping mechanisms. A total of 5000 Social workforces were equipped with skills in relation to COVID-19 prevention and management, increased teamwork between government ministries, departments, academia, social work agencies community leaders We learnt that the power of technology and younger people when supported can spark positive coping within our families and communities which can be explored as a major strategy to protect children and communities even in remote settings.

Key words:

Authors: John Mary Ssekate

Uganda

[Watch here](#)

Indigenous knowledge and decolonizing social work

Title: Indigenous Governance Systems and Ubuntu-based Social Protection sustainability: A Pan African Perspective

When the outsiders met African peoples for the first time, their understanding of indigenous ways of living and doing was often limited and erroneous. They called them aborigine, natives, tribal, ethnic minorities, and ethnic nationalities, implying backwardness and primitiveness. With such a concept, indigenous systems including governance, culture, social, legal and judiciary, philosophy, economic systems were indiscriminately destroyed and replaced with purportedly modern systems to “civilize” indigenous peoples. In many African countries, indigenous socio-cultural and political systems which were seen as barriers to the entrenchment of colonial rule or perpetuation of state hegemony, were outlawed and destroyed. However, indigenous knowledge, values, and governance structures which enabled them to cater for everyone can be appreciated for their sustainable nature and should constitute a source of inspiration in designing social protection policy. The absence of street children, homeless people, and prisons is a testimony of the existence of value systems, social structure and justice systems that enabled the Rwandan society to integrate all its members and ensure equal opportunities to all. Using a historical comparative method, through the analysis of the pre-colonial and the current governance systems in Rwanda, this paper seeks to explain the vital link between indigenous governance and value systems and the sustainability of social protection policy with regard to the homeless and prisoners. It is argued that for SDGs to be achieved indigenous systems should be recovered and inspiration must be drawn from them in the design of social protection policies.

Key words:

Authors: Vedaste Ndizera

Rwanda

[Watch here](#)

Poverty, inequalities, hunger eradication

Title: Impacts of Covid-19 pandemic to all aspects

World in general is facing crisis, where people are being killed by pandemic, spreading human suffering upending people's lives. World economy is falling where many people have become jobless, as well as disruption of businesses, hence increasing poverty.

In Rwanda, all economic and social sectors are affected by Covid-19 impacts. Where many people lost their income due to lockdown and others lost their jobs which make them to become poor. Now many households who were above poverty line now they are under poverty line and those who are not under they are suffering from income insecurity. All of those are weakening people's coping skills.

Rwanda like the other world nation, they are asking themselves questions like: how do we build back better? how do we build a more resilient institutions, system, economy, and communities? And how do we limit future crises.

In those hardship we are facing people react differently, what is visible is that many Rwanda have been affected by pandemic impacts especially in their living conditions. Many people who were used to eat when they went outside their home to look for jobs, they are now in lockdown to survive for them it is very difficult.

Government should take quick actions to recover those families. As government formulated Economic Recovery Plan, as social protection strategies, government should pay attention during the provision of social supports by starting on more vulnerable than others. My Project is looking common and productive assumptions to the problem.

Key words:

Authors: Patrick Igirimbabazi

Rwanda

[Watch here](#)

Title: The role of the extended family in alleviating child poverty and inequalities in Namibia

Namibia is classified as an upper middle-income country. However, it is one of the most unequal countries in the world. This inequality makes it very difficult to reduce poverty, especially child poverty. Poverty has deep and long-lasting impacts on the lives and development of children in Namibia, especially their health, education, and psychosocial wellbeing. Although the exact scale of child poverty is unknown, a substantial number of children in Namibia are indeed living in impoverished circumstances. Many children from poor communities may find themselves in extended family settings, conversely, the extended family may serve as a social safety net against child poverty. This paper presents findings from a small-scale qualitative study conducted in Namibia which investigated how, and in what ways extended families were pulling together limited resources to respond to the needs of children in their care. Findings show that child fosterage, besides providing the needed material and emotional support for children, also presents challenges with substantial variation in the quality and consistency of support offered. Exposure to inequality and differential treatment towards non-biological siblings may impact upon children's health and welfare. This is particularly so given caregivers are financially responsible for children in their care, and often experience daily challenges in meeting their basic needs.

Key words:

Authors: Janet Ananias, Emma Leonard & Vicky Sharley

Namibia

[Watch here](#)

Title: Harvesting rainwater and wellbeing of people in rural area.

It difficult to access water while rainfall harvesting help people. The main objective is to describe how harvesting rainwater have the effect on wellbeing of people. The specific objectives are; to find out the problems faced by people before harvesting rain water, to find out the activities in which harvested rain water is used in and to identify changes on the wellbeing of people thanks to harvested rain water. The sample of 34 people who have water tanks answered questionnaire. The interviews were conducted with key informants. Observation also was used. The data analysis has been done helped by comparative and analytical methods. We found that people faced problems like lack of water to use in home activities and high frequency of low-hygiene related diseases. After constructing water tank, harvested rainwater is used in different home activities and water become a source of income. Thanks to harvested rainwater people’s wellbeing changed as indicated by their environment. We recommend creating self-help groups targeting to buy water tanks.

Key words:

Authors: NTEZIMANA Alexandre

Rwanda

[Watch here](#)

Title: Culture and Ethnicity: Critical Factors in Irish Early Intervention Services.

This research is a qualitative study of the lived experiences of African immigrant parents of children with disabilities (0-6years) living in Ireland in relation to access and utilisation of Early Intervention services and ways in which these could be enhanced. The research investigates how cultural perceptions affect the way in which African immigrant parents of children with disabilities approach and relate to Early Intervention Services, and how the idea of cultural competence may be useful in understanding how professionals working in Early Intervention Services understand and work with African immigrant parents of children with disabilities. Research findings highlight amongst others, tension and ambivalence in the relationship between parents and professionals based on constructions and understandings of disability and service expectations; parental experience of discrimination and identity issues. These findings confirm findings in the USA and Canada (Lindsay et als., 2012; Lindsay et als., 2014) to the effect that service provision to immigrant families of children with disabilities is not culturally appropriate within Irish Early Intervention Services. Parents, while appreciating the services being provided to them, express dissatisfaction with service provision in relation to connecting with their cultural dispositions. Discrimination, one ‘size fits all’ approach, the lack of targeted approaches to address specific needs of African families, being ‘stuck in the middle’, and professional expectation for African families to fit into the norm, are some of the core grievances of parents in relation to service provision. This is on-going research as part of a PhD in Social Work programme.

Key words:

Authors: Ndemazia Asongleack Jingwa PhD

Ireland

[Watch here](#) or [here](#)

Title: Social Work Responses to Poverty in PLHIV Associations in Huye district: the role of intermediary Social Work Actors

People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHIV) are among persons who have been often discriminated, isolated and disempowered. In consequence, it is not always easy for them to fight for their survival. However, the literature shows that once empowered, they manage to cope with social problems, particularly with poverty and its ramifications. Drawing on my PhD research project with PLHIV associations in Huye district, the intention in this paper is to examine and show the contribution of Social Work as empowering profession in mitigating poverty and uplifting the associations' members' lives. The study adopted an exploratory sequential mixed methods design with great privilege given to participatory action research methodology (PAR).

The results showed that social workers are key catalysts and well positioned to empower people in need (PIN) but for effective success, it is essential that they work with intermediary social work actors (ISWA) and use mostly developmental approaches that should integrate indigenous practices.

Key words: Social work, Poverty, PLHIV, Intermediary Social Work Actors

Authors: Charles Kalinganire

Rwanda

[Watch here](#)

Title: Overview of Children Neglect in the Federal Capital Territory Abuja, Nigeria

This paper therefore studies the underage children, the implications, behaviour's patterns, the various problems, and challenges. Different questionnaires were administering, focus group discussion, with oral interviews. It was observed that most of the children were being move from the northern part of the country which vehicle vans, an drop into the different strategies position in the community of (Gwagwalada, Kwali, Kuje and Abaji) in which they cause a lot of burden to the citizens, they beg for food, money and no were to sleep and some of the religious leaders also kept them in respect to protection, religious teaching and to help them. Even some populace in the society also take care of them with the welfare needs, some also populace requested in adopting them. They are also used in political means such as election periods, in other states, they cause a lot of different security challenges, in the social strata society. This paper suggested that the social welfare of the Federal Capital Territory Administration's, should be proactive enough to work out a plan in the taking care of them and providing a quality service and make them productive in the societies.

Key words: Children, communities, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria

Authors: Michael Adedotun Oke

Nigeria

[Watch here](#)

Title: Impacts of covid-19 pandemic to all aspects

World in general is facing crisis, where people are being killed by pandemic, spreading human suffering upending people's lives. world economy is falling where many people have come jobless, as well as disruption of businesses, hence increasing poverty. In Rwanda, all economic and social sectors are affected by covid-19 impacts. where many people lost their income due to lockdown and others lost their jobs which make them to become poor. Now many households who were above poverty line now they are under poverty line and those who are not under they are suffering from income insecurity. All of those are weakening people's coping skills. Rwanda like the other world nation, they are asking themselves questions like: how do we build back better? how do we build a more resilient institutions, system, economy, and communities? And how do we limit future crises.

In those hardship we are facing people react differently, what is visible is that many Rwanda have been affected by pandemic impacts especially in their living conditions. Many people who were used to eat when they went outside their home to look for jobs, they are now in lockdown to survive for them it is very difficult. Government should take quick actions to recover those families. As government formulated Economic Recovery Plan, as social protection strategies, government should pay attention during the provision of social supports by starting on more vulnerable than others. My Project is looking common and productive assumptions to the problem.

Authors: Patrick Igirimbabazi

Rwanda

[Watch here](#)

Title: The burden of food insecurity on smallholder farmers in East Africa

This paper presents preliminary reflections on the methodological and ethical challenges I am anticipating in my PhD research project based on the scoping review on the burden of food insecurity on smallholder farmers in East Africa. The thesis seeks to explore Survival experiences of smallholder farmers in Rwandan rural area with an overall aim of investigating the burden of food insecurity for rural smallholder farmers in Rutsiro district and explore how to achieve sustainable livelihood. To be able to reach this overall aim, there has been formulated sub aims. The first one is to assess underlying causes of food insecurity in a rural setting by exploring local smallholder farmers own views of the problem and to understand their ideas of how development can be reached. The second one is to identify strategies which can be used to develop a sustainable livelihood for smallholder farmers in Rutsiro. The third sub aim is to explore macro structures affecting the problem such as social and economic programs, laws, policies, and organizational practice affecting food security. The study will adopt a mixed methodology of qualitative and quantitative designs. It will use a survey, interviews, focus group discussions and direct observation. In the end, findings will be presented in a compiled thesis of 4 different but complementary papers.

Key words:

Authors: Alexandre Hakizamungu

Rwanda

[Watch here](#)

Title: Conceptualising the Pathways of Youth Homelessness in Nigeria: A Sociological Perspective

A Sociological Perspective on the Pathways of Youth Homelessness in Nigeria. Study aims the entry routes, exit routes and their socio-economic conditions. The phenomenon is conceptualized from global and local perspectives. Studies embraces critical realist' paradigm and a qualitative strategy applying comparative design via multiple case analysis.

Participants would be contacted during a 2-3months mini ethnography. Narrative interviews would be acquired from clients who are either currently homeless or with lived experience of youth homelessness. Grounded theory would be applied for analysis and ATLAS for data recording. Study shall be in Lagos and Maiduguri cities of Nigeria. Globally 100 million are homeless, 1.6 billion lack secure housing and 150 million street children worldwide (UNHCR 2007, Forbes, 2020). 52% Nigerians (209million) live in urban cities, 43% Nigerians (89million) live in abject poverty with young people 10-29years making forming 42% (35million) of it. (Worldometer, 2020, Statistica, 2020 & World data lab's Global poverty, 2021). 24.4 million Nigerians are homeless, 8.6million orphaned children sleep rough in markets, bridges, railway stations and probably account for over 10.5million Nigerian kids who couldn't attend formal education. 1.3 million children flee their homes in North-east due to insurgence most of these children wander about on street during education hours fending for themselves. (UNHCR, 2007, Borgen Project, 2020 & Street Child USA, 2020). Edewor (2014) survey on homeless children & youths in Lagos shows that; 68.1% cited poverty as reason for not being at school, 88.1% indicated interest in returning to school. (Edewor 2014).

Key words:

Authors: Joseph Aigbolosimon Famous

Nigeria

[Watch here](#)

Title: Doing masculinity’: Gang violence and the construction of masculinity in marginalised black African communities

The focus of this study was to discuss the link between gang violence and the construction of masculinity among marginalised black African young men from Bophelong in Gauteng and Nyanya in the Western Cape in South Africa. The research objectives were to examine how marginalised black African young men construct and practice masculinity and to explore how concepts of manhood ekasi (African townships) intersect with the use of violence among African men. The paper adopted a qualitative approach and data was collected through a focus group discussion and face to face interviews. Tesch (1990)’s approach to data analysis was used. Findings show that in the absence of socio-economic opportunities to help fulfil the breadwinner role, marginalised youth from Bophelong and Nyanga are pushed towards gangs where they endeavour to be part of powerful gangs through the use of extreme levels of violence.

Key words:

Authors: NOKUKHANYA Ndhlovu

South Africa

[Watch here](#)

Title: Gaps and colonial legacies associated with incrementalism approach in South African social policies.

Undeniably, social policies existed even during colonial era but mainly accommodated white population problems than natives in Africa which include South Africa. Emphatically, these policies observed racial discrimination, elitism, and exclusion of natives. Post 1994 when African National Congress (ANC) came to power, social policies were deracialized and included native population. Despite deradicalization of social policy, eclectic literature herald that colonial legacy and its institutionalism remained intact. Later after deradicalization the policy system continued to maintain bottleneck approach. This paper seeks make discourse on gaps and colonial legacies associated with incrementalism approach in South African social policies.

Key words:

Authors: Samkelo Bala

South Africa

[Watch here](#)

Social work professional training (Ubuntu).

Title: The concept of knowledge in social work: the missing pieces in African social work

The social work body of knowledge is often viewed as universal, but it is not. As Mbigi (2000) said, knowledge has nhorowondo, meaning it has a context in which it is sourced, created, or applied. This context includes worldviews but also the social and cultural environment. The African body of social work knowledge does not adequately include African understandings of reality. It also does not adequately acknowledge African sources of knowledge. This presentation will focus on sources of knowledge in Africa that are not often recognised in social work and discuss how they can be revalued. The sources include African philosophies, histories, oratures, theories, experiences, literatures, and policies. Examples will be provided to show how these could be revalued.

Key words:

Authors: Rugare Jacob Mugumbate

Australia

[Watch here](#)

Social Work and the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Title: Sustainable communities and cities, co-building the future with social work

The IFSW United Nations Commission elaborated a policy paper that has been endorsed by the IFSW global board in March 2021. It contains a strong message that will be presented and - if possible - discussed with the audience.

A main message is the enormous value of social work to achieve the SDGs. But social work shall not 'copy - paste' the goals of the UN but rather combine the SDGs with the social work perspective. Partnership and a good mix of bottom up and top-down actions does involve our colleagues in every region.

"With a social work lens, we promote people's rights (bottom-up approach) by providing the communities with information and education for transparency and participation. We underline everyone's contribution and strive to influence decisions at a policy level with regard to infrastructure, systems, and services. As advocates for change, social workers further influence transition, impacting the communities to enable transformation to a just, fair, solidary, and eco-friendly world.

Social workers facilitate and foster partnerships within communities and between various partners, at local, national, and international levels, to translate UN SDGs in various ways (social, economic, and ecological) and designing together a new knowledge of sustainable solutions for the implementation action." IFSW policy paper on SW and the SDG, 2021

Key words: SDGs, Social work, UN

Authors: Priska Fleischlin,

Switzerland

[Watch here](#) or [here](#)

Sustainable communities and cities, co-building the future with social work

Title: Achieving sustainable development goal in Nigeria through social work education: A gendered approach

The quest of every government across the globe is to achieve all-inclusive development, including social justice, women empowerment and improving well-being of every citizen in order to function optimally. These feats are feasible in many developed countries through the social work education. However, in low-income country like Nigeria, the issue of gender equality has not been considered important in the pool of government documents thereby negating the sustainable development goals of United Nations.

The study, therefore, ascertains the place of social work education in achieving sustainable goals with respect to gender equality. Focus group discussions and in-depth interviews were adopted to collect data from 34 participants. The findings of the study revealed that a lot of efforts have been made to achieve gender equality and empowerment through social work education.

However, factors such as non-professionalization of social work, culture and traditional values have affected the achieving of gender equality and empowerment through social work education. Also, it appears that male social work educators are passive about promoting gender equality and empowerment through social work education. To achieve 2030 global agenda, all social work educators irrespective of gender should promote gender equality and empowerment as enshrined in social work ethics.

Key words: gender inequality, social development, social justice, social work education, sustainable development goals, women empowerment.

Authors: Samuel O. Ebimngbo & Uzoma O. Okoye

Nigeria

[Watch here](#)

Title: Implementation of community service sentencing in Lagos state: the role of social workers

Community service (CS) sentencing is a new penal option in Nigeria introduced by Lagos State in 2012. Community Sentencing Unit (CSU) was created under the Ministry of Justice to administer and supervise CS offenders. After its implementation for seven years, it became imperative to evaluate the institutional capacity of the CSU to oversee the offenders. The study used both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection and analysis. All the five community service officers (CSOs) and fourteen support staff were investigated between 13th November and March 2020. Data were analysed with the use of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 25 and excel worksheet. Descriptive statistics, bivariate and univariate analyses were applied. The findings reveal that a total of 8,415 offenders were sentenced to CS between 2016 and 2019 indicating that CS sentencing was becoming a popular option of non-custodial sentencing in Lagos State.

Manpower strength was grossly inadequate for the supervision of the large number of offenders. Only one staff was suitably qualified. Major duties of the CSOs are liaising with the courts, conduct presentence investigations, locating work placement centres, supervision, rehabilitation and writing completion reports. Challenges observed include absence of CSOs in the courts, lack of electronic database, inadequate logistics for supervision, no monitoring and evaluation methods. It is recommended that CSU should recruit qualified CSOs, use more volunteers and social work student interns. CSOs should be available in the courts to conduct presentence inquiries to determine the eligibility for CS orders.

Key words:

Authors: Prof. Chinwe R. Nwanna

Nigeria

[Watch here](#)

Title: Demystifying parent-adolescent communication gendering to improve Sexual and reproductive health outcomes in Busoga sub-region

Parent-adolescent communication is vital in the sexual well-being of adolescents. Gendering parent-child communication is common in Uganda, influencing sexual behaviour and societal gendering. The GUSO mid-term review revealed that parent-child communication hindered young people’s access to SRHR information and services. SRHR Alliance Uganda members engaged parents in Parents-child communication skills meetings. The first set of meetings equipped parents with gender-transformative approaches of parent-child communication, demystifying communication gendering and tasking them to cascade the information in their communities. Thematic analysis, in a gender transformative approach, of parents’ discussions examined the gendering differences in parent-child communication from both sets of meetings, with different parent groups. Parents improved respect for their children.

Parents delegated their relatives to communicate SRHR to their children. Those who exhibited differences in parent-child communication due to stereotypical characteristics, and others resulting from typical roles filled by males and females. Religion was a more basis of parent-child communication gendering than culture. Parent-son communication range widened significantly while Parent-daughter communication range remained the same. Father-daughter communication improved among parents. Fathers reported having more engagements with their daughters on their menstrual health. Fathers reported having had some sort of discussion with their sons on Menstrual Health, which improved brother sister support. Ultimately, the Parent-Child relationship improved, irrespective of their gender.

Demystifying gendering in Parent-Child communication can further accelerate the reach of SRHR information for young people, creating a safer and gender-just society for girls and young women. Capacity building on Parent-child communication on SRHR should be prioritized, for better SRHR outcomes.

Key words:

Authors: Venantius Bbaale Kirwana

Uganda

[Watch here](#)

Title: Centering the Value of Public Impact Scholarship in Social Work Programs to Promote and Contribute to the Achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes 17 SDGs that focus on ending poverty, protecting our planet, and ensuring prosperity for all. The SDGs align with social work values programs’ missions and visions related to eradicating racial, social, political, environmental, and economic injustices locally and globally and achieving human rights for all. Social Work programs worldwide are poised to support, promote, and contribute to the SDGs’ achievement by centering Public Impact scholarship for faculty within their programs and institutions. Public impact scholarship refers to research activities and engagement that build knowledge while engaging with stakeholders to identify and address social justice and societal issues. This presentation will expand the current discourse by applying public impact scholarship specifically to scholarship related to the SDGs. We will discuss what public impact scholarship is while exploring how university social work programs can center public impact research to promote, support, and contribute to the SDGs.

We will use examples from programs in countries that have been successfully engaged in this work. Additionally, we will discuss how public impact scholarship can be used in pedagogy and to engage students in the classroom, using examples from the authors’ public impact scholarship related to the SDGs. We will also provide an overview of challenges and the need to break down patriarchal and white supremacy embedded views of “what matters” in research and scholarship.

Finally, we will include recommendations for scholars and social work program leaders to center public impact scholarship to advance the SDGs."

Key words:

Authors: Nicole Bromfield & Filipe Duarte

Canada

[Watch here](#)

Title: Are Social Workers at the Forefront of Developing and Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals?

In 2015, all United Nations (UN) Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (UN, 2015). The sustainable development goals (SDGs) are a blueprint comprising 17 goals and 169 targets to be met over a 15-year period by 2030. The SDGs offer not only a holistic vision of society but also a normative and ethical perspective, identifying goals for what a “good society” should be, a society that should be prosperous, inclusive, environmentally sustainable, and well-governed (Sachs, 2015).

In 2020, the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) and the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) jointly updated the Global Standards for Social Work Education and Training, following a global consultation process that included social work academics, practitioners, and experts from 125 countries (Ioakimidis & Sookraj, 2021). The new Global Standards highlight the importance of “new developments and innovations, especially those relating to sustainable development, climate change and the United Nation’s (UN) Sustainable Development Goals”, taking place in the Global South (Ioakimidis & Sookraj, 2021, p. 163).

The term social development has been widely explored by James Midgley (2014) and Lynne M. Healy (2008), among others. Social work has been actively involved in social development over the last few decades, however linking social work practice to the UN strategies and goals is often a difficult task (Healy, 2008). This presentation will discuss how social work contributes to the different SDGs.

Key words:

Authors: Filipe Duarte

Canada

[Watch here](#)

Title: Peasant Farmers’ Participation in Decision Making on Radical Terracing for Food Security.

This paper examines the participation of smallholder farmers in decision-making towards the adoption of radical terraces for food security. The study was conducted in Nyamagambe District in Rwanda and it employed a mixed research design. The theoretical approaches that guided this study were the community participation and the diffusion of innovations. A total of 192 peasant farmers and 19 key informants were scientifically selected for interviews using cluster and purposive sampling techniques. Data was collected using a standardised questionnaire and an interview guide. Direct observations, community forum approaches and documentation were used to supplement the data. Data was analysed using both descriptive methods and inferential statistics. The study established that radical terraces are a new form of good farming practice that is being encouraged for sustainable agricultural development. Smallholder farmers’ participation in the adoption of radical terracing was found to significantly influence food security. Farmers who participated in decision making on radical terraces were found to be more food secure than those who did not participate. Furthermore, the study established that farmers became more food secure following the adoption of radical terracing. The study generates important insights about the effects of farmers’ participation in the adoption of radical terraces for sustenance of rural livelihoods. Hence this paper recommends that there is need to sensitize and mobilise farmers to adopt radical terracing for improved farm production.

Key words: adoption; diffusion; food security; participation; radical terraces; smallholder farmer.

Authors: Emmanuel Murwanashyaka, Preston Orieko Chitere and James Gichuru Kariuki	Kenya	Watch here
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Title: The Role of rural farm cooperatives in community development: An analysis of roles and challenges of selected agricultural cooperatives in Kenya and Rwanda

Farm cooperatives are potentially important vehicle for community empowerment, alleviation of rural poverty and the promotion of sustainable development in rural areas in Africa. This important role is however only achievable if farmers were to participate meaningfully in key decision-making and in the management of these farm cooperatives. The purpose of this paper is therefore to analyse the experiences of farmers in decision-making and in the management of farm cooperatives in their endeavour to promote sustainable rural development in Kenya and Rwanda.

Using a selected sample of farm co-operatives members in leadership position, this study adopts a mixed method approach to collect primary quantitative and qualitative data to from farm cooperatives in Kenya and Rwanda. These data sets were the triangulated to enhance the validity and reliability of the findings.

The study found that the major challenges farmers faced in the management of farm co-operatives is political interference and manipulation by of the cooperatives by forces outside the cooperative movement, lack of education and managerial skills for effective decision-making and lethargy and lack of community and members’ participation in the management of the rural farm cooperatives. The study concludes that at present, farm cooperatives will continue to be manipulated for both financial, materials and political gain by forces outside the movement with minimal inclusion of farmers in token leadership, key decision-making processes, and management of these farm co-operatives. The study recommends several strategies on how farmer participation in decision-making can be enhanced to ensure increase agricultural production and greater empowerment of farmers.

Key words:

Authors: Emmanuel Murwanashyaka, Preston Orieko Chitere and James Gichuru Kariuki	Kenya	Watch here
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Title: Sustainable communities and cities, co-building the future with social work: A Literature Review

In the literature on community development, sustainable community development has become a common theme. According to the researchers, the current state of sustainable community development necessitates a significant social transition to a sustainable society that encompasses all aspects of our lives. They look at what they consider to be the most important conceptual issues surrounding the social-economic relationship. Community development has been used to address issues such as inadequate housing and sanitation and houses, electricity, and other necessities. However, there is a lack of information available on how to deal with resource constraints and ethnic conflict, which have hampered the effectiveness of community development efforts. Beginning with vignettes from the field highlighting social work role in sustainable communities and cities, this presentation shares the literature review on sustainable communities and cities, co-building the future with social work.

Consequently, social work can engage in sustainable community development starting from its social mission and tradition on condition that includes the expertise of the community and community as an important element of practice. It also argues that it can be a contribution to and part of a process of social-political change. As a result, social work is compelled to participate in this process.

Key words:

Authors: Andiswa Pamella Mdlankomo	Zimbabwe	Watch here
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Title: Everyone’s and no one’s Child. Uncovering hindrances and means to fully utilizing child adoption as a sustainable solution to the orphanhood crisis experienced by communities in Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe has well over 1.3 million orphans (Giffels, 2019). This largely attributable to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The rate of orphanhood has gone far beyond the capacity of traditional extended family and community structures to absorb orphans. Despite the many proven benefits of adoption to an orphan, child adoption remains a grossly underutilized orphan care model in Zimbabwe. Moreover, there is a paucity of information regarding the experiences of the relatively few adoptive parents who have successfully undergone the adoption process in Zimbabwe to allow one to glean any lessons learnt from their experiences. With the aim of better understanding factors contributing to the low child adoption rate in Zimbabwe, this study set out to explore the lived experiences of the few adoptive parents in Zimbabwe with the child adoption process, to uncover the challenges encountered and determine factors which contribute to successful adoption outcomes in Zimbabwe. This qualitative study took the form of a case study of an adoption support agency in Harare, Zimbabwe involving focus group discussions with adoptive parents and in-depth interviews with key informants. It uses a thematic analysis to gather themes related to the research questions. This paper suggests that the adoptive process in Zimbabwe is an arduous undertaking which discourages existing and potential adoptive parents from adopting. Several system/administrative, socio-cultural, and emotional challenges were identified as major impediments to the utilization of child adoption as the preferred orphan care model for communities in Zimbabwe. Factors which increase the likelihood of successful adoption outcomes were also uncovered.

Key words:

Authors: Charity Hutete-Makawa	Zimbabwe	Watch here
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Title: Infusing an ecosocial worldview into social work curriculum & fostering international collaborations for climate justice

Climate change exacerbates ongoing injustices, inequality, and environmental racism; and negatively impacts entire ecosystems, leading to floods, wildfires, droughts, catastrophic raises in temperatures, loss of livelihoods and even death. There exists a triangular relationship between the UN Sustainable Development Goals, climate change & social work, placing social work at the center of climate justice work. The co-authors seek to learn from each other as they contribute to the International Federation of Social Workers Climate Justice Program, the new Global Agenda (2020-2030) and theme of Ubuntu, and to their own curriculum in their respective social work programs where they are faculty/director in the USA and Zimbabwe.

This presentation will detail the co-authors' collaboration efforts, offer international comparative analysis and create a platform for audience discussions regarding their own contexts. This presentation will add to conversations advancing climate justice work as it ignites conversations that lead to flourishing and ongoing partnerships for real action among social work educators, students, practitioners and beyond.

Key words:

Authors: Meredith Powers

USA

[Watch here](#)

Title: The factors limiting care for elders in family

More than 60% of elderly in Rwanda have a particular large unmet need and this driven the researcher to conduct a study examining the reasons behind. The hypothesis of the study was "the poor living conditions the reason behind limited elderly care". This research has employed a qualitative approach and questionnaire was used as a tool of data collection. The study has been carried out in Cyanika sector of Burera district in Rwanda to respond to the following questions:

What are the factors limiting elderly care in families? And how does limited care for elderly in family affect them?

The study has shown that the factors limiting elderly care are poor financial capacity of the elderly families, elderly neglect of some family members, and lack of family members to take care. It was found that limited elderly care results to psychological problems, isolation, and high morbidity rate. The study has provided recommendations to the government of Rwanda including the provision of elderly allowance to all elderly families. Family members of the elders were recommended to find time of interacting with elders they live with, and they should help in management of their properties. The elders were also recommended to have information about their rights and social workers were recommended to act as brokers and conduct much research about the topic description here.

Key words:

Authors: IFASHABAYO Benjamin

Rwanda

[Watch here](#)

Title: The Tree of Life: Reimagining Ubuntu

The ancient wisdom of Ubuntu makes it an ideal organising principle in social work and sustainable development in Africa and beyond. However, Ubuntu also has the potential to function as a mechanism of oppression, exploitation, and violence within and between people groups. The distinction between these two outcomes arises from the knowledge systems that govern the community; the narratives we inherit and the stories that we tell ourselves to consolidate our identities and understanding of the world around us.

Through the conceptualisation of Ubuntu as the tree of life by means of which the vision of a community is brought to fruition, this presentation invites all to reflect on the beliefs that underpin our social observances and professional practice and whether they engender the vision that we have for our collective future. No one is born an oppressor, and most do not set out to perpetuate systems of oppression in any capacity. Rather, somewhere between living on autopilot and the subtle arrogance of normative culture, we are all susceptible accomplices of oppression when we do not adequately question or reflect.

However, this is not the end. The human mind has the capacity to dismantle and reimagine the ideas that frame our thinking and underpin our behaviour. As we undergo this process together, we can collectively heal and transform our knowledge systems as we work towards Ubuntu to foster sustainable development and a hope-filled future for our communities.

Key words:		
Authors: Lyn E. K. Muzulu	UK	Watch here

Title: Achieving sustainable development goal in Nigeria through social work education: A gendered approach

The quest of every government across the globe is to achieve all-inclusive development, including social justice, women empowerment and improving well-being of every citizen in order to function optimally. These feats are feasible in many developed countries through the social work education. However, in low-income country like Nigeria, the issue of gender equality has not been considered important in the pool of government documents thereby negating the sustainable development goals of United Nations. The study, therefore, ascertains the place of social work education in achieving sustainable goals with respect to gender equality. Focus group discussions and in-depth interviews were adopted to collect data from 34 participants. The findings of the study revealed that a lot of efforts have been made to achieve gender equality and empowerment through social work education.

However, factors such as non-professionalization of social work, culture and traditional values have affected the achieving of gender equality and empowerment through social work education. Also, it appears that male social work educators are passive about promoting gender equality and empowerment through social work education. To achieve 2030 global agenda, all social work educators irrespective of gender should promote gender equality and empowerment as enshrined in social work ethics.

Key words: gender inequality, social development, social justice, social work education, sustainable development goals, women empowerment.		
Authors: Samuel O. Ebimbo	Nigeria	Watch here

Title: Factors influencing motivation of early childhood development and education caregivers in Lilongwe district, Malawi.

The paper investigated factors that influence motivation of early childhood development and education caregivers in rural areas of Lilongwe District in Malawi. A descriptive survey research design was adopted for this study in which 30 ECDE caregivers were sampled from 4 ECDE centers using a stratified and purposive sampling methods. The results show that the caregivers are not remunerated and are given very little incentives. There is less recognition of the profession attested from the fact that caregivers are not formally employed by the government which makes their job status ranked within the communities they are working. The environments they are working in are predominantly uncondusive, characterised by lack or instructional resources and substandard infrastructure. The study therefore recommends that the government should take up the employment of the ECDE caregivers to begin remuneration them and strengthen their job status. All stakeholders in ECDE delivery including communities should, with synergy, explore more ways of incentivising the teachers under the backdrop of Covid 19 pandemic including deployment of more instructional and play materials and resources in the centers. In this way the caregivers will feel more motivated which will enhance their productivity and curb high turnover rates.

Key words:

Authors: Naine Mkandawire

Malawi

[Watch here](#)

Title: Trade under repression: A scoping review of Conflict experience of urban street vendors in Sub-Saharan Africa

The urban street vendors and the urban informal traders have faced significant urban conflicts, mainly during the implementation of the urban order and beautification policies. Research shows that the upturn of perfect modern and well-ordered city is mirrored in programmes of urban re-establishment and redevelopment that most of the time act excluding street vendors. In this regard, they are often seen as detrimental to plans of urban modernism, and spaces of informality are considered illogical and with need of rectifying. The scoping review aims at answering the following research questions: What are the types of conflict experienced by urban street vendors in Sub-Saharan Africa? With whom is the conflict happening? What is the academic interpretation to the existing of the conflict? This scoping review was conducted through Arksey and O'Malley framework, in four bibliographic databases, to overview empirical evidence and theoretical paucity of street vending conflict in the context of Sub-Saharan African cities. The kinds of conflict were identifying as socio-economic, political, health related and psychological, though contextual, basing on political or social history of the concerned country. The conflicting relations were found between street vendors and urban community in general, and with urban regulators. The literature gap lies in the lack of the so-called constructive impact of street vending on the urban economy and job creation, and planners are recommended to incorporate street vending in their strategic plans. It is hence recommended to conduct further studies on sustainable strategies to peacefully deal with street vending.

Key words: Street vendors, Public Space, Conflict, Sub-Saharan Africa

Authors: Marie Claire Uwamahoro

Rwanda

[Watch here](#)

Ubuntu sustaining peace, justice, and development

Title: Recognizing women and children as social actors (with rights): Ubuntu perspective

Is there some space in the perspective of Ubuntu to accommodate, conceptually, women and children as social actors (with rights)? How might a philosophy of Ubuntu enrich "adult understandings of what it means to be a child" and a woman concerning participation rights in African contexts? This article uses autoethnography to document "indigenous" practices common among Bantu communities in Zimbabwe and neighbouring countries. It examines what these practices imply for children's and women's participation rights and social programmes designed to deal with their deficiency. The article finds that, in "traditional" "non-Western" marriages in Bantu communities, women have the "right" to consent to marriage, contrary to dominant views in literature. However, in "traditional" marriages, consent to marriage is a process involving differentially positioned extended family members and outsiders. Regarding childhood, Bantu communities value(d) children as property owners in line with African spirituality and beliefs that "a person is a person," and their value lies in the capacity to commune.

These indigenous practices, which have endured coloniality's harmful material impacts on African cultures, challenge the dominant Western understandings of the gendered nature of African childhoods and adulthoods. At the minimum, they provide robust values frameworks to inform locally relevant and culturally sensitive interventions in African contexts.

Key words: Children, Women, participation, Ubuntu, Dare, Roora, childhood, Gender

Authors: Admire Chereni

Malawi

[Watch here](#)

Title: Interdisciplinary Strategies for Cultivating Peace, Justice, Democracy, and Development

Globally, the lack of engagement between citizens and their government has resulted in disparate policies, resources, and services that fail to address citizens' needs, favouring instead those who already have power and resources. This is a fundamental driver of inequality. In Liberia, West Africa, years of civil unrest have resulted in systemic poverty, inequality, and civic disengagement. Many young people in Liberia are excluded from full participation in the political, economic, and cultural systems that shape their lives. Although many Liberian citizens recognize the need for mutuality and interdependence, in practice the coordination and collaboration among non-governmental agencies (NGOs) and academic institutions is minimal, given their low human and financial resources. When it comes to issues of social justice, students of social work (SW) and public administration (PA), along with local NGO administrators and staff, have a personal and professional interest in holding their leaders and institutions accountable and pushing them to be responsive and fulfil their promise to advance community well-being and foster a just society. However, these disciplines often work in silos that undermine their efforts to advance social justice and strengthen civil society. This presentation highlights challenges, successes, and lessons learned through the implementation of a capacity building training program designed to empower Liberian students in social work, public administration, and local NGO administrators and staff with the knowledge and skills necessary to engage in advocacy, community mobilization, and social justice. The findings represent a promising approach for using interdisciplinary strategies to cultivate peace, justice, democracy, and development.

Key words:

Authors: Felicia Tuggle

USA

[Watch here](#)

Title: Social work practice, an alternative paradigm to sustainable peace in Rwanda

In the process of preventing recurrent interethnic conflicts-based violence, the government of Rwanda and its partner civil society organizations have initiated a number of models to restore unity among divided ethnic groups in Rwanda. The most popular models are among others Gacaca (or restorative justice), Rwandan Civic Education, Forums of Reconciliation, and Ndi Umunyarwanda (or Rwanda National Citizenry). This qualitative article examines critically the contribution and limitations of these home-grown models and found that these models have successfully managed to build peace in general, yet unfinished genocide trials related on compensation of assets looted during the 1994 genocide against Tutsi and the remnants of genocide victims which are not yet located and exhumed to be buried with dignity, thwarts sustaining peace. This article recommends a multidisciplinary social work approach to jointly tackle problems that impede reaching sustainable peace.

Key words: Violent conflict, social work, sustainable peace, Rwanda

Authors: Dr. Hahirwa G. Joseph and Mr. Jean Baptiste SESONGA

Rwanda

[Watch here](#)

Title: An assessment of students-supervisor relationship and support offered to students during fieldwork placement of social work students: A case of University of Venda and University of Limpopo, South Africa

Fieldwork placement of social work students is fundamental in social work training. In 2008 the Council on Social Work Education identified field education as the 'signature pedagogy' of social work. It is an opportunity for students to practice the classroom theoretical learning under the guidance of a designated professional social worker who act as a fieldwork supervisor. At the centre of this learning experience is the supervisory relationship. Nothing can be achieved in this professional orientation of students if there is no sound relationship that exist between the student and the supervisor. Therefore, it is critical that there must be a positive relationship between the student and the supervisor for the learning to be effective. Several scholars note that practical brings quite number of challenges. This is the time where student can rely on their field supervisors for support.

This qualitative paper aims to examine the student- supervisor relationship during fieldwork placement and support measures offered to students during fieldwork placement. Data was collected from final year student social workers and fieldwork coordinators from the University of Venda and the University of Limpopo, Limpopo Province, in South Africa. Individual interviews and focus group interviews were used to collect data. Data was analysed thematically.

Key words:

Authors: Jimmy Budeli & Jabulani Makhubele

South Africa

[Watch here](#)

Title: Establishing the relevance of Ubuntu in Social Work: A Human Rights Perspective

Human rights are fundamental to the social work profession since its inception. The concept of human rights has been conceptualized mainly from Western philosophies and rarely from the African perspective. Essentially, Ubuntu has attained attention within the global social work community and launched the Global Social Work and Social Development Agenda 2020-2030. Ubuntu has been conceptualized as an African philosophy of humanness, generosity, kindness, social solidarity, human rights, and community development. In addition, Ubuntu is a quality of life and a value of Social Work. There is a gap in global social work literature on the applicability of Ubuntu to Human Rights and Social Work, albeit human rights are at the centre of the profession. Utilizing the human rights approach, this paper expands the relevance of Ubuntu in Social Work. The human rights to adequate food and nutrition, housing, attaining highest standards of health, environmental health, peace, and development. Also, the paper ratifies Ubuntu as a philosophy that advocates for Afrocentric social work and can be utilized in decolonizing the profession. As human rights are essential in vital fields connected to social work, that is, political science, law, management, environmental science, and others, exploring Ubuntu through its lenses proves the relevance of the African philosophy in these fields as well.

Key words: Ubuntu; Social Work; Human Rights; Axiology; Indigenous Knowledge System

Authors: Robert K Chigangaidze & Robert K Chigangaidze

Zimbabwe

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National associations contributions

1. **Botswana:** Challenges and opportunities of Associations: lessons from *Botswana Association of social workers (BOASW)*. [WATCH HERE](#)
2. **Leveraging Information Communication Technology to Manage COVID-19 Pandemic.** Lessons from a Six-Month National Advocacy and Capacity Strengthening Project Coordinated by the National Association of Social Workers of Uganda (NASW-UG). [WATCH HERE](#)
3. **Networking and organisation capacity development by Zambia Association of Social Workers (SWAZ)**, [WATCH HERE](#)
4. **Social work education and training in Rwanda**, by Rwanda National organisation of social workers (RWA-NOSW), [WATCH HERE](#)
5. **Promoting continuous professional development: Lessons from Zimbabwe** by the Zimbabwe National association of social workers, [WATCH HERE](#)

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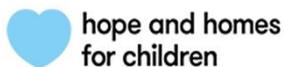
Coordinator: International Federation of Social Workers African Region



University of Rwanda



UNICEF Rwanda and ESARO



Hope and Homes for children Rwanda

The IFSW Africa region report, and outcomes are now available.

Read the report here: [The Report](#)

The other outcome is the Advocacy policy brief on social Work regulation in Africa: [Read the Policy here](#)

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