



South African Social Workers Association

SASWA

TOWARDS A UNIFIED VOICE FOR SOCIAL WORK IN SOUTH AFRICA

A unified voice that represents the interest of social workers in diverse settings in South Africa is in the interest of the profession. This requires a well-functioning and representative professional association.

Some may recall that the National Association for Social Workers – South Africa (NASW-SA) was established in 2007 following an active engagement with social workers across the country. NASW-SA had its last AGM and conference in September 2013 where a new board was elected. Unfortunately, this association became inactive in 2013 and does not operate anymore. However, some of the provinces continued to operate as provincial associations on a smaller scale since then.

The absence of a nationally organised and represented professional association not only results in social workers not having a voice at a national level, but also at an international level through affiliation with the *International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW)*.

In June 2024 a group of interested social workers from practice, universities and the provinces came together and formed a steering committee to work towards the establishment and launch of a new national association for social workers in South Africa. The proposed name for the new professional association is the "*South African Social Workers Association (SASWA)*" that will be a voluntary and non-partisan association that carries out its activities in a nonprofit manner. The association would strive to serve as a united voice for the social work profession to advance the interests and contributions of social work in its broader pursuit for human rights and social justice.

Social workers and social auxiliary workers are herewith invited to engage in the process towards the establishment of the *South African Social Workers Association (SASWA)* and be part of a new era for the profession.

ABOUT MEMBERSHIP

Who may become members once the South African Social Workers Association (SASWA) is established?

It is proposed that social workers, social auxiliary workers, student social workers and student social auxiliary workers registered with the South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP) are eligible to become members of SASWA.

How to become a member

Please note at this stage membership is for the purpose of establishing the SASWA, and the details of membership will be provided for in the SASWA Constitution that will be adopted when the new association is launched towards the end of the year.

Important: Once the association is formally established, a membership fee will be applicable. *No membership is required now.*

HOW TO BECOME PART OF THIS EXCITING DEVELOPMENT

Persons who are interested to be part of the establishment of the new SASWA need to complete the online database by scanning the QR code. This will assist the steering committee to provide you with updates and involve you in the process, and this database will also form the basis for the membership list.



THE BENEFITS AND VALUE OF PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

A professional association...

- provides a national unified voice for the social work profession on matters affecting the profession.
- promotes the interest of social work through engagement and making representations across all sectors, including government and Parliament.
- advocates for and influences the shaping and review of policy, legislation and practice that impact on social workers, their practice as well as the beneficiaries of social work services.
- ensures that members receive relevant alerts on events, opportunities and new information related to the profession.
- facilitates and supports access to opportunities for continuing professional development (CPD) related to the social work profession, including engagements with other profession's associations in the country..
- creates access for its members' participation in conferences, training and community outreach programs.
- is an organised platform that allows for networking and connecting with social work colleagues locally on national matters that concern social work
- links its membership to participate in international matters that concern social work through the *International Federation for social workers (IFSW)* as well as the IFSW Africa Regional structure.

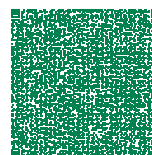
SAVE THE DATE

Launch of new association (SASWA):

20 November 2025
at the Future Africa at University of Pretoria

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Scan this QR code to listen to the recording of the information session held on 26 August 2025 on the new *South African Social Workers Association (SASWA)*.



ENQUIRIES: If you have any enquiries, you are welcome to send an email to socialworkassociationsa@gmail.com

Help us to get the new professional association established by sharing the brochure with your social work colleagues.

Compassion in practice, strength in unity