



ASASWEI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

9-12 September 2025

Information Brochure

Advancing Social and Environmental Justice, Peace building, and Sustainable Development through teaching, research and practice.



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1. Conference Details

Venue

University of the Free State, South Africa

Date

10-12 September 2025

Conference Registration

1. Academics

- Local and Global South: R4,000 (ZAR)
- Global North R4,900 (ZAR)

2. Practitioners: R3,500 (ZAR)

3. Students: R1,800 (ZAR)

4. Early Bird Registration:

- Academic (local and Global South) R3500 (ZAR)
- Academics (Global North): R4,400 (ZAR)
- Practitioners: R3,000 (ZAR)
- Students: R1,300 (ZAR)

Special Dinner

- Cultural Theme
- Registration: R500 (ZAR)

2. Asaswei Banking Details

Bank Name: Nedbank Limited

Branch Name: Nedbank South Africa

Account Holder: Association of South African Social Work Education institutions

Account Type: Current Account

Account Number: 1301347892

Branch Code: 198765

SWIFT CODE: NEDSZAJJ

NB: Should you need a Tax Invoice or an invitation letter from ASASWEI, kindly email the request with your details to secretary@asaswei.org.za



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3. Cancellation & Refund Policy

The ASASWEI International Conference 2025 aims to accommodate all registrants, but we understand that extenuating circumstances may arise. To maintain fairness and consistency, the following cancellation and refund policy will apply:

1. Cancellation Process

- 1.1. Cancellations must be submitted in writing via email to: secretary@asaswei.org.za

2. Refunds Based on Cancellation Timing

- 2.1. More than 60 days before the event: Registrations cancelled at this time are eligible for an 80% refund of the registration fees.
- 2.2. Between 30 and 60 days before the event: Registrations cancelled during this period are eligible for a 50% refund of the registration fees.
- 2.3. Less than 30 days before the event: No refunds will be provided for cancellations made within this time frame.

3. Transfer of Registration

- 3.1. Registration fees may be transferred to another individual. The invoice for the new registration will reflect the new registrant's membership status.

4. Refund Issues for International Transactions

- 4.1. If the conference organisers are unable to process a refund, particularly for payments made from outside the country, the registration fee may be applied to a future conference.

5. Cancellation by Conference Organizers

- 5.1. If the conference is cancelled by the organizers due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g., natural disasters, government restrictions, or other extraordinary situations beyond our control), all registrants will receive a full refund.

4. Definition of Unforeseen Circumstances

Unforeseen circumstances refer to extraordinary events or situations that are beyond the control of the conference organizers. This may include, but is not limited to, acts of nature (e.g., earthquakes, hurricanes, floods), government-imposed travel restrictions, pandemics, or other incidents that would make it impossible or unsafe to proceed with the event.

5. Conference Partners

- Department of Social Development (DSD)
- South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP)



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- Association of Schools of Social Work in Africa (ASSWA)
- Health & Welfare Seta (HWSETA)
- IASSW

6. Conference Theme

Advancing Social and Environmental Justice, Peace building, and Sustainable Development through teaching, research and practice.

6.1. Conference Theme Synopsis

In a world facing increasing social inequalities, environmental crises, and geopolitical conflicts, the role of social work and related disciplines has never been more vital. As communities grapple with challenges such as climate change, forced displacement, poverty, and human rights violations, social workers, educators, and researchers must actively engage in solutions that promote justice, peace, and sustainability. This international conference provides a platform for critical reflection, knowledge-sharing, and action-oriented discussions on how social work education, research, and practice can drive transformative change in addressing these global issues.

This conference theme recognizes the interconnectedness of social and environmental justice, peacebuilding, and sustainable development. It highlights the importance of integrating green social work perspectives, conflict resolution strategies, and development frameworks into social work education, policy, and field interventions. As the world strives to meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), social work must evolve to respond effectively to these global challenges.

Key Focus Areas:

- Social, economic, and Environmental Justice
- Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution
- Sustainable Development and Social Work
- Teaching and Research, and Practice for Social Change

The conference aims to empower educators, practitioners, and scholars to explore innovative, evidence-based solutions that bridge theory and practice. By fostering dialogue across disciplines and sectors, the event seeks to catalyse global and local actions that promote peace, justice, and sustainability.

Participants will have opportunities to engage in keynote sessions, panel discussions, workshops, and networking forums that will inspire collaborative strategies for social transformation. These gathering challenges all attendees to reflect on their role in shaping a more just, peaceful, and sustainable world through their work in education, advocacy, and direct practice

7. Call for Abstracts:

We welcome abstract submissions under the following subthemes, as well as any other related topics:

- Green Social Work and Climate Resilience: Supporting Vulnerable Communities in the Face of Environmental Crises:**



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- *How social work integrates environmental justice, sustainability, and ecological perspectives into practice.*
- *The impact of climate-related disasters (e.g., floods, wildfires, droughts) on marginalized and vulnerable populations.*
- *How social workers support resilience, adaptation, and recovery in affected communities.*
- *How social workers influence policies to address climate justice and environmental sustainability.*
- *Incorporating traditional practices in promoting environmental stewardship and resilience.*
- *The role of indigenous knowledge in environmental conservation.*
- *Decolonizing environmental practices and fostering cultural sustainability.*
- *Collaborations with Indigenous communities for ecological justice.*

ii. Social Work and the Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- *Social work's contribution toward global sustainability and equity goals.*
- *Research and practice strategies pertaining to health, mental health and wellbeing including poverty eradication, quality education, gender equality, decent work and economic growth*
- *Work with special and vulnerable populations (children, families, women, older persons, LGBTQIA+ etc)*
- *Social work supervision, management*
- *School Social Work and Environmental Education:*

iii. Policy and Advocacy for Peace building, Environmental and Social Justice:

- *Influencing policies that promote environmental sustainability and social equity.*
- *Social workers, social movements and advocacy during wars, natural and medical disasters*
- *Social workers as advocates for environmental rights and sustainability.*
- *Influencing public policy to address environmental inequalities.*
- *Strategies for promoting environmental activism within the profession.*

iv. Social Work Education, Transdisciplinarity and Curriculum Development:

- *Preparing future social workers for roles in in nontraditional social work environments*
- *Strategies on building responsive social work curricula*
- *Entrepreneurship, environmental justice and sustainable development.*
- *Building competencies for environmental practice in social work students.*
- *Innovative teaching methodologies focused on sustainability.*
- *Learning and teaching innovations during student protests and natural disasters*
- *Innovative teaching methodologies, and Innovations in postgraduate supervision*
- *Navigating curriculum audits*
- *Experiential learning and community-based research in environmental social work*



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v. Feminist Perspectives and Environmental Justice:

- *Gendered dimensions of environmental challenges and climate justice.*
- *Feminist approaches to green social work.*
- *Empowering women as leaders in environmental advocacy and sustainability.*

vi. Main-streaming Digital and Assessment Tools in Social Work Practice

- *Integrating digital tools into traditional social work settings*
- *Evaluating the effectiveness of digital tools in Social Work practice*
- *Innovative digital interventions for diverse populations*
- *Digital literacy and capacity building for social workers*
- *Ethical Implications and challenges of digital adoption in social work*
-

vii. International and Cross-Cultural Collaborations in Green Social Work

- *Global perspectives and initiatives in environmental social work*
- *Partnerships between academia, NGOs, and governments for climate resilience*
- *South-South, South North knowledge exchange in eco-social work*

8. Abstract Submission Guidelines

- *Word Count: Abstracts should not exceed 300 words.*
- *Font: Use Arial, size 12.*
- *Authors: Include all contributing authors' names (First Name, Last Name) and their affiliated institutions. The corresponding author should be clearly indicated with an asterisk (*) next to their name.*
- *Contact Details: Provide the corresponding author's full contact details (email address and phone number).*

8.1. Abstract Structure:

- *The abstract should be written in a single paragraph, summarizing the main objectives, methods, results, and conclusions of the work. We welcome theoretical explorations, practice-based innovations, and empirical studies.*
- *The abstract must be concise and clear, reflecting the core of your presentation. Please do not include references in the abstract.*



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8.2. Example Format:

Title of Abstract

[Insert Title of Your Abstract Here]

Authors:

*Peggie Chiwara**, *Fatima Mmusi*, *Mpumelelo Ncube*, *Nevashnee Perumal*, *Poppy Masinga*

Institution 1, Institution 2, Institution 3, Institution 4, Institution 5

Corresponding Author:

Peggie Chiwara

Email: secretary@asaswei.org.za

Phone: +27-234-567-8901

Presentation Format:

[Parallel session presentation / Workshop / Plenary / Poster]

Abstract:

[Insert your abstract here. The content should focus on the key aspects of the research in no more than 300 words.]

8.3. Deadline for Submission: 30 April 2025

Submission Portal: secretary@asaswei.org.za

Note: Accepted papers will be considered for a special conference publication on 'Advancing Social and Environmental Justice, Peace building, and Sustainable Development through teaching, research and practice'.



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