



The Association of South African Social Work Education Institutions (ASASWEI) extends its warmest congratulations to Justice Navaneetham Pillay on winning the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize.

As social work educators and students, we believe it is vital to honour Justice Pillay's unwavering commitment to calling out human rights violations, ruling on genocide, and upholding global peace and social justice. Her life's work directly reflects the foundational principles of the social work profession.

Justice Pillay's achievement holds profound significance as a South African woman of colour. Against our country's historical backdrop of colonialism, imperialism, and apartheid—where women of colour fought fiercely for basic human rights and dignity—her success is a monumental triumph.

Her journey from the legacy of indentured labour to the global legal stage was paved by the solidarity of her community, her own fierce determination, and her parents' steadfast vision for freedom. She remains a powerful embodiment for social change.

Halala, Justice Navaneetham Pillay. Your footprints are permanently etched in history, inspiring future generations to build a peaceful world where children can flourish and the elderly can rest with dignity.

In solidarity,
ASASWEI Executive Committee