



# **Decolonization of the Social Work Education System: A students' perspective**

**Nelson Mandela University**

**Inga Gule  
Xola Quvile  
Zethu Mbarane**



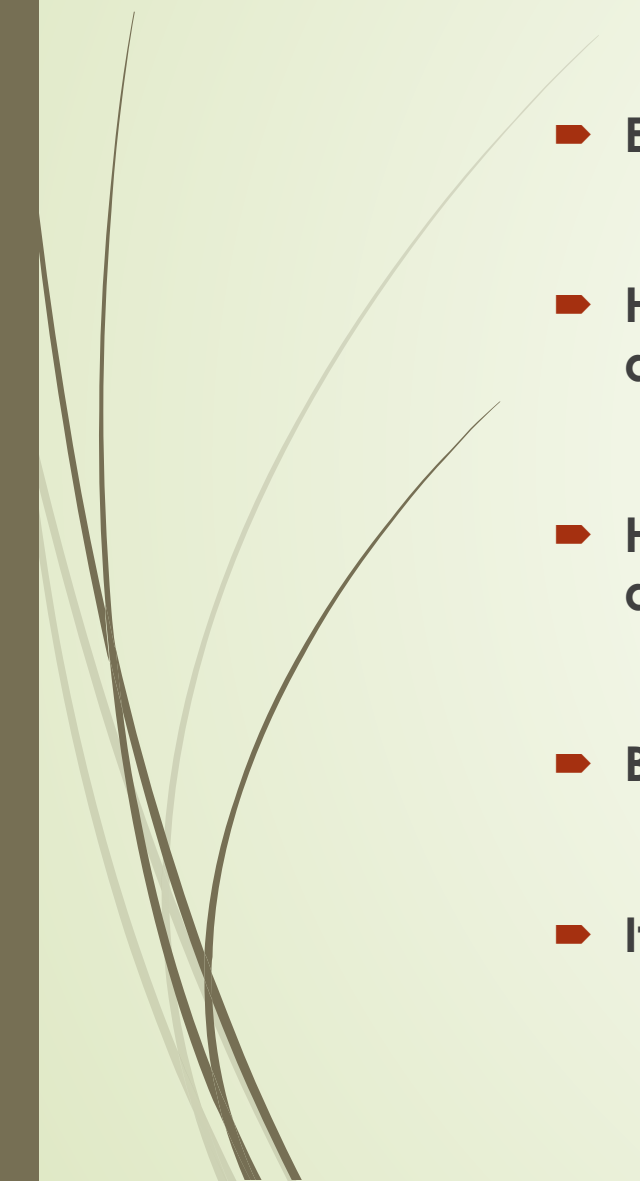
# Outcomes

The presentation will seek to address the following:

- Background history of the education system
- Understanding decolonization within a Social Work education system
- The gaps between the current social work education system and practice/ implementation
- Recommendations
- Closing remarks




# Education in the colonial apartheid era

- Education in the colonial apartheid era
  - Higher education was not pertinent to democratic South African development
  - Higher education in south Africa was engineered to support the colonial and apartheid capitalism
  - Black majority excluded from the cultivation of minds,
  - Its main focus was on social sciences and economics
- 



# Decolonization of the Social Work Education System

- **Means the removal of colonial elements**
  - **Adoption of African Social Work intervention theories and strategies**
  - **Institutions of higher learning as the centres of knowledge production**
  - **indigenous modes of knowledge production and knowledge systems.**
- 




# The gaps SW education system and practice

- ▶ Interventions adopted in higher institutions of learning do not respond to societal needs
- ▶ These approaches do not recognise cultural practices and indigenous knowledge
- ▶ They are Eurocentric in nature
- ▶ The ABCD approach highly being adopted as a strategy
- ▶ Government uses a needs based approach
- ▶ Social Workers' roles are being reduced



# Recommendations


- ▶ **Afrocentric approach must be adopted**
  - ▶ **Sustainable intervention approaches and strategies**
  - ▶ **An approach that will be accommodated by institutions of higher learning, the government and NGOs.**
  - ▶ **Underpaid professionals**
- 







# Closing remarks

- **One of the main issue we face as student social workers is being more likely to be rejected by the society during practicum periods.**
  - **We also want to highlight the importance or rather the need of having to be able to define the client system we intend working with**
  - **Social Workers as life long learners**
- 





**Thank You...**