

ASASWEI COLLOQUIUM 2020  
30 September and 1 October 2020

Enq: Dr Anneline Keet  
Prof Lulu Shokane

To: **South African Social Work Academics**

**PANDEMICS, POVERTY AND INEQUALITY:  
INTERROGATING THE SOCIAL WORK RESPONSE**

The COVID-19 pandemic that has gripped the world since the beginning of 2020 has put our societal structure and its perpetual inequalities in the spotlight. Vulnerable groups and communities are at risk of higher levels of socio-economic marginalization. It is within this context that we have observed the social work discipline reflecting on its own role in society. The human tragedy resulting from this pandemic almost organically create a space within which new forms of social solidarity can evolve and to which social work should respond. At a local level, poverty, food insecurity, mass unemployment, the vulnerability of families, older people, people with disabilities, homelessness and the precarious position that refugees and asylum seekers find themselves in during this time of the pandemic create an opportunity for us as **South African social work academics** to engage around our role in creating a more equal and socially just society. The forthcoming 2020 ASASWEI colloquium creates a platform where we can interrogate our traditional pedagogies, our research priorities and practice in ways that enhance our contribution towards a more egalitarian social order.

It is with the above in mind that ASASWEI will hold online colloquiums on 30 September 2020 and 1 October 2020. The colloquium will be held over the two days with three-hour sessions on each day. Under the broad theme of poverty and inequality, colleagues are invited to submit abstracts focusing on the following sub- themes:

- Access to land
- Food insecurity
- Unemployment and its impact on families and the youth.
- Mental health challenges, access to support for vulnerable groups during pandemics/disasters
- Citizenship in the fight against corruption as a social injustice
- Social solidarity as a principle of collective action in the fight against poverty and inequality
- The importance of human relationships in building capacity to fight social injustice and inequality.

Guidelines for abstracts:

- Presentations should cut across the education, research and practice gamut.
- Abstracts should not exceed 150 words.
- Abstracts should clearly indicate the sub-theme it falls under.
- Abstracts should be sent to [Annaline.Keet@mandela.ac.za](mailto:Annaline.Keet@mandela.ac.za) and [ShokaneA@unizulu.ac.za](mailto:ShokaneA@unizulu.ac.za) no later than 17 September 2020.

On behalf of the ASASWEI 2020 Colloquium working group.



[asasweixco@gmail.com](mailto:asasweixco@gmail.com)

President: ASASWEI

28 August 2020

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**ASASWEI (Association of South African Social Work Education Institutions)**

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