

Call for Papers

The 2nd Commonwealth Conference on Youth Work (CCYW) Engaging Young People in Nation Building: The Youth Worker's Role

Pretoria, South Africa - 8-10 March 2016

The Commonwealth Secretariat in partnership with the Republic of South Africa, the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) of South Africa and the University of South Africa (UNISA) is pleased to announce the Second Commonwealth Conference on Youth Work. The Conference will be held from 8-10 March 2016.

Final date of Proposal Submission: Friday 11 December, 2015

A. Conference Objectives & Themes

The objectives of the conference are to:

1. Encourage the creation and sharing of knowledge around youth work theory and practice;
2. Accelerate the recognition of, and investment in, youth work as a profession;
3. Profile the youth worker's role in mobilizing young people as change agents and contributors to nation building; and
4. Facilitate the establishment of a Commonwealth Alliance of Youth Worker Associations.

The Conference will address a range of issues critical to the enhancement of the profession, with papers from academics, practitioners and, importantly, young people, who are the receivers of youth work services. Plenary speakers will include leading figures in the youth work community.

We are now inviting proposals for papers to be presented at the Conference, addressing new and original thinking in youth work under one of the following themes:

1. The concept and practice of youth work

- Youth work models in practice, with a focus on empowerment, social and political education and care
- Role of youth work in youth citizenship, nation-building and peace-building
- Youth work in building youth-led organisations
- Sports and the Arts as tools in youth work practice
- Building solidarity through intergenerational programmes

2. Advancing the legal, regulatory, educational and support frameworks for youth work

- Professional recognition of youth work
- Education and training for youth workers
- Sustaining professional youth work through certification/licencing
- Breaking the silos - a multi-sectoral approach to youth work

3. Building a strong front: the role of professional associations and youth work institutes

- Creating, strengthening and sustaining national youth worker associations,
- The role of youth work institutes and communities of practice in promoting active citizenry,
- Empowering young people through national youth services.

4. Building and promoting ethical standards in youth work

- Ethical issues in youth work;
- Promoting research ethics in youth work;
- The role of youth work in creating future leaders of integrity

5. Standardizing and measuring the progress and impact of youth work

- Promoting evidence-based youth work practice
- Breaking new ground: Cutting edge Youth Work research
- Case studies of using results-based management in youth work projects

B. Background to the Conference

Engaging Young People in Nation Building: The Youth Worker's Role

Youth workers support young people to enable and empower themselves, to learn about themselves, others and society, and interact and act positively with their surroundings. The Commonwealth definition of youth work is the “non-formal social and political education of young people within a matrix of care,” indicating a holistic approach with implications for informal pedagogy, mobilisation and personal safety and security.

The Commonwealth has, for the past forty years, advocated for and facilitated the professionalisation of youth work in order for practitioners to attain qualifications and competencies to practice asset-based youth work. It has done so through the Commonwealth Diploma in Youth Development work conducted through 27 universities in Commonwealth member states and shorter courses, and ongoing plans to support a Global Consortium for a Degree in Youth Development Work with the University of the West Indies.

In spite of these strides in education and training, there is still little recognition of, or policy and legislative commitments to, youth work as a profession. The Commonwealth Conference on Youth Work, first delivered in 2013, has been established as a key means of profiling youth work as a specific professional category requiring policies and legislation commitments, education and training and ethical standards governing its practice, and professional associations that uphold the integrity and quality of the profession.

C. Proposal Guidelines

Proposals for papers to be presented at the conference should be:

- Between 500 -1000 words. This limit does not include references, or the abstract;
- Submitted in Microsoft Word, Arial font, 11pt, justified, double spacing;
- Written in accordance with the American Psychological Association (APA) style guide;
- Submitted in UK English;
- Edited by an external person before submission as a full paper to ensure coherence in style, grammar and punctuation (in the event that the proposal is approved)

Proposals should contain the following:

1. Cover page:

- Title and thematic area and subsection to which the paper is targeted (select from Section B, Conference Themes)
- 75 word abstract (excluded from the 500-1000 words): This will appear in the conference programme and should contain information that allows conference delegates to decide whether to attend your paper presentation.

2. Proposal Content

- a. **Introduction:** Include the objectives, methodology and implications of your work for youth work practice. Please include all components set out in the **proposal guidelines**.

- b. **Knowledge focus:** Indicate whether your work has a research/theory or practice focus, and include the following.

Research/Theory Focus

- **Problem statement:** Research question or hypothesis.
- **Methodology:** Types of data, data collection methods, analysis methods
- **Results:** Outline the main findings of the study.
- **Conclusions and Implications:** what are the implications of the findings for youth work policy, practice or education and training?

Practice Focus

- **Framework:** The concept on which the practical application is based.
- **Description of practical application:** Design of the practice, implementation including where and with whom.
- **Outcomes:** What were the youth work outcomes of the process? What were the strengths? What were the weaknesses? How can the weaknesses be overcome?
- **Implications:** What are the implications for youth work practice? For education and training? For policy and legislation? Any other implications.

3. References and Biography

- a. References

Authors must ensure the accuracy of citations, quotations, diagrams, tables, and maps if relevant in proposals, and in full papers if and when the proposal is approved

- b. Bio - 75-words maximum

Include name, name of organisation and designation within organisation

- c. Resume/Curriculum Vitae

D. Submission and Selection

The web site for formal submission of proposals is currently being set up. In the meantime, proposals can be sent to youthworkconference@commonwealth.int with the email subject "Proposal Submission - CCYW 2016"

The final date for Proposal Submission: Friday 11 December, 2015

Proposals will be reviewed by a panel of youth work academics and practitioners, selected by the conference partners.

A few selected presenters will be supported with flights and/or accommodation to participate in the conference. However, generally, presenters will be required to support their own costs of attendance.

For any questions on this Call for Papers, please contact Ms Dharshini Seneviratne, Commonwealth Secretariat at d.seneviratne@commonwealth.int, or Prof. Mpho Dichaba, University of South Africa, at dichamm@unisa.ac.za.