

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2025 – Report on 5th March 2025

This year the **Women Interest Group** (IASSW) was hosted by the Solidarity and Support Network with Social Work Educators, practitioners and social work students of Ukraine to celebrate Women's day.

This event brought together participants from different parts of the world. Invited guests spoke on transnational solidarity of social work professional women and provided future perspectives. Oksana Boyko, National University of Kyiv Mohyla, Darja Zaviršek, University of Ljubljana and Shahana Rasool, University of Johannesburg were the moderators of this very interesting celebration.

Speakers included Dr. Samah Saleh an assistant professor in the Social Work Department at An-Najah National University, Nablus who spoke about Palestinian women and their resistance against Israeli colonial occupation, Susan Muchiri, Head of Department of Social Work and Community Development at Hope Africa University, Burundi spoke on Social Work Professional women's solidarity and War: The Burundi perspective.

Interesting discussions continued after the presentations on how professional women around the world can promote transnational solidarity to promote the social work profession as shown by the picture below.

The screenshot shows a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled "south Africa". The main slide is titled "Sumud (صمود) meaning 'steadfastness'". The slide content is as follows:

Sumud (صمود) meaning "steadfastness"

- Is a central theme in Palestinian resistance and survival, particularly during times of extreme adversity such as genocide.
- Palestinian women have historically been at the forefront of embodying and enacting Sumud, using a combination of cultural, social, and political strategies to endure and resist oppression.
- During genocide, their strategies of Sumud are multifaceted and deeply rooted in their roles as caregivers, educators, community organizers, and cultural bearers. Here are some key strategies Palestinian women employ:

The presentation interface includes a slide navigation pane on the left with six slides. The bottom of the screen shows a Windows taskbar with the date 5.03.2025 and time 18:31. On the right, a video call window displays several participants: Juliwatkins, Zavissek, Darja, Oksana Boyko, Shulamit Ramon, and samah saleh.

TRANSNATIONAL WOMEN'S SOLIDARITY IN TIMES OF WARS: A SOCIAL WORK PERSPECTIVE

Social Work Professional women's solidarity and War: The Burundi perspective

by
Susan Wanjiku Muchiri
Head of Department, Social Work and Community Development

Participants: Susan Muchiri (HAU), Zawirsek, Darja, Oksana Boyko, shahana rasool, samah saleh

18:39 5.03.2025

SOCIAL WORK IN BURUNDI

- Upper Secondary level Social work (Spitzer et al, 2014).
- Tertiary social work training since 2004 at Hope Africa University (Spitzer et al., 2014).
- To date approximately 1140 graduate social workers from Hope Africa University from Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya and beyond.
- Three year bachelor programme. (Spitzer et al., 2014).
- National Association of Social Workers in Burundi formed in 2015.

Participants: Susan Muchiri (HAU), Zawirsek, Darja, Oksana Boyko, shahana rasool, juliatwatkins

28 Participants | 18:43 5.03.2025

Report by

Women Interest Group (IASSW)

Darja Zaviršek, Shahana Rasool and Susan Muchiri