

EDITORIAL

The articles in this issue capture challenges related to child welfare services, mothers, foreign social workers and vulnerable people.

The first three articles address child and family welfare services. The one argues that the influence of neoliberal policy has changed the way child welfare services are managed and delivered, and it emphasises that professionals and society should debate these influences. The next two explore challenges related to foster care. The first examines the challenges facing statutory social workers in linking foster care services with socio-economic development programmes, while the second investigates resilience of foster children living with HIV from the perspective of their foster parents.

Thereafter a pair of articles offers insights into challenges faced by mothers and children. One article promotes a phenomenological understanding of how mothers from a low socio-economic background see, plan and carry through the future perspective of their relationships with their children. The other article emphasises the multifaceted challenges faced by families and the state caring for pregnant teenagers and calls for a multidisciplinary and inter-sectoral approach to support these young women.

The focus of the next article is on migration of professionals. It examines the challenges faced by foreign social workers practising in a township and focusses on their efforts to navigate their workspace in South Africa.

Vulnerable people such as the homeless and ex-offenders are the subjects of the next two articles. The first of these describes the complexity of the lives of the homeless and the holistic efforts that are required to assist them to move out of homelessness. The second discusses the challenges faced by ex-offenders when reintegrating into mainstream society and explains how they struggle to adjust because of their broken family and community relationships, unemployment, and the lack of after-care services, among other factors.

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