

## EDITORIAL

Governments world-wide develop policies and legislation to enable service providers to address the unique needs of service users. To implement such policies and legislation, service providers offer intervention services in various fields and contexts of social welfare and social work, such as those involving mental health, drug abuse, child protection and institutional care. Research often investigates how relevant policies and legislation are, and how intervention services and programmes meet the needs of services users, as this issue demonstrates.

Some articles explore and evaluate the relevance of policies and legislation, as well as the success of intervention services for service users who need special care. Other articles explore and evaluate how services providers and families experience their involvement with vulnerable children.

The first three articles assess how service providers address the unique needs of service users in humanitarian crises and in institutional care. The first article makes a case for how the helping professions can contribute to psychosocial humanitarian interventions in the global South and creatively examines the complementary role of community psychologists and social workers in the context of conflict-related work. The second article critically explores the violation of the rights of older persons in an old-age centre and recommends that the South African government should provide funding for old-age centres to ensure they are sources of psychosocial benefit for elderly members of society. The third article focuses on the Life Esidimeni crisis in South Africa in which mental health patients died after being transferred to unlicensed non-governmental organisations as a result of the termination of a government-subsidised contract for their institutional care; the article convincingly argues that the overarching process of deinstitutionalisation needs to be questioned.

This is followed by two articles that report on services needed for post-divorce adjustment and for the aftercare of drug users. The focus of one article is on reframing the demise of a marital relationship to unearth opportunities for constructive personal growth and proposes a programme for facilitating post-divorce adjustment. The other article discusses the aftercare needs of *nyaope* users from the perspective of *nyaope* users themselves and of their significant others, and offers valuable recommendations for role players involved in aftercare and reintegration services.

The next three articles focus on how services providers such as social workers and teachers and families experience their involvement with sexually abused or delinquent children. One article explores the psychosocial needs of social workers investigating alleged cases of child sexual abuse and finds that if the unique psychosocial feelings they experience during investigations are not addressed, it could lead to negative role functioning. The other article focuses on how a specific training programme offered to primary school teachers equips them to act in cases of child sexual abuse. The final article explores the experiences and challenges faced by families dealing with their delinquent children and reports that their children's delinquent activities lead to mostly negative experiences, such as shame, embarrassment, psychosocial pain, discrimination, stress and depression.

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