
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION (CFIF)
SUPPORTING SOCIAL WORK IN MALAWI (SSWIM)

Welcome to the first Supporters Newsletter for Supporting Social Work in Malawi (SSWIM). In this edition we will provide feedback from our quarterly meeting in July 2017 on the social work degree programme at Chancellor College (known as Chanco), the Practice Evaluators training, a presentation being delivered in South Africa in October 2017, new opportunities and links being developed, the research and writing group and discussions being held about the future direction of SSWIM and CFIF.



Update on the SW degree course at Chanco

The first students on the social work degree course will be entering their final year this autumn and will be qualifying in 2018.

Staff there are continuing to seek a decision from UNICEF about the future funding to run training for Practice Educators (PE) which will build on the success of the last training offered by SSWIM volunteers. An evaluation of the course is planned to include an analysis of the destination for graduates.

Chanco is also interested in the potential for a distance learning PhD, and this is something being explored by staff at Nottingham Trent University.

Volunteer Role

Although several expressions of interest were received, for various reasons these were not able to progress to an appointment. The appropriateness of providing someone in this role is now



Chancellor College



Chancellor College in bloom

being re-considered and needs further discussion with Chanco. It is now thought it might be more appropriate to identify someone in Malawi but provide them with support from SSWIM.

Presentation at International Conference

SSWIM members, Dr Janet Walker and Dr Simon Cauvain will be giving a presentation at a conference organised by the Association of South African Social Work Education (ASASWE), Association of Schools of Social Work in Africa (ASSWA), National Association of Social Workers South Africa (NASWSA) and the Department of Social Development South Africa (DSA) which is taking place from 08-11 October, 2017 in Boksburg, near Johannesburg. Entitled *“Taking back control’ - reframing the colonial relationships in education for student learning in social work practice”*, the presentation will draw on the experiences of developing a joint Practice Education Project with SSWIM and examine the way in which the reframing of the previous colonial relationship is being negotiated. A conceptual model will be presented as a framework for the potential processes and actions in support the decolonisation of knowledge making and development of new meanings.

It is hoped that there will be opportunities for networking at the conference and that further publications will be developed from the presentation. There will also be a meeting with Chanco staff to clarify future PE training dates, to meet with UNICEF to seek funding agreement for participants, and to discuss how SSWIM can continue to support the work of Chanco.

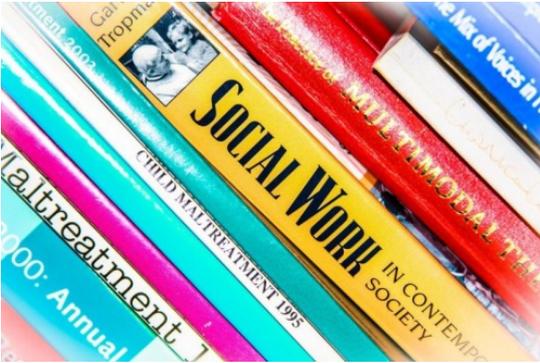
Supporters’ Network

We now have a database of 27 individuals who have heard about SSWIM either through colleagues, attended previous open events, as a result of reading the recent articles written in the BASW magazine or from responding to the advert for the volunteer opportunity in Malawi.

Contact dibbenelaine@gmail.com if you have any queries from this newsletter.

Although a decision was taken not to hold an open meeting in March the next meeting will take place in November 2017 so there is an opportunity to meet interested people and for them to hear more about the charity and opportunities to become involved.

Books to donate?



Chanco continue to value the donation of social work books and we have been able to link with the Krizevac Project charity so books can be sent out with their regular shipments to Malawi.

If anyone has old social work text books or journals that they think would be suitable and can arrange delivery to

the Midlands area do contact Chris Smith on weltonchris@yahoo.co.uk

Future direction for SSWIM and CFIF

Much has been achieved since CFIF was established in 2007 and the SSWIM initiative developed specifically to support social work education in Malawi: the Social Work degree programme is established and the Malawi Association of Social Workers has been formed. SSWIM members / volunteers have made several visits to Chanco to help develop the Practice Educators training programme and to deliver some direct teaching.

Felix Kakowa who leads the social work programme at Chanco has spent time with us visiting UK based universities. Members of SSWIM continue to support the staff at Chanco as required and we send books and other resources to them.

Key links have been made with organisations active in the Malawi context such as the Scottish Malawi Partnership, the Africa Region of International Federation of Social Workers and the Malawi High Commission. This initiative has been advertised in professional journals, links made with social work associations, our network of interested parties, both individuals and academic institutions continues to grow and a Supporters Network is in the process of formation.

There are however ongoing challenges for SSWIM; developing the relationship with colleagues at Chanco at such geographical distance poses difficulties and considering how we can achieve more regular communication with key staff there will be part of our discussions when we meet with them in October.

Contact dibbenelaine@gmail.com if you have any queries from this newsletter.

Following this meeting and in the time before our next meeting in November we will be thinking further about how SSWIM can best support social work education in Malawi and whether we need the ongoing mechanism of our parent charity CFIF.

Invitation to November Open Meeting

SSWIM members are keen to meet with people from the Supporters Network to see how they might be able to contribute to social work education in Malawi and recognise that face to face discussions are the best way to achieve this. We will hold an open meeting after our next quarterly meeting at the Malawi High Commission where we will reflect on what we have achieved and how new volunteers could help us as we move forward. We would particularly appreciate hearing from individuals who may be able to be involved in the governance, administrative and fundraising requirements of the charity. If there are people who are interested but can't come to this meeting we could arrange for separate meetings with SSWIM members.

Please join us at the SSWIM Open Meeting

Date and time : Friday November 3rd 2pm -3.30pm

Venue: Malawi High Commission, 36 John St, London WC1N 2AT

There will be a presentation on the paper *"Taking back control' - reframing the colonial relationships in education for student learning in social work practice"* and an opportunity to meet and talk with SSWIM members.

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