

OUR MISSION

As a division of the Psychological Society of South Africa (PsySSA), the mission of the Sexuality and Gender Division (SGD) is to promote a psychological understanding of the fields of sexuality and gender. The goal is to support PsySSA in its endeavour to ensure human well-being and social justice for all people. This is realised through SGD member participation in research, clinical practice, education and training, connectivity within and across disciplines, and advocacy that promotes understanding and inclusivity of all sexual and gender identities and expressions, and biological sex variances.

The SGD focuses its efforts within the unique South African context, but also cultivates continental and international networks for mutual interest in the fields of sexuality and gender in Psychology. Within the area of sexuality and gender, we are committed to cooperative relationships across disciplines - within PsySSA, the International Psychology Network for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Issues (IPsyNet) and other professional organisations, including relevant civil society organisations; research, training and education institutions; applied entities and individuals, and the general public - in achieving our objectives.



OUR MEMBERS

Our membership consists of a diverse group of psychology professionals including clinicians, researchers, teachers, community practitioners, health workers and students from a variety of disciplines across South Africa and the rest of the continent. To all mental health professionals who are interested in the social and mental well-being of all South Africans, including sexuality, gender identity and expression – become a part of SGD! We look forward to welcoming you in a mutually beneficial environment.

"A division in a voluntary professional association is the sum of its active members, no more, no less. A division only shines through in its potential to provide a sense of belonging. This sense is made possible by the professional and collegial mutual efforts of the individuals, groups and organisations involved in the division – only the strength of the engaged 'we' can realise this potential to the benefit of all stakeholders."

Niel Victor, 2016



To join, or find out more:

www.psyssa.com/divisions/sexuality-and-gender-division-sgd/

The website contains useful additional information and resources, as well as the contact details for the current SGD Executive. Visit regularly for updates.



www.facebook.com/sgdpsyssa



[@SGDPsySSA](https://twitter.com/SGDPsySSA)

Contact the PsySSA office:

+27 11 486 3322 / info@psyssa.com

IPsyNet www.ipsynet.org



SEXUALITY &
GENDER DIVISION



SEXUALITY AND GENDER DIVISION

OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL
SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

OUR WORK

The SGD is active in a range of activities across diverse contexts towards the achievement of our goals:



Research

Our members are continuously involved in empirical and theoretical work on sexual orientation, gender identity and biological sex, as well as work on gender-based violence, intersectionality and social justice, and sexual and reproductive health. Much of this is reflected in the strong sexuality and gender focused stream at PsySSA congresses as well as academic and general publications.



Education

We provide training and workshops for students, clinicians, health workers and academics, informed by the PsySSA Sexual and Gender Diversity Position Statement (2013), amongst others, on the provision of sexual and gender-affirming and inclusive practices. This includes both general training offered as well as customised programmes based on specific requests and needs.



Advocacy and Expert Opinion

We engage in advocacy efforts and policy development on issues concerning sexual and gender rights, both in South Africa and elsewhere. Through our network, we are also able to provide expert opinions related to this field of interest.



Practice

We are committed to the development and dissemination of sexual and gender-affirmative practice across the spectrum of mental health providers in South Africa. This includes PsySSA's first position statement, namely on sexual and gender diversity, that was approved in 2013.



PsySSA is a member of the **International Psychology Network for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Issues (IPsyNet)**, and two SGD executive members serve on the network. IPsyNet consists of psychological organisations around the world working together to increase understanding of sexual orientation and gender-diverse people and promote their human rights and well-being.



Sexual diversity: The range of different expressions of sexual orientation and sexual behaviour that spans across the historically imposed heterosexual-homosexual binary.



(PsySSA Sexual and Gender Diversity Position Statement, 2013)*

PsySSA African LGBTI Human Rights Project

A significant innovation for PsySSA as a professional voluntary association, has been the international and local donor funded 'PsySSA African LGBTI Human Rights Project' within the SGD. The overall goal of this project is to build PsySSA capacity in South Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa more broadly, to engage with issues related to sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics. A fantastic opportunity for researchers, practitioners and activists to get involved in this area of work!



* Psychological Society of South Africa (PsySSA). (2013). Sexual and gender diversity position statement. Retrieved from http://www.psyssa.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/PsySSA_position_statement_sexual_gender-1.pdf

SOME OF OUR MILESTONES

- 2007** PsySSA joins IPsyNET (International Psychology Network for LGBTI Issues)
- 2009** First focused LGBTI programming at a PsySSA Congress, which has grown to be a premier annual event bringing together the best scholarly and applied work around sexuality and gender in Psychology in South Africa
- 2010** Statement to the Ugandan government offering a science-based assessment of the proposed "Anti-Homosexuality Bill of 2009" and calling upon them to abandon or defeat it
- 2010** Open statement to the United Nations (UN) following and condemning the South African vote to remove a reference to sexual orientation from the UN resolution condemning extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions and other killings
- 2011** Recipient of substantial international funding to support the activities of the Division – the first PsySSA Division/ Interest Group to do so
- 2013** Development and adoption of the PsySSA Sexual and Gender Diversity Position Statement– a first for the Society, which promotes an affirmative stance in working with sexually and gender diverse South Africans in the mental health context
- 2014** Official launch of the Division at the 20th PsySSA Congress
- 2014** Receive an award at the PsySSA AGM for Most Improved Division
- 2015** SGD Executive Member Prof Juan Nel contributes to the publication of Diversity in Human Sexuality: Implications for Policy in Africa, by the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)
- 2016** Endorsement by PsySSA Presidency of IPsyNet Statement and Commitment to LGBTIQ+ Affirmative Psychological & Psychotherapeutic Practice and Research

