CONSTITUTION FOR THE SEXUALITY AND GENDER DIVISION OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

1. NAME

1.1 The name of the division is the Sexuality and Gender Division (SGD) of the Psychological Society of South Africa (PsySSA).

2. STATUS

2.1 The SGD is a division of PsySSA and has been established in terms of Article 12 of the PsySSA constitution.

2.2 The provisions of the PsySSA constitution shall enjoy precedence in the event of any contradictions between this constitution and the constitution of PsySSA.

3. RELATIONSHIP TO PSYSSA

As a Division of PsySSA, the SGD is committed to the broad ethos and focus of its parent body, as expressed in Articles 2 and 12.4 respectively of the PsySSA constitution. PsySSA sees itself as a scientific body representing the interests of its members, the profession of Psychology, and the broader South African society. PsySSA is a society which locates itself as an African, decolonial, southern enterprise, committed to transformation, social justice and shared humanity. It sees the mental health of South Africans as inseparable from political, economic and racial justice and is committed to celebrating diversity, mindful of a painful past and current challenges and inequalities which divide us.

4. HISTORY OF THE SGD

The SGD division developed from a collaborative project between PsySSA and the APA (American Psychological Association). The APA hosts the International Network for Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns and Transgender Issues in Psychology (INET, now called IPsyNET), of which PsySSA is a member. IPsyNet is composed of national, multinational, and international psychological associations.

5. A REPOSITIONING OF THE SGD: MISSION, VISION AND OBJECTIVES

5.1 Position statement

The SGD continues to align itself with the vision of PsySSA and IPsyNet, through its commitment to a psychology that is affirmative of sexualities and gender diversities. It recognises that human sexualities and genders find expression in multiple forms, are varied, contextual, fluid and dynamic, within and between individuals and the communities, cultures and societies they live in, and that such expression and identities are imbued with power. Power intersects with sexualities and genders in ever-changing and dynamic social (and political) contexts in ways that foreground new and emerging priorities and engagements within the broad areas of sexualities, gender diversities, and genders. In its quest to remain a professionally and socially relevant and responsive division, the SGD is committed to expanding its focus to include such developments.

5.2 Vision

To promote the profession of psychology and a society which are socially responsive and just, transformed, equitable, and celebratory of sexualities, sexual and gender diversities and difference, as well as to promote a sense of belonging that values and acknowledges the complexity in all humans.

5.3 Mission

To create a hub for mental health professionals who adopt a critical, decolonial, intersectional, feminist and anti-racist mental health approach to working with all clients and communities who have made South Africa their home, and to all who commit to the ideals of PsySSA and the SGD.

5.4 Objectives

Cognisant that all sexualities and gender identities and practices intersect with the power dynamics of class, culture, race, ability, age, education and origin (among others), the SGD aims to:

- support and guide mental health practitioners, programmers, civil society and government, researchers and communities to think more critically and more positively about the mosaic of sexualities and genders, as well as broader issues around gender such as sexual violence, and sexual and reproductive health
- locate its work within systems of sexualities and genders, focusing on the lived experiences of sexual and gender "majorities" and "minorities" and how they illuminate these systems of power
- advance critical and reflexive scientific research
- promote affirmative practice in all psychology-related activities, including relevant continuing professional development
- be socially responsive to related national, continental, and international issues and concerns.

The objectives derived from the values, mission and vision are to be achieved in cooperation with PsySSA, other professional organisations, relevant civil society organisations and the general public.

6. MEMBERSHIP

6.1 Categories and description

SGD makes provision for the same categories of membership and their respective descriptions as per the PsySSA membership categories.

The categories of membership shall hereafter be collectively described "the members".

6.2 Membership fees

The division's executive committee in conjunction with the executive of PsySSA shall annually decide upon membership fees.

Persons shall be enrolled in the highest class of membership for which they are eligible.

7. MANAGEMENT

7.1 Structure

The executive consists of the following office bearers:

- A chairperson
- A deputy chairperson
- A secretary
- A treasurer
- Three additional members.
- The SGD executive has the option to co-opt up to 3 more additional members as required. This mean that the total number of additional members should not exceed 6 (six) at any given time.

With the exception of the chairperson and deputy chairperson, an individual may hold more than one portfolio. The offices of the secretary and treasurer may be combined.

7.2 Election of the Executive

Office bearers are selected annually during the annual general meeting by way of voting by call. Only full members in good standing may be elected to the positions. When a member is nominated in her/his absence, the nominator must provide evidence that the nominee consents to stand for the position.

Chairpersons of regional branches of the division shall be ex officio members of the executive.

The executive may co-opt further members.

7.3 Quorum

Four members (but including either the chair or deputy chair) shall form a quorum at executive meetings. The frequency of meetings will be determined by each executive.

7.4 Terms of office

The term of office of all office bearers is two years. Office bearers shall not hold office in the same position for more than two consecutive terms.

7.5 Representation on the Council of PsySSA

The chairperson or deputy chairperson shall represent SGD on the Council of PsySSA. The executive shall appoint an alternate when necessary.

7.6 The division shall submit an audited income and expenditure statement to Council for purposes of financial control.

8. REGIONAL BRANCHES

Regional branches may be formed in the various regions of PsySSA to promote the mission of the division.

9. GENERAL MEETINGS, VOTING RIGHTS AND PROCEDURES

9.1 A general meeting of SGD shall be held at least once a year, preferably during the annual congress of PsySSA.

9.2 The chairperson of SGD shall call for an extraordinary general meeting if they consider it necessary, or on written request by no less than 25% of full members.

9.3 Members shall be informed in writing of general and extraordinary general meetings, and of the agenda of such a meeting, at least 30 days in advance of such a meeting.

9.4 The members present at any meeting of SGD shall be deemed to be a quorum of the members, except where otherwise stipulated.

9.5 During a general meeting the majority vote shall be final. Voting may take place by ballot or by show of hands as the chairperson may determine.

9.6 Full members of the division shall have the right to vote by postal ballot or electronic mail and at general meetings.

9.7 The chairperson shall have a casting vote at a general meeting.

9.8 Amendments to the constitution shall be ratified by postal ballot or electronic mail. A general meeting can refer any other matter for vote by postal ballot or electronic mail.

10. DISCIPLINARY AND OTHER MEASURES

SGD can recommend to the Council of PsySSA that disciplinary or other measures be taken against members who act contrary to the objectives of SGD or PsySSA. No such recommendation will be made to the Council unless at least two thirds of the members of the division's executive vote in favour of such action. The member has the right to appear personally or be represented at a meeting of the executive before a decision

about such a recommendation to the Council is finally taken.

11. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

11.1 Proposals regarding amendments to the constitution shall be submitted to the executive and shall be put to a general meeting of SGD. These proposals can be made by members or the executive.

11.2 Written notice of motion for such a proposed change shall be sent to members not less than 30 days prior to the general meeting.

11.3 Amendments shall be accepted by a 2/3 majority of members with voting rights at a general meeting, through a paper based or electronic vote procedure. Only full members have a vote.

11.4 In the event of amendments to the constitution of PsySSA, the constitution of SGD must be reviewed and changed if necessary.

12. DISSOLUTION

12.1 SGD may be dissolved by the Council of PsySSA in terms of Article 12.6.3 of its constitution.

12.2 SGD may be dissolved by a resolution taken at a general meeting in accordance with the procedure laid down for amendments to the constitution. Such a decision must be ratified by referring the matter to all full members by means of a postal or electronic vote. A 2/3 majority of the postal or electronic votes shall be deemed decisive.

12.3 If SGD resolves to dissolve, the assets and liabilities of SGD shall be disposed of by the PsySSA Council.