



# SADAG KZN NEWSLETTER JULY 2020

Welcome to our monthly newsletter. Please read and share widely. Mental Health is everybody's business!

## SADAG KZN CONTACTS

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Chantelle Booysen

E: [kznprojects@sadag.org](mailto:kznprojects@sadag.org)

## SADAG NATIONAL HELPLINE

0800 456 789

[www.sadag.org](http://www.sadag.org)



## Commemorating Mental Health Awareness Month in July

By Ntokozo Ngcobo

The current pandemic has highlighted how central mental wellbeing has been for us to survive the many changes and challenges we are all experiencing. **In South Africa, the month of July is dedicated to educating people about mental health and encouraging people to seek help, treatment and support if they are distressed or have a mental illness.** This awareness month also aims to reduce the stigma and discrimination that people with mental health issues often experience.

During these stressful and uncertain times of the COVID pandemic, the numbers of people needing mental illness treatment is expected to increase. As the pandemic continues to impact our health directly and indirectly through added stress, this is an opportune time to empower yourself with knowledge and self-help skills.

**What can you do to get help?** Studies show that stigma and discrimination are some of the biggest reasons why people don't seek help or intervention when experiencing mental illness. Misconceptions about mental illness perpetuate stigma so it is important for people to educate themselves about mental illness and also share this information with others. Sharing your own story about your mental illness journey and encouraging others to do the same helps to eradicate stigma. Getting treatment for mental distress or illness is no different from seeing a doctor for a sore throat or the dentist for a toothache. Mental illness is treatable and stress and distress can be alleviated through simple lifestyle choices and changes. **Mental health matters in the fight against COVID-19. Reach out for support!**

## MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS IN KZN

- Free public talks & forums
- Community support groups
- CPD-accredited specialist workshops
- Youth outreach at schools and universities
- Engaging mental health events and training
- AND More...



CLICK HERE  
to CONTRIBUTE  
to our impactful  
programmes

We offer specialised webinars on general and specific topics on mental health. Connect with us for more information.

INVITATION



SADAG KZN PRESENTS  
Mental Health Community Forum Talk

**\*Free Online Webinar\***

## Living Authentically with Bipolar Disorder

Presented By

**Ms Chantelle Booyesen**

Global Mental Health Advocate & Youth Ambassador

Join us on

**Friday, 12 June 2020**

**13:00 to 14:00**

RSVP

before

**11 June 2020**

or confirm on email at  
mentalhealthmatters3@gmail.com

All members of the public are  
welcome - service users,  
patients, family & friends.

Webinar link & details will be  
sent to registered attendees  
ahead of time.

KZNSADAG@ANXIETY.ORG.ZA | 078 278 7047

**12 June 2020**

## Community Forum Webinar: Living Authentically with Bipolar Disorder by Chantelle Booyesen

We had close to 60 attendees from around the country who consisted of students, academics, practitioners and general members of the public. We received some encouraging comments:

*"The stories of the three characters really caught my attention and how Chantelle used her own life as reference."*

*"Thank you for being so open and sharing your own experiences."*

*"In this webinar, Ms Chantelle Booyesen succeeded in demystifying mental illness as well as debunking several associated misconceptions. Drawing on her personal experience of living with Bipolar Disorder, she offered illuminating insights into what this illness entails while simultaneously offering a powerful message of hope: that people living with mental illnesses can lead meaningful lives and make phenomenal contributions to society. Ms Booyesen's ongoing involvement in advancing social justice attests to this."*

INVITATION



SADAG KZN PRESENTS  
Mental Health Community Forum Talk

**\*Free Workshop for Support Group Leaders\***

## Listening Tools for Frontline Support Group Leaders

Presented By

**Tessa Abramovitz**

Educational Psychologist, working in schools & private practice

Join us on

**26 June 2020**

**10.00 to 11.30am**

RSVP

before

**25 June 2020**

or confirm on email at  
mentalhealthmatters3@gmail.com

Workshop specifically for  
Support Group Leaders and  
SADAG KZN Volunteers.

Webinar link & details will be  
sent to registered attendees  
ahead of time.

KZNSADAG@ANXIETY.ORG.ZA | 078 278 7047

**26 June 2020**

## Listening Tools for Frontline Support Group Leaders

*"We were given useful tips, and it was practical and interactive."*

*"I learned that it is often more important to listen to someone express themselves and their feelings freely than attempting to offer them advice. In most cases, the cathartic experience of uninterrupted expression is most beneficial."*

# What's coming up in this month

Some key mental health events, projects, engagements and supportive resources to look forward to. Look out for them all over KwaZulu-Natal!

Available to trained Support Group Leaders & Vounteers

## INVITATION



SADAG KZN PRESENTS

### A Guide to Starting a WhatsApp Support Group

Facilitated by

Suntosh Pillay and Lynn Norton

Thursday, 16 July 2020

16:30 - 17:30

RSVP before 14 July 2020

All login details will be sent to registered attendees ahead of time.

or via email at [sadagkzn@gmail.com](mailto:sadagkzn@gmail.com)

KZNSADAG@ANXIETY.ORG.ZA | 078 278 7047

## INVITATION



SADAG KZN PRESENTS  
Mental Health Community Forum Webinar

### A Conversation on Refugee Mental Health

Presented By

Ms Sandy Kalyan

Psychologist

Free Online Webinar

Friday, 17 July 2020

13:00 to 14:00

RSVP before 15 July 2020

All members of the public are welcome - service users, patients, family & friends.

Webinar link & details will be sent to registered attendees ahead of time.

or confirm via email at [sadagkzn@gmail.com](mailto:sadagkzn@gmail.com)

KZNSADAG@ANXIETY.ORG.ZA | 078 278 7047



**#MANDELDAY2020**  
**DO WHAT YOU CAN!**  
**STAY SAFE!**  
**SHARE INITIATIVES!**  
**SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITIES!**

**#ACTION AGAINST POVERTY**

Image courtesy: [www.mandeladay.com](http://www.mandeladay.com)

**JULY**

- World Mental Health Awareness Month
- 1-5 Corporate Wellness Week
- 10 Panic Awareness Day
- 18 Nelson Mandela Day

# SUPPORT GROUPS

PEOPLE SUPPORTING PEOPLE

During the time of COVID-19, physical support groups have been suspended. Support Groups are now hosted online and through WhatsApp groups. Please contact your support group leader for more information.

## HOW TO JOIN A SADAG SUPPORT GROUP?

- Contact **Krisanya** for general information on **064 139 4303** or email **mentalhealthmatters3@gmail.com**
- Contact our 24-hour free helpline on 0800 456 789

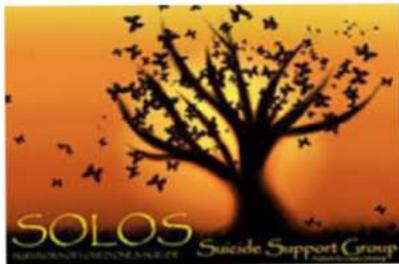


### LGBTQIA+ SUPPORT

Connect through social media where this group provides a safe space to those who need support during this time. WhatsApp on 0845800489.

### THE GAY AND LESBIAN MEMORY IN ACTION (GALA) ORGANIZATION

invites LGBTQIA+ people to submit their experiences of life during lockdown. Email [queervoices20@gmail.com](mailto:queervoices20@gmail.com).



### SURVIVORS OF LOVED ONES OF SUICIDE (SOLOS) SUPPORT

Join this Whatsapp support group for those wanting additional support and connection during this period. Contact Lynn on 0782787047 or Lori at [suicideprevent@gmail.com](mailto:suicideprevent@gmail.com)



### MUMS SUPPORT NETWORK

Online support for mothers and mothers-to-be. Online meeting every Monday and Thursday during Lockdown at 10AM on Zoom. Contact Alex on 0837880689 or email [alexandra@mumssupport.co.za](mailto:alexandra@mumssupport.co.za).

We  frontline health workers

Support Group

### MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR FRONT LINE HEALTH WORKERS

For more info or to join this group please WhatsApp Lynn on 078 278 7047 or email Lori at [suicideprevent@gmail.com](mailto:suicideprevent@gmail.com).

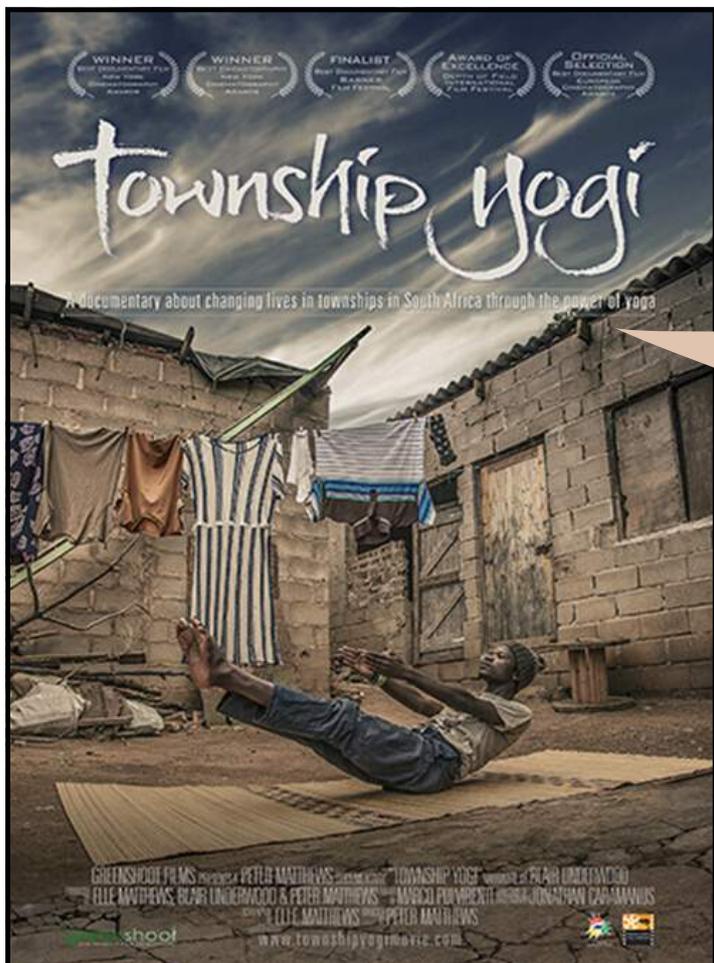
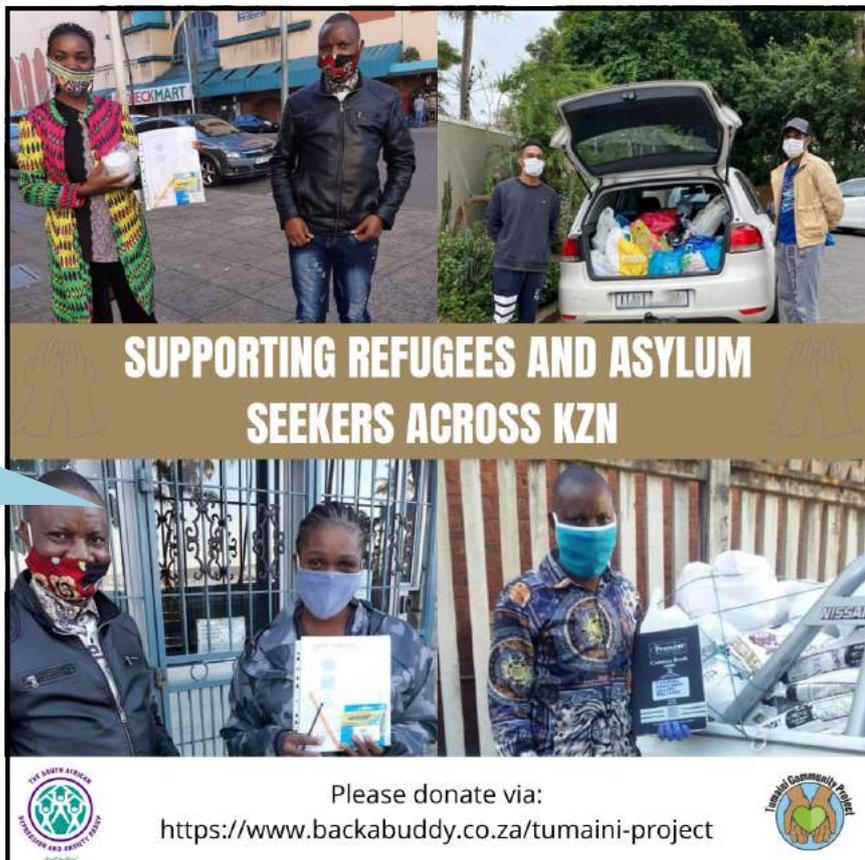
### REFUGEE WHATSAPP SUPPORT GROUP

With support group leader Peter Buhendwa for members of the refugee community living in and around Durban. For more information WhatsApp Peter on 076 662 9899.



## Tumaini (Hope) Project: Supporting refugees and asylum seekers during Covid-19

Your support for refugees and asylum seekers in our community is invaluable, they depend on your goodwill for basic needs. Please pledge your support by visiting <https://www.backabuddy.co.za/champion/project/tumaini-project> or clicking here.



## Township Yogi Film Global Release

Award-winning Township Yogi documentary was released globally on 21 June and has been receiving wonderful, positive reviews from viewers and the international yoga community!

Click here to learn more about the film.

# CRISIS OF CARE



#CrisisOfCare WhatsApp Helpline provides free accessible emotional and support services to service-users for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our team of counselors come from six provinces including Gauteng, North West, Free State, Northern Cape, Limpopo and Mpumalanga; who provide diverse psycho-social services on WhatsApp.

Our team comprises of academics from recognized institutions of higher learning, Social Workers, Psychologists, student Social Workers, Community Counselors and Community Healthcare Workers.



Helpline:  
+27 68 013 7551  
12h00-00:00 CAT

HERE'S TO THE NEXT FEW MONTHS  
ENCOURAGING LOVE, SUPPORT AND  
HEALING FOR THE WORLD.



a Black Womxn Caucus Initiative  
@BWC\_ingwe  
@blackwomxncaucus\_ingwe



DURBAN PRACTISING  
PSYCHOLOGISTS' GROUP

## Private psychologists offer free support

Your mental health matters during the national lockdown and Covid-19 outbreak. If you are suffering from unmanageable anxiety, depression, loneliness, isolation, grief or trauma – make contact with us and we will find someone to assist you. This will not replace an in-depth, diagnostic consultation; and is only a brief intervention for immediate support and/or education.

Email: [exec@dppg.org.za](mailto:exec@dppg.org.za)

If you can afford to pay for a consultation, a list of psychologists can be found on our website: [www.dppg.org.za](http://www.dppg.org.za)



For a national list of psychologists, email [Fatima@psyssa.com](mailto:Fatima@psyssa.com)

## Siyayinqoba

### CORONAVIRUS

COVID-19

MS NOMAGUGU SIMELANE-ZULU  
MEC FOR HEALTH

# A CALL TO BE ON THE KZN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DATABASE OF VOLUNTEERS

**As we are intensifying the fight against Coronavirus, we are calling on various categories of professionals from the healthcare value chain to register their names on the KZN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DATABASE OF VOLUNTEERS.**

This Covid-19 pandemic, along with the pre-existing burden of disease in the Province, might place our health resources under tremendous pressure.

That is why we are seeking assistance to fight Coronavirus, from nursing students from second year upwards, student doctors from the fifth year upwards, unemployed health professionals, retired health practitioners, and emergency medical service personnel who are not employees of the Department.

We firmly believe that they can help mitigate the pressure that COVID-19 will be placing on health services, over the coming weeks and months. We appeal to these healthcare professionals to urgently get in touch with the department so that they can be registered on our department's database.

**For more information, call 033 395 2279.**

You can also send your CV with the Z83 form to the following email address: [zamambo.mkhize3@kznhealth.gov.za](mailto:zamambo.mkhize3@kznhealth.gov.za). Terms and conditions apply.

GROWING  
KWAZULU-NATAL  
TOGETHER

CAP  
CENTRE for  
APPLIED  
PSYCHOLOGY

UNIVERSITY OF  
KWAZULU-NATAL

INYUVESI  
YAKWAZULU-NATALI

## The world has changed but we will get through this... together

We are Offering Free  
Online Support (3 sessions):

- Individual counselling
- Group Support
- Support for Health Care Workers

Feeling anxious,  
uncertain or just want  
to connect?  
**Talk to us**

Doreen Hattingle:  
[hattingle@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:hattingle@ukzn.ac.za)

Whatsapp  
078 512 1050

Google/Sheqo Up Document  
[bit.ly/UKZNpsych](http://bit.ly/UKZNpsych)

The UKZN Psychology Clinic is run by registered psychologists and trainees  
The support groups will be run over three weeks over the Zoom Platform



## 30 July is International Friendship Day

***"I like to listen. I have learned a great deal from listening carefully. Most people never listen."***  
Ernest Hemingway

It was first proposed in 1958 in Paraguay as "International Friendship Day". It was initially promoted by the greeting cards' industry. Evidence from social networking sites shows a revival of interest in the holiday that may have grown with the spread of the Internet, particularly in India, Bangladesh, and Malaysia. Mobile phones, digital communication and social media have contributed to popularize the custom. Those who promote the holiday in South Asia attribute the tradition of dedicating a day in the honour of friends to have originated in the United States in 1935 but it actually dates back to 1919. The exchange of Friendship Day gifts like flowers, cards and wrist bands is a popular tradition on this occasion. Friendship Day celebrations occur on different dates in different countries. The first World Friendship Day was proposed for 30 July in 1958, by the World Friendship Crusade.

**On 27 April 2011 the General Assembly of the United Nations declared 30 July as official International Friendship Day.[1]**

In a number of studies, friendship and social support have been **linked to better physical health outcomes, like lower rates of heart disease**. One such study (published in the Annals of Behavioral Medicine in 2007) revealed that young men and women who discussed difficult parts of their lives had a lower pulse and blood pressure when a supportive friend accompanied them. Friendship is an important factor in our physical health, but what affects does it have on our mental health?

A 2009 study from the Journal of the National Medical Association surveyed 300 men and women at a free health clinic in Buffalo, New York. They found that respondents with insufficient perceived social support were the most likely to suffer from mental health disorders like anxiety and depression. **A good friendship requires a balance between individuals—one where the needs of each are met. Good friendships have a myriad of benefits, such as increased feelings of belonging, purpose, increased levels of happiness, reduced levels of stress, improved self-worth and confidence.**

While good friends can help you through traumatic events and can even help you to quit a bad habit you've picked up, toxic friendships can leave you feeling drained, stifled, unsatisfied and often unequal. **Friendships are unique because they are tied to so many aspects of your life—your family, work, hobbies. When you have a toxic friendship, these feelings can permeate all of these areas as well.** If a particular friendship is isn't meeting your needs, it may be time to reassess whether it deserves a space in your life. Humans by nature are social animals. **Our friendships can have a tremendous impact on our lives—which is why it's important to make sure that they are leaving you feeling supported, understood, and happy.[2]**

[1] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friendship\\_Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friendship_Day)

[2] <https://www.mindwise.org/blog/mental-health/how-friendship-affects-your-physical-mental-health/>