



21 March 2016

Dear Colleagues

From the LIASA President: Human Rights Day message

Today, 21 March, we commemorate the tragic event in 1960 where in Sharpeville 69 people were killed when police opened fire on the protest against the pass laws; many others were injured. Consequently, this day has been named Human Rights Day in South Africa while it is marked by the United Nations as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Now, we celebrate the freedoms granted by our Constitution that guarantees the right to equality; human dignity; life; freedom and security; privacy; freedom of religion, belief and opinion; freedom of expression; freedom of association and a right to education to each South African.

LIASA's South African Library Week (SALW) encompasses 21 March because of the tangible link between Human Rights and libraries services. Access to information; reading materials; teaching and learning aids; and technology supports the notion of education as a basic human right. The rationale of the 2016 SALW theme: #libraries4ifelonglearning reminds of the library as a hub for learning - open to skills levels – and which contributes to the efforts to address the country's educational, social, cultural and recreational needs and prevalent inequalities.

Viva Human Rights Day Viva! Let the Human Rights live on, and grow from strength to strength. Continue to promote the libraries as a support for our collective efforts towards a society free of discrimination and which offers equal opportunities to all citizens.

Kind regards

Segametsi Molawa

LIASA President

president@liasa.org.za

www.liasa.org.za

"Libraries for development: Action, Integration and Collaboration"

Executive Committee Members:

Ms S Molawa (President), Mr M Ntombela (President-Elect), Mr D Malan, Ms B Eister, Ms N Crowster, Ms Z Maya, Mr A Moko, Ms M Senyolo, Ms I Smith