



2nd CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

8TH ANNUAL ORAL HISTORY CONFERENCE.

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS/ABSTRACTS: 17 June 2022.

FEEDBACK ON ABSTRACTS: 17 July 2022.

CONFERENCE DATE: 14-16 September 2022.

VENUE: NKANGALA DISTRICT (EMALAHLENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY)

THEME: The year of Unity and Renewal: International Solidarity and Cultural Diplomacy, Redefining 21st century global alliances.

In a world characterised by conflict and intolerance there has never been a time where more solidarity and an improvement in human relations is required as in 2022 – a year dedicated to unity and renewal.

When traditional leaders wanted passage for their nation they often offered gifts as a gesture of cultural diplomacy. Often an act of solidarity and cultural diplomacy would happen when Africans faced a stronger enemy and wanted assistance from their neighbours. During apartheid black South Africans made it through life in exile and underground work through the support of the international community. After 1976 those who fled the country became refugees in the Frontline states. Europeans supporting the Anti-Apartheid Movement helped fundraise for clothes, foodstuffs and other amenities liberation movements needed to survive in foreign lands. The Soviet bloc provided military support and training facilities in states such as Ukraine. Frontline states also offered assistance, at great risk to themselves, since apartheid South Africa occasionally launched cross-border raids, bombing such countries. Solidarity is more needed now with South Africa's occasional slide into xenophobia.

This is the year of unity and renewal. Such unity should be seen in a renewal of kindred relations and alliances: across races and ethnic communities. Through oral history we should seek to research stories of solidarity and cultural diplomacy throughout the history of African people; from how they helped each other in different stages of life and how that has enriched them tremendously only to be lost due to negative conduct and behavior of leaders.

SUB-THEMES:

1. Social Solidarity in the age of pandemics (Covid-19 and GBV).
2. Challenges faced by self-employed professionals, informal workers and small business during pandemic.
3. Indigenous approaches to building peace and social solidarity
4. Untold stories of International Solidarity.
5. Using cultural diplomacy and oral history in bringing unity.
6. Oral History in the classroom.
7. Experiences of African women in cultural diplomacy.
8. The treatment of strangers in the past, lessons learned and their usage in the fight against Xenophobia/Afro phobia.

Abstract are invited for contribution to the 8th annual Mpumalanga Oral History Conference. Although the conference is primarily academic, case study reports and other contributions from non-academic oral history practitioners are welcome. Contributions must be based on original work and have a clear focus on oral history.

The envisaged end-product of the conference will be a compilation of the proceedings. Interested contributors are encouraged to bring along to the conference papers that are photo-ready.

NB: The conference will be 100% physical

If you are interested, please send us a short proposal, that includes:

An abstract of your paper or case study report (100-300 words).

The relevant conference sub-theme and a title for the paper.

A short biography of yourself (50-100 words).

Your contact information (name and surname, email address, and cell number/s).

The duration of presentation will be twenty (20) minutes and it will be followed by ten (10) minutes for discussion. The papers should not be longer than 5000 words.

Send proposal to:

Convener: Mr. Nkitseng Mahalefa.

Department of Culture Sport & Recreation

Mpumalanga Provincial Archives and Records Service.

Tell: 013 766 5081. Cell: 067 429 0866.

email: nfmahalefa@mpg.gov.za