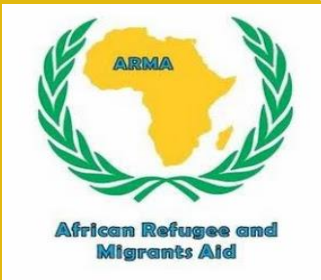


SOCIAL COHESION ON DIVERSITY WORKSHOP:

MASIFUNDE LEARNER DEVELOPMENT GRADE 7



African Refugee and Migrants Aid (ARMA)
29th April 2025
Published by Malipo Lukandamiza Mbalanga
ARMA Director

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the ***Social Cohesion on Diversity Workshop***. In an increasingly interconnected and multicultural world, diversity is both a reality and a strength. However, the presence of diversity alone does not automatically lead to inclusive, harmonious societies. That's where **social cohesion** becomes essential.

This workshop aims to explore how individuals and communities can bridge differences—whether cultural, ethnic, religious, socioeconomic, or ideological—to foster mutual understanding, respect, and shared values. Social cohesion is about building trust, promoting participation, and ensuring that everyone feels they belong and have equal opportunities.

Through interactive activities, guided discussions, and collaborative problem-solving, this workshop will help participants:

- Understand the foundations of social cohesion and its importance in diverse societies.
- Reflect on personal and collective identities and biases.
- Explore strategies for inclusive communication and conflict resolution.
- Develop action plans for promoting unity and inclusion in their own communities or organizations.

Together, we will create a space that values every voice and support collective growth. Your engagement and insights will be crucial to making this workshop a meaningful and transformative experience.

As we reflect on what our generation needs to know about forcibly displaced persons (FDPs), we embark on educating learners and educators on the importance of social cohesion in diversity. The key questions G7 learners wanted to know all about was, "who are the refugees, asylum seekers and migrants?"

After the discussions, they learned about refugee, asylum seekers, stateless persons and migrants and the reason why people seek refuge, or becoming asylum seekers, stateless persons and the cause of force migrations.



Photo: Learners receiving their attendances certificates



**AFRICAN REFUGEE AND MIGRANTS AID
(ARMA)**

masifunde
LEARNER DEVELOPMENT

Host organisations	African Refugee and Migrants Aid (ARMA) and Masifunde Learner Development
Venue	Masifunde Learner Development
Date	29 April 2025 (Hybrid Workshop)
Time	13h00-15h00
Participants	Attendance ARMA Director – Mr Malipo L Mbalanga ARMA Junior Legal Secretary (Intern) – Ms Sinombulelo Mashologu ARMA Head of Education and Research- Prof Newlin Marongwe Grade 7 Educator – Ms. Sibabalwe Ngewu Masifunde Learners Development - Grade 7 learners

WORKSHOP SUMMARY:

The session focused on fostering understanding and appreciation of diversity, particularly in educational settings. Participants, including Mr Malipo Lukandamiza Mbalanga and Prof. Newlin Marongwe, engaged in discussions that began with introductions and personal interests, creating a welcoming atmosphere. Prof Marongwe shared insights from her role at North-West University, emphasizing the importance of embracing diversity and understanding the experiences of individuals from various backgrounds, particularly in light of ongoing conflicts such as those in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Prof. Marongwe highlighted the coexistence of different ethnic groups in South Africa and the need for acceptance and understanding among diverse cultures. She distinguished between stereotyping and prejudice, illustrating how misconceptions can lead to negative attitudes towards certain groups. By discussing the contributions of refugees to the economy and community, she challenged common stereotypes, particularly regarding South African youth. The conversation also included the significance of cultural awareness, with examples of local celebrations that showcase the richness of diversity, urging participants to educate themselves and support peers facing challenges.

Mr Mbalanga facilitated a deeper exploration of the definitions and distinctions between refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants, providing historical context to enhance understanding. He discussed the 1951 Refugee Convention and its implications for individuals fleeing

persecution, using examples such as Nelson Mandela's experience. The session concluded with an emphasis on the roles of organizations like the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and UNICEF in supporting vulnerable populations, aiming to clarify the complexities surrounding refugee status and the challenges faced by these individuals in seeking safety and integration.

TOPICS:

Introduction and Icebreaker Activities

Mr Mbalanga initiated the meeting by thanking attendees and prompting them to introduce themselves along with their interests. Participants, including Anam, Zimamkele, Thina, Athule, Inathi, Simthandile, Milani, Nelo, and others shared their names and hobbies, creating a friendly atmosphere. Prof. Newlin Marongwe contributed by discussing her dedication to counselling and inspiring youth, as well as her love for Asian food).

Understanding Diversity in Education

Mr Mbalanga encouraged participants to engage with the presentation by writing down questions. He introduced Prof. Newlin Marongwe, who discussed her responsibilities as a research professor at North-West University and highlighted the significance of understanding diversity in educational settings. The discussion included the current situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the importance of embracing differences among individuals.

UNDERSTANDING THE CONCEPT OF DIVERSITY AND ITS IMPORTANCE IN EDUCATION

Understanding Diversity in South Africa

Prof Marongwe presented the concept of diversity, illustrating the variety of cultural backgrounds in South Africa, including different ethnic groups and nationalities. She encouraged participants to embrace differences and learn from one another, stressing that understanding diverse cultures enriches experiences. Mr Mbalanga contributed by summarizing the learning opportunities that arise from interacting with individuals from various backgrounds.

Understanding Stereotypes and Prejudice in Diversity

Prof. Marongwe addressed the harmful effects of stereotyping and prejudice, explaining that these beliefs can lead to negative attitudes towards individuals based on their identity. She provided examples of refugees from various countries who contribute positively to the community and urged the audience to recognize the hard work of South African teenagers, countering the stereotype of laziness.

Cultural Awareness and Embracing Diversity

Prof. Marongwe discussed cultural awareness as a crucial aspect of embracing diversity, urging learners to understand and respect different cultures, such as those of Indian, Afrikaans, Xhosa, Zulu, Sotho, ect..., communities. She stressed that tolerance leads to peace and encouraged students to assist peers who may struggle with language barriers. Prof Marongwe called on Grade 7 learners to be advocates for diversity, educating others and standing against prejudice.

The importance of cultural awareness and tolerance in a diverse society

Q&A Session with Learners

Mr Mbalanga invited learners to ask questions about the presentation, emphasizing the importance of speaking loudly for clarity. He noted that some questions would be addressed later in the session. Prof Marongwe shared her screen with the participants.

Understanding Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Stateless Persons and Migrants

Mr Mbalanga presented on the definitions of refugees, asylum seekers, migrants, and stateless persons, highlighting the significance of social cohesion. He traced the origins of the refugee concept back to the World Wars and explained the role of the United Nations in addressing these issues. Mr Mbalanga encouraged participants to engage with the material and understand the complexities involved.

Discussion on the 1951 Refugee Convention and Prosecution

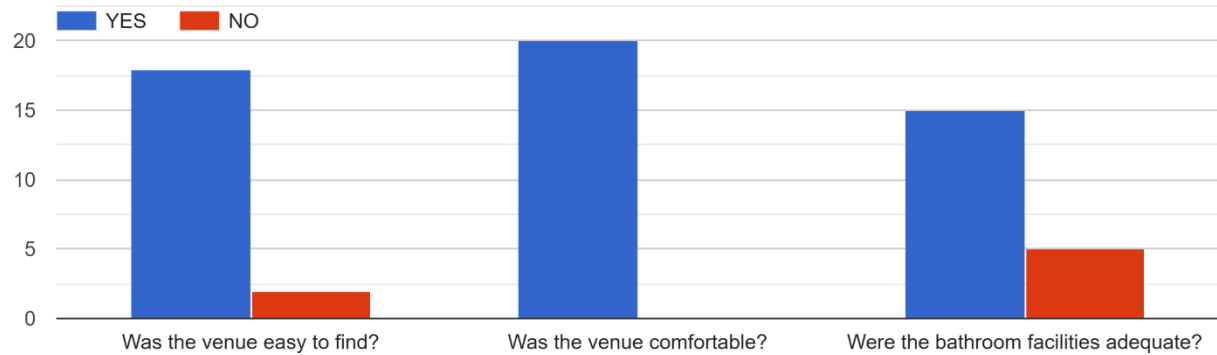
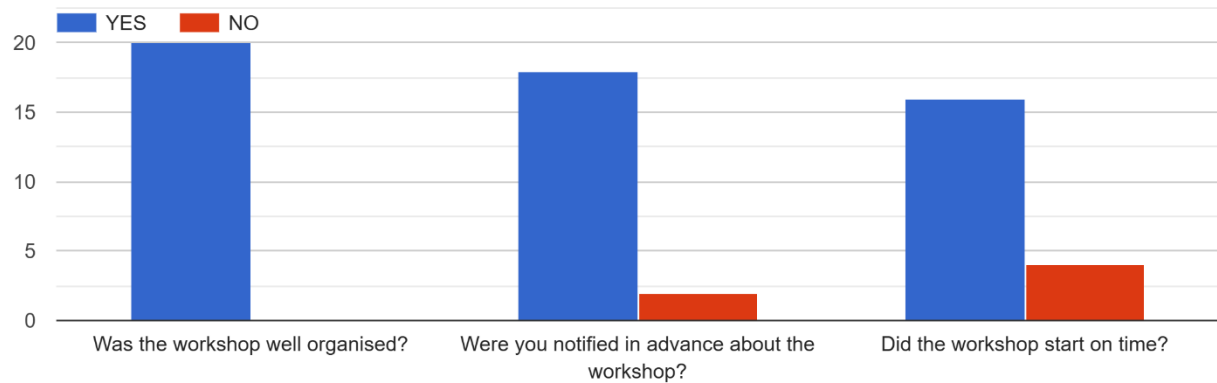
Mr Mbalanga addressed the 1951 Refugee Convention, emphasizing the various forms of persecution that can lead individuals to flee their home countries. He provided examples, including political persecution and religious persecution, and referenced historical figures like Nelson Mandela. He also touched on the role of ethnicity persecution and mentioned the 1994 Rwanda Genocide illustrating how individuals from specific ethnic groups may face violence and discrimination, e.g., GAZA war, South Sudan and Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Understanding the roles of UNHCR and IOM

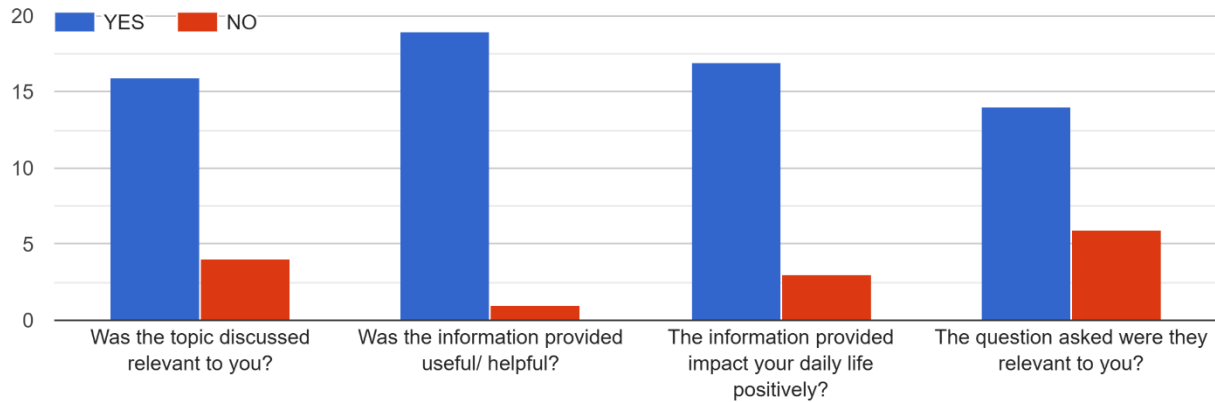
Mr Mbalanga provided an overview of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and its mission to assist refugees worldwide. He clarified the differences between refugees, who flee their countries due to conflict, asylum seekers, who apply for refugee status, and migrants, who seek opportunities in other countries. Mr Mbalanga also addressed the challenges faced by these individuals, including legal and social integration issues. He also, touched on the international organisations such as UNHCR that assist refugee and asylum seekers and IOM that assist migrants.

Action Items

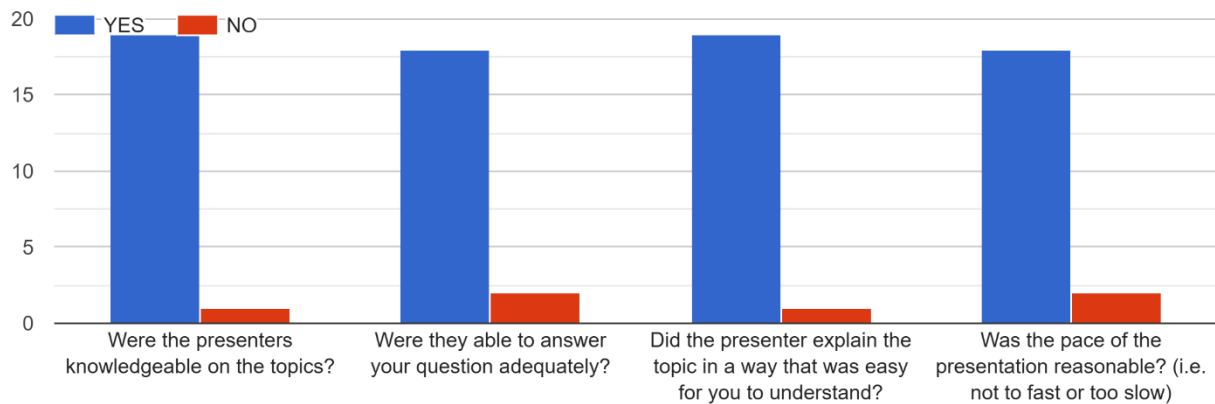
- Prof Newlin Marongwe will share the presentation slides with the learners.
- Mr Mbalanga will open the floor for learners to ask questions after the presentation.
- Mr Mbalanga will summarise the key points of the presentation for the learners.
- Ms Sibabalwe Ngewu and Mr Malipo – presentation of certificates to Grade 7 learner participants.

WORKSHOP FEEDBACK**VENUE****LOGISTICS**

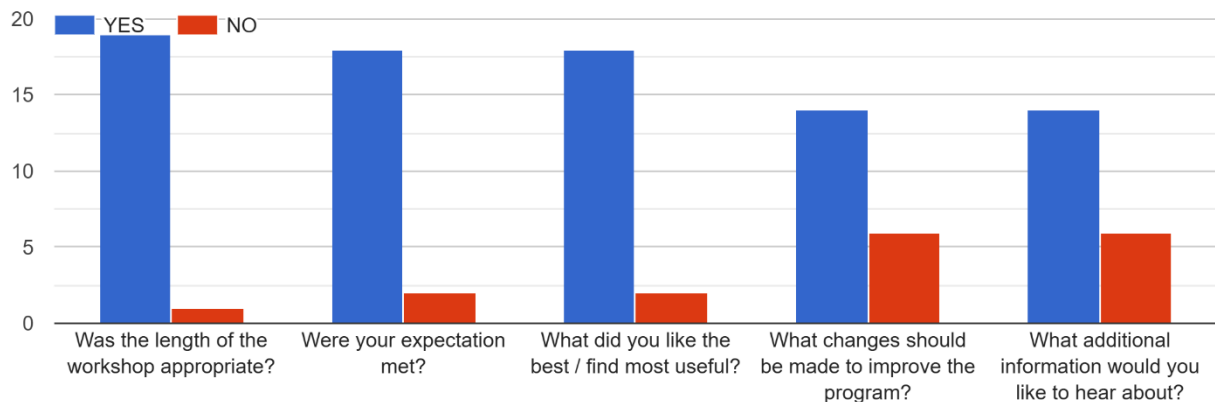
CONTENT



PRESENTERS



GENERAL



NAMES OF PARTICIPANTS AWARDED CERTIFICATES

Sibabalwe Ngewu (Facilitator)
Sinombulelo Mashologu (Facilitator)
Ntandokazi Dyakala
Milani Mfatula
Inathi Wonga Mpambani
Linathi Tom
Mivuyo Xali
Likhanyisiwe Gafane
Siyamthanda Mali
Khayone Semele
Enzokuhle Mhambi
Anam Ntentema
Tina Manyati
Zimamnkele Nelo
Kungawo Makile
Owam Amyoli Zali
Athule Gora
Luyamangalisa Jam-Jam
Okuhle Zondani
Inathi Phike
Simthandile Mbusi
Yanga Dyala

PHOTOS ALBUM



Photo: Mr Mbalanga facilitating the Q/A session after the presentation of Prof. Marongwe









Photo: G7 educator and one of the facilitator Ms Sibabalwe Ngewu opening the remarks.



























Photo: G7 learners receiving their certificates. Prof. Marongwe motivated the learners and reminded them to become the ambassadors of changes.





Vote of Thanks

We, extend our sincere gratitude to Masifunde Learner Development management, Sibabalwe Ngewu G7 educator and facilitator from Masifunde Learner Development, to all the G7 learners who attended the workshop, Ms Sinombulelo Mashologu facilitator and ARMA Junior legal Secretary and lastly many thanks to Prof. Newlin Marongwe a professor at NWU and ARMA Head of Education and Research Department, for the work well done.

As an Organisation mandated to educate community on Social Cohesion in Diversity, ARMA administration made it possible for G7 learners who had no ideas about who are refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons and migrants. They also learned about the cause of forcibly displaced persons (FDPs).

We aim to extend the programs in different schools around Port Elizabeth and beyond to amplifying the voice of forcibly displaced persons.

- ARMA Executive Director
Malipo Lukandamiza Mbalanga

