

WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY
17 MARCH 2026 | #WSWD2026

CO-BUILDING Hope & Harmony

A Harambee
Call to Unite
a Divided Society



BRIEF PROFILE OF PROF. ULENE SCHILLER

Prof. Ulene Schiller is a South African academic and social work scholar specialising in **child protection, forensic social work, child participation, and social innovation**. She is a **Professor of Social Work at the University of Fort Hare**, where she has a long career that bridges frontline practice, research, and higher-education teaching.

Academic Career

- Prof. Schiller has **over three decades of experience** in both child protection practice and academic research.
- She has held roles in statutory child protection organisations and later transitioned into academia, joining the University of Fort Hare in 2014.
- At Fort Hare she serves in the **Department of Social Work and Social Development**, including leadership roles such as Deputy Dean and programme coordinator.
- In **2025 she was promoted to full professor**, marking the peak of her academic career and reflecting her impact in research and teaching.

Research & Teaching Focus

Prof. Schiller's work primarily centres on:

- **Child protection systems and policies**, including studies on the efficacy of developmental social welfare approaches in South Africa.
- **Child participation and rights**, especially advocating for children's voices in decisions affecting their care.
- **Forensic social work**, such as developing training programmes for criminal justice professionals to reduce revictimisation of sexually abused children.
- **Social justice in higher education**, with publications exploring pedagogical approaches to equity and inclusion.
- Her academic profile lists numerous peer-reviewed publications on these topics, reflecting both local and international scholarship.
- **Impact & Innovation**
- Prof. Schiller has developed innovative tools like the **Integrated Child Protection Management App**, aimed at supporting case-workers and embedding child participation in social work practice.
- Overall, she is recognised as a leading voice in advancing evidence-based approaches to child welfare policy, practice, and education in South Africa.