



The Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town

MOVIMENTO

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FROM THE CENTRE



As we come towards the end of what has been a very busy and successful year for the Scalabrini Centre, we would like to extend a huge heartfelt thanks to all of those who have supported us throughout 2015. Our donors, partners and volunteers are vital to our success as an organization, and we are exceptionally grateful for their contributions towards our work.

Please read on to discover what the Scalabrini Centre has been up to in the last part of this year.

From the entire Scalabrini team, happy holidays, and see you in the new year!

The Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town

Mission Statement

Perceiving migration as an opportunity, the Scalabrini Centre is committed to alleviating poverty and promoting development in the Western Cape while fostering integration between migrants, refugees and South Africans. In providing our assistance we advocate respect for human rights and use a holistic approach that considers all basic needs.

Values

- Inspired by the teachings and actions of John Baptist Scalabrini, the Scalabrini Centre offers a welcoming environment that is open to all and where each individual is valued and treated with dignity.
- Guided by a sense of humility we promote respect for cultural diversity.

Objective

- To foster the cultural, social and economic integration of migrants, refugees and South Africans into local society.

ENGLISH SCHOOL

English Alive



Business English



Abdulahkim teaching Body Mapping



Study Buddy

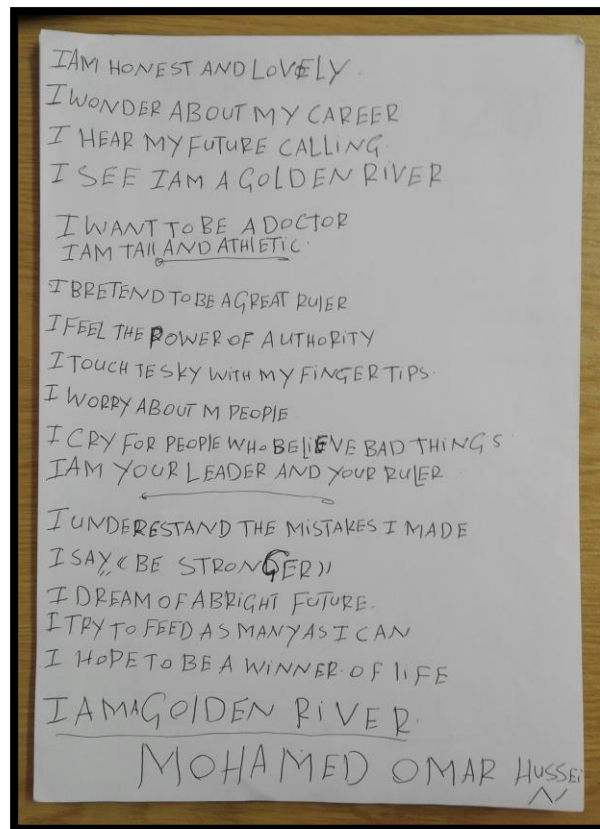
This term, the English School's extracurricular programme, *English Alive*, has had a lot of super facilitators and dedicated students. With Conversation Club and Study Buddy classes, 3 extra grammar classes, writing class, debating, Afrikaans, drama, and more, English students were spoilt for choice. Workshops in health literacy, study skills and relaxation and yoga also proved a great way to learn new skills. A poetry competition had some great entries, and our winning poet will be performing his piece (see below) at graduation this year.

A new Business English course, taught by EAP intern Anthony Phillips and all-rounder Kaitlyn Elliot proved to be popular and valuable to our clients. Students were taken through a lot of business tools; from SWOT analysis and project planning, to crafting the perfect elevator pitch, to interview skills and professionalism.

Meanwhile, Body Mapping was extended this term as Abdulhakim Mumin, one of our students, facilitated this term's course. Chiara Di Julio, our English School intern, has extended the health literacy programme to include a 5-week course exclusively at women, detailing nutrition and reproductive health.

This term also saw the inclusion of a study skills course, at first offered as a workshop and later incorporated into the Study Buddy classes. The course, put together by all-rounder Kaitlyn Elliot, is a comprehensive guide to reading skills, note taking, studying for tests and exams, and exam taking advice. Many students, and 3 facilitators have benefited from this course, and we look forward to seeing exam results improve this year.

Both our students and facilitators have worked hard this term to make English Alive a great success!



English School

As the year comes to a close, there is a lot to reflect on in the English School. The school implemented three terms of English language learning this year, and with that there has been a 35% increase in registrations, with 675 students completing courses.



Susana teaching a Beginner's English class

A version of the game was made downloadable for people to print and play at home or work via the Scalabrini website:

<http://www.scalabrini.org.za/download-corruption-here-the-game-everyone-loses/>

We held a test run of the super-sized version outside Parliament with the media two days before the march, and managed to land a large photo in The Times:

https://www.facebook.com/scalabrinienighschool/photos/pb.492412164206470_-2207520000.1448014592./808834482564235/?type=3&theater

On the day of the march, as thousands of people gathered, we set up a quick game at the start, and then quickly rushed through to the end point outside parliament, where, despite the rain, dozens of people had a go, while many more looked on. Here is a video of the game in action:

<https://www.facebook.com/scalabrinienighschool/videos/vb.492412164206470/808776609236689/?type=3&theater>

Here are some more pictures from the day:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.806974816083535.1073741886.492412164206470&type=3>

The day after the march, E-News contacted us to ask for a game outside parliament. They sent two crews, one for their Afrikaans edition, and one for their English edition:

<https://www.facebook.com/scalabrinienighschool/posts/807386259375724>

It was also featured on the news and current affairs programme Carte Blanche:

<http://carteblanche.dstv.com/player/936394>

With three terms comes three graduation ceremonies, and our final graduation day this year takes place on Wednesday 9 December. We are looking forward to celebrating students' success with around 200 current students who have just written their final exams.

The English School would not be so successful without the many committed volunteers who teach, tutor and facilitate our many different classes, activities, groups and individuals. There are 15 teachers, 5 Read & Write volunteers, 12 English Alive facilitators plus our English School intern and 2 Scalabrini all-rounder volunteers and we would like to thank them with all our hearts for their commitment to supporting our students.

HUMAN RIGHTS CLUB

In the run-up to nationwide marches against widespread corruption in South Africa, and to familiarise our clients with the lingo of graft (words like 'bribe' and 'scandal'), Scalabrini designed a new board game called CORRUPTION.

Inspired by Monopoly, featuring COMMUNITY CHEAT and CHOICE cards and squares like Whistle-blower Way, Nkandla and GO BROKE, players play for DEBT as they encounter bribes and scandals galore across the board – from Travelgate (FREE RIDE instead of FREE PARKING) to Guptagate (Waterkloof Airforce Base), even a 'WATER WORKS for some' square.

Most of the squares carry set actions. Land on the 'ELECTRIC COMPANY' square, a busted lightbulb carrying Eskom's logo and you're forced to 'Close your eyes for 20 seconds'. Nkandla is of course the equivalent of Mayfair, and carries a presidential seal and a R248 million price tag. Land there and you have to shout, "Pay back the money! Pay back the money!" And if you find yourself on 'Nuclear Deal', you have to hold your breath throughout the next person's go.

It's the game everybody loses, where the player with the least debt at the end wins a very hollow victory, but learns an awful lot about the state of the nation, about themselves and the corruptibility of others.

Scalabrini was behind the march 100%. With 1,000 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers from across Africa coming through our doors each month, we are acutely aware of the cancer of corruption in South Africa, especially within Home Affairs, with the poorest and most vulnerable being systematically preyed upon by corrupt officials and security staff.

In July this year, Lawyers for Human Rights and the African Centre for Migration & Society released their report 'Queue Here For Corruption', providing evidence of large scale corruption within South Africa's Refugee Reception Offices (RRO's). Fifty One percent of those asked had experienced corruption in the queue at Marabastad Home Affairs in Pretoria, with 30% saying that they had been denied access because they had refused to pay a bribe.

For the march, we built a larger than life version, where people could actually become their own piece, navigating their way round the landscape of corruption and scandal, actually having to physically 'Go back three places' and then 'GO TO JAIL'.



WELFARE

The Welfare programme was privileged enough to receive a grant from the Catholic Bishops' Conference's Lenten Appeal.

This grant plays a significant role in the work of the welfare programme as it aims to reach out to the less privileged people in the refugee and migrant communities of Cape Town.

Part of welfare's objective is to assist clients with basic needs such as emergency accommodation, clothing, education, medical needs and food packages.

Special cases, such as chronically ill, old aged and disabled clients who are regarded as long term clients due to the nature of their situation, are also assisted.

As we are entering into the New Year with school enrolments in process, the grant will also help in assisting vulnerable families to place their children in school.

EMPLOYMENT ACCESS PROGRAMME

The Employment Access Programme (EAP) is very proud to announce that we have seen a large increase in the number of EAP clients securing employment for this year! The Employment Help Desk is the most popular service accessed by our clients; however clients are now realizing that if they access more than just the EHD service they are increasing their chances of securing employment and the data captured thus far is proving just that. Other services include our Career Counsellor, the Foreign Professionals Desk, and the Skills Training Programme, which assists our clients further with job readiness skills.

The total number of clients who have either secured an interview or employment for this year range from approximately 30 to 45 persons per month. This is quite an improvement from the previous years where approximately 20 to 30 persons were recorded as securing an interview or employment for the month. In August 2015 it was recorded that 60% of clients successfully secured employment, with 67% of these clients finding work within their desired sector. 71% of these employed clients had accessed multiple services within the Employment Access Programme. In September 2015, 60% of clients were recorded to have found employment once more, with 62% of these clients finding work within their desired sector. 77% of these employed clients accessed multiple services within the Employment Access Programme. Lastly, in October 2015 the successes increased to 66% of clients securing employment, with 57% of these clients finding work within their desired sector. 52% of these employed clients accessed multiple services within the Employment Access Programme.

If you would like to find out how you can improve your chances of finding employment please come visit the Employment Access Programme. We are open Monday to Friday from 9 to 4:30 or feel free to contact either Kimberly@scalabrini.org.za or Lylah@scalabrini.org.za for more information! We look forward to helping you apply for work!

WOMEN'S PLATFORM

In August, the Scalabrini Centre Women's Platform celebrated the strength and courage of the women who participate in the Women's Platform, in commemoration of National Women's Day on August 9th.

The event carried the theme "Proud to be a Woman" by celebrating the various talents, passions, and stories of the members of the Platform. This included performances by a Congolese Dance group, original poems read by women from Zimbabwe, South Africa and Rwanda, iconic fashions from several African countries, as well as a showcase of different handmade crafts.

The event celebrated all of the women who, over the past eight months, had joined the Women's Platform to help create a network of women who could share and support one another, whether it's through skills sharing, capacity building, advice giving, or space for reflection.

"I came in to the Scalabrini Centre to create my CV at the Employment Help Desk, that same day I received an interview and eventually an employment opportunity with CTICC for a kitchen assistant position. My CV allowed me to get my dream job and I could not be happier. I have already received another 2 interviews since then, both for chef positions at well established restaurants here in Cape Town. The Employment Access Programme made me realize what I needed to do to find work and now my dreams are coming true. Thank you!"—Danny Delor Ilunga (DRC)



KWESU women modelling their own creations



Members of the Women's Platform signing up for the various personal and skills development workshops on offer



Students with their Unite As One art pieces

Patience Ruswa from Vista High School, member of the Unite Schools Club: "...in my own opinion I believe all cultures and race groups are important and superior in their own right. We need to stand united against any form of oppression and stigma around race, culture, sex, age and country of origin."



Poetry facilitator Khadija working with a student from Heideveld High School

Guided by the needs and wants of the members, the women's platform seeks opportunities for growth through twice monthly personal development workshops in areas of leadership, health education and human rights. The Platform also serves as an opportunity for members to develop themselves while empowering each other through peer to peer workshops in which one member teaches the other members.

Since the beginning of the year, over 100 women have joined the platform simply because of their want to empower themselves and their communities. While many have received skills trainings or have participated in workshops which provide tools to developing one's self, most of the members participation has been selfless and without compensation. The reward has been simply to see each other grow and to make new connections. The Women's Day celebration took to the time to honor the commitment that those women have made to the platform in order to make it a success.

UNITE AS ONE

This September saw the conclusion of the Unite As One programme, which gives way for the Unite Schools Club. The Club is an after school extra-curricular programme that is an extension of the Unite as One campaign. The aim of the club is to work with Grade 10, 11 and 12 learners to improve leadership skills and develop skills in community activism in order to foster attitudes and actions that reflect respect for all cultures within South African communities.

The Unite Schools Club was developed in order to include learners who had participated in the Unite as One programme in the past, and to provide additional access for students who want to continue to engage in the programme beyond the classroom.

The Club provides a space for learners to participate in discussions, debates, and workshops on issues such as cultural diversity, human rights, and leadership, and encourages learners to think critically about their contribution to their communities, and consider effective ways to enact change. Learners then take responsibility and engage with their school educators to identify key problem areas in their school and discuss viable solutions.

Throughout the term, learners attend various workshops with partner organizations designed to teach them how to use effective activism to make positive contributions to their community, and to think critically about their role in society. Some of our partners this year included Steps, Learn to Earn/MiET Africa, and Street Talk.

On the 6th of November the Club hosted a closing event themed 'Let's Inspire Cultural Diversity', with learners performing music, cultural dances, motivational speeches and poetry that they had created to show each other the different solutions they have found in addressing issues such as racism, bullying, gangsterism and xenophobia.

ADVOCACY

Angolans affected by Cessation face return

Angola, whose border lies about 2000km from Cape Town, underwent brutal wars which ran from 1961 until 2002. These conflicts resulted in thousands of Angolans fleeing southwards into Namibia and South Africa in search of safety and peace. Typically, these Angolans arrived in South Africa in the late 1990s and were granted refugee status accordingly. Here, they started to build lives, careers and families in the country.

In 2002, a peace deal was signed in Angola and reconstruction of basic infrastructure, destroyed by decades of conflict, began. In 2013, the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) announced the cessation of Angolan refugee status as durable democratic and economic developments were considered to have taken place. DHA's announcement followed the 2009 recommendation, by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees', that states announce a cessation of Angolans' refugee status.

Angolan refugees wishing to remain in South Africa were, therefore, obliged to revoke their refugee status. These refugees were not forced back to Angola; they were able to apply to a permit, which provided them with a further two years to remain in South Africa. These permits – work, study, business, retired person or dependent permits - were easy to access as the immigration rules were relaxed. Angolan refugees were able to apply to the Standing Committee for Refugee Affairs to apply for a continuation of refugee status, although very few accessed this option.

The permits provided to former Angolan refugees began to expire in July 2015, with the latest expiring in January 2016. To extend them, the normal immigration rules apply – meaning a host of documentation that the huge majority of Angolans are not able to provide. Requirements such as a Certificate issued by the Department of Labour – are intended for high-skilled migrants planning to come to South Africa to work. As former refugees, affected Angolans are simply unable to satisfy the criteria set down by the regular immigration regulations.

Drawing on data from 131 surveys, the Advocacy Programme completed a report outlining the level of socio-economic integration of Angolans affected by cessation. The report found that respondents were deeply integrated within South Africa, having spent an average of 18 years in the country. In addition to an employment rate of 89%, one in three respondents owned their own businesses, many of which created employment for others. The report recommended that DHA allow the immigration rules to be relaxed in order to allow affected Angolans to extend their permits. A documentary was also created by the Advocacy Programme to further explore the impact of the cessation on Cape Town's Angolan refugees.

Following the submission of the report and documentary to DHA, a meeting was hosted between the two parties. However, DHA was not moved to relax the immigration regulations placed on affected Angolans. The Advocacy Programme continues to communicate with Home Affairs around finding ways to allow affected Angolans to remain in South Africa legally. However, the majority of these Angolans' permits have now expired. Unable to extend these permits, affected Angolans are forced to leave South Africa, or run a risk of remaining illegally in a country they consider home.

WELCOME NEW STAFF

Ever-merry Chipise – Assistant Employment Access Programme Manager

Ever-merry Chipise was born in Zimbabwe. She is a graduate of the University of KwaZulu -Natal with a Masters in Counselling Psychology. She served as the Vice President for the Golden Key Pietermaritzburg Chapter in 2013. She went on to work as an Intern Counselling Psychologist at the Rhodes University Counselling Centre in 2015. Through her studies and practical experience, one of the areas in her field that she developed a passion for was that of career assessment and development. This passion together with the desire of working in a non-profit organisation saw her join Scalabrini Employment Access Programme as a Volunteer Intern at the Employment Help Desk in July 2015. Ever-merry then joined the EAP staff as the Assistant Employment Access Programme Manager and she is enthusiastic about the opportunity to work with people from diverse backgrounds.



Sam Bath - Assistant English School Manager

Samantha was born in Pietermaritsburg and grew up in Cape Town before attending university in Stellenbosch. Studying politics, she became part of an outspoken group of students on campus who raised some of the issues faced by first generation students in integrating into campus life. University management responded by creating the Unit for Multiculturalism and Diversity, for which she then worked for 2 years. After 6 years in Stellenbosch, believing it was time to spread her wings a bit, Samantha moved to Korea to be an English teacher in public elementary schools for four years. Upon returning home to Cape Town, she started volunteering at the Scalabrini Center as an English teacher, where she now works as the Assistant Manager of the English school, organizing the English Alive co-curricular program.



WELCOME NEW INTERNS

Anthony Phillips – Employment Access Programme



Anthony was born and raised just outside of Boston, in the United States. This is his first experience living outside of the U.S. He is studying history at university, and plans to pursue a graduate degree in education and then teach at the high school and university level. Anthony also wants to take part in public school curriculum reform, and improve the way we teach each other. At home, he is involved in community and national politics, and has founded a community group that serves as a discussion/learning space for political, social, environmental and economic issues as well as provides clean up services to local playgrounds and parks. He has also recently become obsessed with music, and is teaching himself guitar, bass guitar and keyboard. He hopes to put out a full set of original music within the next few years. After university Anthony would love to teach English in South America, or in Africa. Above all he hopes to share and create many positive experiences for people all over the world.

Chiara di Giulio – English School



Chiara was born in Paris, to a Dutch mother and an Italian father. She lived there for 7 years before moving to Brussels, where she finished high school at the European School, a school created for the children of those who work at the European Institutions, in which they could have classes in their mother tongue. The school was bilingual, so for her French and English. When she finished high school, Chiara moved to The Hague in the Netherlands to study at the Honours University College of Leiden, where she graduated in International Law this June. She wrote her thesis on the problem Europe is facing with regards to immigration, and focused on European and International Refugee Law. Before going on to her Masters, Chiara wanted to gain some practical experience, which is why she applied for an intern position at Scalabrini. She loves photography and travelling.

Maria Becker - Advocacy



Maria is studying Development and International Relations at the Aalborg University in Denmark. Before starting her internship with the Scalabrini Centre she researched refugee and asylum regulations in Europe and joined the Asylumforum in Aalborg to learn more about it. This motivated her to complete an internship with the Scalabrini Centre in order to learn more about the asylum system in general. Being part of the Advocacy team allows her to meet people from different backgrounds and with different needs, helping people out who need assistance with their refugee and asylum seeking permits and assisting them with many other issues they are facing as well. Maria is really enjoying her time here at the Scalabrini Centre and cannot wait for more to come.

Nick Ngoyi – Human Rights Club



Nick is from Congo DRC where he was working as a Lawyer (trainee) for 5 years after obtaining his degree in Law at the University of Lubumbashi (UNILU) in 2002 in Katanga Province. He relocated to South Africa in the end of 2007 and worked as a Debriefing Supervisor at Restaurant & Hotel Liquor Distributors for the last 7 years. Nick is very happy and excited to be the first Human Rights Intern at Scalabrini.

Kaitlyn Elliot – All-Rounder



Katie was born and raised in Connecticut, on the east coast of the U.S. She is currently in her fourth year at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts and is studying Human Services with a focus on Child and Family Services, minoring in American Sign Language and Social Entrepreneurship. In the past she has worked at an organization outside of Boston that helps young adults and adults with disabilities to learn life and social skills and find jobs in the community. She taught a class of young adults and helped as a job coach. She has become a strong advocate for people with disabilities and has worked at a summer camp for children with disabilities. In the states she also volunteers at various organizations in the community. Katie loves getting involved in the community, being active, and trying new things, which is how she ended up here at Scalabrini.



Martin Pedersen – Employment Access Programme

Martin is from Denmark and grew up just outside of Copenhagen. He is 25 years old and is currently doing his masters in Global Refugee Studies at AAU-CPH, and has a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology. Martin enjoys running and hiking as well as reading, and usually reads a book a week. His reasons for coming to SA are that he wanted to explore and experience an asylum regime outside of Europe. So far he has seen elements that he feels could be implemented in a European setting with beneficial effects, but also elements where the actual implementation of legislation is not working properly.



Nele Sembdner – All-Rounder

Nele was born and raised in Germany and is currently pursuing a master degree in Global Refugee Studies in Copenhagen, Denmark. She has a great interest in the field of migration. So far, her studies have given her a great deal of theoretical input, but she also gained practical experience by assisting migrants with all kind of problems they are facing within their new environment. Nele is especially interested in the political aspects of migration, and looks forward to now learn about the situation of migrants in South Africa, and to share her experiences and make new ones.



Seline Egger – Employment Access Programme

Seline is 23, from Zurich, Switzerland and will be in Cape Town until February 2016. She has a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Modern History from the University of Zurich, and is taking a break to gain practical experience before undertaking her Masters. She is very interested in Refugee Studies and wants to experience an asylum regime outside of Europe. She also took two very interesting classes in South African History, which is why she applied for the internship at Scalabrini. Seline believes that gaining insight to the work of an NGO like Scalabrini Centre will be a valuable and great experience.

GUEST HOUSE

We are very happy to introduce two new additions to our guest house team!



Jean Luc Mukola

Jean-Luc Mukola, from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) joined the Scalabrini Guest House Team at the beginning of November as a daytime guest house assistant. Jean-Luc enjoys interacting with people from different backgrounds and cultures. He is hoping to meet new people from all over the world and would like to one day explore more of South Africa.



Franck Adou

Franck Adou also joined the Scalabrini Guest House team at the start of November. He works mainly night shifts and on weekends. Franck was born in Brazzaville and lived in Congo DRC from 1997 during the war in Congo Brazzaville and then came to South Africa in 2005. Franck is also a volunteer teacher with Scalabrini's English School. He has experience working in the hospitality industry and is always happy to share his experiences with our guests.

Our new Guest House team invite you all to come and enjoy a stay at the Scalabrini Guest House!

Whatever brings you to the Mother City, the Scalabrini Guesthouse is the place to stay! Our guest house is situated in a calm street in the Central Business District of Cape Town, with city hot spots, cafes, bars and restaurants within easy walking distance. Offering 10 en-suite guest rooms, a spacious and friendly communal kitchen and lounge as well as a team that is always ready to assist guests with whatever they may need, the Scalabrini Guest House is the place to stay in the heart of Cape Town!