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Every refugee is an exile by Sisonke Msimang

To mark World Refugee Day (20 June), PEN centres around the world are publishing articles highlighting the experience of writers in exile. PEN SA board member Sisonke Msimang contributed a beautiful piece titled, *Every Refugee is an Exile*.

"Refugee was someone else's word; a term used by the United Nations and by bureaucrats who needed to tick boxes," Msimang writes. "Refugee was a word hurled at us by the rare person who wanted to insult us. We never called ourselves by this name. Instead, we described ourselves as freedom fighters."

Read more.



Post-election: online hate speech on the rise in SA

According to a recent report by PeaceTech Lab – a Washington D.C.-based non-profit working to reduce violent conflict using technology, media, and data - and Media Monitoring Africa, there has been an increase of 170% in the volume of hateful social media posts since South Africa held its general elections on 8 May.

The two organisations joined forces to monitor, analyse and report on hateful language trends - both online and offline - throughout the election season in an effort to offer insights on the potential relationship between this type of language and instances of violence seen in municipalities throughout the country.

The sixth and final report, which was released on Friday, 28 June contains some concerning facts and figures.

Read more.

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PEN SA announces Academic Membership

PEN SA is pleased to announce the addition of a new membership category for published academics.

To qualify for Academic Membership, applicants are required to have a record of publications accessible to an audience beyond the academe coupled with a record of publicly disseminated research findings (e.g. by means of newspaper articles, media interviews and commentaries, general fulfilment of the role of a public intellectual).

[Read more.](#)

MEMBERS' NEW TITLES



New and upcoming releases from PEN

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

NEW! [Pitch your book for publication with Jacana Media](#)
(Deadline 26 July)

[Call for applications: Goethe Institut Writer's residency in Burkina Faso](#) (Deadline 7 July)

[The Bare Life Review requests submissions from immigrant and refugee authors](#)

[Calling all Young Playwrights: Young Stars Project Offers Exceptional Opportunity](#) (Deadline 15 July)

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Please send us your new releases
to newslettereditor@pensouthafrica.co.za.

WELCOME

Welcome to new PEN SA professional member, Stuart Payne.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Refer to our July literary events calendar for information on literary festivals, book launches, panel discussions and poetry readings – available [here](#).

Please submit your literary events for inclusion on our events calendar by e-mailing newslettereditor@pensouthafrica.co.za.

[Sesotho](#) (Deadline 31 July)

[Apply for the Logan Nonfiction Program](#) (Deadline 15 October)

[Click here to view all calls for submissions](#)

MEMBERS' NEWS

Warmest congratulations to the following PEN SA professional members whose poems have been longlisted for the *2019 Sol Plaatje European Union Poetry Award & Anthology*: **Jayne Bauling, Christine Coates, Dawn Garisch and Frank Meintjies**.

Warmest congratulations to PEN SA professional member, **Terry Kurgan** whose recently published book, *Everyone is Present* has been shortlisted for the Photo-Text Book Prize at the 2019 Arles Les Rencontres de la photographie.

Send us your news

Had a book published recently? Attended or participated in a festival? Won an award? Achieved a personal milestone of note? We welcome any news of your activities for future issues of the PEN SA newsletter. Please let us know if your email changes so we can update our mailing list.

Please email your contributions
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