

WOMEN IN HOUSING SYMPOSIUM

From Empowerment to Impact:
Women Transforming
Housing Systems

Leading Change, Shaping Futures
18-21 August 2026



acuho-i-sac
Making Campus Home



UNIVERSITY OF
MPUMALANGA

Creating Opportunities





TABLE OF CONTENTS

A word of Welcome	03
Symposium Overview	04
Symposium Participation	05
Symposium Registration	09
Contact us	10



A WORD OF WELCOME FROM OUR PRESIDENT



ACUHO-I SAC warmly invites you to the 2026 Women in Housing Symposium – the premier gathering of women working across all spheres of student housing and residence life in Southern Africa. The WiHS serves as a vibrant platform for engagement, reflection, professional development, and collective action.

Held under the banner “From Empowerment to Impact: Women transforming Housing Systems,” the 2026 symposium will take place from 18–21 August 2026 in Mbombela, South Africa.

The WiHS celebrates the strength, insight, and resilience of women who shape student housing environments and influence student success. Whether you are involved in operations, student engagement, academic support, residence management, or policy—this is your space.

The WiHS offers opportunities for formal and informal exchanges, mentorship, and the sharing of ideas. Every year, the WiHS is a moment of movement-building where women in housing inspire each other, amplify their impact, and build new pathways for change.

We look forward to welcoming you to Mbombela in August. Register today, invite a colleague, and let’s lead change and shape futures together.



Warm regards,
Jay Pillay (Mrs.)
President: ACUHO-I SAC

acuho-i-sac
Making Campus Home

SYMPOSIUM OVERVIEW

Since its inception, the ACUHO-I-SAC Women in Housing Symposium is a space designed to inspire, empower, and connect women working in all spheres of student housing and residence life. It is a dynamic gathering of women and allies across the student housing profession who are passionate about leadership, inclusion, and creating meaningful impact. Whether you're an emerging leader or a seasoned professional, the WiHS offers a powerful opportunity to share stories, spark ideas, and strengthen the voices shaping the future of student housing.

Join us for an empowering symposium dedicated to celebrating women working across every sphere of student housing and residence life. Together, we will explore themes of resilient leadership, career growth, risk, identity, wellness and innovation. By doing so, we'll lead change and shape the future of student living through our collective strength.

WiHS is designed for women professionals who, in their daily working life advance student success in higher education.

Under the theme: From Empowerment to Impact: Women Transforming Housing Systems, this symposium will be a time for reflection, growth and networking.



SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPATION

Under the tagline “She Grows, She Glows: Leading Change, Shaping Futures,” the 2026 Women in Housing Symposium invites scholars, practitioners, student housing professionals, and higher education leaders to explore the transformative journeys of women in student housing and higher education.

This year’s symposium recognizes the power of growth, resilience, and becoming. It reflects the understanding that when women are nurtured within safe, inclusive, and empowering environments, they are able to lead with confidence, shape communities, and influence systems.

Building on previous conversations around leadership, advocacy, innovation, and legacy, the symposium aims to create a space for critical dialogue, storytelling, collaboration, and reflection on how women continue to grow personally and professionally while illuminating pathways for others to thrive

The 2026 theme reflects a deliberate progression:

From individual empowerment → collective impact

From participation → influence in decision-making systems

From presence in housing spaces → shaping housing systems

The symbolic identity layer “She Grows, She Glows” captures personal and professional transformation, confidence, visibility, and leadership grounded in belonging, support, and purpose.



SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPATION: THEMATIC FOCUS

1. Glowing Through Impact: Influence and Decision-Making
Moving from being present to being influential
2. Sustainable Growth: Wellness and Resilient Leadership
“Rest is leadership”
3. Growing Others: Mentorship, Support, and Legacy
Building leadership pipelines for women
4. Rooted in Place: Inclusive and Transformative Communities
“Space is not divorced from place”
5. Growth Through Disruption: Risk, Failure, and Innovation
Leading change in complex institutions
6. Glowing Together: Collaboration and Collective Power
Ubuntu: “I am because we are”
7. Growing Into Power: Identity, Voice, & Authentic Leadership
“Drop the performance and speak your truth”



SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPATION: CALL FOR PAPERS

*Theme: From Empowerment to Impact:
Women Transforming Housing Systems*

We invite the submission of abstracts for papers, mini-workshops, posters, and presentations to be presented at the 2026 Women in Housing Symposium.

All submissions should align with the conference theme or address one of the identified sub-themes.

Accepted papers, presentations, and mini-workshops will form part of the official conference program and will be scheduled in 30-minute sessions (20-minute presentation and 10-minutes questions).

Authors must indicate what type of equipment they need for their presentation.

All presenters are expected to register as delegates for the conference.

Activity	Date
Abstract Submission Deadline	Jul 22, 2026
Notification of Acceptance	Jul 31, 2026
Submission of Final Presentations/Papers/Posters	Aug 11, 2026
Conference Dates	18–21 August 2026

SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPATION: CALL FOR PAPERS SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Please submit your abstract in MS Word format with the following requirements:

Font: Arial

Font Size: 12

Maximum Length: 200 words

Please state the **title** of the presentation, the **presenter's details** (title, name, surname, position, institution, e-mail address, telephone), the **relevant sub-theme**, and what **form** your presentation will take.

Please remember to state your equipment requirements.

SUBMIT THE ABSTRACT VIA E-MAIL TO: wihs@sun.ac.za

For enquiries please contact:

Lisinda de Jager wihs@sun.ac.za | 021 808 4854



SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION



Theme: From Empowerment to Impact:

Women Transforming Housing Systems

Venue: Tfokomala Hotel & Conference Center,
University of Mpumalanga, Mbombela Campus

Date: 18-21 August 2026

Registration fees:

Members R8 000

Non-members R8 500

Late registration: R8 700

All fees must be paid by 31 July 2026.

All presenters are expected to register as delegates.

Included in the package:

Meals; symposium pack & facilities; promotional items;
excursion & certificate of attendance

Accommodation is **not** included & delegates are responsible
for arranging their own accommodation and travel
arrangements and all shuttle transfers to and from the
venue.

Registration [link](#)

Registration for Women in
Housing Symposium: 18-21 August
2026, Tfokomala Hotel, Mbombela





UNIVERSITY OF
MPUMALANGA

Creating Opportunities



CONTACT US

Bes Liebenberg

ACUHO-I SAC Board Member: Research & Development

University of Pretoria

✉ bes@up.ac.za

📞 082 908 3588

Lisinda de Jager

Programme Coordinator

Stellenbosch University

✉ wihs@sun.ac.za

📞 021 808 4854

Lezal Daniels

WiH Administration Coordinator

Stellenbosch University

✉ wihs@sun.ac.za

📞 021 808 3064

We look forward to welcoming you to the 2026 ACUHO-I SAC Women in Housing Symposium as we collectively explore how women continue to grow, glow, lead, and shape the future of housing systems across higher education.

