

Protecting
And Promoting
Whistleblowing
In South Africa

DEMOCRACY
WORKS
FOUNDATION



INFO PACK

WHISTLEBLOWING
WORKSHOP

UNDERSTANDING AND NAVIGATING
WHISTLEBLOWING IN THE
WORKPLACE

www.democracyworksfoundation.org

Southern Sun Elangeni and
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WHISTLEBLOWING WORKSHOP

Whistleblowing is a critical pillar of accountability, transparency, and ethical practice in workplaces across South Africa.

BACKGROUND

Whistleblowing is a critical pillar of accountability, transparency, and ethical practice in workplaces across South Africa. While the Protected Disclosures Act (PDA) (Act 26 of 2000), its amendment, the PDAA (Act 5 of 2017), and related jurisprudence have been central to discussions on legal protections, much of the national discourse has remained at the level of whether whistleblowers are legally protected, less attention has been given to the practicalities of identifying, supporting, and managing whistleblowing processes within the workplace. Given the inherent role of whistleblowers as employees, who work across sectors, employers and workplace professionals have a pivotal role in how whistleblowing is handled, firstly from disclosure through to resolution, reparation, and potential reintegration. The upcoming South African Whistleblowing Code of Practice (to be published later this year) presents a timely opportunity to prepare workplace actors to align with best practice standards, not only in compliance but in building cultures of trust, ethics and integrity.

This workshop aims to deepen practical understanding of whistleblowing in the South African workplace by focusing on:

- The signs and symbols of a bona fide whistleblower.
- Strategies for addressing malicious or fake whistleblower claims.
- The role of employment law post-disclosure, particularly in securing reparations.
- The future of anonymised whistleblowing processes through unions, anonymising channels, civic tech, and secure IT systems.

OBJECTIVES

The workshop seeks to:

1. Equip HR, training, compliance, and legal professionals with practical frameworks to identify, assess, and manage whistleblower reports effectively.
2. Explore the practical implications of whistleblower disclosures and lived realities.
3. Explore how employment law can be mobilised to provide support and reparations to whistleblowers beyond legal protection measures.
4. Build capacity to detect and address false or malicious claims without undermining genuine whistleblowing efforts.
5. Introduce and evaluate emerging anonymisation technologies and union-based protections that may shape the future of whistleblowing in South Africa.

WHISTLEBLOWING WORKSHOP

EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO PRACTICE

This workshop will be highly interactive. It is not a succession of talking heads or panel discussions. Time is set aside for participant involvement, deliberation and skills application.

This workshop will advance whistleblowing practice in South Africa by:

- Moving beyond theoretical debates about legal protection to operationalising whistleblower support in workplaces.
- Building early detection and authenticity assessment skills among HR, compliance, and legal professionals.
- Preparing organisations for immediate alignment with the forthcoming Code of Practice.
- Encouraging adoption of innovative anonymity mechanisms that protect whistleblowers while safeguarding organisations from abuse.
- Strengthening the trust and legitimacy of workplace whistleblowing systems, contributing to broader national anti-corruption efforts.

TARGET PARTICIPANTS

The workshop will target the following participants:

- HR Managers: for their role in employee relations and policy enforcement.
- Training Managers: to embed whistleblowing awareness into organisational culture.
- Compliance Officers: as custodians of ethical governance.
- Labour Lawyers: for the interpretation and application of labour and disclosure laws in complex cases.

METHODOLOGY

The workshop will be delivered using:

- Expert presentations from legal practitioners, civic tech innovators, and labour relations specialists.
- Case study analysis of South African whistleblowing incidents.
- Group exercises to simulate whistleblowing response procedures.
- Policy review sessions to align organisational processes with the forthcoming Code of Practice.

CONTRIBUTION TO SOUTH AFRICAN WHISTLEBLOWING ECOSYSTEM

By equipping workplace actors with practical skills and future-oriented insights, this workshop will strengthen organisational resilience against misconduct and corruption. It will shift the whistleblowing conversation from protection in principle to effective practice in reality, ensuring whistleblowers are heard, supported, and protected—while maintaining safeguards against abuse of the system. In doing so, it will contribute to a culture of transparency that underpins democratic governance, ethical business practice, and public trust in South Africa's institutions.

WHISTLEBLOWING RESOURCES

Choosing to be a whistleblower is challenging, yet vital in safeguarding integrity and accountability.

Take the first step—learn more about whistleblowing and how you can take action today.

CHOOSE COURAGE. YOUR COURAGE COUNTS!



[National Anti-Corruption
advisory Council](#)



[Corruption Watch: The
Whistleblower's Handbook](#)



[SAHRC Whistleblower
Booklet](#)



[The Whistleblower House
Guidebook](#)

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