THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE BLIND

Jace Nair
CEO/National Executive Director
Who we are:

A network of organisations which collaborate towards securing the full participation and inclusion of blind and partially sighted people in all aspects of a diverse South African society.
CORE BUSINESS AREAS

Fundraising and Public Relations for:

- Accessibility and Advocacy
- Education Support Services
- Eye Care Services
- Skills Development
- Support Services
Education Support Services

This desk advises and supports:

- South Africa's Special Schools
- Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres
- Adult Basic Education Training (ABET) programmes
- and assists the Department of Education in implementing Inclusive Education
- Is assisted by an Education Committee elected by the National Executive Committee
Braille Support Services

Braille support includes:

- Teaching Braille
- Administering Braille examinations
- Advocate for access to Braille
- Support to the partnership Braille Committee
- Braille printing facility available at Council
Different types of accessible formats: braille, DAISY, tape, screen-reading technology, large font
SANCB Right to Read Coalition

- SA National Council for the Blind
- SA Disability Association
- Universities
- Libraries
- Academics
Less than 0.5% published works in South Africa is not in an accessible format.

SANCB Coalition advocated for copyright reform in the SA copyright legislative framework.
Help us cut the chains

Please support a WIPO treaty for print disabled people

World Blind Union
National Legislation and International Instruments

- Constitution of South Africa
- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CHALLENGES

- Copyright Act – no provision for copyright limitations and exceptions for blind, partially sighted and other reading disabled persons
- Electronic Communication Transaction Act – prohibits reverse engineering and TPM
- Intellectual Property Amendment Bill
- Traditional Knowledge Bill
Possible Outcomes

- Adoption of WIPO international treaty
- Amendment of SA Copyright Act
- Harmonization of legislation and policy

- Open and accessible formats
- Cross-border transfer (import and export)
- Digitization for preservation
- Fair use
Effects of the Book Famine

- Functionally Illiterate
- High Unemployment
- Dependency on Social Security
- Violation of Human Rights
INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

- African Union of the Blind (AFUB)
- World Blind Union (WBU) (involved through Dr William Rowland as their president and Jill Wagner as part of the Low vision task team)
- Christoffel Blinden Mission (CBM)
- International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB)
- International Centre for Eye Care Education (ICEE)
- International Council on English Braille (ICEB)
- Hilton Perkins Foundation
- Sight Savers International (SSI)