ERICA RABE — Senior Social Worker | Eco-Social & Socio-Technical Practice | Responsible AI Governance

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Wales, UK & Cape Town, South Africa | Open to Remote / Relocation

SUMMARY

Senior Social Worker with extensive experience across child protection, youth justice, residential care, and community-based services in the UK and South Africa. Practice rooted in eco-social work and socio-technical systems thinking. Developing Ethical Landscapes, exploring AI ethics, children's rights, and climate justice.

EXPERIENCE

Gloucestershire County Council, UK (Hybrid) Jun 2025 – Present

Senior Social Worker

Lead complex safeguarding assessments across Children in Need (CIN), Child Protection (CP), and initial assessments. Completed Section 47 and Child & Family Assessments. Chaired multi-agency meetings, providing evidence-informed analysis.

Bristol City Council, UK Oct 2024 – May 2025

Social Worker

Managed statutory caseload across CIN, CP, and Children in Care (CIC). Responded to urgent safeguarding concerns and supported crisis planning. Delivered direct work supporting emotional wellbeing and safety planning.

Monmouthshire County Council, Wales Aug 2023 – Oct 2024

Social Worker

Managed CIN, CP, and CIC caseloads using systemic practice. Led multi-agency collaboration with police, NGOs, and community partners. Contributed to Public Law Outline proceedings with parenting assessments and safeguarding reports.

Overstrand Child & Youth Care Centre, South Africa Jul 2022 – Aug 2023

Social Worker

Delivered statutory child protection work in line with Children's Act 38 of 2005. Provided therapeutic support to children aged 4–14. Facilitated family reunification and coordinated holiday placements. Built partnerships with community stakeholders. Mentored child and youth care workers, embedding trauma-informed practice.

Department of Social Development, South Africa Jul 2017 – Jul 2020

Probation Officer / Youth Justice Social Worker

Managed a caseload of 200+ youth and adults. Completed diversion and pre-sentence reports weekly in court. Delivered life-skills programmes and family group conferences. Established new service delivery offices and supervised child and youth care workers. Mentored junior staff and interns.
Achievement: Nominated for a Performance Bonus for preventative work reducing youth re-offending.

BADISA, RIET, Child Welfare SA, Dept of Social Development 2011 – 2017

Residential Social Worker

Provided trauma counselling and crisis support. Facilitated victim empowerment programmes. Supported crisis intervention and high-risk decision-making with a calm, relational approach.

EDUCATION

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's Degree (ADVANCES) Aug 2020 – Jun 2022

Advanced Development in Social Work | Grade: A for final thesis

Université Paris Nanterre | University of Lisbon (ISCSP) | Aalborg University | University of Lincoln | University of Warsaw

Selective, multi-country programme focused on international social work, ethics, human rights, power relations, eco-social practice, and critical approaches to global social issues. Developed advanced competencies in participatory research, systemic analysis, and justice-oriented intervention design.

Thesis: Environmental Rights as Children's Rights – The Argument for a More Comprehensive Risk Assessment. A participatory, cross-cultural study examining how environmental harms, structural inequalities, and power relations intersect with child protection. Proposed an eco-social risk assessment model strengthening accountability and recognising environmental rights as fundamental to children's rights.

University of Stellenbosch, South Africa 2007 – 2010
BA Social Work

SOCIAL WORK & THERAPEUTIC TRAINING AND SKILLS

• Trauma-informed, relational practice
• Child Protection (CP), Child in Need (CIN), Children in Care (CIC), Public Law Outline (PLO)
• Crisis intervention & risk management
• Parenting assessments & court work
• Emotional regulation & mindfulness support
• Cross-cultural communication
• Eco-social work and sustainable development approaches
• Systemic practice in statutory and community contexts
• Therapeutic group facilitation, trauma counselling, and mindfulness teaching
• Statutory child protection (Children's Act 38 of 2005, South Africa)
• Program design in line with Sustainable Development Goals

Training: FAMAC Mediation & Applied Law Training | FARANANI Facilitation Skills | UNISA Trauma Counselling & Management | Registered Advanced Children's Mindfulness Teacher (Yoga Alliance International, Africa)

AI & ETHICS TRAINING AND SKILLS

• Responsible AI governance and ethics
• Systems thinking across socio-technical contexts
• AI literacy: model types, environmental impacts, governance frameworks
• Interdisciplinary synthesis: child rights, climate justice, and digital ethics
• Participatory qualitative research approaches: interviewing, transcribing, co-design

Courses & Certifications (2025–2026): AI Academy — LinkedIn Learning Community (Jan 2026) | Ethics of AI — University of Helsinki (Apr 2026) | AI Fluency: Framework & Foundations — Anthropic & University College Cork (May 2026) | EU AI Act Essentials — KI-Campus, Germany (Apr 2026) | Climate Change AI Summer School (Ongoing; expected certification by 20 Aug 2026) | Python Beginner Course — Mosh (Jul 2026)

ETHICAL LANDSCAPES PROJECT

2025 – ongoing | substack.com/@ethicallandscapes

Developing a multi-platform ecosystem integrating writing, research, and systems thinking on AI ethics, children's rights, and climate justice. Combines frontline social work expertise with emerging digital governance challenges to bridge practice and policy.

SELECTED CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributor, Crafting Participatory Tech Futures post-workshop report (2026) — collective imagining and recommendations for participatory digital governance.

Presenter, Environmental Rights as Children's Rights (People's Global Summit, 2022).

Facilitator, Eco-Social Approaches to Child Welfare (Kempe International Conference, 2022).

REFERENCES — AVAILABLE ON REQUEST