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GAY & LESBIAN NETWORK
equality | respect | acceptance
ukulingana | inhlonipho | ukwamukeleka
NPO NO. 028-854 PBO NO. 93000636

GAYZETTE

A Gay & Lesbian Network newsletter

Issue no. 1



Sinothile Mbokazi, 17 PMB Girls High School

Sinothile was on a 2 days work experience at the Gay & Lesbian Network, for her school assignment. Below is an article she wrote after attending one of the workshops for Lgbti's.

On the Outside Looking In: The Recognition of LGBTI Human Rights

Denial of the recognition of human rights for any group of individuals is a denial of their humanity, which thereafter has a profound impact on health.

With that being said, the State should ensure that LGBTI voices are heard during the drafting and decision-making process of the Constitution to prevent the infringement on the rights of the LGBTI community at large; as for the LGBTI people, it may result in discrimination affecting the ability to purchase food, shelter, and gain access to health care. A lack of benefits, -affecting the ability to pay for adequate health care and financial security; and harassment and stress-affecting mental health and /or prompting substance abuse or suicide. If health care organizations take a rights based approach to health provision for LGBTI people by explicitly recognizing their existence and targeting health interventions to their needs, it may alleviate fear of discrimination and discrimination itself; as well as improving health outcomes.

Freedom of Expression is limited for the LGBTI community in respect of print media including artwork, novels, and magazines even films, by arguing that gay relationships are "obscene and against the morality." All

domestic laws should uphold freedom of expression, and media within the state must be able to operate without "censorship or restraint." Freedom of opinion extends to all areas of society, including "discussion of human rights" and "journalism." There is no specific legal stipulation to guarantee freedom of expression on issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity. This can be seen as an infringement on the rights of the LGBTI community as they have no secure protection of the rights they actually share with the heterosexual community. Human rights are the fundamental rights of every human being, regardless of culture or societal norms. Working for the recognition of LGBTI human rights is about ensuring access to health services, but also involves speaking out and acting to ensure the visibility of LGBTI people, understanding LGBTI issues, and being aware of the range of human rights violations that occur. Principles must be codified into policies and laws, both international and local, for LGBTI human rights to be recognized, and prejudices must be challenged so that others treat LGBTI people as human beings deserving of all human rights.



Gay & Lesbian Network



@gaylesbiankzn



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

ANTHONY WALDHAUSEN

This is the first edition newsletter of the Gay & Lesbian Network and there will be more to come.

The Gay & Lesbian Network (GLN) has evolved over the years after starting out in 2003 and been in operation for 11 years now. In reflecting over the years I have witnessed the impact GLN has made in the lives of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex (LGBTI) people who have somehow participated in the many activities of GLN. Be it receiving counselling, being part of a support group, drama, workshops, trainings, gaining skills or just letting their hair down at one of our many social events.

I have seen individuals come and gone and who have developed their wellbeing and self-esteem to making themselves strong against all odds to being true to their being. I have seen some who were experiencing many personal problems and overcoming them. I have seen some LGBTIs who have been unemployed and volunteering at GLN managing to gain skills and then were fortunate to gain employment.

I have seen the development of staff through addressing capacity building who have managed to get some training in areas that they were weak in to see them improve in their work.

I have seen the organisation grow from strength to strength over the times and now looking at taking it to the next level of professionalism, growth and development of a great organisation which aims to go to bigger heights. The commitment shown by all who are part of GLN will make the lives of LGBTIs more promising to enable them to meet their goals and purpose in life and be able to face up all discrimination and hatred. As long as there is a space for LGBTIs to grow and GLN to support them on their journey they will overcome.

We are now working on our new strategies, developed a monitoring and evaluation plan and being more focused in order to face the challenges ahead. The programmes continue to work towards creating an enabling environment, safe spaces and provide an opportunity to develop a LGBTI social movement in the communities where LGBTIs work and play.

We have also received two awards in recognition of human rights from Love to Live (2014) and Special distinction award from the French National Consultative Commission on Human Rights (2012).

We have also identified a new space which we would be able to host more social events which is at Comfort Zone which is situated at the corner of Prince Alfred and Retief Streets. The first event we are going to host is a Spring Ball on the 27 September and

please join us as we celebrate the start of spring.

We also make an appeal to individuals from the communities to support us in all our endeavours and also to make a donation to our cause and to ensure our long-term sustainability. All support would be appreciated.



Anthony Waldhausen and Prof. Gerald West at the Roundtable discussion



Anthony Waldhausen doing it for Mandela Day 2014

PROGRAMMES

THULI MJWARA



The Gay & Lesbian Network has developed into a fully functional NGO that offers a wide range of programmes and services to the LGBTI community. The organisation also works with the broader community to create a more enabling and welcoming environment, in which LGBTI's can access services and be treated with respect and without discrimination or fear of violence. The organisation has two core programme areas: 1) The Enabling Environment programme which focuses on advocating for change that focuses on engaging the key stakeholders at provincial and local levels in education and awareness raising and intervention and 2) Outreach programme which aims to deliver an Outreach program which will result in LGBTI people in the Greater Edendale area being empowered to take ownership of their rights, engage in self-help and self-development activities and accepted by the local community and treated equally. The outreach program includes working with community leaders, other CBOs and service providers to raise awareness of LGBTI issues which in order to improve service provision and improved attitudes towards LGBTI people within their communities. This project would fall under Outreach as it deals with community based youth and aims to empower them and get them to take action against challenges that they face on a daily basis when in a same-sex relationship.

The Creating An Enabling Environment

This programme focuses on advocating for change in a manner of sensitization trainings; addressing homophobia within schools with trainings of Life Orientation educators and addressing homophobic bullying as well as other interventions. This programme is geared to bringing change in the attitudes of gate keepers; our traditional leaders; our ward councillors and religious leaders to bring about a shift of attitude through education and raising awareness about LGBTI dynamics and concerns. The objective of the programme . GLN's Strategic Objective 1. Is that "by 2017 Key stakeholders working in uMgungundlovu area have been made aware of LGBTI rights and issues and are responding appropriately to LGBTI needs." This programme contributes to this vision by the following objectives:

- **Objective 1:** To sensitize stakeholders: Department of Health staff, National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) staff , South African Police Service (SAPS) staff, Department of Education (DOE) staff , religious sector/ FBOs, ward councillors, CBOs and community leaders, through the gender and sexuality manual in order to address health and LGBTI issues. GLN is also working with the Commission of Gender Equality, in collecting complaints from the LGBTI within the community and these being investigated further for legal intervention.

- **Objective 2:** To increase awareness of LGBTI rights and

health care needs within the LGBTI community. GLN works in partnership with ICAP Mosaic Men's; Health programme, whereby outreach is conducted targeting men who engage in sexual activity with men. One-on-one consultation is conducted and distribution of barrier methods as well. Persons are encouraged to come into the office for HCT testing and subscribe to Health Smart. Health Smart sends smses to subscribers about healthy lifestyles.

- **Objective 3:** To contribute to the awareness of hate crimes in South Africa. This is done through the capturing and monitoring of hate crime incidents. We also are currently in the midst of training the South African Police services that are based within the community. An ongoing awareness campaign consists of human and legal rights workshops; Law clinic workshops with the Commission of Gender Equality and community- based dialogues; workshops and working with community policing forums.

- **Objective 4:** To strengthen the communications and media work of Gay & Lesbian Network by engaging the broader public on advocacy issues and raising GLN's profile, primarily through communication tools, media and events. GLN is currently embarking on the documentation of LGBTI stories. Here we are hoping to capture; published and given the power to reclaim their spaces that they lost through societal violence and intolerance.

- **Objective 1A:** To challenge homophobic behaviour in the schooling structures by providing LO educators, school management and learners with sufficient knowledge on prejudice, discrimination, stereotypes and behaviours within the school environment. The school's project is working to achieving this by the use of forum theatre. Currently we have reached over 120 students and are ongoing as it is ongoing.

- **Objective 2A:** To develop sustainable support through resources, support structures
GLN embarks on using a multi-sectorial approach of intervention within communities. The Creating an Enabling Environment programme works on stakeholders and key role players and the Outreach programme uses a bottom up approach whereby its focused at the community level.

ADVERT

OUT & ABOUT

EVENTS

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

16th & 17th August
Royal Imperial Hotel



Prof. Gerald West (UKZN) participating fully in the discussion



From left: Sipehelele Ntshiba; Thuli Mjwara; Londeka Ngubane; Noxolo Nxumalo; Anthony Waldhausen; Zama Khanyile; Londeka Xulu.



Dr Xolani Sakuba presenting on African tradition regarding homosexuality



Imam Ludovic-Mohamed Zahed: Alternative Queer Muslim Identities



Lindiwe Mkasi providing a traditional healers perspective

OUT & ABOUT

PHOTOS



Pierre Buckley & Thuli Mjwara at Umtata for Gender & Sexuality training.

The Gay & Lesbian Network's School Project



from left to right: Back row: Sonwabile Ngongo, Clinton Small, Londeka Ngubane, Doctor Dladla, Cindy Ngcobo, Minenhle Nhleko and Marc Kay. Front row: Thomie Holtzhausen, Spehele Ntshiba and Sabelo Thobelo.



Siduduzo Mncube Media & Communications officer at GLN



Sboniso, educator at Bongudunga High School attending a Gender & Sexuality workshop



African queer media makers network training from left: Jabu Periera(JHB); Tshelang Maganedisa(PTA); Onnie(Botswana); Brandon (Botswana); Betesta(Botswana); Siduduzo(PMB)

This proposed schools-based project in the area of 'Homophobia, Hate Crime and Bullying' constitute a follow-up project to the 2010 and 2011 research studies commissioned by the GLN which explored the incidence of hate crime and homophobia in Pietermaritzburg and Pietermaritzburg schools respectively. It is also a response to the training needs identified by the Life Orientation (LO) educators. The aims of the Project in respect of educators is to provide LO educators with an opportunity to examine own thoughts and feelings relating to prejudice, discrimination, stereotypes and behaviours; to provide information to LO educators about hate crimes, homophobia, sexuality, bullying and peer pressure at schools and develop resources and support structures in schools.

Forum Theatre creates a dialogue between the audience and the actor; it also disseminates messages and challenges prejudices. It enables the audience to think critically about issue/issues but also empowers and challenges them to try and solve the problems that they



NEWS



face.

The Forum Theatre is performed by the GLN's theatre company, the Rainbow Theatre Company. The theatre company was an initiative of volunteers who set up the theatre company in November 2010 and was adopted by the Network as a creative strategy of using theatre to creating awareness of LGBTI issues in communities.

Anthony Waldhausen, director of the Gay & Lesbian Network said “

The responses from the learners to questions about bullying was encouraging. I found the performance entertaining but also educational all at the sometime and we are looking forward to working with Life Orientation educators and learners to addressing bullying in the schools”.

The theatre training was funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada through the Capacity Building Technical Assistance Fund (CBTAF).

The Schools Project is funded by the Embassy of Finland.

GLN launches a new project: Sexual & Reproductive Health Rights

The realization of Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) in marginalized communities is the new project for the Gay & Lesbian Network.

The SRHR project will focus on identifying pertinent issues that exist in the targeted community when it comes to SRHRs. The National Strategic Plan (NSP); the National Health Insurance (NHI); Section 27 of our Constitution; Medical Male Circumcision (MMC); Gender and Sexuality; HIV/Aids; access to health resources and information. . The SRHR project has a number of partner organisations that also assist with the rolling out of various aspects of the project implementation. This vast partnership is due to the relationship that they all share with AFSA.

In the SRHR project, we have Pierre Buckley as Champion of the project, and is employed by GLN as Project Coordinator. Many of you will know Pierre as being Mr PMB 2013 and a Mr Gay SA 2014 Top 10 finalist. He did us very proud in the competition as he came back with the Mr Congeniality title. Pierre leads a team of four field workers who work and live in the

The sudden passing of Nkululeko “Leko”Mkhize.

He was laid to rest on the 6th September. Leko was a big part of the Gay & Lesbian Network as he was one of the Peer Outreach Workers for the ICAP project. He was also a 4th year Dietetics student at UKZN-PMB.

Many LGBTI's were at the funeral to bid farewell to a fellow activist, classmate, friend, lover and a friend. UKZN held a memorial service for the late Leko on the 18th September.

He will be dearly missed by all of us. May his soul rest in Peace.

target areas for the SRHR project. . The SRHR team will work closely with relevant community based organisation and forums to expand our reach.

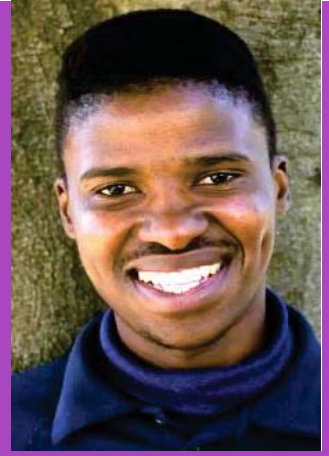
The SRHR project is funded by the Aids Foundation of South Africa(AFSA).



Pierre Buckley facilitating one of the workshops at Lay Ecumenical Centre in Edendale.

EVENTS

Siduduzo Mncube



LETTER TO THE EDITOR From Thuli Mjwara

Oh my dearest!! Having one of those outrageously fabulous years that one quickly forgets the New Year's resolutions characterized of a robust fitness plan; more week ends dedicated to relaxing and of cause more ME time!! Once the wheel of work starts churning, all that just remains to be a careless whisper of a teen love during spring break!! It's amazing to think that we are now celebrating twenty years of LGBTIQ rights! 2014 has proven to be a challenging year, yet despite the gruesome murder of Gift Makua and the roller-coaster ride of the Ugandan government, this year has proven that being an activist is rooted deep within every person and the life of a true activist does not end at 4:30 yet is fluid.

Who Am I you ask, my name is Thuli Mjwara, a vivacious blooming activist who is the programmes manager at the Gay and Lesbian Network. The Network has triumphantly hosted two very successful Gender; Sexuality and Religion Round table events that not only stimulated controversial discussions around sexuality and religious scriptures but the ambiguous relationship of homophobes in using the scriptures and “the west” as motivation to discriminate LGBTIQ within our society. Travelling as far as eNquthu to capture and document umemulo kaComfort; the celebration of victory was sweet on our lips after we received feedback that the dialogues between the group of hate crime perpetrators within one of our communities had converted them to become shields of the same persons they use to belittle; assault and even rape.

This goes to show that, as Tata Nelson Mandela said, “Just as we have learnt to hate surely we can learn to love”. A great thank you to the GLN team- Londeka Xulu (Outreach Coordinator who is ever so driven by passion and the thirst for the equality of LGBTIQ within

communities); Siduduzo Mncube -Media and Communications officer (who often when not editing; cutting or ordering I.T equipments remains to be a ball of sunshine that illuminates the GLN office); Nompilo Ncayiya (the Creating An Enabling Environment coordinator); Zama Khanyile (our administrator who I have boxed as “Questioning” as she is always asking questions around LGBTIQ); Tasneem Khan- Our bookkeeper with an eye for detail and a heart of a rainbow; our new baby on the block (formerly Mr PMB) Pierre Buckley and of cause, the one man that followed his heart to making an active difference to all LGBTI's –Anthony “Mahlathi” Waldhausen. The Network would never be a network without the hard work and support of all our volunteers (I could never mention all of you as I'm limited by word count-Yikes!!); stakeholders; board and donors. As I leave you, A blessed year to all- and “be the change that you want to see (Mahatma Gandhi).

SPRING BALL 2014
A 60'S, 70'S, 80'S & 90'S THEME PARTY

VENUE: COMFORT ZONE PUB
(Cnr Prince Alfred & Retief Str)

DATE: 27 SEPTEMBER

TIME: 7pm
Live music by:
STRAIGHT UP
(Marcel Raman & Friends)

R50 TICKET
includes three raffle draws

CASH BAR WILL BE AVAILABLE


GAY & LESBIAN NETWORK
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CLASSIFIEDS

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www.gaylesbiankzn.org



email adverts to: advocacy@gaylesbiankzn.org

NOTICE

GLN is in search of new office space. Preferably a house set-up but suitable for office use. If you know of any houses that we could possibly look at, contact us

Tel: 033 342 6165
email: info@gaylesbiankzn.org

The Gay & Lesbian Network welcomes back **Pierre Buckley 27**, who is no stranger to the organisation.

He is Mr Gay PMB 2013 and Mr GSA Top 10 finalist. Pierre has served on the Executive Board of GLN from May 2013 to July 2014. He holds a Vocal Training qualification, a Public Relations Diploma and is currently completing his Bachelor of Arts in Politics and Communication Science. He brings with him a friendly, hardworking and respectful approach to better achieve the project's objectives.



We welcome Pierre with open arms to our family and are certain that he will represent us well as **Project Coordinator**. You can e-mail him at health@gaylesbiankzn.org or tweet @BuckleyPierre



GAY & LESBIAN NETWORK

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NPO NO: 024-854 FBO NO: 93000433

HELPLINE

- Face to face counselling
- Online/telephone counselling
 - Trauma counselling
- Hiv/Aids counselling and testing

MON-FRI 9am-4pm
Tel: 0860 333331/ 033 342 6500

e-mail: counselling@gaylesbiankzn.org
or
SMS "Help" to 079 891 3037

HALLOWEEN PARTY

R50
Gets you in

25 OCTOBER 2014
COMFORT ZONE PUB
7:30PM

Incl. Best costume contest
Cash bar available

