

January 2020
Volume 21

Pan Africa ILGA



Newsletter

LGBTIQ+ News from Africa

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Conference Update

5TH REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2020

5th Regional Conference 2020
27th of July 2020 – 31st of July 2020

ACCRA, GHANA

ONLINE REGISTRATION FORMS

DEADLINE for submissions FRIDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2020

- [2020 Pan Africa ILGA 5th Regional Conference Scholarship Application](#)
- [5ème Conférence régionale de Pan Africa ILGA 2020 Demande de bourse](#)
- [2020 Pan Africa ILGA المؤتمر الاقليمي الخامس](#)
- [2020 Pan Africa ILGA Mkutano wa 5 wa Mkoa Maombi ya Scholarship](#)

Pan Africa ILGA



Joint Advocacy Training – Bangkok



Pan Africa ILGA alongside ILGA Asia hosted a Joint Advocacy and Safety & Security Training in Bangkok Thailand. The participants constituted of delegates from member organizations from both the African and Asian regions. Fruitful engagements occurred from the participants with cross cultural dialogues taking place as well as the generous sharing of strategies from activists hailing from South Africa, Egypt, Sudan, Zambia and Uganda. From Asia, the participants brought knowledge of organizing in different countries with variant statuses ranging from

protection of LGBTIQ+ rights to the decriminalization of LGBTIQ+ rights. In the Asian regions, member organizations from Pakistan, India, Lebanon, China, Malaysia, Thailand and Nepal were present.



The Agenda for the week focused on Advocacy priorities and strategies, exploring self and collective care as part of holistic security, security as a community issue and consensus on priorities. The facilitators of the sessions were intentional about ensuring the physical and mental wellness of staff and participants present thus meditation, energy refreshers and other exercises rooted in yoga and tai chi were practiced by the group intermittently.

The objectives of the sessions were to share context and analysis that would inform advocacy priorities for activists and organizing across regions

- Identifying the common and unique areas for activists within and across regions
- Drawing out and mapping threats when LGBTIQ+ HRDs engage in advocate and lessons learnt around response and collective strategizing
- Strategizing around security as a community issues and building security practices from the ground
- Exploring purposeful communication and networking across regions in support of advocacy and security efforts.



The group was able to identify common issues and shared advocacy priorities that are able to support advancement of rights of queer persons from both groups. This included the manner in which organizations engaged with the judiciary, police and in some instances, the clergy and traditional leaders in order to educate and facilitate the process of unlearning hate and prejudice against the LGBTIQ+ community. The group also identified tactics which are prioritized in organizing namely:



- Community strengthening
- Building Coalitions
- Network and collaborative actions
- Sensitization of the media and lawyers
- Advancing an intersectional agenda that goes beyond sexual orientation and considers factors such as class, race, caste

The Foreign Conservatism Threat in Africa



Figure 1 Daily Maverick

The effect of American conservatism and evangelicalism has infiltrated Africa and subsequently had a negative impact on NGOs and organizing. In a recent article by the Daily Maverick, it is reported that a “pro-

life” gathering was held in Kenya where conservatives from the U.S expressed support for anti-LGBTIQ+ persons, anti- abortion and family friendly spaces. This gathering represents the concerning uprising of sentiments which challenge the work of African Human Rights Defenders as well as the funding received to sustain NGOs. There has been an alliance of conservatives throughout the African continent that are lobbying for the regression of gender equality and LGBTIQ+ rights as they call for male headed households, making abortions illegal and rendering the roles of womxn to motherhood only. These groups are also challenging the introduction of Comprehensive Sex Education in schools, having succeeded in Ghana and Nigeria.

A representative of Christian Voices UK states that African Governments should circumvent funds from organizations such as Open Society Foundation. This is due to the fear of the queer community and womxn having the ability to champion their causes with the assistance of international funders. ACCORD reports that journalist, activists and CSOs who raise concerns about the actions of government and call for transparency and accountability are working in environments riddled with threats, violence and silencing. In 2018, the CIVICUS Monitor tool illustrated that half of the closed CSOs around the world are located in Africa. These are mostly in DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Burundi, Sudan and South Sudan.

Where is the Justice for Nare?



Figure 2 Oupa Nkosi

On the 8th of January, the LGBTIQ+ met the news of Nare’s passing with shock and disbelief. Nare Mphela was a darling to many, having been a transgender activist from a young age. This followed the discrimination she faced at school with the principal discriminating against her due to her gender

identity. The teacher revelled in humiliating Nare, misgendering her and encouraging her class mates to call her gay and accost her in the bathrooms to determine her genitalia. In 2014 she took the Department of Basic Education to court for the suffering she had experienced. Her case is considered to be landmark case in South African Law which would ensure the protection of transgender children in school.

The queer community mourns the loss of a remarkably strong womxn who lived her life fiercely and openly even in moments when it was difficult to do so. She was killed in her home and the police had since taken her boyfriend in for questioning all though no arrests have been made. In a beautiful send off, surrounded by activists, the church she was a devout to as well as grieving family members, Nare was remembered as



Figure 3 Oupa Nkosi

both a child of a family but also as an activist who was “out” in a province that is still largely traditional and conservative.

The Pan Africa Team expresses our heartfelt condolences not only to Nare’s family and chosen family but to the larger LGBTIQ+ community.

“We have the right to live our lives how we see fit.”





Women's March Lusaka

A group of a hundred people marched through Lusaka earlier this month. In a March which championed for LGBT and womxn's rights. The march in particular was intended to centre minorities such as sex workers, refugees womxn and womxn living with disabilities. The march was also a move by Zambian activists to join

global womxn's marches which were a call to end violence against womxn. Zambia, like many African countries, has sexism entrenched in both culture and institutions. This is evident in laws which are prejudiced to womxn and also cultural teachings which perpetuate sexist notions of what womanhood is. There are still issues which challenge the safety of womxn in Zambia such as child marriages, child reared households, poverty which affects sanitary rights, access to healthcare and contraceptives. There are also the material threats of kidnapping and gender based violence accelerated by moral beliefs informed by sexism thus womxn face being stripped and beaten if dressed in a manner deemed to be offensive. The sexist ideals have an effect on the lives of queer and transwomxn as their lives do not follow the trajectory expected from respectable Zambian girls. In the non-performance of heterosexuality and gender non-conformity, queer womxn are also at risk of being assaulted, ostracised and financially punished for the gender identity or sexual orientation. According to reports by Global Citizen, The 2018 UN Gender Equality Index, which measures women's rights and empowerment, ranked Zambia 131 out of 162 countries. Women's representation in politics is lower than men's. Women hold 18% of all parliamentary seats. When



it comes to access to education, only 39.2% of women have secondary school education compared to 52.4% of men.

The womxn in Zambia came up with 7 points to be addressed by the Zambian Government, namely the following:

- Call for an end of period poverty by requesting that pads are tax free
- More significant action against rape and rape culture
- Inclusive Education
- Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights
- Healthcare for all Women
- Worker’s Rights
- Disabled women’s rights

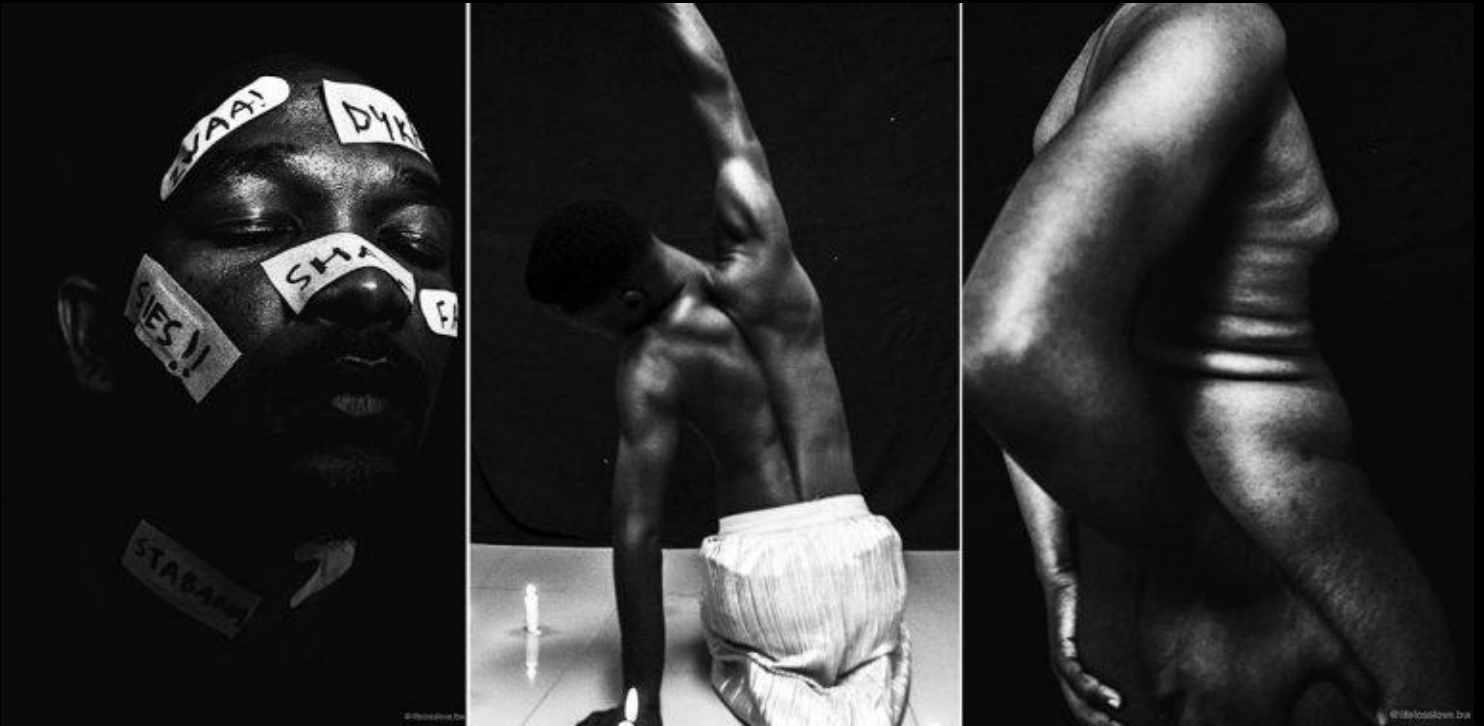
This was the second segment of the march following the first one which was a success.



(Images courtesy of Global Citizen)

Life . Loss. Love

An exhibition by Bradley Fortuin and Lame Dilotsotlhe



The exhibition is the brainchild of Bradley Fortuin and was photographed by Lame Dilotsotlhe. This exhibition attempts to capture queer life in Botswana. “The project was something that I have been thinking about since 2018. And I eventually drafted a concept. I also looked for funding for it and got funding from The Other Foundation to kick start it,” said Fortuin. Discussing the thoughts process around the captured images, Dilotsotlhe told Mamba Online the following , “capture the true essence of diverse individuals from the LGBTIQ+ community in Botswana in their most vulnerable, purest form in an effort to create a conversation around issues of gender, sexuality, identity and religion.”

The exhibition is available on [Instagram](#).

News from Africa

Mauritania

Police in Mauritania have arrested 10 gay men as they mistook a birthday party for a wedding. The upon seeing a video of a birthday party that focused on a gay couple. The police have nonetheless remanded the men in custody as homosexuality is considered a capital offence although no person has been executed for the crime of homosexuality in the last ten years. There was a public uproar due to the circulating video, with people calling on the arrest of the party goers as homosexuality is allegedly on the rise in the nation.

Uganda

Human Rights Defenders in Uganda have assigned the 26th of January as the Kuchu Memorial day which will be used to commemorate the life of David Kato as well as other LGBTIQ+ Human Rights Defenders who were killed due to their activism and sexuality. Kato was killed after legally challenging Ugandan tabloids that had published the names, photographs and addresses of queer Ugandans accompanied by a caption "Hang Them."



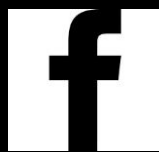
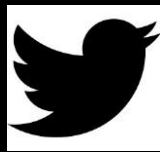
Cameroon

The Cameroonian Foundation for AIDS has set up a shelter for at risk LGBTIQ+ persons in Yaounde. This follows after their initial shelter was shut down in November as the landlord wanted to lease to new tenants. The organization has since managed to secure funding from the Swiss which allows for a full house to be rented for the benefit of displaced LGBTIQ+.

General News

- U.S. university in Qatar cancels Lebanese band talk after anti-gay backlash
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-qatar-society/us-university-in-qatar-cancels-lebanese-band-talk-after-anti-gay-backlash-idUSKBN1ZX1UY>
- First Openly Gay Federal Judge Dies in New York
<https://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2020/02/03/us/ap-us-obit-batts.html>
- Gay community targeted and cut off from healthcare in Tanzania
<https://www.news24.com/Africa/News/gay-community-targeted-and-cut-off-from-healthcare-in-tanzania-20200203>
- New chat and counselling mobile app for LGBTIQ+ Nigerians
<https://76crimes.com/2020/02/03/new-chat-and-counseling-mobile-app-for-lgbtq-nigerians/>

We'd love to hear from your country!
Send in news from your organisation or
country: [**admin@panafricailga.org**](mailto:admin@panafricailga.org)



For enquiries and any news you want to share with us for our newsletter: admin@panafricailga.org

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Become a Member

As a member organisation of PAI, your organisation would benefit from news we share via email about:

- calls for papers, local and international conference invites, announcements from donors and other opportunities we share with you;
- capacity-building programmes and training;
- the opportunity to create a network with other organisations across the African continent in order for our movement and the work each organisation does to have maximum impact, and creating a platform for your organisation to make its voice heard; and,
- access to knowledge and experience from our members and ally organisations that will grow your organisation and its influence within your country and the continent.

As a member organisation you will be able to contribute to the strategic direction of Pan Africa ILGA through being able to vote at the bi-annual AGM for a new PAI Board, the host country for our bi-annual Regional Conference, and on changes to our Constitution.

Pan Africa ILGA is the largest membership based and democratically organised LGBTIQ+ federation in Africa. PAI currently consists of over 150 African organisations and 40 international organisations working on human rights and equality for LGBTIQ+ people.

How to become a member:

Please be aware that only organisations (not individuals) can apply for membership. At its next meeting, the Executive Board of ILGA will review your membership and you will receive communication as to the status of your application. The membership fee is €60 for two years. [Apply for membership.](#) 87 De Korte Street, South Point Corner, 9th Floor, Braamfontein, Johannesburg, South Africa

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