

Leadership is protecting ALL!

An advocacy movement for the protection of sexual and reproductive health rights for all people in Africa: Towards policy change in Africa

What?

Together with Panos Southern Africa, SAfAIDS is implementing an exciting advocacy project in Angola, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe, aimed at addressing issues of access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) by sexual minority groups, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people (LGBTI). The project focuses on the key drivers of homophobia that create barriers to members of sexual minorities accessing sexual and reproductive health and HIV services.

Why?

Southern African countries have achieved significant decreases in HIV prevalence and incidence, yet the policy environment for supporting sexual and reproductive health rights for all citizens lags behind. The UNAIDS 2009 report highlighted that in Kenya, three groups—sex workers and their clients, men who have sex with men and injecting drug users—together account for one in three new HIV infections. The picture is likely to be similar in many other SADC countries.



Norad

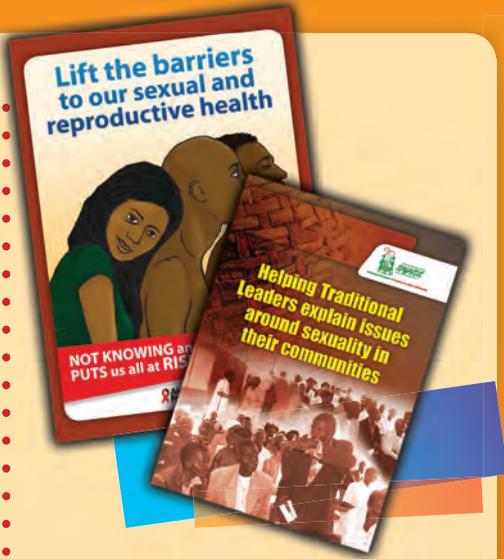


Fear of being attacked, raped, killed, stigmatised or blackmailed by workmates, family members, neighbours and communities forces many African people of sexual diversity to live double lives. To protect themselves, they keep their sexual identity secret, often marrying while continuing to have sexual relationships with people of the same sex. This anxiety means they fail to access appropriate SRH and HIV services, which puts their partners and wives at even greater risk of contracting HIV. They also live in dread of being discovered or 'outed'.

Our message: Zero Tolerance for Homophobia

Our goal is to achieve increased respect for and enjoyment of the sexual and reproductive health and rights of LGBTI persons by

- ▶ addressing the key drivers of homophobia among leaders in Africa



- ▶ supporting leaders and the media to speak out about abuse and
- ▶ challenging the wave towards criminalisation of LGBTI, by 2014.

Our objectives

1. Strengthen the capacity of 1,000 leaders in four SADC countries (parliamentarians, religious and traditional) and at the AU level, to confront the key drivers of homophobia, speak out on abuse and challenge the wave towards criminalisation of LGBTI.

2. Strengthen the capacity of 180-450 media personnel, including editors, journalists and key correspondents to use a rights-based approach when reporting on LGBTI issues in order to challenge the key drivers of homophobia - especially the abusive language often used by leaders when referring to LGBTI.
3. Provide accurate and strategic advocacy information on sexual diversity and LGBTI legislation that criminalises same-sex relationships, to leaders and media personnel as opinion leaders.
4. Document and disseminate at least 6-8 cases of abuse and discrimination of LGBTI people per country, to use as case studies in policy dialogues.

Our broad strategies are to:

- ▶ Use information to advocate for the right to access SRH and HIV services for LGBTI.
- ▶ Advocate for national governments to deliver on key SRHR promises (Maputo Plan of Action).
- ▶ Support media personnel to stand up against homophobia through the use of sensitive and unbiased information.
- ▶ Mobilise religious, traditional and political leaders to champion the SRHR of LGBTI in their respective communities.



Who we are reaching out to?

The project aims to strengthen the capacity of parliamentarians, religious and traditional leaders, who in turn, will reach other leaders through public policy debates and one-on-one discussion.

The project also targets media personnel to influence the attitudes of the public towards LGBTI through the use of media.



The change we want to see

- ▶ Increase respect for LGBTI people in Africa
- ▶ Protect LGBTI people from stigma and discrimination by leaders
- ▶ Zero tolerance of homophobia by leaders
- ▶ Access to non stigmatising SRHR services by LGBTI.



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