

### **EMOLEMO QUEER TIMES**

Free State Queer Newsletter

ISSUE 5.

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Nosana Sondiyazi UFS SEX GENDER AND SEXUALITY Sensitization 6 May 2021. Legae Residence, Free State University, Bloemfontein Free state.

# SEX GENDER AND SEXUALITY Sensitization at Free State University Residences.

#### Written by Nosana Sondiyazi

UFS Gender and Sexual Equity office invited Tholwana e Molemo to sensitize a male and female residence at South Campus Bloemfontein. Toka and Legae residences. There are LGBTQIA+ students who prefer to hide their gender and sexual orientation living at both residences because they fear stigma and discrimination. With the multiple recent LGBTQIA+ murders in the country, UFS took a proactive step to sensitize students to advance a culture of acceptance of the LGBTQIA+ community, especially in the residence where they share common living space.

The sensitization began with a survey to assess how much the students understand when it comes to the LGBTQIA+ community, with a special focus on transgender and MSM. For speedier results the students answered the survey with a show of hands.

After the survey, the advocacy officer conducted a Sex, Gender, Sexual Orientation and Offensive Words exercise. Students put a word from the list in the allocation they thought it fit into. This was followed by the LGBTQIA+ presentation as well as the human rights violation talk. It was explained it was important to give details when it comes to reporting HRV, the students were also invited to report any HRV they may know as a third party. Present members of the LGBTQIA+ community were invited to access TEM services. While allies were encouraged to be supportive of diverse sexual orientation choices.

The sensitization was followed by a talk and question and answer session with Tebogo Thabana a transwoman who shared her person journey. The students were attentive during her talk and responded with multiple questions. After the Q & A. The students once again answered the survey questions. This time the show of hands indicated that more students had a better understanding of LGBQTIA+ terminology and human rights.

Identified participants left with HIVSS kits. One client made an appointment with social worker.

Editor-in-Chief: Nosana Sondiyazi



# TRANSGENDER ADVOCACY DURING COVID19 LOCKDOWN

LGBTQIA+ & MSM are not certain about SA Constitution Human Rights.





### COVID-19 **Coronavirus Symptoms**



12 November 2020

#### SERIOUS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS REQUIRING IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE

- If you develop any of these symptoms, call your healthcare provider or health facility and seek medical care immediately.
- This is not an exhaustive list. These are the most common symptoms of serious illness, but you could get very sick with other symptoms - if you have any questions, call for help immediately.



fy o

Shortness of breath/ Difficulty breathing



Loss of speech or mobility or confusion



Chest pain

#### MOST COMMON SYMPTOMS





Cough



Tiredness



Loss of taste

#### LESS COMMON SYMPTOMS



Sore throat





Aches and pains



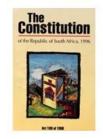


A rash on the skin or discolouration of fingers or toes



#### PLEASE NOTE:

- If you live in an area where malaria, dengue or other infections are common and you have any of above symptoms, seek immediate medical care according to the local health authorities.
- Stay in touch with your primary care provider to ensure you continue to receive the routine care you need, such as medication refills, follow-ups and other routine consultations.



The Constitution in South Africa protects the rights of each an every individual who is in South Africa. The LGBTQIA+ community is not excluded in these rights.

Research has shown that one of the reasons why transgender people and men who have sex with men (MSM) avoid using health care services is because they feel degraded due to the stigma surrounding homosexuality.

The other reason is that they fear that their health problems will not be kept confidential by health workers.

#### Chapter 2: Bill of Rights

#### Equality

- 9. (1) Everyone is equal before the law and has the right to equal protection and benefit of
  - (2) Equality includes the full and equal enjoyment of all rights and freedoms. To promote the achievement of equality, legislative and other measures designed to protect or advance persons, or categories of persons, disadvantaged by unfair discrimination may be taken.
  - (3) The state may not unfairly discriminate directly or indirectly against anyone on one or more grounds, including race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language and birth.
  - (4) No person may unfairly discriminate directly or indirectly against anyone on one or more grounds in terms of subsection (3). National legislation must be enacted to prevent or prohibit unfair discrimination.
  - (5) Discrimination on one or more of the grounds listed in subsection (3) is unfair unless it is established that the discrimination is fair.

#### **Human dignity**

10. Everyone has inherent dignity and the right to have their dignity respected and protected.

#### Life

11. Everyone has the right to life.

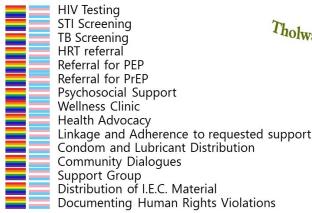
#### **OUR SERVICES**











www.tholwanaemolemo.co.za info@tholwanaemolemo.co.za Tel. 051 436 3044

### #JUSTICE FOR LGBTIQ SA

WE COMMEMORATE
#IDAHOBIT2021 IN
MEMORIAM OF THOSE
WE HAVE RECENTLY
LOST TO HATE CRIMES



## #JUSTICE FOR LGBTIQ SA

# WHY DO WE NEED LEGISLATION ADDRESSING HATE CRIME?

IT SHOULD BE NOTED that the objective of hate crimes legislation is not only to prevent hate crimes (which no law alone can really do), but its enactment will enable government and civil society to be provided with vital information about the nature and prevalence of this type of crime, to help provide appropriate tools for tackling hate crimes.

#HATECRIMESBILLNOW



# #JUSTICE FOR LGBTIQ SA

## WHAT IS THE PREVENTION AND COMBATTING OF HATE CRIMES AND HATE SPEECH BILL?

This bill is aimed at reducing offensive speech and curbing hate crimes in South Africa. The Bill was introduced in 2016 and sits before the South African National Assembly.

Some of the stated intentions of the legislation include to "provide for the prevention of hate crimes and hate speech" and to "provide for effective enforcement measures" against those who express their "prejudice or intolerance towards the victim." The Bill has been subject to much debate, with some groups expressing concern over the implications of restricting speech.

#HATECRIMESBILLNOW



# **#JUSTICE FOR LGBTIQ SA**

### WHAT IS A HATE CRIME?

These are crimes committed against individuals or groups or property based on the real or perceived race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, national origin, or ethnicity of the victims. The role played by these personal characteristics in motivating the offender is the key difference between hate crimes and other crimes.

#HATECRIMESBILLNOW



# **#JUSTICE FOR LGBTIQ SA**

### **HOW DO I REPORT A HATE CRIME?**

You have the right to report the incident to the police. The police cannot refuse to serve or help you or turn you away because you are LGBTIQ+. After reporting the incident, the police must provide you with a case number and contact person. If you were the victim of sexual assault, such as rape, you have the right to Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (drugs that reduce your chance of contracting HIV) and the right to a medical examination.

If the police or health services refuse to assist you or do not treat you with dignity and respect, you contact one of the Love Not Hate partners or any alternative local LGBTIQ+ organisation in your area specifically assisting LGBTIQ+ persons with opening cases regarding incidents of discrimination or violence perpetuated against community members.

#### #HATECRIMESBILLNOW

WE REMEMBER
BONANG GAELAE



#JUST CE FOR LGBTIQ SA

WE REMEMBER
PHELOKAZI MQATHANA





Reigning Miss South Africa Shudufhadzo Musida



# **HISTORIC MOVE AS MISS SOUTH AFRICA PAGEANT OPENS TO TRANSGENDER ENTRANTS**

Since the Miss South Africa Organisation bought the license to the Miss South Africa pageant in 2019, Transgender women have been able to enter and compete for the country's most sought-after beauty pageant prize.

For the third successive year, Trans women are eligible to enter the 2021 Miss South Africa pageant. However, in order to be eligible to compete internationally, the contestant must be in possession of a valid South African ID document reflecting their gender identity alignment.

Says CEO of the Miss South Africa Organisation Stephanie Weil: "The world is finally opening up to the changing beauty standards and understanding that beauty is not a one size fits all. Weil believes that the Transgender issue has garnered so much interest this year because of the surge of violence against Transgender people who are often are marginalised and stigmatised: "The Miss South Africa Organisation is committed to continue to put a spotlight on these issues and create an awareness and conversations in hope of bringing about understanding and tolerance."

Earlier this year former Miss Universe Zozibini Tunzi took to social media to pay tribute to Miss Spain 2018 Angela Ponce, the first-ever Transgender woman to compete at Miss Universe also noting: "I just recently learnt that violence against Trans people has surged 266% from last year. They deserve to live a life as humane, happy and free as any other person. Stop with the violence! I'm gonna say this in case it has not been clear. Trans rights are human rights."





#### Q: Please give us a background on your Life

I was born and bred in Botshabelo to a single mother; who did her best in making sure that I have everything any child could dream of. And that meant the world to me. I had to adjust to changes without any male role model.

Name: Fabiano Khauhelo Hlao

Age: 36 years **Pronoun: He** 

Gender Identity: Male

Sexual Orientation: Homosexual

#### Childhood

I have always known that I 'm different from other boys because our preferences differed a lot and I started questioning myself about my identity. I started playing soccer and dating girls but as time went by I realized that I was gay.

#### Coming out

It was when I was working at some retail store then Tokelo Mafatle visited me at work with Lebogang Mosweu and I was like ok this is the guy I m looking for, and that's how everyone noticed that I am gay



Do you know your HIV status? Would you like to test for

What does LGBTQIA+

Pride mean to you?

affirmation, dignity,

increasing visibility of

community as social

Gay Pride is the

equality and

the LGBTOIA+

Who is your

and why?

favourite South African queer person

Somizi Mhlongo, I

transparent about

the youth to be

their sexuality.

love how he inspires

group.

promotion of self

HIV?

Yes I know my status; I normally test every 3 months.

Interview by: Bookholane Sekhonyane



person and why?

The late Whitney Elizabeth Brown Houston. I love how she turned her pain into music and motivating other women who are going through abuse.

How were you introduced to Tholwana e Molemo?

I was introduced by my friend Hopolang Sekhonyana who works there. True inspiration. I gained more knowledge about myself and other LGBTQIA+ community.

What have you gained most from being introduced to Tholwana e Molemo? Confidence as a homosexual man, gained confidence to be myself and not to be ashamed of who I am. Regardless of how the society treat the LGBTQIA+ community.

Interview by: Bookholane Sekhonyane

What is the difference between a MSM (men who has sex with men) and gay men Society needs to understand that a man doesn't have to be homosexual to engage in a homosexual act, many people assume that men who have sex with men are all gay men.

What is the typical gay/MSM lifestyle you are aware of in the LGBTQIA+ community? Gay people themselves discriminate each other based on their physical appearance being feminine and masculine.

What is the typical transgender lifestyle you are aware of in your community? It is very difficult for a transgender to Who is your favourite international queer be understood by the community because in all honesty society is not entirely aware what a transgender person is.

How does COVID19 affect your life? Covid 19 has restricted my way of living, I had to endure unemployment for the second time in my life, my finances have been sky up, in debt and worse in 2018 I lost my mother and that led me to depression.

What are your views on online dating? Personally I feel it is good when you know what you really want on a particular site, but society has made it a bit dangerous for us. What is your wish for the LGBTQIA+ community

My wish is that they reach their full potential. Wealth, success and growth, they must work hard to build themselves, never change for anyone, be true to yourself and always follow your heart



Please give us a background on your Life: I was born in the 90's by a woman who was blind, I never met my dad and my mom passed away when I was only 6 years old, I was then raised by my grandmother, aunts and sisters. I never had any male figure within the family but because I was physically active and played sports I had coaches that played the father role in my life. I was really never short of anything as my family tried to make sure I don't feel the void of not having parents; which I m immensely grateful for.

Childhood: Like I said, I played sports and I still am muscular, I had a number of heterosexual male friends and about two female friends, one of them was believed to be my girlfriend. Name: Lebogang Maaga Pronoun: He **Gender Identity: Cisgender Male** Sexual Orientation: Homosexual

Coming out: As I grew older I just couldn't act straight anymore as feelings grew stronger and I became a bit more feminine than I initially was. I remember I threw a 21st birthday party and that was when my sexuality was affirmed after a gay friend of mine blew a kiss post their speech. I still never went to my family and disclosed my orientation, I just led my life until they called on a family meeting to address "the issue" and that's how I came out or was dragged out rather.

What does LGBTQIA+ Pride mean to you? It means acceptance, inclusivity, it means being celebrated for my existence, it means leading a life of my own without fear of being judged, raped, ridiculed, chased away or even murdered.

Who is your favourite South African queer person and why?

Has to be Lara Kruger, she was the most confident person who also celebrated their culture and tradition with no fear whatsoever. Her resilience was just unmatched that was really inspiring.

Do you know your HIV status? Would you like to test for HIV?

I have not tested for a number of months now, but the last time I did I was negative.



Interview by: Bookholane Sekhonyar

Who is your favourite international queer person and why? Steven, Gardener an athlete from the Bahamas, he is the current 400m world champion. Being a gay athlete is one of the hardest things and for him to actually come out at an international level and achieve what he is able to is just beautiful. I appreciate the fact that he doesn't hide it and made I clear whoever will like and respect him is appreciated and that those who

don't are not obliged. How were you introduced to Tholwana e Molemo? Through a close friend.

What have you gained most from being introduced to Tholwana e Molemo?

This questionnaire is my first encounter; I am yet to familiarize myself with them.

What is the difference between a MSM (men who has sex with men) and gay men?
MSM only enjoy sex and there is no emotions to it, gay men are attracted to other men, physically and emotionally. Sexual orientation defines gay and

influenced by feelings.

What is the typical gay/MSM lifestyle you are aware of in the LGBTQIA+ community?

They party as hard as they work.

What is the typical transgender lifestyle you are aware of in your community?

aware of in your community?
Usually into straight men, they always want their presence to be felt but look out for each other as well.
How does COVID19 affect your life?
Initially it was very straining as I could not go to gym or visit my friends but having to not be a work meant more time towards my studies, but now I am able to go to gym, go out, visit friends I am grateful. Still saddened by all the loved ones we have lost due to it, What are your views on online dating?
I met my boyfriend on Facebook so...LOL

I met my boyfriend on Facebook so...LOL What is your wish for the LGBTQIA+ community For us to love ourselves and each other so we can then inspire others to follow through, to not be ridiculed, but to be respected and celebrated.





Please give us a background on your Life: I am transgender male. I didn't have a clue when growing up, however I knew something between me and other children wasn't the same. Later on in life after socializing and interacting with different people, I began to learn and understand what I was going through. Though I did not have much support, I fell into a deep depression and even tried taking my own life several times; because majority of the people who were closest to me did not understand and thus made it difficult for me to exist

Name: Roderick Kgosi Lechuti Age: 29 Pronoun: He Gender Identity: Transgender

Sexual Orientation: No Label

#### Childhood:

I was abused emotionally and physically growing up which was one of the things that caused me to fall into a depression. Family was no different especially the parents I grew up under, they put me through hell for mainly things out of my control.

Coming out: I came out as a person born as a girl and was attracted to females, though I didn't identify as a female most of the people who knew me assumed I was lesbian. I further came out as a transgender male in my late teens.

How were you introduced to Tholwana e Molemo?
Through speaking and reaching out for assistance I was referred.

What does LGBTQIA+ Pride mean to you? A space in which one is comfortable being who they are without any judgement or prejudice from others.

Who is your favourite South African queer person and why? I would have to say Somizi because regardless of everything that has been thrown his way, he didn't let it all stand in his way and he still keeps living his life the best way he sees fit. That to me has been my biggest motivation. Do you know your HIV status? Would you like to test for

I do know it and I test

Interview by: Bookholane Sekhonyane



Who is your favourite international queer person and why?

Laith Ashley is one amongst many, mainly because on his way to success he was also challenged with a lot of setbacks including being disowned by his own family, no matter how painful it was, he didn't let that get him down.

What have you gained most from being introduced to Tholwana e Molemo?

I know that there are people who still strive to see and still find out that people out there are okay also doing follow ups.

### What is the difference between a lesbian and a transman?

HIV?

regularly.

A lesbian is a person born as a female who is attracted to females. A transman is a person born as a female but doesn't identify as a female instead identifies as a male; however whether or not the person medically transitions is a personal decision; and doesn't state that the person isn't male.

What is the typical lesbian lifestyle you are aware of in your community? Typical lesbian lifestyle I've noticed in my community is that most of the lesbian youth give up on going to school. Instead hang around with the wrong crowd, smoke drugs and drink alcohol.

How does COVID19 affect your life? Financially it has crippled me. Because of unemployment I relied a lot on other people to assist me as I am homeless and unemployed and people had to attend to their own families and close ones.

What are your views on online dating? Not too skeptical about it if you're very vigilant but because of the way and times that we live in, one never really knows other people's intentions especially within the community.

What is your wish for the LGBTQIA+community?

That people finally see us all as humans worthy enough like all others. That even amongst ourselves that we love and respect each other for real and actually act like one family.



Interview by: Bookholane Sekhonyane



#### Please give us a background on your Life:

I was born in Botshabelo 26 years ago in Section T. I am the last born at home. I was raised by both my parents. I grew up as a little boy and did what boys do. I was a good soccer player.

#### Childhood:

I started dating girls but also had feelings for boys and was afraid to date them, because I thought there was something wrong with me; and I also thought it is something that will embarrass my family.

Name: Thapelo Olifant Matlolane

Age: 26 years Pronoun: He

Gender Identity: Male Sexual Orientation: Bisexual

#### Coming out:

I came out in 2016 when I met my husband. At first I didn't want our relationship to be known. I wanted us to only meet at night, but what I like is that I met someone who made me understand and live my true life and not be ashamed of myself.

What does LGBTQIA+ Pride mean to **you?** This is where we show who we really are without any fear and also be able to express ourselves freely.

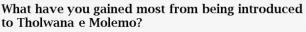
#### Who is your favourite South African queer person and why?

Morapedi Matlolane Olifant because he inspires young queer people in our community. Most of them come to him for advice and to seek help.

Who is your favourite international queer person and why? None

#### How were you introduced to Tholwana e Molemo?

By Morapedi Matlolane Olifant. He explained the services that Tholwana E Molemo offers to the LGBTQIA+.



I have gained a lot from Tholwana E Molemo, it introduced the services to me and I ended up being one of clients because it helped me to get PrEP.

What is the difference between a MSM (men who has sex with men) and gay men?

MSM are cisgender men who have sex with other men for fun or just to experience gay sex no strings attached. Most of them don't want to be known to the community. A gay man is a man who is attracted to other men physically, emotionally and spiritually.

What is the typical gay/MSM lifestyle you are aware of in the LGBTQIA+ community?

They are still stigmatized and discriminated by the community because of the life they live.

What is the typical transgender lifestyle you are aware of in your community?

I realized that our community doesn't know the difference between a gay man and a transwoman because people would usually ask questions like why is this guy wearing female clothes? Transgenders get more discrimination. Do you know your HIV status? Would you like to

test for HIV? Yes, I don't want to test because I just recently

How does COVID19 affect your life?

tested.

It makes a lot of changes in my life because most of the things I used to do I no longer do.

What are your views on online dating?

To me online dating is not good because you make love with someone you don't know.

What is your wish for the LGBTQIA+ community? To be accepted in the community and be protected in our country.





Name: Dimpho Mosiroe

Age: 24 years Pronoun: He

Gender Identity: Male

Sexual Orientation: Bisexual

#### What does LGBTQIA+ Pride mean to you?

Pride means rainbow nation where LGBTQIA have rights to love whoever they want and be proud of their sexuality.

#### How does COVID19 affect your life?

Negatively, I lost a sibling and I also lost my job.

#### What is your wish for the LGBTQIA+ community?

My wish is for people to be treated equally. And love one another, gay or not gay we are all equal.



Interview by: Bookholane Sekhonyan



Name: Tshidiso Mutlanyana

Age: 31 years Pronoun: He

Gender Identity: Male

Sexual Orientation: Gay Man

#### What does LGBTQIA+ Pride mean to you?

LGBTQIA means a lot to me whereby my sexual orientation is protected.

#### How does COVID19 affect your life?

Covid 19 affected me negatively, I even lost my job due to Covid 19.





### **REPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

- Who was involved in the incident? (e.g., person whose rights were violated AND person(s) committing the violation)
- What happened? (e.g., discrimination, breach of confidentiality, denial of services)
- Where did this happen? (e.g., details of the place of violation, such as the clinic and/or police station)
- When did this happen? (e.g., date and time)
- How did this happen? (e.g., details of events and timeline leading to the violation of rights)
- Why did this happen? (e.g., lack of knowledge, discriminatory beliefs, attitudes and practices)

EMAIL TO: tholwanaadvocacy@gmail.com



### Registering to get vaccinated is easy!

Citizens aged 60 years and above need to register for their COVID-19 vaccination



#### www.

Any device with Internet Access

Connect device to the internet and go to: https://vaccine.enroll. health.gov.za



#### USSD

FREE on all South African Mobile Network

Dial \*134\*832\*IDNumber# No ID Number? Just dial \*134\*832#



#### WhatsApp

Internet access or data required

Send the word REGISTER to 060 012 3456 on Whatsapp



#### Hotline

Toll free on all South African Mobile Networks

Register by calling 0800 029 999 (08h00 to 18h00 Monday through Sunday)

You will need the following information when registering:

- Your identification number (Passport, Asylum seeker number, RSA ID or refugee number)
- The location where you want to be vaccinated (home or work)
- If you are a member of a medical aid you will need your medical aid provider name and your medical aid number

#### #IChooseVacciNation

Should you encounter problems during the registration process contact the COVID-19 hotline 0800 029 999









