

EMOLEMO QUEER TIMES

Free State Queer Newsletter

ISSUE 8.

In this issue:

- SECRETS AND LIES II
- UFS LAW CLINIC INTERVIEW
- MEN'S SECTOR STAKEHOLDERS MEETING
- DISABILITY SECTOR STAKEHOLDERS MEETING



Aubrey Moshia and Nosana Sondiyazi co-hosts **SECRET & LIES II** Protea Hotel Willow Lake Bloemfontein 14 August 2021

SECRETS & LIES II - WHY DO STRAIGHT MEN HAVE GAY SEX?

Upon arrival guests participated in the fingerprint group art piece whereby they had to place a fingerprint of their choice in the red paint and place the fingerprint on the canvas to show solidarity to all those affected and infected by HIV/AIDS.



Left to right, Bobby Kale, David Senokoane, Tshidiso Mutlanyane. **SECRETS & LIES II**. Protea Hotel Willow Lake Bloemfontein 14 August 2021

Whilst having tea and cakes, men wrote anonymous confessions, answering the question. "Why do straight men have gay sex?" The anonymous confessions were later read by co-hosts Aubrey Moshia, Higher Health Provincial Monitoring and Evaluation officer. And Nosana Sondiyazi Tholwana e Molemo advocacy officer.

MSM will never come out of the closet. They will stay in it and will have gay sex with men calling themselves straight the entire time. Bisexuality is not an excuse in engaging in sexual pleasure with the same sex to an extent whereby you chose to marry a person of the opposite gender. Gay men are often seen displaying themselves to having money and are the ones spending on straight men in exchange for sex. But factors like unemployment of the straight men also contributes to such. Another big influence for gay for pay is when individuals want to date people they know they cannot date, but know that they can; because they know their needs. Alcohol courage is often used as an excuse to describe accidental intimacy between men, when actually it is sometimes premeditated.

INTERVIEW WITH UFS LAW CLINIC DIRECTOR PAUL ANTOHNIE

Facilitator: Advocacy officer – Nosana Sondiyazi. After being advised by Free State Commission for Gender Equality to approach UFS Law Clinic for legal support for LGBTQIA+ human rights violations. Tholwana e Molemo advocacy officer hosted a meet and greet with UFS Law Clinic director Paul Antohnie with UFS Law Clinic staff and Tholwana e Molemo management and supervisors. It was a fruitful introductory meeting which led to both parties agreeing to partner up to resolve human rights violations reported to Tholwana e Molemo together.

Paul Antohnie was then interviewed on Facebook Livestream to answer more questions and share his willingness to be legal support for Tholwana eMolemo.

Editor-in-Chief: Mx Nosana Sondiyazi

ISSUE 8.

August 2021



Sign the petition

<http://chnng.it/cWTscSrZMD>

Policy regulation of 5% daily positive LGBTQIA specific content on national SA media.

A government regulation of 5% daily positive LGBTQIA specific content on national broadcasting channels by 31 December 2021 is necessary. All radio stations, TV channels and print media need to cover LGBTQIA+ content, prioritizing LGBTQIA+ lives and stories.

LGBTQIA+ individuals in South Africa continue to suffer prejudice, discrimination and stigma at home, school, places of work, and while accessing public health, social and justice services. LGBTQIA+ human rights violations continue to remain unreported as they occur in rural areas and are committed by supposedly ignorant perpetrators who claim to not understand, diverse gender identities and homosexual sexual orientations.

We call for national media coverage for and by the LGBTQIA+ community.





- Identifying and prioritizing advocacy issues
- Implementing advocacy interventions and awareness campaigns
- Identifying health and justice needs for MSM & Gay Men
- Improvement of availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of services for MSM & Gay Men

Top 10 Reasons Straight Men have Gay Sex

1. CURIOSITY

Perhaps the most common reason a gay sexual experience happens for a straight man relates to curiosity. The research suggests that these types of events happen frequently but often go unreported.

2. PROVING HETEROSEXUALITY

The reason may strike you as odd but it's really not when you think about it. Some men who identify as straight purposely seek out a gay experience to prove they are not homosexual.

3. SITUATIONAL REASONS

All of us have needs, many men who identify as heterosexual involve themselves in gay experiences simply from a place of need. E.g.. Men who are in prison. All male colleges and schools. Military service...

4. RITUALISM

Ritualism is one of the reasons straight men will experience some form of gay sex. An example can be found in a fraternity ritual, where otherwise heterosexual men will grab another man's privates as part of an initiation process. There is a fine line, however, between a simple ritual and hazing; which is designed to humiliate, emasculate and embarrass.

5. CLOSETED BISEXUALITY/HOMOSEXUALITY

While many men may identify as "straight", that doesn't necessarily mean they are. In truth, human sexuality runs across a spectrum.

6. HETEROFLEXIBILITY

Heteroflexibility happens when two men who identify as straight can temporarily be open to a gay experience, this can be induced by intoxicants or can happen when they are sober due to an emotional or mental connection.

7. GAY FOR PAY

There's an old axiom that suggests: Everyone has a price. To some extent, that's probably true. It is for this reason that some men who call themselves straight will engage in homosexual activities if the price is right.

8. ACCIDENTAL

There have been cases where two men have become physically intimate with one another by accident. It doesn't happen often but it does happen. Perhaps the most common reason is connected to the phenomenon of Ambien sex. When both men are in denial about their shared experience, they will also refer to it as an accident.

9. EMOTIONAL BONDING

Straight men who are emotionally close (like gay men) have a bond. In pop culture sometimes referred to as a "bromance". But for some men who consider themselves to be heterosexual, that closeness can cause confusion. This can lead to a same sex experience between two men, which is often shrouded in questions. Straight men do sometimes fall in love with one another. Even more rare are straight men who become emotionally attached to gay men.

10. SEXUAL FLUIDITY

There was a time when strict sexual orientation boundaries were the norm. A person was either straight or gay with bi being part of the dynamic. All of that has changed in recent years. More and more, men are coming out as "sexually fluid". In a nutshell, to be sexually fluid means that orientation is constantly changing, and does not remain the same.

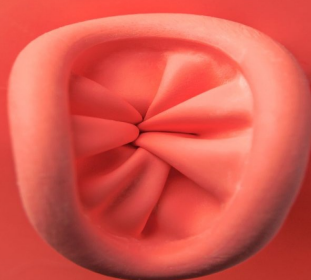
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@Tholwana Advocacy



@Tholwana EMolemo





Services to MSM & Gay Men

- Identifying and prioritizing advocacy issues
- Implementing advocacy interventions and awareness campaigns
- Identifying health, social and justice needs for MSM & Gay Men
- Improvement of availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of services for MSM & Gay Men
- Documenting Human Rights Violations

Website: www.tholwanaemolemo.co.za
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Responsible services for
GAY MEN & MEN WHO HAVE SEX
WITH MEN

OUR SERVICES



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@Tholwana EMolemo

- HIV Testing
- STI Screening
- TB Screening
- HRT referral
- Referral for PEP
- Referral for PrEP
- Psychosocial Support
- Wellness Clinic
- Health Advocacy
- Linkage and Adherence to requested support
- Condom and Lubricant Distribution
- Community Dialogues
- Support Group
- Distribution of I.E.C. Material
- Documenting Human Rights Violations

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holidays: 8am to 6pm

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IN VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA
Cooperating with a Local Social Communication Strategy



HAPPY WOM



Responsible services for
LGBTQIA+



Sade Giliberti



Brenda Fassie



Lebo Mathosa



Lena Waithe



Samira Wiley



Audre Lorde

AN'S MONTH



Caster Semenya



Steve Letsike



Queen Latifah



Wanda Skykes



Toya Delazy



At the Men's Sector Stakeholders Meeting at Bon Hotel 3 August 2021, stakeholders invited included:

- Mangaung Men 's Forum
- National Association of People living With HIV &AIDS-NAPWA
- TAC-Treatment Action Campaign
- JOSHA Research Institute.
- Provincial Council on AIDS
- Mangaung Municipality
- Men's Sector
- Beyond Zero

Tholwana e Molemo Program Manager Paul Soato, explained the purpose of the day “Our brothers and sisters need our services, every organisation has different people with different talents and that all the present organisations must hold hands to be the vehicle to get to the people they serve.”

All Tholwana e Molemo programs were highlighted. Recently married Tholwana e Molemo peer educator Morapedii Olifant Matlolane shared his love story, how he met his husband and the challenges and victories of their relationship, which led to their families uniting and eventually; a big beautiful white wedding and eventual marriage certificate from Department of Home Affairs.

Also intended for the day was to alert the men's sector of Tholwana e Molemo services:

- Provide HIV testing, psychosocial support and find the ways to balance HIV/AIDS vs healthy livelihoods
- Do awareness campaigns and screenings on gender based violence, human rights violations, TB and STI which fall under HIV testing services

Tholwana e Molemo and the men's sector will be involved in the following collaborations:

- Sensitization sessions/incorporating Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) and Tholwana e Molemo (TEM) to all clinics/hospitals for services that are being offered.
- Importance of more stakeholders engagement sessions for the development of programmes for the visibility of all other present programmes in communities.
- To report on challenges when coming to outreach and dialogues and problems experienced within communities –Joshua Research Institute.
- Partnerships/Collaborations with NAPWA/TAC and TEM including all sectors.
- Request from TEM for stakeholders to refer clients especially when involving advocacy and documenting and identifying human rights violations because the organization may not be able reach all LGBTQIA+ communities.
- Collaboration of events and live radio broadcasts at the local radio stations for media coverage and reaching communities. Lindani from Bergman radio station volunteered to assist.
- Points of contact within the Mangaung District and in local communities and municipalities—more especially the men's sector. This would assist in identifying men who have sex with men (MSM) to be clients for TEM.
- Collaborations in skills and knowledge and trainings, involving treatment literacy when coming to HIV and new developments.
- New developments on PrEP research
- Inclusion of MSM at engagements.
- Cooperation and collaborations in traditional initiation schools (Traditional Health Practitioners & Traditional Leadership).
- LGBTQIA+ Sensitization and training with various authorities.



MEN'S SECTOR STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

"NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US"

3 AUGUST 2021

BON HOTEL
Bloem Plaza East Burger Street
BLOEMFONTEIN

08:00 - 15:00



Responsible services for
LGBTQIA+

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At the Disability Sector Stakeholders Meeting at Bon Hotel 5 August 2021,

Florence Letsoalo from the disability sector from her wheelchair expressed that it was the first time that they were called as a sector to state the challenges that they experience but at the end of the day the main goal is that there is progress in every sector. People with disabilities are often ostracized when addressing the issues of life especially HIV/Aids because society classifies them as not being sexually active ,an example of a person living with disability being pregnant going to access a healthcare services at a facility ,that can be seen as taboo and stigma but not bearing in mind that they are also human and need to have their own families as we are also a part of a community like everyone else.

Her closing statement was thanking Tholwana E Molemo for the interest in hearing the challenges that they are experiencing as the Disability sector. Their aim is to continue educating and requesting the organization to be as open as possible without any fear because disability is just a word.



DISABILITY SECTOR STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

5 AUGUST 2021
BON HOTEL
Bloem Plaza
East Burger Street
BLOEMFONTEIN
08:00 – 15:00

@Tholwana Advocacy
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Responsible services for
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"NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US"



Name: Keletso Precious Moholo
Age: 20 years
Pronoun: She/Her
Gender Identity: Female
Sex: Female
Sexual Orientation: Lesbian

What does LGBTQIA+ Pride mean to you?

I might as well say it. It means the universe to me and I don't know why so many people treat us so bad and why they are discriminating us, because we are human as well, we need people to value us as human as much as we value them as humans.

How does COVID19 affect your life?

Bad, because we longer attend school normally and our marks are dropping, as well as school's passing rate is dropping. Besides that, a lot of people lost their lives and others lost their jobs.

What is your wish for the LGBTQIA+ community?

My wish is that the LGBTQIA+ community can be there for one another, I wish some parents can appreciate and love their kids the way they are. I wish a drop in rape and murders of gays and lesbians.



Tholwana e Molemo

Interview by: Bookholane Sekhonyane



Name: Mpho Real Olifant
Age: 20 years
Pronoun: He/Him
Gender Identity: Male
Sex: Male
Sexual Orientation: Bisexual

What does LGBTQIA+ Pride mean to you

It means its where the gay community expresses themselves and support each other.

How does COVID19 affect your life?

It affected me so badly because the time it started I was in a proccess of fixing my life in terms of work and schooling and also to help my mom on shelter.

What is your wish for the LGBTQIA+ community?

I wish that they should love, respect and support each other.



Tholwana e Molemo

Interview by: Tebogo Thabana

Name: Karabo Motsetse
Age: 25
Pronoun: She
Gender Identity: Transwoman

Please give us a background on your Life:

I started school in 2003 at Inoseng Primary then went to Ipatleng Secondary until I finished my matric in 2014 in Petersburg, a small farming town just 80km away from Bloemfontein on the N8 heading to Kimberly.

Growing up

Was not easy because I was different from other kids my age; and I suffered a lot of discrimination and stigma but I think the worst was the internal discrimination and stigma I gave myself.

Coming out

I came out in 2006 when I was only 10 year old, it was not easy but I found courage in my mom who was there for me through everything. After coming out my dad disowned me and said "I will not have a son who is now a woman". But I was patient enough with him because he didn't understand but in 2014 things came around and we fixed our relationship. I moved to Botshabelo in 2018 after I got into a relationship with Mr Thabo Edward Motsetse in 2019 and 05.04.2019 we got married. However things didn't work out that well we are busy with the divorce currently and I am seeing someone.



What does LGBTQIA+ Pride mean to you?

Pride means embracing diversity and being proud of who we are; and showing that we understand and we accept being different from others.

Who is your favourite South African queer person and why?

I would say LONDON Khahleli {mada} she has shown me that being a woman is not identified by clothes, she is a woman who knows her worth and is not afraid of being different. For me she stands out amongst all for that.

Who is your favourite international queer person and why?

None I don't have.

Interview by: Tebogo Thabana



Tholwana e Molemo



How were you introduced to Tholwana e Molemo?

I was introduced to Tholwana by a friend Thabang Mosoeu who previously worked there.

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

It's a safe haven for transgender community and they empower us with relevant services regarding our well being holistically.

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

I wouldn't say the typical lifestyle because they are different individually so, however, what I've realized is that they love fashion and booze. But not all of them because everyone is different.

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

Transman are often mistaken for lesbians, so they tend to try hard to prove to the society that they are not lesbians.

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

I know my status therefore I won't need to test.

How does COVID19 affect your life?

It has affected me because things I used to do to tone down; and some other things I had to quit. But because I know its for the benefit of my health I'm not complaining.

What are your views on online dating?

It's very dangerous if you are reckless with your personal information.

What is your wish for the LGBTQIA+ community?

I wish that people should tolerate us. I have a desire of being accepted by everybody.



Tholwana e Molemo

Interview by: Tebogo Thabana



Name: Chaecoan Jay

Age: 23

Pronoun: She

Gender Identity: Woman

Sexual Orientation: Transgender

Please give us a background on your Life:

Growing up was always hard for me, I had a stroke when I was two year's of age, my father was never really in my life because of my sexuality. I tried to fit in, until I finally fitted in. That's when everything changed.

Coming out

Coming out was never easy because I had to make sure that my father understands the way I am.

What does LGBTQIA+ Pride mean to you?

It's the root where people like myself belong. A community I care about like a family. Brothers and sisters who relate a lot to what I have been through myself.

Who is your favourite international queer person and why?

Lil Nas X, he's currently educating the world more about the LGBTQIA+ community, which I highly apparently and respect him for.



Interview by: Tebogo Thabana

Who is your favourite South African queer person and why?

Roxanne, because we bisexuals are the same people. It's just that I still need to reach my goals that she's already achieved.

How were you introduced to Tholwana e Molemo?

A friend of mine Daizu.

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

I have gained the right knowledge of where to go, Tholwana also gave me the opportunity to start with my transitioning even through we are still getting there, everything will take time.



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

There's physically no difference, but mentally a transman will end up being a man and a lesbian will always be a lesbian. I guess that's the only way I understand it.

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

Yes. I'm HIV negative.

How does COVID19 affect your life?

All I can say is, COVID is delaying everything, and it's a lot of pressure for me.

What are your views on online dating?

None.



What is your wish for the LGBTQIA+ community?

To be accepted in the community. And I will make sure to help Tholwana to educate more men and women about the LGBTQIA+ community.

Interview by: Tebogo Thabana



Name: Tankiso Samuel Shubani
Age: 33 years
Pronoun: She
Gender Identity: Transwoman
Sexual Orientation: I am attracted to men

Please give us a background on your Life: I was born in a small town called Wepener, right here in the Free State.

Childhood: I am the first born of four, I grew up in a town full of kids who were abusive and silly.

Coming out: I came out to be who I am. Bullying and being stigmatized was my daily life, but being me made me strong.

What does LGBTQIA+ Pride mean to you?

Pride means showing up each day as my whole self, both professional, private/personal lives. Allowing others to see me as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community. Standing with my LGBTQIA+ siblings and amplifying their voices.

How were you introduced to Tholwana e Molemo?

Four years ago I was working for one of the LGBTQIA+ organizations, that is where I got to know about Tholwana E Molemo.

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

Ever since I was out and open about myself I've learned that if we stand together and be one voice as a country. We can help fight stigma, discrimination and domestic violence.

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

Staying in a small town where resources are limited, few NGO's around. Having to wait for much time before getting help regarding LGBTQIA+ issues.

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

We only have limited fun because we have one or few places to have fun.

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

Ohh yes I do, I don't hesitate to test millions of times.

How does COVID19 affect your life?

Covid is a strong disease. It leaves people with heavy broken hearts. And putting a mask daily is strange and difficult to get used to. People lost their jobs. Families suffer, kids cannot go to school. All I am saying is live everyday like there is no tomorrow. Enjoy with those you love, make peace with them before it's too late.

Who is your favourite South African queer person and why?

Brenda Fassie. The legend was full of life, inspiration and well known for her good work. She encouraged all people to be equal. No matter your age and race. We are one.

Who is your favourite international queer person and why?

Kevin Mwachiro, a journalist from Kenya. He had a challenging childhood, but he did not let anything stop him to be the best person he is. - DEDICATED



Interview by: Bookholane Sekhonyane



What are your views on online dating? Since I'm in a relationship at the moment all I can say is that it always depends on how you react to online dating. You must first find the reason why you are there. I am glad that I found love. So your expectations shouldn't be more than your efforts, *if you know what I mean.*

What is your wish for the LGBTQIA+ community? We must first help out those who are in disadvantaged towns. Going to them and show some support and remind them that there are places out there that offer help and make them feel welcome to ask for help.

Name: Paballo Rantseuo

Pronoun: She

Gender Identity: Female

Sexual Orientation: Homosexual

Please tell us about your background?

I was born and raised in Soweto, Molapo. I was brought up by a feisty, yet elegant woman who is my grandmother. I was very energetic as a child, and I played a lot of sports. Soccer and cricket were my favourite sporting activities. As I grew up I became an avid reader and continued playing soccer, which played a huge part in shaping the person I am.

What does pride mean to you?

Pride for me it's a celebration of life and living as queer identifying people. It is an event that creates a space for us to fully embrace ourselves without feeling like one is judged.



Interview by: Bookholane Sekhonyane

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

The work that is done by the organisation and the services that they offer are of great importance to the community. I have also realised that they tackle a lot of issues that affect our communities such as psychological well-being and health related matters. More especially the services provided to people who identify as transgender. As a minority group in the LGBTQIA+ community, the organisation has created a safe space for them to have access to services that may not be rendered to them at public health institutions.

What is the difference between a lesbian and transman?

A lesbian is a woman that is sexually attracted to another woman. Whilst a transman is a person born a female, but does not identify with the sex or gender provided to them at birth. Which may lead to transition from female to male.

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

Women that are career orientated, and living their lives the best way they know how.

Favourite queer South African person?

Caster Semenya she has achieved a lot in the sporting arena regardless of the adversities she has experienced.

Favourite queer international person.

Cat Cora she an American professional Chef. I first saw her on a television show, where she appeared with her kids and wife. It was my first time seeing a family structure of people who are of the same sex (female) and very successful women.

How were you introduced to Tholwana E Molemo.

A friend and colleague of mine invited me to a community dialogue held in our area.

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

Mostly people who identity as transmen that I live with are full of love, outgoing and intelligent.

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

Yes I do. Anytime when I get the opportunity I do test.

How has COVID19 affected your life?

There was a lot of uncertainty that made me anxious.

What are your views on online dating?

It's alright as long as people are falling in love.

What is your wish for the LGBTQIA+ community?

Is to live a life full of possibilities.



Interview by: Bookholane Sekhonyane





