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PAN AFRICA ILGA

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PAN AFRICA ILGA ANNOUNCES LEGABIBO AS CO-HOST OF PAI REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2018.

Pan Africa ILGA (PAI) is proud to announce the Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals of Botswana (LEGABIBO) as the official co-host and partner of the 4th Pan Africa ILGA Regional Conference 2018.

As a registered member and long standing partner of PAI, LEGABIBO's work in Botswana and their contribution to change the socio-legal discourse for LGBTI persons across the continent speaks for itself. The organization has achieved significant strides over the years, making it one of the most recognizable organisations in Southern African region. In recognition of this tremendous growth and capability, LEGABIBO stands out as eligible co-host of the PAI Regional Conference 2018, having had the majority vote during the PAI Regional Conference 2016 in Johannesburg South Africa.

The PAI conference will host over 200 delegates from across Africa and the world. It will be an opportunity for the world to see how Botswana is quickly becoming a progressive nation and an example in Africa and the world where LGBTI human rights are concerned. It is also a chance for the LGBTI community, the key population coalition and partner organisations to be in the forefront, leading and showcasing best practices in the protection and promotion of LGBTI human rights. Additionally, the conference will be a major boost for Botswana's tourism industry and contribute to the blossoming economy as well as showcase the best of our diverse culture.

The regional conference will be held from 31 May 2018 - 5 June 2018, under the theme Empowering LGBTI Youth: Uniting for an Inclusive Future. The conference seeks to stimulate discussions toward empowerment, utilisation and the capacity of LGBTI youth, engaging on common regional strategies to achieve change in policies discriminating people on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, exchanging best practices, sharing successes and opportunities for effective advocacy on the continent as well as receiving advocacy training on relevant regional and international human rights mechanisms, while acquiring tools to strengthen PAI in fulfilling its role as a regional LGBTI membership organization.

PAI and LEGABIBO look forward to successfully hosting the 4th Pan Africa ILGA Regional Conference, and continued support of member organisations, partners, donors, and activists across the globe.



LEGABIBO LAUNCHES DROP-IN CENTRE FOR LGBTI PERSONS.

LEGABIBO recently launched two drop-in centres, in Gaborone and Francistown, for LGBTI persons, men who have sex with men (MSM) and women who have sex with women (WSW). The purpose of these centres is to provide health care services, which include weekly HIV testing and counselling, consultation on sexual reproductive needs and referrals, as well as psychosocial support.

The launch of this drop-in centre comes after LEGABIBO noted Botswana's legal and policy frameworks when dealing with health falling short in effectively addressing HIV and protecting the rights of marginalised people, often facing stigma and discrimination. LEGABIBO said that individuals are regularly denied access to health care, humiliated, and treated insensitively based on their real or imputed sexual orientation and/or gender identity.



The drop-in centre, equipped with state of the art equipment and staffed with qualified counsellors and nurses, will play a crucial role in providing safe, affirming and professional services, especially for persons who cannot access private healthcare.

Pan Africa ILGA congratulates its member organisation LEGABIBO and all their partners in the opening of the drop-in centre. The centre will, without a doubt, contribute to the improvement of health for many LGBTI, MSM, and WSW persons across Botswana.

For further information, please contact Bradley Fortuin on +267 316 74 25.

PAN AFRICA ILGA CONDUCTS ITS FIRST EVER BILINGUAL TRAINING ON HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISM IN ACCRA, GHANA.

Pan Africa ILGA (PAI) conducted its 3rd regional training on Human rights mechanisms in Accra Ghana on 27-30 July 2017. The training was done in collaboration with COC Netherlands and Arc International and hosted by Solace Brother Foundation, PAI member organization in Ghana. The objective of the training reinforced the PAI vision to empower the different communities within the region, more over to bridge the gap between Francophone and Anglophone Africa and stimulate more collaborations. 'It was inspiring to participate in a training that prioritized our linguistic challenges, so for the first time activists from francophone Africa were confident and shared equally their experiences organizing and working on LGBTI issues', said Basosila Bokanga Junior

This training reflected the diversity of LGBTI communities in Africa and brought together 20 activists from 14 countries and 4 sub regions took part representing national LGBTI coalitions and NGOs working on human rights issues affecting LGBTI persons. Simultaneous translation was provided in both English and French to further bridge the communication gap and facilitate networking and sharing of best practices. "COC is excited to be part of such invigorating 3 days of practicing, discussing, strategizing and sharing. It was great to see how all participants were so passionate and dedicated in how they attacked the exercises with all their enthusiasm and energy', said Joyce Hamilton, senior international advocacy officer COC Netherlands.

'PAI is proud to be able to put together a platform that allows sharing, networking and skills exchange in a safe space in Africa. We thank our partners Arc International and COC Netherlands as well as our hosts Solace Brothers Foundation for a great collaboration' said Monica Tabengwa, PAI Director.

'We want an Africa where we are all respected for who we are. Be fearless and persistent, change is a process that takes time', said former Ghana minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection Advocate Nana Oye Lithur in her speech to encourage and welcome the participants. The former minister is an important ally and mentor for LGBTI work in Ghana and in Africa in general.



NAMIBIANS TALK LGBTI RIGHTS.

Out-Right Namibia and members of the LGBTI community in Namibia recently took to the streets to celebrate LGBTI Pride. On Saturday, 29 July, more than 200 people participating.

We got in touch with Jholerina Angel-Khoetage Timbo, board member of Out-Right Namibia, to find out how Namibians feel about LGBTI Rights. "People still have this notion that if LGBTI Rights are recognised, children will all "become" LGBTI." she said. Below are some views expressed by Namibians about LGBTI Rights, following LGBTI Pride celebrations.





CARING FOR MYSELF IS
NOT SELF INDULGENCE,
IT IS SELF PRESERVATION
AND THAT IS AN ACT OF
POLITICAL WARFARE

AUDRE LORDE

I WILL LISTEN...

by Anthony Olouch

When I post updates like, "If you watch Godzilla backwards its about a dinosaur who passionately pieces a city back together before moonwalking into the sea." you smile. And that makes me happy. But only for a moment. When I bake and post a picture of the cookies I made. You like the pictures and ask me to bake you some. It makes me happy. But only for a moment. When I post about my new job and you congratulate me, genuinely happy for me. It makes me happy. But only for a moment.

For a very long time, I have been dealing with depression. It is a horrible thing. It eats away at you. Makes you do things you wouldn't otherwise do. Makes you distance yourself from those who love you. Makes you the worst version of yourself. But some of us are able to mask it. Live for those moments when we are made to feel good about ourselves...while dying inside. We have to keep pushing on though. We do have a purpose in life. To make a difference in people's lives. To put a smile on a sad person's face. To do the things that make us feel good.

I realise that that is easier said than done, but if you are dealing with depression like I have been, please seek help. Know that you are not alone.

I have been lucky. I have found someone who understands me. Who understands my moments. Who understands my way of communication. I have found Mark. The man I will soon be married to. The man I am in love with. He has helped me know me better.

You do have someone who loves you. Who would do anything for you. Who would move mountains for you. Who will always listen...

"But I don't." I hear you thinking...

I am right here. I will listen.

And to everyone else...be kind. You really have no idea what demons the person walking beside you is dealing with.

BECOME A MEMBER

PAN AFRICA ILGA IS THE LARGEST MEMBERSHIP BASED AND DEMOCRATICALLY ORGANIZED LGBTI FEDERATION IN THE AFRICA. PAI CURRENTLY CONSISTS OF 106 ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT THE CONTINENT WORKING ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITY FOR LGBTI PEOPLE.

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER:

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT ONLY ORGANIZATIONS (NOT INDIVIDUALS) CAN APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF ILGA AT ITS NEXT MEETING WILL REVIEW YOUR APPLICATION AND YOU WILL RECEIVE COMMUNICATION AS TO THE SUCCESS OF THE APPLICATION.

VISIT: [HTTP://ILGA.ORG/APPLY-FOR-MEMBERSHIP-002/](http://ilga.org/apply-for-membership-002/) TO APPLY.

FOR HELP AND ENQUIRIES, EMAIL: [SIVU.SIWISA@PANAFRICAILGA.ORG](mailto:sivu.siwisa@panafricailga.org)



KEEP IN TOUCH



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