

August 2018 | Volume 9

Pan Africa ILGA

Newsletter

LGBTIQ+ News from Africa

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AIDS2018 Report

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From the PAI Team

AIDS2018 “Breaking Barriers Building Bridges” from a Pan African Perspective, by PAI Programme Manager, Anthony Oluoch

July 23rd to 27th 2018 was a historic week in the global AIDS response. More than 18,000 researchers, advocates, policy makers, funders and community leaders from more than 160 countries came together in Amsterdam to make the 22nd International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2018) a key milestone on the road to a world without HIV. During that week, the participants contributed to a conference programme that included 3,000 abstracts presented from more than 100 countries, along with dozens of satellite sessions, pre-conference programmes, demonstrations, performances and community meetings. In the global village, Pan Africa ILGA was represented by the Programme Manager, Anthony Oluoch who spoke about LGBTIQ+ issues in Africa at the COC Netherlands space.

Youth Participation

According to the conference organizers, youth and junior investigators made up more than one-third of the submissions presented at the conference, and their work garnered attention in every conference track. AIDS 2018 provided more scholarships to young people than any previous AIDS conference. And the AIDS 2018 Global Village featured the largest dedicated youth space of any International AIDS Conference – providing a critically important space for young people from around the world to network, collaborate and showcase their achievements.

Dozens of youth-focused programmes and events put young people and their experiences front and centre. Among these were sessions calling for a “youthquake” in HIV prevention and treatment, addressing innovative strategies to overcome barriers to access for young people and sharing strategies to amplify meaningful youth leadership for the HIV response.

IAS Immediate Past President Linda-Gail Bekker was asked in an official press conference whether the unprecedented involvement of young people at AIDS 2018 represents an ongoing commitment to including youth voices in the conference. “Having set the bar high, there’s no way we’re going back”, she answered.

Prevention

An ounce of prevention equals a pound of cure, the parable says, and speaker after speaker echoed that sentiment at AIDS 2018. The prevention revolution was the subject of the opening scientific press conference, as well as dozens of sessions that looked not only at basic and clinical research, but also at studies with real-world implications for implementation and practice. Among these were studies supporting the use of on-demand PrEP, important data from the iFACT study on interactions between PrEP and feminizing hormone therapy and research on new digital technology to improve adherence measurement and patient support. Also on the prevention agenda was data from the APPROACH vaccine trial and extended results from the PARTNER 2 study in MSM couples that added still more evidence that when it comes to HIV, U=U (Undetectable = Untransmittable).

At the same time, with an estimated 1.8 new HIV infections in 2017, there was widespread agreement at AIDS 2018 that the current pace of scale up for proven prevention initiatives is far too slow to reach future targets and must be increased rapidly to make lasting gains against the epidemic.

Money

Funding is essential to the AIDS response, and new data released at AIDS 2018 reveal a significant US\$6 billion gap between what is available for the response and what is needed, now, to ensure global access to prevention, treatment and care.

After several years of flat funding, more than half of major donor governments decreased their HIV commitments in 2017, and no new significant commitments from international donors have been forthcoming. Treatment scale up has plateaued and is far short of what is needed to meet UNAIDS 2020 treatment goals. While domestic spending on HIV has risen significantly in recent years, it is not nearly enough to make up for gaps in donor funding.

With nearly 1 million people still dying of HIV annually, advocates warn that if the funding gap is not closed quickly, the shortfall could lead to millions of unnecessary HIV infections and deaths.

Beyond HIV

AIDS 2018 put a spotlight on the need to address the comprehensive health and well-being needs of people affected by HIV – from the Generation Now pre-conference on HIV and sexual and reproductive health and rights to calls to integrate care and treatment of HIV and TB, the #1 killer of people with HIV. Throughout the conference, reports on programmes that integrate HIV diagnosis and treatment with care for hepatitis, STIs, hypertension, diabetes and other health concerns showed that these initiatives deliver better, more effective and more cost-effective care than programmes that look at single health issues in isolation.

In the opening session, the most eye-opening quote came from the WHO Director-General Tedros Ghebreyesus who said, “We have not truly helped a child if we treat her for HIV, but do not vaccinate her against measles. We have not truly helped a gay man if we give him PrEP but leave his depression untreated. We have not truly helped a sex worker if we give her STI screening but not cancer screening. Universal health coverage means ensuring all people have access to all the services they need, for all diseases and conditions”.

Watch [video](#) of Anthony speaking about the African AIDS and LGBTIQ+ landscape, and more.

Anthony Oluoch is a Kenyan lawyer who has worked within the LGBTI movement since 2011. He worked as the Legal and Human Rights Officer at the Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Kenya where he was instrumental in the design and initial implementation of what was then, a strategy towards decriminalization of adult consensual same sex conduct. He then joined Gay Kenya Trust, an organization that works towards equality and non-discrimination for all including gay and lesbian individuals in Kenya. He sits on the advisory panel of the Queen’s Young Leaders Award and the board of the IDAHOT Committee. Tony joined PAI in 2017.



Opportunities

Funding

- ❑ **Rapid Response Fund:** From the International HIV/AIDS Alliance: Pride season is in full swing, but sometimes this can lead to violence. If you/your organization is experiencing threats preventing access to #HIV services for #LGBT people in our 30 eligible countries or you know of any organization facing such situation, [apply for a #RapidResponseFund grant today](#). The Rapid Response Fund helps with urgent situations where lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people (LGBT) and men who have sex with men (MSM) are facing stigma, discrimination and threats of violence that impact their access to HIV services.

Upcoming conferences

- ❑ 7th **Changing Faces Changing Spaces Conference** and celebration of UHAI's 10th year anniversary will be held from the 19th to the 21st of June 2019 with pre conferences on the 17th and 18th of June 2019. Call for task force applications and submission of abstracts and registration will be shared soon.

Job/Internship vacancies and volunteer opportunities

- ❑ [Development Associate: Astraea](#)
Astraea seeks someone with an aptitude for writing to join us as a Development Associate and support with grant writing. Applications are due September 7th.
- ❑ [International HIV/AIDS Alliance](#)
Three vacancies and 3 consultancy opportunities. All deadlines in early September.

News from Africa

Botswana

LeGaBiBo held a 5-day meeting with service providers on integrating Key Populations in service delivery. [Read more.](#)

Ethiopia

Open letter to the Prime Minister of Ethiopia on systemic human rights violations. [Read more.](#)

Ghana

Around 400 people will reportedly take part in a gay 'cure' therapy forum in #Ghana. The attendees, who have all allegedly signed up 'voluntarily', will receive 'counselling' and 'reformation' at the anti-gay conference, which has the theme: "Exploring the myths surrounding #LGBT rights." [Read more.](#)

Ivory Coast

Stories from transgender women: Les femmes transgenres africaines discriminées au travail. [Read more.](#)

Kenya

1st national Pride be held: Following the first Pride event at the Kakuma Refugee Camp in June of this year, Kenya's first national Pride event will be held soon after 4 years of work, organised by Nyanza Rift Valley, Western Kenya Network (NYARWEK) and Sex og Samfund. [Read more.](#)

Morocco

Inside Morocco's LGBTIQ community: "homosexuality is a criminal offence in Morocco, as it is in many other African countries. The law combines with a strongly conservative society to create a real sense of danger for members of Morocco's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) communities."

Nigeria

On the 26th of August, police in Nigeria raided a hotel and arrested 57 men on suspicion of having gay sex. This is the second such police action this month, after six men in the south-eastern state of Abia were arrested in a hotel for the same reason. [Read more.](#)

Zambia

Two Zambian men could face 14 years in prison after having been convicted of engaging in homosexual activity in a hotel room. [Read more.](#)

Zimbabwe

GALZ, Zimbabwe's LGBTI group, says that compared to previous years the country's recent elections showed a welcome lack of anti-gay rhetoric from politicians. [Read more.](#)

We'd love to hear from your country!
Send in news from your organisation or
country: admin@panafricailga.org

General

- ❑ **ILGA 40th birthday** – Happy birthday, ILGA! Thank you for the work you do, for your vision, and your inspiration. We are proud to be a part of the ILGA family.
- ❑ #TotalShutdown – Protests across the SADC region against women and child abuse. **Photos** from across the region.
- ❑ Gay Games – The 10th Gay Games were held in Paris from the 4th to the 12th of August. News from the Games: **Transgender athlete from Uganda** and **Gay Kenyan runners**
- ❑ African Human Rights Commission – **Coalition of African Lesbians denied a seat at the African Commission table**
- ❑ AfroQueer Podcasts – **3rd Podcast:** How safe are dating sites for queer people? **4th Podcast:** A gay wedding in Nigeria. The podcasts were also featured in an online article by the **Mail & Guardian**.
- ❑ Global Report – **The global state of LGBTI organising: The right to register**. The report by OutRight Action International finds that LGBTIQ organizations are unable to register or cannot be found in 85 of 194 countries. In the worst cases, they experience state surveillance, indiscriminate arrests, state sanctioned violence, and are even branded as threats to national security. The report highlights 10 case studies which explain some of the work-arounds that groups have taken to still be able to operate.
- ❑ PrEP and trans women – **A study** says that the use of PrEP is safe for trans women using Estradiol.
- ❑ **LGBTIQ+ communities and religion**
 - Retired Emeritus Archbishops Desmond Tutu and Njongonkulu Ndungane have **called for all Anglican churches to recognise gay and lesbian communities**.
 - South Africa: **Case against the Dutch Reformed Church and its stance against gay marriage**. The Dutch Reformed Church maintains that its decision not to recognise same-sex marriages is not tantamount to unfair discrimination and is not in breach of the Constitution. Advocate Jeremy Gauntlet, SC, for Gaum and co, insisted that the church conceded to being discriminatory and that the church failed to put up facts to discharge the onus that there was a breach of the Constitution in the 2016 decision. He added that the church did not have the right to invoke hurt or discriminate against anyone by not accepting same-sex unions and by “imposing celibacy on one roof of people”. Judgement has been reserved for deliberation.
 - A woman thought to be a member of the LGBTI community was thrown out of a church and publicly degraded in Zambia after police officers conducted an invasive body search. **Read more**.
- ❑ **Peer-reviewed article:** Intersex variations, human rights and the international classification of diseases. GATE welcomes the publication of the peer-reviewed article by GATE’s Senior Advisor Morgan Carpenter in the Harvard Health and Human Rights Journal. This paper was supported by GATE’s initiative on reform of the International Classification of Diseases.
- ❑ Book: **Envisioning Global LGBT Human Rights: (Neo)colonialism, Neoliberalism, Resistance and Hope**. PAI’s former Board Member, Richard Lusimbo is one of the editors, and the book features the writing of Monica Tabengwa, PAI’s former Executive Director. On the brink of global change, the book is bursting with invaluable first hand insights from leading activists at the forefront of some of the most fiercely fought battlegrounds of contemporary sexual politics in India, the Caribbean and Africa. As well, authors from Canada, Botswana and Kenya examine key turning points in the advancement of sexual orientation and gender identity issues at the United Nations, and turn a critical eye on LGBT asylum in Canada. Authors speak to a need to reorient and decolonise queer studies, and turn a critical gaze northwards from the Global South. Published by: Human Rights Consortium, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London

Highlights of the book include the chapter on Africa: Africa: expanded criminalisation and incremental change Botswanan and Ugandan human rights lawyers, Monica Tabengwa and Adrian Jjuuko write about ‘expanded criminalisation’ to describe a process in post-independence African countries to further criminalise same-sex conduct across Africa today. Adrian Jjuuko and Fridah Mutesi, lawyers for the Constitutional case against the Anti-Homosexuality Act (AHA) in Uganda, provide a detailed first-hand case study of the successful challenge to the Act. Complementing their chapter, Richard Lusimbo and Austin Bryan examine the growth of LGBTI organising in Uganda in the context of the struggle against the AHA, including the formation of the Civil Society Coalition on Human Rights and Constitutional Law, which brought together 50 civil society organisations to oppose the AHA. Kenyan Justice Monica Mbaru, lawyer Monica Tabengwa and ARC International Executive director Kim Vance discuss recent litigation and significant incremental gains in case law based on constitutional protections that guarantee freedom of association in Botswana, Kenya and Uganda. Kenya activists, Jane Wothaya Thirikwa, Guillit Amakobe, Kat Dearham and Po Likimani, examine LGBT organising in Kenya, probing into questions of intersectionality, class, poverty and donor culture with regard to organizing work.

KEEP IN TOUCH



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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.](#)