
13 March 2014

Dear Friends,

We have been tracking the bill in Uganda that has become law, further institutionalizing discrimination against homosexuals. As an organization that believes firmly in human rights, Firelight does not fund programs that limit participation based on race, tribe, religion, gender, or nationality. We are concerned about what passage of this bill will mean for the human rights of Ugandans.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu's words resonate with us:

"We must be entirely clear about this: the history of people is littered with attempts to legislate against love or marriage across class, caste, and race. But there is no scientific basis or genetic rationale for love. There is only the grace of God. There is no scientific justification for prejudice and discrimination, ever. And nor is there any moral justification. Nazi Germany and apartheid South Africa, among others, attest to these facts."

In this edition of the newsflash, we are providing resources for supporting youth whose sexual orientation makes them vulnerable to stigma and discrimination.

Sincerely,

The Firelight Team

(Article) Desmond Tutu condemns Uganda's proposed new anti-gay law (from The Guardian)

(Resource) "Break Another Silence" Understanding Sexual Minorities and Taking Action for Sexual Rights in Africa (from Oxfam)

(Resource) Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Rights in Education (from the Centre for Education Rights and Transformation)

(Resource) Hear Us Out - Online Resource Library for Young People, Educators, Researchers, and Parents

(Funding Opportunities) Top 10 funders for LGBTI funding

(Training Opportunity) Child Rights, Classroom and School Management (from Sida)

(Article) Desmond Tutu condemns Uganda's proposed new anti-gay law (from The Guardian)

From The Guardian, 23 February 2014 (before the bill was signed into law)

In condemning Uganda's proposed new law, Desmond Tutu again equated discrimination against gay people with the the horrors of Nazi Germany and apartheid-era South Africa.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu has condemned Uganda's proposed law against homosexuality, saying there is no scientific or moral basis ever for prejudice and discrimination – and accusing the Ugandan president of breaking a promise not to enact the law. The new law would extend the prohibitions and penalties in a country where homosexuality is already a crime, to include acts such as "suggestive touching" in public.

President Yoweri Museveni had first said that he would not sign the legislation, then that he would do so after seeking scientific advice, and at the weekend that he would delay it pending more advice.

The proposed law has drawn harsh criticism from US president Barack Obama and former president Bill Clinton. The US warned that such a move could "complicate" approximately £240m in annual aid to Uganda. In a statement Tutu said: "When President Museveni and I spoke last month, he gave his word that he would not let the anti-homosexuality bill become law in Uganda. I was therefore very disheartened to hear last week that President Museveni was reconsidering his position."

Tutu equated discrimination against gay people with the horrors of Nazi Germany and apartheid-era South Africa.

"We must be entirely clear about this: the history of people is littered with attempts to legislate against love or marriage across class, caste, and race. But there is no scientific basis or genetic rationale for love. There is only the grace of God. There is no scientific justification for prejudice and discrimination, ever. And nor is there any moral justification. Nazi Germany and apartheid South Africa, among others, attest to these facts."

The retired archbishop recalled apartheid-era police raids: "In South Africa, apartheid police used to rush into bedrooms where whites were suspected of making love to blacks. They would feel if the bed sheets were warm, crucial evidence to be used in the criminal case to follow. It was demeaning to those whose 'crime' was to love each other, it was demeaning to the policemen – and it was a blot on our entire society."

Tutu went on to plead with Museveni to use the debate to strengthen the culture of human rights and justice in Uganda, and clamp down on sexual exploitation rather than orientation. "To strengthen criminal sanctions against those who commit sexual acts with children, regardless of gender or sexual orientation. To strengthen criminal sanctions against all acts of rape and sexual violence, regardless of gender or sexual orientation," he said. And, if needs be, to strengthen criminal sanctions against those involved in commercial sexual transactions – buyers and sellers regardless of gender or sexual orientation. Tightening such areas of the law would surely provide children and families far more protection than criminalising acts of love between consenting adults.

Same-sex relations are criminal in 36 of 55 African countries, and carry the death penalty in

some.

View the original article at: <http://bit.ly/1jVjiLv>

(Resource) "Break Another Silence" Understanding Sexual Minorities and Taking Action for Sexual Rights in Africa (from Oxfam)

This short 13-page booklet is to encourage staff in civil society and government organisations to: understand sexual rights as human rights; to become aware of the ongoing abuses of sexual minorities' human rights including lack of access to essential services; and to take action to protect rights for all, including minority groups:

- Chapter 1 focuses on basic information and terminology on sexuality and summarizes some key debates and common beliefs.
- Chapter 2 looks at reactions to sexual minorities and their sexual rights. Particularly interesting is the role that colonialism played in establishing anti-homosexual law in Africa.
- Chapter 3 explores the linkage between sexual minorities, human rights and HIV programming. Why are gay people often excluded from programming meant to support the most vulnerable?
- Chapter 4 deals with why most NGOs have been silent on the issue (exerted below). The concluding chapter suggests ways to break that silence.

Why are Civil Society Organisations working in Africa silent on sexual minorities and human rights?

In September 2007, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) activists from across East Africa came together in Nairobi to meet with human rights organisations, HIV service providers and donors. One of the key issues they identified was the reluctance of mainstream organisations to include LGBTI issues in their work.

Why is this? Many international CSOs are based in countries where same-sex behaviours are legal and sexual minorities are relatively accepted. And many have a 'rights-based approach' as their foundation. We might expect far more of them to be actively involved in supporting sexual minorities to claim their rights. Here are some of the reasons for the silence from the majority of CSOs:

- Many staff members are poorly informed. The culture and education systems do not provide a good context for understanding diversity and different sexualities.
- If both African and Western staff members don't know openly gay Africans, they are more likely to accept the idea that homosexuality is not part of African culture.
- Most CSOs have not talked about the issue, and have not challenged their staff to think about it. Their staff are likely to hold many of the misconceptions and prejudices

which exist in their society.

- Few CSOs have clearly worked out positions regarding controversial issues (e.g. the decriminalisation of sex work). Topics which are ‘too hot to handle’ are easily put aside, given that there are so many issues to deal with.
- For faith-based organisations issues concerning sexuality are particularly tricky. Many struggle to promote and provide condoms for heterosexuals; little wonder they are not working for sexual minorities’ rights.
- Where same-sex behaviours are illegal CSOs feel that ‘their hands are tied’, and staff are reluctant to be involved with people who their government labels ‘criminals’. They may also fear losing their organisation’s registration.
- People fear attracting stigma and the attention of the police by working with stigmatised sexual minorities. They may also want to avoid the stress of knowing and working with activists, given that those activists are subjected to everyday violence and to backlashes when they try to claim their rights. It’s easier to work on something else.
- International CSOs may be reluctant to support sexual minorities because homosexuality is often labelled as being ‘un-African’ and promoted by the West. They may also prefer to work on issues that are popular with majority in the society, so avoiding accusations of colonialism.
- Some organisations are unable to give grants, or can only give small grants, to unregistered organisations, while some governments do not allow LGBTI groups to become registered.
- Some funders exclude, or have not prioritised, funding for advocacy or services concerning sexual minorities.

We should also remember that some faith-based organisations are not silent – they are actively part of the anti-gay movement. They often receive funds and support from anti-gay evangelical church organisations in America.

You, as an individual, can begin to break this silence! One starting place is to begin to address the silence in your own institution, by opening the subject for discussion, and by unpeeling some of the misconceptions and deeply held biases among your colleagues. Of course, it is easier to keep quiet, but it is not right to do so. If you can encourage your colleagues to really think and reflect – rather than just react – then you, with others, can begin to tackle the discrimination and stigma which exists in your organisation.

CSOs can also implement and advocate for the inclusion of WSW and MSM in HIV programming. For example, getting information to sexual minorities without attracting further stigma and discrimination, and providing health and counselling services which properly serve sexual minorities, including condoms, lubricants, and HIV treatments. This is the right thing to do for human rights, as well as epidemiologically in terms of responding to HIV, promoting public health and the Millennium Development Goals. In terms of strategy, experience suggests that the public health argument is more effective for influencing governments, particularly where same-sex sex is illegal. Creating evidence through research

is also key to advocating for new policies and programmes. For example, the results of the MSM studies in Dakar and Nairobi contributed to the inclusion of MSM in the national HIV and AIDS strategic plans for Senegal and Kenya.

We know that cultural attitudes can and do change; for better and for worse. CSOs, leaders, legislators, and governments in Africa can support sexual minorities in the process of claiming their rights, for their own benefit, and for the benefit of society and public health as a whole.

Read more at: <http://bit.ly/1ouoV8f>

(Resource) Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Rights in Education (from the Centre for Education Rights and Transformation)

This booklet provides educators, parents and learners with a basic understanding of sexual orientation and gender identity in order to overcome discrimination and prejudice. As well as outlining the South African legal protections against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, this booklet provides information on developing effective and inclusive school policies, and offers simple advice for tackling harassment within a school environment.

View the booklet: <http://bit.ly/1fJS8N3>

(Resource) Hear Us Out - Online Resource Library for Young People, Educators, Researchers, and Parents

Hear Us Out! was developed by Gay and Lesbian Memory in Action (GALA), but the website really belongs to all African LGBTIQ (lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender/intersex/questioning) youth and their allies. It is designed to be a safe and inclusive online space where young people of all backgrounds, cultures and races can connect and support each other. The website was also created to make it easier for young people, their families and other users to access and share information about the issues affecting LGBTIQ youth.

Although there are many common experiences among LGBTIQ youth, there are also some issues people face that are unique to their area, culture or community. This means that each person will use this website differently: some users will like to chat with other people, while others may simply want to check out a few resources or share their personal stories. The Resource Library has a wealth of information for LGBTIQ youth and for organizations implementing programming to support them.

To access the Hear Us Out resource database, visit: <http://bit.ly/1cdo4sg>

(Funding Opportunities) Top 10 funders for LGBTI funding

Top 10 funders for LGBTI funding:

Swedish International Development Agency - SIDA (<http://bit.ly/1cFmqL8>)

Hivos (<http://bit.ly/1ouq3sC>)

Ford Foundation (<http://bit.ly/16ScH3B>)

Open Society Foundations (<http://osf.to/1gcPri6>)

Arcus Foundation (<http://bit.ly/1cy5iMI>)

Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (<http://bit.ly/P50DaA>)

Sigrid Rausing Trust (<http://bit.ly/P50DaA>)

Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice (<http://bit.ly/1mZgRRt>)

The Atlantic Philanthropies (<http://bit.ly/1e6f3Na>)

Source: "Resilience Amidst Adversity: Being Gay and African in the new century" - <http://bit.ly/1dw0CVT>

(Training Opportunity) Child Rights, Classroom and School Management (from Sida)

Training Opportunity: Child Rights, Classroom and School Management (Sida)

Duration

Part 1: September 15 - October 9, 2014

Part 2: 10 days in March 2015 in one of the participating countries

Location

Part 1: Lund, Sweden

Part 2: Indonesia

Closing date for applications: April 27, 2014

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) is a government agency responsible for the major part of Sweden's development cooperation. Focus on long-term knowledge and competence development constitutes a major feature in all development cooperation.

Sida offers, as part of its bilateral development assistance, Advanced International Training Programmes of strategic importance to the social and economic development of cooperating countries based on identified priorities and needs. In the long-term perspective the programmes shall contribute to institutional strengthening and capacity development in the cooperating countries.

These programmes aim at enhancing managerial and technical skills and cover subjects of

strategic importance to economic and social development. The Training Programmes are designed for experienced executives from middle and top management positions in their respective organisations.

With the Training Programmes, Sida aims to contribute to processes of change and development in the participants' organisations and lines of businesses. The foundation of the entire programme is a project assignment. The assignment shall be well established in the participants' organisations and it is a basic part of the programme concept.

In co-operation with Lund University a Human Rights Education (HRE) programme covering Child Rights, Classroom and School Management has been developed. The rights to, in and through education are the guiding principles in the course and the whole training programme has a child rights-based approach. This programme is also designed to give opportunities to compare and share experience with participants from other countries while taking into consideration the Convention of the Rights of the Child, Education for All and other internationally agreed instruments. A rights-based approach has the potential of contributing to the broader efforts of improving educational quality and impact. Schools and classrooms that are protective, inclusive, child-centred, democratic and encourage active participation have the potential to solve problems such as non-attendance, dropout and low completion rates, which are common in developing countries. Child-centred content and teaching learning processes that are adequate to the child's developmental level, abilities, and learning style promote effective learning. A child rights based approach may also enhance teachers' capacity, morale, commitment, status and income. Negative attitudes may be altered through the practice of conflict resolution, democracy, tolerance and respect in the classroom. Lund University has conducted the programme since 2003, under the auspices of Sida, so far more than 350 change agents have completed the programme. Starting in 2010 the programme has been redesigned after a public tender. The training programme, which is to be conducted in English, is designed for those holding positions at School, Intermediate and Central level of the education sector. Preferably a team representing the levels mentioned consisting of three people from each country should apply. The team is expected to work together throughout the training programme. The number of participants is limited to 30 (from 10 countries) in order to ensure a close working relationship between participants and lecturers. We hereby invite you to nominate candidates.

Objectives and goals

From a development perspective, the overall objective of Child rights, Classroom and School Management ITP programme is: "to improve participating countries' capacity to offer and ensure everyone's right to relevant and quality education, an education that is safe and secure, inclusive, student-centred, democratic and problem-solving and that creates opportunities for all, regardless of background, to participate in community life as active citizens." The main objective is change processes that will contribute to the realization of the intention of the Child Rights Convention in policy as well as in practice.

The specific objectives of the training programme are for the participants to gain:

- Increased knowledge and understanding of the CRC.

- Increased knowledge and understanding of the Education for All (EFA) and MDGs targets, relevant international concepts such as child-friendly schools, inclusive education and education for democracy and human rights (EDHR) and other relevant international instruments.
- Increased knowledge and understanding of experiences, methods and tools for organizational change in general, and rights-based (participation, inclusive and transparent) and democratic methods and tools for change in particular.
- Knowledge and understanding of Swedish and other international methods for translating children's rights and democratic values into practice in schools and in the classroom.
- Expanded international and national networks to work with the CRC and other relevant international conventions and instruments.

Target Group

Preferably a team consisting of 3 people from each country representing the levels mentioned below should apply, but individual applications are also welcome. All team applications should have a cover letter for each participant. The participants from the same country are expected to work together in the project for change. The target groups for the training programme are persons working within the educational sector at three levels: For example – At local level: headmasters, inspectors and educational advisers who are working with the development of methodology and management at school and classroom level in a number of schools (clusters); – At intermediate level: officers and trainers responsible for educational activities at district or province level; – At central level: teacher trainers, headmaster trainers, staff at institutes working with educational development and at Ministries of Education.

In addition to the above, the programme will be open to professional NGO staff, working in the field of Education and Human Rights, based in developing countries, as one member of the team. A necessary prerequisite is a university or a teacher training degree. Work experience of at least five years is also required. Participants should also be approximately 30-55 years of age and fluent in English. The teams should consist of a mix of men and women and be balanced regarding participants' ages. Teams consisting of three applicants of same gender will not be considered. Applications should be endorsed by the applicant's organisation.

Invited countries:

- **Africa:** Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ethiopia, Liberia, Mali, Malawi, Namibia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia
- **Asia:** Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.
- **Latin America:** Bolivia and Colombia

Contents

The rights to, in and through education will be the guiding principles in the programme. The

whole training programme has a child rights-based approach. The following topics will be included in the programme:

- Policy documents and laws in the subject area related to human rights
- CRC, Education for All (EFA) and other internationally agreed instruments of central importance in this context,
- Key aspects of children's rights to, in and through education and their practical implications
- Democracy in the school and the school's role in society "citizenship", inclusive education, gender equality
- Opportunities to use Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to promote increased quality and increased access to information and knowledge
- Appropriate forms of leadership as well as organizational structures, forms and behaviour and a leaders' role in the various structures
- Difficult situations such as disciplinary measures, bullying, corporal punishment and sexual abuse and possibilities to make a change
- Importance of problem solving, critical thinking, participatory approach in the participants context
- Education for Sustainable Development as a holistic approach where social, economic and ecological issues are integrated.

Deadline for application is April 27, 2014. For more information, visit: <http://bit.ly/1g3cW0d>

As part of the Firelight Foundation's Capacity Building Program, Firelight provides "Newsflashes" to share relevant resources and information with our active grantee-partners via weekly emails and via post on a monthly basis. We hope that by facilitating access to information for grassroots, community-focused organizations, programming for children and families, as well as organizational development, is enhanced. Past editions of the Firelight Newsflash can be found on our website:

<http://www.firelightfoundation.org/resources/newsflash>

We welcome your comments, feedback and ideas for upcoming Newsflashes at newsletter@firelightfoundation.org

For more information contact:

Firelight Foundation
740 Front Street, Suite 380
Santa Cruz, CA 95060 USA
www.firelightfoundation.org
+1 831-429- 8750