



CRIMINALIZATION ON GROUNDS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY IN AFRICA

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George mans his small shop in downtown Nairobi out of which he sells various LGBTI affiliated memorabilia. George, a former model, is leader of the LGBTI group 'Out in Kenya'.

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George (right) mans his small shop in downtown Nairobi out of which he sells various LGBTI affiliated memorabilia. George, a former model, is leader of the LGBTI group 'Out in Kenya'.

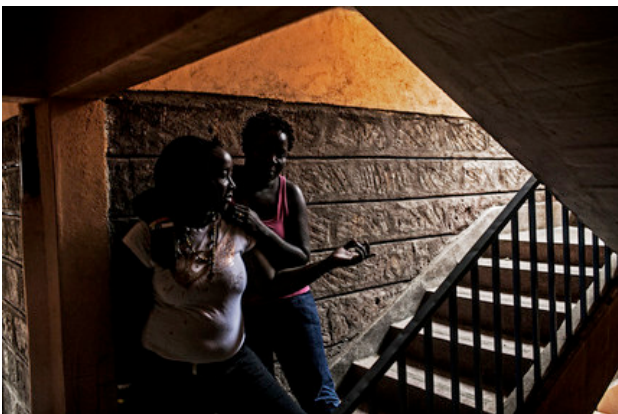
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George, former model and leader of the LGBTI group 'Out in Kenya', stands for a portrait in downtown Nairobi, April 2013.
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Mary poses for a portrait with one of her handwoven mats inside her home in Nairobi, Kenya, April 2013. Mary is a lesbian woman and mother of one son, who has been living positively for the last eleven years. She loves artwork, and with the help of her partner, makes handmade mats, which has been the source of her livelihood. © **Pete Muller**



Mary (left) and her partner, stand inside their home in Nairobi, Kenya, April 2013. Mary is a lesbian woman and mother of one son, who has been living positively for the last eleven years. She loves artwork, and with the help of her partner, makes handmade mats, which has been the source of her livelihood.
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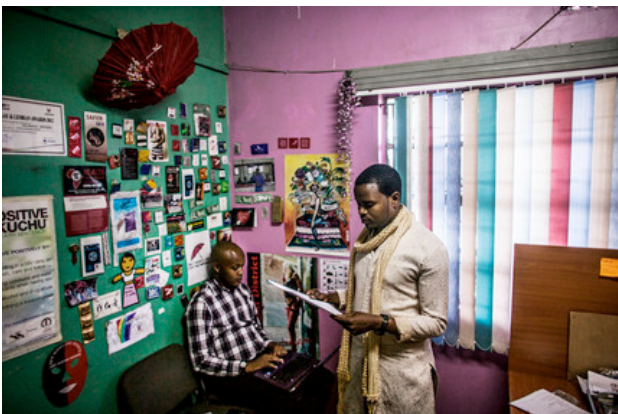
Mary (below) and her partner, sit inside their home in Nairobi, Kenya, April 2013.

Mary is a lesbian woman and mother of one son, who has been living positively for the last eleven years. She loves artwork, and with the help of her partner, makes handmade mats, which has been the source of her livelihood.

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Denis Nzioka sits for a portrait inside his office in Nairobi, Kenya. Denis is a gay activist based in Nairobi. He is the editor of the Kenya Sexual and Gender Minorities News Services Identity Kenya identitykenya.com and former spokesperson for the LGBTI organization Gay Kenya. © **Pete Muller**



Denis Nzioka (left) works inside his office in Nairobi, Kenya. Denis is a gay activist based in Nairobi. He is the editor of the Kenya Sexual and Gender Minorities News Services Identity Kenya (identitykenya.com) and former spokesperson for the LGBTI organization Gay Kenya.

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A Ugandan man reads headlines at a newspaper stand in downtown Kampala, 3rd June 2013. In the past, tabloid newspapers have advocated violence against LGBTI people and printed information about people suspected of being homosexual.

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Bishop Christopher Senyonjo sits for a portrait in his office in Kampala, Uganda. Senyonjo, who is 65, served as a Bishop in the Anglican church for more than two decades. Since 2001, he has served as a counselor and advocate for members of Uganda's LGBTI community. "God's creation is extremely complex," Senyonjo says, referring to some traditional religious perspectives of human sexuality. "Many of the negative attitudes about the homosexual community are rooted in ignorance about the nature of human sexuality." He believes that theology students ought to be required to take courses in human sexuality. His counseling services have become a lifeline for many conflicted members of Uganda's LGBTI community. "Some younger people have told me that without counseling services they would have committed suicide," he says. "The homosexual community needs to know that God loves them. So many suffer terribly believing that God does not love the," he adds. For his work with and advocacy for LGBTI individuals, he has been threatened and even spent six months in the United States out of fear for his safety.

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Through his organization, St. Paul's Reconciliation and Equality Centre, Senyonjo aims to create a devoted alliance between the heterosexual and LGBTI communities, which may create harmony. "We're experiencing a new trend in which people are speaking out about who they are. This was not the way things used to be in Africa, people did not discuss their sexuality." He believes that this is a positive - if socially challenging - development that requires the respective communities to better understand one another. "We must learn to live together despite our differences", he says. © **Pete Muller**



LGBTI activist Jay speaks to a colleague over the phone in the office of Freedom and Roam Uganda, where she is a program manager. Abang, 29, became an activist for LGBTI rights in 2010. "There has been progress on the LGBTI issue in the sense that people are now talking about it," she explains. "For a long time, it was quietly under the surface." While she credits increased conversation as an important part of progress, she laments the slow pace of social change. "At a social level almost nothing has changed. People are still being beaten, outed in the media, evicted and harassed," she says. She claims that her mobile phone is tapped. "What are they getting from me? I am not a criminal. I am not a terrorist." © **Pete Muller**



LGBTI activist Jay, Uganda, June 2013.

She cites the "Born Again" and Pentecostal Christian communities as the most outspoken against LGBTI persons and suspects that their prominence in the fight is due to their close ties with funders in the United States. "They have funding from some group that has an agenda," she explains. She believes that behaving oneself in a kind and respectful way is the best way to counteract intolerance. "How can people attack me when I am open and respectful," she posits. She views the struggle in a continuum of historic social justice movements. "I must live under all circumstances and this requires that I get up everyday and continue this work. In the history of social justice movements I am not the first - and will not be the last - who has faced fearful challenges. Despite the intimidation, we must continue to stand up for the sake of our children and grand children." © **Pete Muller**



Pepe Julian Onziema, a leading LGBTI activist sits for a portrait outside a mall in Kampala, June 2013. Pepe suggests meeting at the mall, far from the city center, because it is one of a few places where he feels safe. "I have been harassed and attacked in the city center many times," he explains in the mall's near empty outdoor area. "For me; the city center is most dreadful, I walked there last month and it was the first time that I was not accosted." Pepe, who is female to male transgender, says that people target him because they recognize him from television and newspaper appearances. He has been an activist for the LGBTI community since 2003. © **Pete Muller**



Pepe, 32, a leading LGBTI activist in Uganda, insists that despite the circumstances, members of the LGBTI community still find ways to enjoy themselves. "In the midst of all this craziness we manage to live and enjoy our lives." He explains several discretionary but open LGBTI events where people are free to drink, party and mingle. "Yes, living outside the binaries can be scary and some fear that we should remain inside them because the society is not yet ready," he says. "But if we do not take these steps, things will never change." © **Pete Muller**



Stéphane Koche, downtown Yaoundé, Cameroon, May 2013. Stéphane has been an LGBTI Cameroonian activist since 2005. He is vice-president of the Association for the Defence of Homosexuality (ADEFHO) and Coordinator at PAEMH (Project Assistance and Supervision of Homosexual Minority). Stéphane was arrested and detained for several hours on the 27 March 2012, after organizing a workshop on the rights of sexual minorities. Government officials prevented LGBTI rights activists from holding the workshop, despite being authorized by a local government official. The action of the authorities followed a violent disruption of the workshop by the leader and other members of a self-confessed anti-LGBTI group, known as the Rally for Cameroonian Youth. The authorities did not take any action against members of the anti-LGBTI group.

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Downtown Yaoundé, May 2013. A young man who has been frequently beaten in his neighborhood and evicted from his home, because of his sexual orientation and gender identity. © **Amnesty International**



Cameroon, May 2013. A man who was imprisoned in 2005 for 13 months, accused of homosexuality with other men. Whilst in prison, he was subjected to homosexuality tests. The charges were eventually dropped, and when he was freed he engaged in LGBTI human rights defense work. © **Amnesty International**



On Wednesday 24 April 2013, EPOC (Ekurhuleni Pride Organising Committee) held a commemorative event in KwaThema, South Africa, to mark the 2nd anniversary of the murder of Noxolo Nogwaza. The 24-year old lesbian was murdered on her way home from a night out with friends in KwaThema, Gauteng Province. Her attackers raped, repeatedly beat and stabbed her - apparently because of her sexual orientation - before dumping her body in a drainage ditch. At the spot where her body was found,

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and the event was supported, with messages and balloons. The Amnesty International global movement participated in the local event by sending Tweets in advance that were read out, and by sending messages that were written on coloured balloons.

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