



# Ordaa!

Stronger together

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GALZ outgoing board chair, Martha Tholanah presenting the Chairperson's report



## GALZ in partnership with PSI is assisting the LGBTI community access health services

**G**ALZ has partnered with PSI to assist members of the LGBTI community access health services. The collaboration employs a public health approach to ensure universal access for strengthened networks of individuals reached by GALZ to an integrated package of LGBTI health services offered by PSI. GALZ will lead community reach, through active referrals to clinical services and adherence support for LGBTI individuals. 35 LGBTI peer educators have been trained to support this service. Peer educators will link members of the LGBTI community to GALZ for referral and psycho-social support. PSI will also offer a comprehensive package of clinical and biomedical services to the LGBTI community.

The project is targeting members of the LGBTI community in Harare, Gweru, Bulawayo, Mutare and Masvingo.

## The 2014 - 2015 AGM

**T**he GALZ 2014 – 2015 Annual General Meeting (AGM) that had been previously scheduled to take place in October 2016 took place on the 28th of January 2017 in Avondale, Harare.

Ms. Tholanah presented the Chairperson's report for the 2014 – 2015 period, highlighting various strides that GALZ had managed to achieve. Vali and company associates were present to present their opinion of the GALZ Financial Audits.

It was noted that very few members volunteer/apply to serve on the GALZ board hence it was proposed to review with a view to amending section 8.3 of the constitution that outlines the criteria for selection of board candidates. Members present also adopted a resolution recommending the setting up of a trust to support GALZ operating

activities in Zimbabwe. The outgoing Chairperson, Ms Martha Tholanah thanked the membership for their support during her tenure of office. Ms Tholanah and Marvellous Khumalo did not seek re election after serving the GALZ board for two consecutive two year terms.

The membership voted in three additional members to the Board through secret ballot, Three positions on the board were reserved for the recruitment of an Accountant, Lawyer and a Health specialist.

The board of GALZ is now composed of those duly elected Paul Reece Cassim (Lindsey), Roy Chigwedere, Prisca Dube and those retained, Obert Manyeza, Nqobile Gan'eni and Mandi Mundawarara. The meeting adjourned soon after voting and refreshments.

GALZ Director Chester Samba gives an overview of the 2015 - 2020 Strategic Plan



## GALZ commits to effective and efficient service delivery

**G**ALZ in 2017 opened with an annual planning meeting that was meant to align programmes and advocacy initiatives to its current strategic plan. GALZ reviewed its work of 2016 and reaffirmed its commitment to defending, protecting and promoting the rights of LGBTI persons in Zimbabwe.

Whilst the 2016 environment was relatively quiet, we did not lose our commitment to upholding the rights of LGBTI persons. GALZ focused on outreach work in smaller cities, such as Masvingo, Chinhoyi, Kwekwe, Kadoma and Mutare, however this was not at the cost of our traditional cities such as Harare and Bulawayo as some events took place with community members, policy makers, allies and other CSOs to strengthen our service delivery, referral system, partnerships and awareness of the needs and human rights violations experienced by the community.

GALZ is ready to serve the needs of its constituency countrywide and address the many violations they experience.

Our strategic focus will be strengthening meaningful partnerships in service delivery, building capacities of human rights defenders, LGBTI constituency, policy-makers, healthcare workers, civil society, media, traditional and religious leaders. GALZ will continue to raise awareness on the rights of all citizens and defend these rights.

GALZ reaffirms its commitment to uphold and defend fundamental human rights and freedoms. Whether you are lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender person or intersex in Zimbabwe, you are part of our community. Your support is valuable to us. Continue to support the cause in any small way you can. We look forward to engaging with you in the course of the year. We thank you all for your commitment.



GALZ Programs Manager, Samuel Matsikure explains during the planning meeting.

## Young Matters

**T**he question is, as an 'after thought' group, with all the compounding factors such as hate speech, verbal abuse, social shunning, internalized and external homophobia, inequality to accessing services and most especially justice, are LGBTI individuals seen as a group whose rights are worthy of protection?

Yes they are! But they cannot do it alone without the help of society, government support and an enabling environment through the use of the existing laws that should protect all citizens, most especially youth. Youths that are children in and outside our homes. Youths that are the future of this great nation of Zimbabwe include LGBTI youth whether we know they are or not.

Of course the burden of protection shouldn't only fall on the external and not include the LGBTI youth themselves. We, as citizens of Zimbabwe, have the responsibility of being productive citizens that will propel the country forward hence LGBTI youths should also include themselves in initiatives that foster growth, love and unity not only for themselves but for their families, communities and society. To remember that there will be others after us therefore we all need to safeguard our resources and create an enabling environment for future generations.

GALZ encourages youths of this nation to come together, set aside any differences, use their innovation and intelligence to eradicate homophobia for the betterment of those to follow knowing that to leave anyone behind compromises the future.

**Salute.**



## Upcoming events and occasions

### Occasions:

February 14, 2017 :  
Valentine's Day

15th February:  
National Flag of Canada Day

21st February:  
President's Birthday

22nd February:  
World Thinking Day

### Workshops:

LBT:  
• Safe sex workshop

Youth:  
• Blogging

Membership:  
• Buddie Group meetings  
• Focus group discussions (Mutare, Harare, Bulawayo, Masvingo and Gweru)  
• Social Saturday  
• Positive image meeting

### Applications:

• European Development Days 2017 (EDD 2017) Young Leaders Programme (Fully Funded to Brussels, Belgium)  
Deadline: March 9, 2017

• Rainbow 263 film Training, GALZ, Zimbabwe.  
Deadline: February 15, 2017

For more information contact:  
Harare: +263 772 210 836  
Bulawayo: +263 773 196 744

**GALZ's has revamped it's website!**  
For more, log onto:

[www.galz.org](http://www.galz.org)

# Taking Human Rights to the next level

The LBT Community successfully held an event that attracted lesbians, bisexual and trans women among the participants. It was a very educative event, a starting point of greater endeavours for the LBT women in Zimbabwe.

The major highlight of the day was the discussion period in which the women shared ideas and views on the programming of GALZ's future initiatives. Some transgender women who were amongst the participants raised concern on the issue of identification and inclusion of the transgender women in all the activities programmes and projects that cater for the "other" women.

Other issues raised were the safety and security concern with some members pointing out that they are afraid to participate in social activities that may be of benefit to them as the members of the LBT community because of the risks that come along with gatherings like arrests and torture.

It was raised on the need to intensify

security at all meetings, gatherings and conferences that are done in GALZ. Another issue of paramount importance was the issue of availability of LBT friendly protection like dental dams, finger coats, female condoms and lubricants, these are available, however members pointed out that they were scarce as compared to the vast amounts of condoms that are provided for MSM.

Recognition of WSW as KPs in Zimbabwe's National Aids strategic plan is also an issue of concern that was raised and participants urged GALZ to help in creating more sensitisation programmes for this issue to be tackled.



**In Stock!!**

**Dentals Dams available for collection at all GALZ centers**

GALZ Stakeholder Carol Maposhere reads from the GALZ constitution during the 2014 - 2015 AGM





GALZ is a membership organisation providing services to the Zimbabwean LGBTI community in areas such as counselling, health (including HIV), legal assistance and the provision of information on LGBTI issues.

Whether you are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex (LGBTI) and living in Zimbabwe, you are part of our community. Join GALZ in reaffirming its commitment to upholding and defending fundamental human rights and freedoms.

We are determined to overcome all challenges and obstacles that impede LGBTI people from cherishing freedom, equality, peace, justice, tolerance, prosperity and patriotism.

For more information, contact: GALZ, 35 Colenbrander Road, Milton Park, Harare, Zimbabwe Tel: 741736 • Tel/fax: 740614 • email: info@galz.co. Bulawayo: 26 Moffat Road, Northend. Tel: +263 773 196744 Website: www.galz.org @galzinf GALZ (page)



## Queer Voices

### Invisible beings part 1

I was once an invisible being until I took charge of my life and my destiny despite the odds that were against me"

I am sitting on a park bench with a group of guys. Watching as man, women, young girls and boys go about their daily business. Walking in a profile like ants heading home after a day's work collecting food for winter. Lost in thought wondering whom these people are, where they lived, what they do and if ever they have ever fallen in love. What has brought us here under the Musasa tree in the park is one common thing. We met a few years ago online and some through a local social magazine. " I am looking for male pen pals. I am a male

aged 25, 28, 30, 21, 45, 62 the list was endless.

We set in silence for almost twenty minutes. A nice cool breeze caressing our cheeks and ruffling our scarfs, hats, and jackets draped on the back of the bench. Suddenly one of us spoke, "What's next guys?" "What will happen to us ten years from now? The society doesn't want us. My family has rejected me after finding out. I was the most obedient, quiet and hard working child in the family. Now I am seating here in the park wondering how I ended up here. Life sucks. We all stared in the distance in deep thoughts.

Taona is 30 years old. He works for a local company as an administrator. Since high school, he has never dated anyone, until a year ago when he fell in love with a boy he met online. This was love

at first sight after one date. Kuda is his boyfriend who just turned 35 yesterday. They celebrated his birthday at home watching movies, cooking dinner, sipping beer and munching on popcorn. Taona has not seen his family for the past year. Communication between him and his family ended the day his older sister blurted out to the whole family, at a family event that Taona was gay, a homosexual "Ndati Taona ingochani. He disgusts me. I could not keep it to myself. God doesn't allow me to keep such evil acts. We are Christians. He is possessed by the devil himself and spoiling the family name". The words kept coming.

### #Friendsforever

"Affirming my commitment to uphold and defend fundamental human rights and freedoms" - Samuel Matsikure