

Stronger Together

Vol. 2 No. 2

Ordaa! is a monthly publication produced by GALZ to keep members of the LGBTI community informed of the organisation's activities.

GALZ 2018 Theme OurVoice/ IzwiRedu/ IzwiLethu



Miss Services Pageant

GALZ with the help of its peer educators hosted a pageant to crown the SRHR services ambassador on the 19th of May 2018. Fifteen contestants battled it out for the Miss Services Queen . The contestants used various names to promote SRHR services such as PREP, PEP, STI TREATMENT, COUNSELLING, and ART.

The crowd cheered on the models as the judges who comprised of Ricky Nathanson, Dzoe Ahmed, Ramsey Kasawaya and Mafigo Gumbo, had a tough time choosing the winners as the competition was stiff. The Services queen was won by "condom", 1st runner up "HIV negative and 2nd runner was male circumcision. In the dancing category the prize went to HIV self-testing and runner up was PREP. The winners walked away with various prizes. The community members also accessed HIV testing PREP and counselling, services

A total of 86 MSM attended the flamboyant modelling pageant.

in numbers

2,949

page views on www.galz.org

42

New twitter followers

88

New followers on Facebook

Social Media reach, as of 1 April - 31 May 2018.

2018 Presidential Elections As the 2018 elections are fast approaching, there are many considerations to be made. We acknowledge that our membership is affliated to the various political parties available.

lable. We encourage peaceful discussions and careful consideration of the prevailing political climate that makes us a vulnerable community.



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Occassions:

June, 2018 : Positive Vibes Learning

June, 2018: LGBTI Sector meeting GALZ Outreach activities

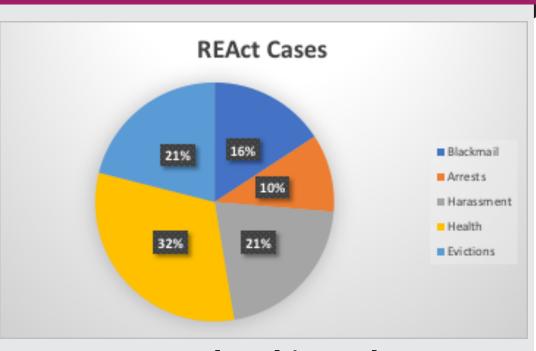
Bulawayo activities: June, 2018

- Membership meeting
- Multi-Stakeholders Dialogue
- Accessing PrEP Dialogue

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

> www.galz.org Twitter: @galzing Facebook: Munhu munhu/ GALZ Page

Pics: via ©google.com ©GALZ



Membership update

The months of April and May have seen developments within the community in relation to engagement and programming. While our partnership with PSI, the National AIDS Council and Zimbabwe AIDS Network continues to grow, GALZ strives to ensure its membership is engaged and community's access to services is improved.

There are other glaring factors within the community itself such as peer to peer blackmail, STI cases and outing, which need all community members to actively participate and be more cautious

Fig. 1 Cases attended to within the period April - May

with one another in a bid to have a health and vibrant movement. Misunderstanding among landlords, families and friends, have resulted in 4 cases of eviction which GALZ attended to and assisted with.

There were several violations cases between the month of April and May. Some of the violations include the right to privacy, unlawful dentation, the right to property, right for a decent shelter and the right to health. Community members reported cases ranging from blackmail, arrests, harassment and health related issues.

LBO Cases Handled:

Two LB women were assisted by GALZ. GALZ worked with PSZ and PSI to ensure the members received SRH services and medical treatment. Psychosocial support was provided and a follow up on adherence to medication was made.

Services

STI Screening and Treatment Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)

Confidential counseling and psychosocial support HIV Testing and Counseling (HTC)

Safe Space Social Events Legal Advice



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GALZ Hosts AVAC Fellow

GALZ is hosting an AVAC fellow Deloune Matongo as an advocacy officer from April to December 2018, to strengthen and increase Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) uptake. AVAC works to accelerate the ethical development and global delivery of HIV prevention tools as part of a comprehensive and integrated response to the epidemic. Through education, policy analysis, advocacy and a network of global collaborations, AVAC mobilizes and supports efforts to:

- DELIVER proven HIV prevention tools for immediate impact.
- DEMONSTRATE and roll out new HIV prevention options.
- DEVELOP long-term solutions needed to end the epidemic.

Through the AVAC Fellowship program, 2 major meetings were held with Pangea Zimbabwe AIDS Trust (PZAT) and Prevention Partnership Forum (PPF) during the April – May period. The meetings were aimed at forging sustainable partnerships in advocacy and programming. The advocacy fellow will assist the organisation in raising its profile on HIV prevention and increase advocacy efforts on bio-medical research and services uptake.

Students support groups

GALZ, under the SAIH project, All Access, which seeks to attain equal opportunity and non-discriminatory access to education for all, begun conducting the students support groups in Bulawayo, Harare and Masvingo during the month of May. This has given the organization an opportunity to get into greater detail of introducing the project to its target group following the membership introductory meeting which touched briefly on all 2018 projects. The Harare group comprised of students from Zimbabwe Open University (ZOU) and Harare Polytechnic College, in Bulawayo National University of Science and Technology (NUST) dominated the space, and in Masvingo all participants were from Great Zimbabwe University.

The students from Masvingo expressed concern with the lack of attendance by female students as only one female student was present. GALZ is working towards ascertaining the reasons behind not having female students attending the meetings. Some responses from the meetings are as follows:

LGBTI experiences as an student

"It's difficult especially with the boys I face a lot of discrimination both physically and emotionally, you are exposed to a lot of isolation and no one wants to share with you their school tools. Before people new about my sexuality it was easy I would get along with most of the boys and even share tools. People are no longer comfortable around me and personally this has made it difficult for me to associate with other students as

this has crushed my confidence"

"One student highlighted the challenges faced when doing research especially around health and especially if the research has a component of understanding health issues of people of the same sex. Just by researching same sex related issues you automatically qualify to be a homosexual and many show discomfort in associating with you and others quote bible verses for you. Derogatory names are used to identify LGB-TI students every day, of late the most common ones have been the KP (key population) and even just being known to be a GALZ member is associated with Satanism".

"I have been a victim of same sex rape and sexual harassment these are common in male dormitories. The security guards who patrol in this area came to my rescue however when the case was taken to the school authorities it was swept under the carpet, no follow up and it just eventually died".

GALZ continues to make strides towards reaching community members in small towns so as to ensure the LGBTI community can access health services from service providers close to their home areas. As the work towards strengthening academic freedom continues, there is need to go the extra mile in reaching out LBQ students and have a fair analysis of their experience both in tertiary institutions and their reservations coming into LGBTI spaces.



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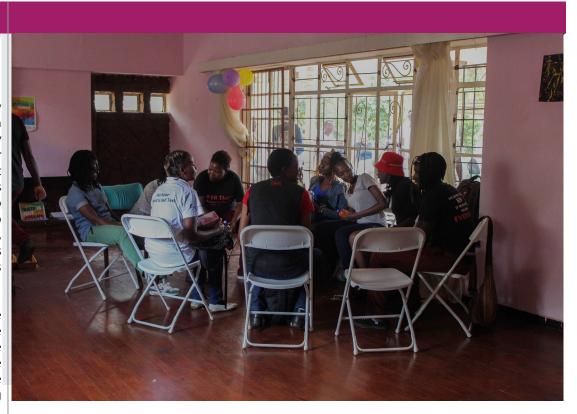
Wilkins Hospital Meeting

Wilkins Hospital is one of the few public health facilities that has been making efforts to offer KP friendly services. They have a Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) clinic that is specialized to offer SRH services for different KP groups. In a bid to strengthen the SGBV's ability to attract the targeted community, GALZ met with the hospital's management to strategize at Wilkins hospital on the 17th of May 2018.

One of the agreed strategies was the need to put a KP manned desk at the clinic reception, such that when the community comes, they will be more comfortable being received by one of their own, as opposed to being received by a HCW.

It was agreed that different KP organizations would have to second at most 3 KP representatives, who would be trained and take turns to man the KP desk. The duties of the KP desk would be to welcome community members and give comprehensive information on the services being offered (including PrEP) and be able to discuss any SRHR issues, which the community may want to discuss.

GALZ expressed commitment to second representatives and will contribute to the training of persons manning the KP desk.



Social Saturday Bulawayo

GALZ hosted a monthly social Saturday on the 5th of May 2018, its theme was Back to school, which saw members dressed in different high school uniforms. The objectives of the event were to share the present and past experiences faced by the LGBTI community in schools, to share how to survive hostile environments and to have fun! The colourful event attracted 36 males, 12 Females, four transgender persons and two gender non- conforming attendees.

Members highlighted that they were victims of bullying and humiliation perpetrated by fellow students and sometimes even by their teachers. Most said they were verbally abused and others highlighted challenges they faced in participating in school events such as sporting activities.

The event concluded with a discussion around copying mechanisms. Most community members agreed that the best solution was to ignore any insults and try to be less confrontational. Some said they have to a lie about their sexual orientation and pretend they are anti-gay in order to be accepted.

ZLHR Hotline numbers

For those who intend to contact ZLHR for legal assistance, please take note of their 24-hour Hotlines: National Office: +263 772257247

Matebeleland: +263 773855635

Manicaland and Masvingo: +263 773855718