

ACTSA LGBT+ Organisations in Southern Africa Resource

Developing links with LGBT+ organisations in Southern Africa

ACTSA would like to develop links with LGBT+ rights organisations in Southern Africa and promote their work and messages to policy-makers and decision-makers in the UK and in intergovernmental organisations (such as the European Union and UN). Where possible, we would also like to work with LGBT+ rights organisations in Southern Africa and LGBT+ rights organisations in the UK who work internationally (such as Stonewall and the Kaleidoscope Trust).

As a first step, ACTSA has undertaken an initial mapping of LGBT+ rights organisations in Southern Africa.

LGBT+ rights organisations in Southern Africa

This is a list of dedicated LGBT+ rights organisations operating at the national level in Southern Africa; LGBT+ rights organisations operating at the regional level are included at the end. For countries where there are very few or no dedicated LGBT+ rights organisations, we have included organisations that conduct work on LGBT+ rights. It is important to note that some LGBT+ rights organisations operate underground or utilise a number of different names due to the risk of persecution. Thus this is not a comprehensive list; it represents a starting point and will be updated.

Angola

There are no formal LGBT+ organisations in Angola. [Linkages across the Continuum of HIV Services for Key Populations Affected by HIV \(LINKAGES\)](#), a multi-country initiative funded by the US government, conducts a range of activities to reduce HIV transmission among key populations including men who have sex with men and transgender persons. [Population Services International \(PSI\)](#), an international NGO, runs an ongoing anti-discrimination program for men who have sex with men.

Botswana

- [Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals of Botswana \(LEGABIBO\)](#) - advocates for the rights of Botswana's LGBTI people by raising awareness, educating on health and psycho-social support, and mediating between the LGBTI community and others.
- [Rainbow Identity Association](#) - an organisation of transgender and intersex people that aims to explore ways of challenging transphobic laws and transphobia in Botswana.
- [Botswana Network of Ethics on Law and HIV/AIDS \(BONELA\)](#) - a network of individuals and organisations that promotes a just and inclusive environment to prevent HIV infection and provide a greater quality of life for people affected by HIV and AIDS through scaling up a coordinated community response and promoting accountability.
- [Ditshwanelo](#) - an organisation dealing with all aspects of human rights: advocating for changes in laws, policies and practices; raising public awareness of rights and responsibilities; and providing paralegal services.

Democratic Republic of Congo

- Groupe Hirondelles Bukavu (GHB) - an organisation that defends the rights of LGBT people by: helping make NGOs in Bukavu aware of the issues pertaining to LGBT individuals; providing training on issues such as human rights and sexual health; reporting human rights violations; and providing legal and judicial assistance to LGBT people.
- [Rainbow Sunrise Mapambazuko \(RSM\)](#) - defends the rights of LGBTI people by influencing public attitudes; challenging the authorities; carrying out training; and creating income generating activities for LGBTI people.
- Centre des droits de l'homme et du droit humanitaire (CDH) - an NGO based in Lubumbashi in Katanga province that defends and promotes human rights.

Lesotho

- MATRIX Support Group - an LGBT support group that provides psychosocial and other support services, holds discussion groups and engages in advocacy and outreach activities.

Madagascar

- Association des Gays et Lesbiennes de Madagascar (AGLM) - an organisation devoted to LGBTI rights, founded in 2011.
- Ezaka Boeny - an LGBTI community association working to roll back HIV/AIDS through prevention, treatment and the psycho-social care of people already living with HIV.

Malawi

- [Centre for the Development of People \(CEDEP\)](#) - aims to protect and defend the rights of sexual minority and other vulnerable populations.
- [Northern Youth Network \(NYN\)](#) - a regional network that raises awareness, promotes human rights for sexual minority people and develops leadership among vulnerable communities.
- [Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation](#) - a human rights NGO that seeks to empower rural and urban communities to be aware of and exercise their rights through research, advocacy and networking, in order to realise human development.

Mauritius

- [Collectif Arc-en-Ciel](#) - an LGBT organisation that fights discrimination based on sexual orientation, including by organising campaigns and conferences.
- [Young Queer Alliance](#) - a youth-led NGO that supports, empowers and protects young people due to their sexual orientation, sex and gender, and that promotes equal opportunities and non-discriminatory policies and practices.
- [Pils](#) – an HIV/AIDS NGO that implements prevention and awareness programmes.

Mozambique

- [Mozambique Association for the Defence of Sexual Minorities \(LAMBDA\)](#) - the only NGO in the country working for LGBT rights, still awaiting legal recognition eight years after presenting their request.
- Mozambican Human Rights League (LDH) - a human rights NGO that has worked on LGBT rights, including through research, litigation and hosting public events.

Namibia

- LGBT Network Namibia - aims to unite people from all sexual orientations to ensure that Namibia continues to foster an environment where LGBT and straight Namibians can live a full and productive life.
- [OutRight Namibia \(ORN\)](#) - advocates as the voice LGBTI people in Namibia to further address, redress and arrest the amount of homophobia rhetoric in the country.
- [Positive Vibes](#) - works to ensure that LGBTI people are empowered to respond effectively to discrimination and health challenges.
- [Sister Namibia](#) - a feminist and women's rights organisation that advocates for women's dignity, diversity, sexual choices and bodily integrity.
- Women's Leadership Centre (WLC) - a feminist organisation that works on many issues, including advocacy for the promotion and protection of lesbian women's human rights.

Seychelles

There are no formal LGBT organisations in the Seychelles. However, [LGBTI Sey](#) is an emerging Facebook group that aims to develop a community that is committed to challenging sexism, genderism, homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and heterosexism.

South Africa

- [Access Chapter 2](#) – works for a world where women and LGBTI people in their diversity have equal access to services and human rights.
- [Forum for the Empowerment of Women](#) - aims to ensure a world where lesbian and bisexual women know, access and enjoy their rights to autonomy, dignity and equality in all aspects of their lives, both in the private and public domain.
- [OUT](#) - dedicated to the building of healthy and empowered LGBT communities in South Africa and internationally, while reducing heterosexism and homophobia in society.
- [Social, Health and Empowerment Feminist Collective of Transgender Women of Africa \(SHE\)](#) - born from a need to contextualize the lives of African transgender and intersex women employing a feminist framework.
- [The Inner Circle](#) - supports Muslims who are being marginalised based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
- [Transgender and Intersex Africa](#) - advocates for the rights of transgender and intersex constituents in rural settlements, and supports individuals who desire to undergo gender reassignment and access health care services.
- [Triangle Project](#) - a non-profit human rights organisation offering professional services to ensure the full realisation of constitutional and human rights for LGBTI persons, their partners and families.

Swaziland

- HOOP (House of Our Pride) - a support group for LGBTI people that engages in capacity building and advocacy.
- [Rock of Hope](#) - uses trainings, advocacy and communication strategies to influence changes in policy and social practices.
- SWAPOL (Swaziland Positive Living) - provides counselling and education, and seeks to improve the living conditions of people who are affected by or infected with HIV in rural areas, many of whom are women.

Tanzania

- [LGBT Voice](#) - works to advance equality, diversity, education, and justice for LGBT people in Tanzania.
- [Community Health Education Services & Advocacy\(CHESA\)](#) – responds to HIV/AIDS and promotes human rights through partnerships with key populations (female sex workers, men who have sex with men, and injecting drug users) and their networks.
- [Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition](#) - committed to promoting the rights of human rights defenders, including LGBTI people.

Zambia

- Friends of Rainka - aims to protect, advance and promote the human rights of sexual minorities by engaging law and policy makers in legal reform, whilst building capacity to undertake effective advocacy.
- [TransBantu Zambia](#) - a membership-based movement that seeks to end discrimination on the basis of gender identity or expression, run by the trans community itself.
- [The Lotus Identity](#) - human rights organisation speaking for and on behalf of the marginalised, including LGBTI people.

Zimbabwe

- [Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe \(GALZ\)](#) - dedicated to advancing the rights of the LGBT community.
- [Bulawayo Sexual Rights Centre](#) - campaigns for the sexual health and rights of marginalised men, women and children, including LGBT people.
- [Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights](#) - represents LGBT activists in legal cases.

Regional/Continental

- [African Queer Youth Initiative](#) - aims to equip and support youth within the region with tools and resources to advocate for their rights.
- [AMSHeR \(African Men for Sexual Health & Rights\)](#) - promotes non-discrimination, particularly discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and advances access to quality health services for LGBT individuals in Africa.
- [Coalition of African Lesbians \(CAL\)](#) - a regional network of organisations in Sub-Saharan Africa committed to advancing freedom, justice and bodily autonomy for all women on the African continent and beyond.
- [DiDiRi Collective](#) - works on sexual and reproductive health and rights of LGBTI people in Southern Africa.
- [Gay and Lesbian Memory in Action \(GALA\)](#) - a centre for LGBTI culture and education in Africa.
- [Gender Dynamix](#) - undertakes to advance, promote and defend the rights of trans and gender non-conforming persons in South Africa, Africa and globally.
- [Inclusive & Affirming Ministries \(IAM\)](#) - focuses on being a catalyst for radical inclusion and the celebration of diversity within religious contexts, in order to address negative beliefs, stigma and discrimination generated within religious contexts around sexual orientation and gender identity.
- [Iranti-org](#) - a media advocacy organisation that defends the rights of LGBTI people in Africa.

- [OutRight Action International Africa](#) - supports LGBTIQ organisations in Sub-Saharan Africa and works with mainstream human rights organisations to promote dignity and influence positive changes in laws, policies, attitudes and beliefs that discriminate against LGBTIQ people on the continent.
- [Pan African International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Trans and Intersex Association](#) - aims to unify and strengthen LGBTI organising in Africa in order to challenge state legislation that impedes work related to sexual orientation and gender identity expression.
- [The Other Foundation](#) - an African trust that advances equality and freedom in Southern Africa with a particular focus on sexual orientation and gender identity.