



Sexual Rights e-News

16 Days of Activism update

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Sexual minorities celebrate their sexuality

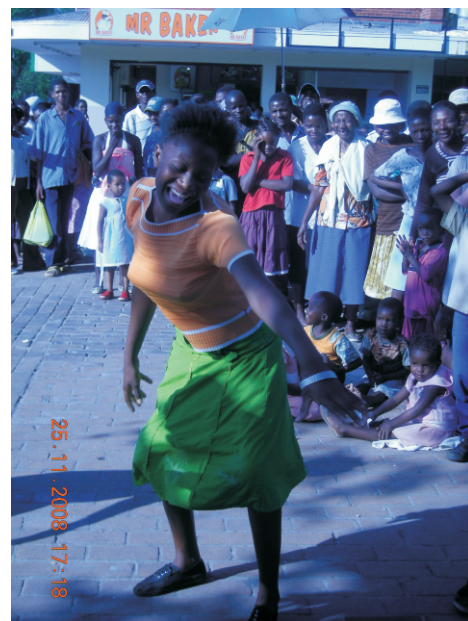
The Sexual Rights Centre (SRC) held a one-day workshop at the MAG (Matabeleland group affiliated to GALZ) offices in Bulawayo on 29 November to explore and celebrate sexuality using art, theatre and poetry. Around 40 participants attended the workshop which was facilitated by a visual artist, a theatre consultant and a performance poet to provide the participants with a broad range of skills and activities.

Performance poetry was used to encourage participants to communicate feelings and understandings about pleasure, sexuality and sexual orientation. Theatre was used because of its incredible potential to heal the

individual, and to heal communities. The aim of using theatre was to give participants the opportunity to challenge self-stigma and to build their confidence to tackle barriers and problems.

Visual Art was used to help participants to express their bodies. Participants experimented with colour and form. They painted their perceptions of their bodies and sexualities in abstract and realistic ways.

The feedback from the workshop was very positive and GALZ reiterated their desire to continue working with the Sexual Rights Centre in 2009.



The public joins SRC in dance to mark the beginning of the 16 Days of Activism

SRC holds press briefing

The media plays an important role in changing people's perceptions particularly on issues such as violence, rape, harassment, discrimination, trafficking, forced marriage and abuse. In an effort to disseminate information about sexual rights, the Sexual Rights Centre (SRC) held a press briefing on 25th of November in its offices to mark the beginning of the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence. The purpose of this activity was to engage the media in raising the profile of sexual violence, the Sixteen Days of Activism and sexual rights. The press briefing was attended by six

prominent journalists from Bulawayo's leading media houses. Some journalists commented that the press briefing was very important and would help them to write critical and analytical reports on sexual rights infringements in Zimbabwe. As a result of this briefing the SRC has received coverage in **The Sunday News**, the **Chronicle** and **Umthunya** (Ndebele language paper).

16 Rights for the 16 Days of Activism

This year's campaign is in line with our overall strategy which is tied to our new corporate identity and corporate image. We adapted our definition of Sexual Rights from the World Health Organisation (WHO 2004) and from the Women for Women's Human Rights (<http://www.wwhr.org>). We then developed 16 Rights for the 16 days of activism. This helped us to shape our campaign messages and reaching people from different constituencies.

SRC rebrands

The Sexual Rights Centre (SRC) launched its new corporate image on the 27th of November during the 16 Days of Activism. Previously named the Community Action for Development (CAD), the organisation rebranded in order to fit its overall strategy of raising the profile of sexual rights by creating a sexual rights culture in Zimbabwe through challenging behaviour and attitudes in society, capacity strengthening and empowering marginalised and vulnerable communities to advocate for their legal, social and cultural rights.



Representatives from the NGO sector, government ministries, the church, the media and collaborating partners network after the SRC launched its new corporate image on 27 November 2008

SRC commemorates Women's Rights Day

Scores of Bulawayo residents gathered to hear songs, dance and poetry at Lobengula bus terminus as the Sexual Rights Centre (SRC) raised the profile of sexual violence against women. The event which took place on the 25th of November saw Inziki, a dance group and Sithandazile Dube, a performance poet bringing the bus terminus to life with their energetic and emphatic performances. Sithandazile performed poems on the need to pursue a satisfying, safe and pleasurable sexual life while Inziki reiterated the need to promote the right to all persons, free of coercion, discrimination and violence to seek, receive and impart information related to sex, sexuality and sexual rights. More than 200 information brochures and condoms were distributed during the event.



Inziki performs at Lobengula Bus terminus in Bulawayo to mark the start of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence

The SRC team will be sending you another update of activities conducted from 01 December to 10 December 2008. For more information contact Gertrude on cad_communication@yahoo.com