



Sexual Rights e-News

Offices: Room 604 Charter House, No. 51-57 Corner Fort Street/Leopold Takawira Avenue,
Bulawayo,
Postal Address: P. O. Box 3890, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe
Telephone: +263 9 64954
Emails: cad_communications@yahoo.com/director_cad@yahoo.com

June 2009

SRC develops a Sexuality Education Curriculum

The Sexual Rights Centre (SRC) is developing a Sexuality Education Curriculum that will be used by schools to address sexual rights with young people in Zimbabwe.

The organisation will work with Foundation College, Speciss College, Dominican Convent School and St. Gabriel's Education Centre during the pilot phase. The SRC hopes to lobby the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture to adopt the Sexuality Education Curriculum so that it can be used by other schools nationwide.

Meanwhile, a team of five experts in the fields of reproductive and sexual health, sexual violence,

human rights and young people are working closely with the SRC programme staff to develop the content of the curriculum. The goal is to develop lesson plans that use participatory learning action tools to reach young people in an innovative and participatory way.

SRC believes that talking about sexuality in a human rights context will enable young people to deal with issues such as pregnancy, STIs including HIV/AIDS, abuse and rape as well as reduce the stigma and shame surrounding sex and sexuality in Zimbabwe.

We thank the Global Fund for Women for supporting this work.



Women at Ingutsheni Psychiatric Hospital make their Memory Books to create their "safe spaces" to explore issues the affect them

LGBTI responds to a services gap for LGBTI

As a result of several cases of homophobic violence that have occurred in Bulawayo the Sexual Rights Centre organised two workshops at the Matabeleland Affinity Group (MAG) centre in May with a doctor and a lawyer to develop a referral system and disseminate information about legal protection and medical services available to the LGBTI community.

The Sexual Rights Centre is concerned about the stigma and discrimination that the LGBTI community face in Zimbabwe and hopes to continue working with other

Mainstreaming Psychosocial Support

SRC is using the Memory Work tool to implement the HIV/AIDS project targeting women with psychological disabilities at Ingutsheni Central Hospital in Bulawayo.

The organisation is using this tool because of its ability to help the women to find and live out empowering parts of the stories that make up their lives.

Each participant is making her own memory book which she will use as her own "safe space" to explore her life stories. Memory Work is an effective tool that enables the programme staff to document, monitor and evaluate the HIV programme.

Dialogue and debate as the Sexual Rights Centre raises awareness about sexual minorities

In Zimbabwe there is a culture of silence on the issue of sexual minorities. The previous Zimbabwean leadership took a very homophobic stance on the issue. However, the Sexual Rights Centre believes that the time has come for the leadership and society to acknowledge the importance of human rights for every Zimbabwean, regardless of their sexual orientation. The Sexual Rights Centre has initiated a series of local-level awareness raising workshops to stimulate dialogue and awareness on this issue.

SRC participated in a workshop hosted by the College for Primary Physicians on challenges faced by members from the LGBTI community in Bulawayo. The workshop was also attended by members from the LGBTI community.

SRC made a presentation on stigma and discrimination experienced by the LGBTI from medical practitioners. The presentation touched on the importance of human rights, ethical behaviour and the personal experiences of members of the LGBTI community. Several doctors commented that they had never had to deal with this issue. However, as the Sexual Rights Centre emphasised it was important for doctors to create a safe and confidential environment that was conducive to patients disclosing their sexual orientation if they chose to. The presentation was well-received and more information was requested from the Sexual Rights Centre.

The SRC also conducted a session on LGBTI issues to 15

counsellors at Contact Family Counselling Centre. Some of the counsellors had dealt with clients who were gay or lesbian. However, some explained that although they had dealt with the issue they found it challenging and felt it was against their personal beliefs. The emphasis of the session was therefore on the importance of maintaining professionalism and not allowing personal attitudes to affect the way you deal with clients. Some counsellors had referred clients to GALZ, but people were often reluctant and reticent and preferred to deal with the issue in their own way. The SRC will conduct a follow-up sessions later in the year.

A new Constitution- a new era?

The Sexual Rights Centre is working with GALZ and other organisations to ensure the protection of sexual minorities under the new Zimbabwean Constitution. We will keep you updated about the process!

SRC keeps sex workers informed!

The Sexual Rights Centre conducted an information dissemination campaign in clubs and bars in Bulawayo to raise awareness about sex workers' rights. Update in the next issue!

Contributions of sanitary products for marginalised women in Zimbabwe

The SRC is supporting the distribution of Lunapads, donated to Lunapads in Canada, to Ingutsheni Psychiatric Hospital, Contact Family Counselling Centre, Haven House and Rural Libraries. These products are very expensive and unattainable for many women in Zimbabwe and we are very grateful for the support of Lunapads and Emily Wilson.

For more information about this activity visit the following links:

Blog post:

<http://blog.lunapads.com/2009/03/cl-oth-pads-for-women-in-zimbabwe/>

Donate page:

<https://www.lunapads.com/departme>

[nt.aspx?DeptID=5&](https://www.lunapads.com/product.aspx?DeptID=5&Pads4Girls:)

Pads4Girls:

<https://www.lunapads.com/product.aspx?ProductID=130&deptid=5>

Cash Donation:

<https://www.lunapads.com/product.aspx?ProductID=172&deptid=5>



women who received Lunapads