

Memo

To HRC InterPride
From Frank van Dalen, Pride United
Subject Pride movement in Africa
Date May 7th 2014

1.1 Introduction

With support of InterPride solidarity committee undersigned attended the Pan African ILGA conference (PAI). This as follow-up on his visit in august 2013 to Uganda Beach Pride 2013. Objective of the visit to PAI was to investigate possibilities for InterPride to support Pride initiatives in Africa and to support a pride movement in Africa. In order to be able to distribute this document within the community freely names are left out as far as they are not already exposed internationally.

1.2 Program at PAI

PAI was visited by around 90 LGBTI-activists from all around of Africa. Main objective of the conference, the first after 2007, was to renew/establish a new constitution, install a new board and define an African LGBTI agenda. These objectives have been met. Besides workshops were organized, including a roundtable about "Pride in hostile environments". This roundtable was a collaboration between Pride United and InterPride. Attendees of the conference were invited to this roundtable via the program booklet and a separate invitation that was distributed. During the roundtable an informative document to give background information and guidance was shared. These are attached to this memo. Besides one-on-one talks took place with different organisations and individuals about the topic.

1.3 General observations

Some participants indicated that they felt uncertain how a gay pride event should look like and some thought the time slot in which a pride event could take place was limited to just a small timeslot during summer (i.e. June). Feedback was given:

- A pride event is an event that can include different kind of (semi-) public activities.
 - Examples: information-market, debate, cultural activities, activities focussing on inclusion (transgenders, lesbian, intersexual), party, mass and obviously – but not a necessity as such - a pride march or gathering
 - (semi-)public: it is well understood that especially in very hostile environments it can be dangerous or against the law to have full open public LGBTI-events. A semi-public event like beach pride in Uganda or in closed off premises like at an embassy can be an alternative
- Pride events can take place during the year, but the pride season can be considered to run from May till October

For most participants a pride event is seen as a tool to show pride and fight state-sponsored homophobia. This must be understood within the context of hostile environment and therefore a pride event is not used to build social acceptance at first, but to combat for space and visibility in society.

Backlash of a pride event is a serious risk. So it's debated in the communities operating in hostile environment whether having a pride event is a good tool. Each community therefore has to decide for itself to have a pride event or not. Combating for space and creating visibility can activate serious violent or legal counter reactions from those opposing LGBTI's(rights). Some take a stand that in order to force progress collateral damage has to be accepted. This all within the limitations of people's live put at risk.

Even though security measures are taken, unintentionally each pride event some LGBTI's attending get outed via photos on social media and media-reporting. This is a serious risk for those involved. Most organisations are not formally registered due to legal constraints in the respective countries.

For future discussions:

Pride is generally characterized as an open, inclusive for all and peaceful activity in the (semi-)public space that promotes the visibility and rights of LGBTI people in local society. Typically, Pride is (at least) a parade or a march accompanied by the rainbow colors, and signs or banners with related messages.

InterPride recognizes that in some areas public Pride activities are dangerous or illegal. In such cases, a Pride event can be considered any not-for-profit event – that is free open to all members of the LGBTI community – which promotes LGBTI esteem and rights.

2. Country specific reporting

2.1 Uganda

In 2012 and 2013 a full-fledged pride event took place in Uganda. Undersigned attended the Beach Pride 2013 in Kampala and Entebbe (march en beach-party). In autumn 2013 the Public Order Management Bill was adopted, making it obliged for public events to require permission to hold a public event. Secondly the anti-gay laws were signed into law beginning of 2014. Although many elements of the law were already part of the Ugandan penal code, it tightens the situation for LGBTI's and feeds homophobic actions from the general public towards LGBTI's.

It is not decided yet to have a third pride event in 2014. During PAI Kasha Jacqueline, who was in Geneva at the UN HRC at the time, was contacted and she decided to open a debate about pro's and con's having a pride event in Uganda for the third time. At the same time others involved proposed to GALCK (the LGBTI-umbrella organisation) in Kenya to host the Ugandan pride in Kenya. This is still under consideration. Suggestions are made to have a pride event at the USA embassy.

Pro's and con's that have been communicated:

- Not having a pride event – or even having no pride activity at all in Uganda – will give signal that government is winning over the LGBTI-community. From having had two (semi-)public pride events to cancellation and transfer to an other country can be considered to be a major step back that will also influence moral (as the signing of the law already has done)
- Having a pride event in Kenya will prevent local Ugandan LGBTI's who are limited in resources to be part of the events as they were last year
- Having a pride event at a LGBTI-friendly embassy can feed the criticism of having the West forcing LGBTI on Uganda.

Attached to this document is an extract of the discussion about having or having not a pride-event in Uganda in 2014. Opinions are diverged. The organizing committee coordinating the pride event has to make a decision. This due to happen May 15th 2014

2.2 Kenya

Under the umbrella of GALCK a discussion takes place to have a pride event in Kenya. The political, legal and social atmosphere regarding LGBTI's is hostile. At the same time the proposal of some backbench politicians to introduce the draconic Ugandan laws in Kenya as well, seems not to be facing big support. The strategy of most key-politicians (like the biggest opposition party) as well as the LGBTI-community and other pro-LGBTI-forces is to neglect the proposals and with that having the debate fade away slowly.

A coordinator for a pride event has been assigned. If a pride event is to take place, the first week of June was considered. The request from Uganda is being considered.

2.3 Zimbabwe

In the wake of President Robert Mugabe's promise to crack down on gays and lesbians in Zimbabwe after he was re-elected, a low key ZimPride week was held in October 2013 Harare. Organised by Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ), the week included a cocktail party, discussions with a lawyer on LGBT rights under the law, a screening of the film Milk and the launch of the book Out in Zimbabwe: Narratives of Zimbabwean LGBTI Youth. The week concluded with the highly anticipated Miss Jacaranda drag pageant and party, which around 300 people attended.

In Zimbabwe homosexuality is under penal code. President Mugabe has frequently described homosexuality as immoral and inhuman in the strongest words, feeding homophobia within the Zimbabwean society.

2.4 Botswana

In Botswana homosexuality is not under explicit penal code ("unnatural acts" are criminalized and homosexuality is perceived as unnatural). In 2010 and 2011 former president Festus Mogae, advocated pro-LGBTI-rights. The Botswana LGBTI-organisation LeGaBiBo, which filled a lawsuit against the government in 2011 and rallied in 2013 to get registered, is considering organising a pride event in 2014. Plans are become more concrete slowly and they will do a pride march on May 17th (IDAHOT). *"Yes we are actually planning on doing our PRIDE march on the 17th of May as part of the IDAHOT festivities. All we do here is get permit from the city council to congregate and also police escort and we are set. LEGABIBO will be the lead organisation. We will however work in partnerships with our partner organisations. We have never been refused such permits before so we are certain we will get the permits."*

2.5 Zambia

In Zambia the LGBT-organisation Friends of Rainka (FoR) would like to celebrate the first ever Pride in Zambia, mostly likely on world Habit day which falls on sometime in October, 2014. An extensive Q&A is added as addendum to this memorandum.

2.6 South Africa

In South Africa, with a supportive constitution regarding full LGBTI-rights, numerous pride events take place. The first one was in 1990 in Johannesburg. Joburg Pride takes places in Sandton Johannesburg and is considered to be the biggest pride event in South Africa and is advocated by the city of Johannesburg. In 2012 20 black lesbians and feminists of One in Nine halted Joburg pride requesting one minute of silence for the deceased queers. The participant of Joburg pride did not respond in a receptive way. In 2013 the LGBTI-community diverted, leading to a situation that a second separate pride event (Joburg People Pride) was organized and brought back to the streets where the original pride started (Constitution Hill). Subjects of debate are inclusiveness and political messaging. These topics have to be understood in the context of low social acceptance of homosexuality and lack of equality (including social and economical position) of many black Africans. In general Joburg Pride has gone through the same development as many bigger gay pride events in the western world. Starting with strong political messaging developing itself slowly to a more commercial based pride event serving a group of LGBTI's and straight people with the concept of parties. Political messaging fades away due to focus on commercial benefits. In 2001 Joburg Pride was in crises due to debts and dwindling attendance, which resulted in renewed strategies including the transfer to Sandton. What the influence of the events in 2012 and 2013 on Joburg Pride remains to be seen, although in 2013 Joburg Pride took up as theme "back to our roots". How Joburg Peoples Pride will develop is not clear yet.

During the last InterPride conferences in the workshops about Pride 2.0 the same topics that are fuelling the debate and development around the pride movement in Johannesburg were discussed intensively since more western pride events are struggling with the same issues. One could say that Johannesburg's pride events are in the frontline of global pride developments.

Other pride events take place in Soweto, Cape Town, Durban, Port Elizabeth, Ekurhuleni Pride, Pretoria and others. What happened in Johannesburg is now also unfolding in Cape Town, with Free

Gender (a black lesbian organisation) announcing to boycott the pride preparations 2014 in Cape Town.

3.1 Position of InterPride

One of the objectives of InterPride is to support pride organisers around the globe with an increasing attention for prides in hostile environments. At the same time InterPride is investing to get a broader and more global membership base. Africa is regarded as an important working area. In order to develop relationships with and contribute to the pride movement in Africa, it is important to understand that financial and legal constraints are extremely limited. Financially because pride organisers in Africa can get no support or what so ever from local communities, commercial enterprises (advertisements) or subsidies from (local) governments. Legally because some pride organisers are collaborating committees existing of several LGBTI-organisations and secondly many of the LGBTI-organisations are not (and can not be) registered officially. That doesn't mean they are not operative.

It is key that pride organisers in Africa decide themselves what is possible within the given social and legal constraints in their respective countries. InterPride has a following role in this. However, a pride event should be considered to be an event that takes place during two or more days, consists of a variety of activities and has for the community a (semi-)public character.

3.2 Recommendations regarding Pride movement in Africa

- Offer an InterPride membership for free for the next three years to Uganda Pride steering committee and Galz Zimbabwe
- Offer an InterPride membership for free for the next three years to the Pride organising organisations in Kenya, Botswana and Zambia after the first pride event has taken place
- Invite Uganda Pride, Galz Zimbabwe, Rainka Zambia, LeGaBiBo Botswana and GALCK Kenya to apply for a sponsorship of 1.000 dollars each by filling in the application form of the solidarity committee applying for a grant that will support the initial coordination costs for a pride event (if it will take place) in 2014.

Regarding South Africa:

This is a highly political situation that needs to be resolved by those locally involved. InterPride cannot take a stand in this. At the same time it needs recognition that the black part of LGBTI-community is struggling with the economic and social climate for LGBTI's. Several pride events existing next to each other, serving different audiences or objectives, is not a bad thing as such. So therefore:

- It is worthwhile connecting with Joburg Pride and start the conversation of Joburg applying for hosting an InterPride Conference in the years to come.
- Offer an InterPride membership for free for the next two years to the Joburg People Pride and Invite them to apply for a sponsorship of 1.000 dollars by filling in the application form of the solidarity committee applying for a grant that will support the initial coordination costs for a pride event in 2014.
- Open a communication program with the other pride organisers in South Africa offering them a membership status within InterPride as well.

Pan African Pride movement

- Designate via open invitation strong leadership to become director of region 16 with the objective to develop further a Pan African Pride movement and provide this person with a scholarship to attend the InterPride AGM.

3.3 Recommendations for InterPride

- With an increase of pride events in hostile environments the solidarity fund will start playing a bigger role in supporting initiatives around pride events in hostile environments. The objective of the solidarity fund is fairly broad defined, including support in those areas that are already funded. In order to strengthen the profile of InterPride as a federation of pride organisers the suggestion is made to narrow the objective of the solidarity fund to support of pride movements in hostile environments.
- The solidarity fund has grown where at the same time the maximum grant is limited to only 1.000 dollar. It's suggested to increase the total amount that can be applied for to a maximum of 2.500 dollars, for those initiatives that are of highly strategic value in building a sustainable pride movement in hostile environments.
- Evaluate the member-fee structure taking into account the geographical distribution of economic wealth over the globe (the ILGA-memberfee-structure can be taken as inspiration).
- Develop an InterPride academy to give training support regarding the whereabouts of prides to new pride-organisers

Decisions made during HRC-meeting on April 27th

- Alan Reiff will reach out to the organisations and contactpersons Frank van Dalen will provide to him, regarding:
 - o Membership of InterPride
 - o Call for applications for the solidarity fund
 - o Call for scholarship applications for those wanting to attend InterPride AGM
 - o Reach out finding a key-person to lead region 16 (Africa) and with that build the African Pride Movement

ZIM GAYS CELEBRATE PRIDE

Tue, 29 October 2013



In the wake of President Robert Mugabe's promise to crack down on gays and lesbians in Zimbabwe after he was re-elected, a low key ZimPride week was recently held in Harare.

Organised by Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ), the week included a cocktail party, discussions with a lawyer on LGBT rights under the law, a screening of the film Milk and the launch of the book Out in Zimbabwe: Narratives of Zimbabwean LGBTI Youth.

The week concluded with the highly anticipated Miss Jacaranda drag

pageant and party, which around 300 people attended.

According to GALZ Director Chesterfield Samba, the winner of the pageant, Ezmerald Kim Kardashian, took home about R700 in prize money and "a strong sense of belonging and community spirit".

ZimPride, Samba told Mambaonline, was held at a time when GALZ "has borne the brunt of hate speech, harassment and intimidation mainly by State authorities," particularly in the run up to recent elections.

On the campaign trail, Mugabe repeatedly threatened to make life more difficult for LGBT Zimbabweans including increasing the penalties for homosexuality.

"GALZ felt it was imperative to rally the community together and partake in activities that bring the community together," said Samba "Our main thrust was to create platforms for LGBTI people to express themselves after the difficult electoral period and we managed to provide such."

To avoid any interference from the authorities, the Pride events were not widely publicised and were instead promoted through word of mouth and social media.



"Obviously issues of security were paramount hence a lot of care and thought went into advertising, and selection of venues," explained Samba.

"The events were not open to members of the public but to GALZ members, partners, civil society and other agencies. We held all the events in public spaces in the city save for the last and bigger event which we had just 30km out of the city centre."

Samba said that all the events were well supported and went ahead without incident. The only cause for concern was when a printing company refused to print a youth booklet and even involved the police.

"The matter was resolved as we believed nothing criminal or prurient was being produced. The printing company cited the owner's Christian beliefs but, hey, we found another print house," said Samba.

He added that GALZ was pleased that the community was able to take part in ZimPride "despite the uncertain environment that we are in" and that "we are already looking into ways of making it bigger next year".

Under current laws, gay sex and members of the same sex holding hands, hugging or kissing are illegal in Zimbabwe, with penalties of up to three years in jail. Same sex marriage is also

illegal under the country's newly adopted constitution.

Gay Pride initiative in Zambia

When (if at all) will it take place?

Friends of Rainka (FoR) would like to celebrate the first ever Pride Zambia mostly likely on world Habitat day which falls on sometime in October, 2014. This will mostly going to be celebrate with a view in mind that every single LGBTI person in the world has a right to belong to a group and enjoy their right to freedom of association. The world habitat day is symbolic to the spirit of belongingness, and with the right to shelter guaranteed under international law through the international convention on social, economic and cultural rights. (ICSECR). It is our hope that we shall celebrate this event with joy of knowing we belong to mother Zambia, and will forever live under her warm embrace.

Who is coordinating/leading the project?

Chalwe Charles Mwansa, the Advocacy and Policy Officer of Friends of Rainka, with support from other members of the secretariat will be leading and coordinating the work, from the draft planning stage, to the fullest execution of the project activity.

How likely is it that it will happen?

The effect upon careful planning and consideration of all logistical, as well as security aspect can and will mostly take place, the idea behind the celebration, is not to merely invited LGBT persons to come together and celebrate the event. Our allies from certain sections civil society will equally take part in the event where other invited delegates, as well as representatives from the bilateral community will mostly like participate in the process, that way, in the event of any raids. Main stream organization will be present to officiate at the event.

Problems are you facing and what are the ideas to overcome them.

Friends of Rainka is committed to the advancement and protection of the full range of inalienable human rights of vulnerable and marginalized groups of persons in the Sub-Saharan region in general—and Zambia in particular. However there are many challenges.

The major challenges include the criminalization of same-sex relations and the escalating persecution of the nation's LGBT community. The Zambian Penal Code Section 155(a)-157 criminalizes same sex relationships and acts. This severely limits FOR's ability to exercise and achieve its vision. A series of recent prosecutions and court cases has created a climate of extreme fear in the community and the organizational membership. This also has created a "chilling effect"—people.

This to overcome the challenges and problems raised above, Friends or Rainka is always inconstant dialogue with various CSO's that have partnered with to organization on so many levels. This is positive stride is what will lead to the success of pride event because we intend on partnering with bilateral(s) who have in the past offered us a 'safe space' to host various activities in a control atmosphere. This protection that we shall enjoy which will lead to the successful implementation of the pride event will be made possible due to law governing the **Vienna Convention of 1961**, which states that *'No local authority can enter the place of a diplomat to execute the law, without consent from the diplomat's host country.'*¹

Thus in line with the proposed pride event, despite the hostile environment the organization operates in, we intend on hiring extra security during the event on top of the current immunity that is accorded under the Vienna Convention, in which the premises of a foreign diplomat cannot be violate or searched by the host state. The extra security that we shall higher shall ensure that only invited persons, shall have access to the premises.

¹ The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961
African Pride Movement – Pride United / InterPride May 2014

Requested by undersigned Kasha started a debate amongst Ugandan LGBTI's whether Uganda Pride 2014 should or should not take place

The debate that unfolded is presented below

Bombastic Kasha

26 March at 16:30

PRIDE:Comrades lets have a serious discussion.Should we organize PRIDE2014?give reasons 4 yr answer.Its importnat as am getting mixed signs.

[Like](#)

Comment

- Well i think we shouldn't because People might end up behind bars..

26 March at 16:33 · [Like](#) · 1

- No,cz d homophobz r stil too anxious n waitg fo d slimmest opportunity to walk ol ova us

26 March at 16:35 · [Like](#)

- pride 2014 would have been.the best.but this law eiissshhhh

26 March at 16:36 · [Like](#)

- I think you should organise the Pride Event but in one of Foreign Embassy or UN mission. Somewhere where Ugandan Police won't get any close. Nobody should determine how you should live your love life. US Embassy can host you as with other comissioners and ambassadors be guest in attendance. That would make it even bigger pride event. You only need great minds to put things in place

26 March at 16:44 · [Like](#) · 6

- Woow

26 March at 16:47 · [Like](#)

if jojiz idea is possible n kips us free frm police. well y not

26 March at 16:50 · [Like](#)

only in Embassies and missions is where the government cannot step in. Here in Kenya we have done it before. We were infact hosted by US embassy and for 15 minutes, I felt like someone walking in the streets of New York.

26 March at 16:52 · [Like](#) · 2

Don't give them room to arrest ya'all !!

26 March at 16:52 · [Like](#) · 1

Get in touch with embassies, it is less than two months and you should have a venue already. Speak directly with Ambassadors or their representatives. If You Ugandans can't organise it then it is going to be hard for other African countries to do so. You are our strength

26 March at 16:56 · [Like](#) · 7

We would be happy to host Uganda Pride outside Ugandan Embassy in USA.

26 March at 17:11 · [Like](#) · 3

Lets see if President Obama allows us to invite every single Ug kuchu.. lol

26 March at 17:12 · [Like](#) · 2

I did not say you match outside embassies and missions. You will have to drop matching from your 'menu' for now. Replace it with performances such as music and drama, fashion shows etc. But inside the Embassy. Thats the only safest place for now.

26 March at 17:12 · [Unlike](#) · 4

Ofcourse embassy has enough to feed part attendants. You only have to coincide your event with US Pride.

26 March at 17:13 · [Like](#) · 2

The PRIDE MATCH, would be perceived to be a promotion, ad stipulated in the Act,

26 March at 21:02 · [Like](#) · 3

Just hav eto forget about matching for now and do something that doe snot involve putting your lives at risk

26 March at 21:14 · [Like](#) · 2

omg kasha am shocked you are asking about this, this is the best time to have pride, Ugandans must know that with or without law, gay people are ugandans and not Americans this is the time to see us, otherwise the previous efforts will cease to be fruitful, we must have pride nomatter how beaten we get, thats a spirit of nationalism, they must see us, this is the only time to protest the law, how ever participants must be ready and have plan B otherwise am ready to match on kampala road and am sure many more otherwise we shall have admitted to losing the battle

27 March at 00:10 · [Like](#) · 8

am beach pride shud be organised ad here in uganda home

27 March at 00:47 · [Like](#) · 1



Jan Beddeleem Hi, i am not in Uganda, so take my ideas for what they are worth, one thing is crucial, stay together as one big family, even if choices are not easy in these harsh time,
Here -in the link below- you find some arguments why 'events' are necessary to promote equality as a driving force in society, it was my opening keynote for the world outgames in Antwerp belgium, a totally different context but still written by a believer, so,
Why not going for something totally new and different, for example inviting as much family members and relatives as willing to come and care for them in a very animated and respectfull way so they feel the LGBT community appreciates their support and is aware that many mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, etc. suffers just for what their son or daughter, brother or sister is born like, ...
Something like 'delight-your-family-day' DYF-day, and then targetting the mebers of family as well as the new-constructed family,
Or going for a mainstreaming sports event, under teh form of a competition open to 'everyone'
Or call for a worldwide handclap/applaus amongst people, just because they are surrounded by people born equal to them (see keynote below)
One thing: pride or not, have fun, you deserve it, at wathever visible or invisible scale,

<http://abvvtgthumanrightsconference.skynetblogs.be/...>



Madiba >> Ohena

abvvtgthumanrightsconference.skynetblogs.be

Jan Beddeleem,, board member of the worldOutgames organising committee, introduc...[See more](#)

27 March at 01:22 · [Edited](#) · [Like](#) · 3

Zak strength in unity. Why give bahati lokodo kedaga the gift they want? They want an opportunity to arrest people and if kasha frank and all who attend pride are in jail who is left to fight? I think holding pride on ugandan soil at this time is reckless. You will win in the courts. You have already filed. Dont waste your resources. To suggest that not having pride is giving up is not correct. YOU Are fighting in the courts . No one has given up. Just be clever and outwit them dont hand yourselves to them on a platter.

27 March at 01:22 · [Edited](#) · [Like](#) · 4

Well said melanie!;;;

27 March at 01:28 · [Like](#) · 2

Let's check also for teh belgian embassy in case it comes to a "pride"

27 March at 01:34 · [Like](#)

well am in n out at some point,but then again the law is killing it for us.

27 March at 01:42 · [Like](#) · 3

You might be Ugandan gays but you need support from outside. No one has rejected your nationalism. Besides embassies are in your soil. Don't something provokative. Do something utilitarian and austhetic.

27 March at 04:50 · [Like](#)

we can still organize and have pride in another style than before,there so many other ways we can celebrate it....

27 March at 06:41 · [Like](#) · 5

it all depends on a series of consultations,as Franco said we can have a newly designed strategy than the previous ones,trust me last time police guarded the match but this time they cant hesitate to arrest us since the AHA tags such gatherings as a promoting tool,we can design something new.

27 March at 06:49 · [Like](#)

Yes I think we need pride now but no fundraising parties even if we are 10 pple we can still make it,let's prove to the world that we still exist despite the situation.we are still Ugandans and homosexuals.trust me YES WE CAN

27 March at 22:48 · [Like](#) · 4



Frank van Dalen <http://www.buzzfeed.com/.../eu-ambassador-very-close-to...> - with an important statement that could be challenged: "I am satisfied with the fact that ... there were five ministers [in the meeting] ... ready to give us assurances, that the law wouldn't mean violations of privacy, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, [and] the way medical care will be extended in facilities that are already caring for men who have sex with men," Schmidt said. And while the EU believes the "law is discriminatory from A to Z and it has to be repealed," he said, "there are ways to limit the damage. I want to keep working on that [through dialogue]."



E.U. Ambassador "Very Close" To Deal With Uganda On Anti-Gay Law, Won't Consider Cutting...
www.buzzfeed.com

"We do not try to buy African acceptance for European or universal values through our development cooperation," said Ambassador Kristian Schmidt.

4 April at 18:06 · [Like](#) · [Remove Preview](#)



Bombastic Kasha thanks guys so those suggesting others ways please share with us.i read that we can have pride in other ways.R those ways still connected to the reason and mission why Pride parades are held.please share and again thanks guys

4 April at 21:07 · [Like](#)

Having pride would be a great idea,then i start thinking#POMA #APA and definatly #AHA.....can we pull it off!!!

4 April at 21:22 · [Like](#)

Apple are in hiding,others are leaving with a lot of fear but trust me we need something to bring us together like pride because many more acts or on the way.if sempa can mobilise why not us

5 April at 07:48 · [Like](#) · [3](#)

we need pride.....its just to awaken Uganda that gay people are there, we cant be buried just like mosquitoes, this time it should be bigger and meat tearing....otherwise there is no other activism we can do

5 April at 10:15 · [Like](#) · [3](#)

so much has happened to our life since the bill passed we have lost a lot of our energies internally and externally...i can suggest as well to ve part of the beach pride celebration as moment to re-energize our body and get out of exhaustion we ve gone through through sharing personal experiences,we can start writing a play we can stage on the event can give out clear picture of wat has been happening after passage of law n giving testimonies on how we ve managed to move on,,music n dance can also b part of the event...by doing this at the end of the event we can come up with documantary abt 2014 beach pride that can sale for ages....this is how i think we dont need to match or provoke the public but to re-build ourselves this time around...for more detailed picture on how to celebrate it u can contact me...

5 April at 10:34 · [Like](#) · [3](#)

Meat tearinnng,Zak r we really ready for ths?

5 April at 11:14 · [Like](#)

yes, this is our country...why should we be treated like 3rd citizens or aliens?

5 April at 11:29 · [Like](#) · [2](#)

Very true Zak

5 April at 11:51 · [Like](#)



Stella Nyanzi Of course Beach Pride 2014 must be on the agenda. We shall be wiser, more tactical, strategise better, protect each other, do drag, eat, drink, dance, be merry, and celebrate that the movement is still here and still fighting. We shall record our stories of the moment and share them with the world. We could replace the colourful rainbow umbrellas with black plain materials or brown embuggo which are about mourning and loss. We could have plain black banners without a single word. The banners could be with embuggo. We could wear bukoko on our faces if people want to conceal themselves. We can and should redefine the meaning of Pride events as lived and experienced through painful situations created by this new law. Pride march that is dark and silent and no banners, yet it has a throng of people will be a powerful symbol of solidarity, defiance, the pain etc. Nobody will arrest a silent group of mourners wearing blank clothes. Put gags over our mouths and tie huge

hancuffs or roped on our hands. WE ARE A CREATIVE GROUP OF PEOPLE. OF COURSE WE CAN HAVE OUR VERSION OF PRIDE. ANI ALULEETA!? And then there will be Pride 2015, 2016, 2017.... one hundred years of pride in Uganda until 2114. There can be no going back! We must arise from the ashes as sphynx.

5 April at 16:16 · [Unlike](#) · [17](#)

Stella: Again your writing blows me away. Would you PLEASE compile several pieces and submit applications to be reprinted in some major american press outlet? Your voice is needed to bring clarity, personal experience, and the larger issues of the struggle and the connection to the american radical religious right. I know you are busy but your voice is needed. Inbox me if you have time and we can brainstorm some possibilities.

5 April at 16:28 · [Like](#) · [3](#)



Bombastic Kasha An loving this n boiling with energies esp knowing that the Pride Dream is not yet lost as some may think thanks guys sooooo much. Keep bringing n those willing to volunteer for Pride2014 plz email: prideuganda@gmail.com. Keep them coming plz. Great thoughts n discussion

5 April at 17:47 · [Unlike](#) · [6](#)

keep it up

6 April at 10:34 · [Like](#)

mama stella u always impress me seriously..great thoughts of a true revolutionalist

6 April at 13:38 · [Like](#) · [2](#)

Thats very great & thoughtful of you guys, am in with you every step of the way.

6 April at 13:52 · [Like](#) · [1](#)

woooooow amazing.

6 April at 14:03 · [Like](#) · [1](#)

Pride is good and i think the oppressors are waiting for a chance like this.It won't make us happy if one of us is jailed for life or killed during the pride we should utilize the small resources to help those that have no where to sleep or to go.Remember the local tabloids mentioned about it meaning they know it so lets watch out security begins with you.

7 April at 21:00 · [Like](#)

We feel you but nothing much to change.we need pride if they arrest 5 others can take on seriously its not the end of the world being silent means they win

7 April at 21:38 · [Like](#) · [2](#)

Well said sandra,afterall pride is an independent scheme so i dont see how this thing of simanyi not having what to eat comes in,,pride must happen kamambayambaya

7 April at 21:40 · [Like](#) · [1](#)

kati tutandike zi venue.and plotting sikyo?

7 April at 21:49 · [Like](#) · [2](#)

if yes why not.

7 April at 21:49 · [Like](#) · [2](#)



Bombastic Kasha M really enjoying this

7 April at 21:51 · [Like](#) · [1](#)

We are still homosexuals and Ugandans unless we admit that we are abnormal .a lot is going on but that doesn't mean that we are now Heterosexuals.its who we are n no one can feel the way we do feel about these laws

7 April at 21:53 · [Like](#) · [2](#)

yes you are right,,time now a factor

7 April at 21:56 · [Like](#)



Spectrum Uganda achieving means losing in a sense. ...but we cannot plan for uncertainties simply because we are cowards, none of us is going to have sex on the march to show homosexuality, this will be a legitimate march to show dissatisfaction and show the Ugandans that being gay is not only about how we do sex but rather how smart we are and not abnormal like they think, oppression and harrasment is one way to show sacrifice that whatever the government has in plan we are ready to face it inorder to achieve our goal, rights cannot be achieved when we are hiding in a fridge, coming out is the solution and PRIDE 2014 is the only way, lets gather strength now and come together to say enough is enough however this will be a battle for the fittest therefore weak ones might have to find a nearby closet as a security measure. thx

7 April at 22:51 · [Like](#) · [2](#)

My brother remember the hero mandella was in prison for 27yrs but when he got out, he was elected president, this made him a hero, as the LGBTI community in Uganda, we need heros

7 April at 22:52 · [Like](#) · [2](#)

Indeed those who can handle will stand firm and those who could be easily swept by the wind,,can decide to stay home in their closets,,i love this statement [#Spectrum](#)

7 April at 22:57 · [Like](#) · [2](#)



• [Spectrum Uganda](#) seriously those who think this is hard for them have a great reason to stay home and none of us will call you a hypocrite but you can still show support through the pride facebook page as well as sharing great ideas and strategies, we shall appreciate

7 April at 23:01 · [Like](#) · [5](#)

btw above as [#spectrum](#) are my views not the whole org.....clarity...am standing out to fully volunteer during PRIDE 2014 like never before

7 April at 23:04 · [Like](#) · [4](#)

• Haahaaa yes no one will be called a hypocrite on deciding to stay home and no one will be forced to come,so if you feel the other tensions better stay home,,even if we dont count 10ppl we will make it,i have watched many pride history collections in different parts of the world man things were hard organising prides like in Warsaw(Poland), Hadjuk Split(Croatia) and many more,glad enough this will be the 3rd pride though the first on face of the AHA..we can make it guys let those trying to lower our morales stop it.

7 April at 23:10 · [Like](#) · [2](#)

Will match behind u guys,luk at us oh God in i we believe

7 April at 23:20 · [Like](#) · [1](#)

It could have been much better to match all over Uganda using the skills that you have said, this will wash away the idea that kuchus are only in Kampala but rather the whole country. We will then dominate & i think our point will be taken home.

8 April at 09:30 · [Like](#) · [1](#)

• Hehhheee but even the first countries to conceive pride idea do match in big capitals..aint an easy task to do it nationwide

8 April at 09:44 · [Like](#) · [1](#)



• [Bombastic Kasha](#) Pride is NOT about heros.Pride is for movement building and solidarity.Those who are not interested in politics get a chance to join their family.AND pride is not only for LGBT but for all allies who believe in diversity and self worth.Continue the discussion and am waiting for those volunteer emails at: prideuganda@gmail.com.aluta

8 April at 10:40 · [Unlike](#) · [7](#)

We seriously need pride with you kasha I believe in you cz I've always made impossibles possible,if you managed to bring like 100 ppl together for just yo BD party last weekend then I am sure its a big no so I still stand.we need PRIDE

1 hr · [Like](#)

what of holding activities like releasing rainbow balloons into the sky.....

1 hr · [Like](#)

Any thing can work as long as we gather together even if we are 5ppl

1 hr · [Like](#) · [1](#)

Amen to Pride.argh

1 hr · [Like](#)

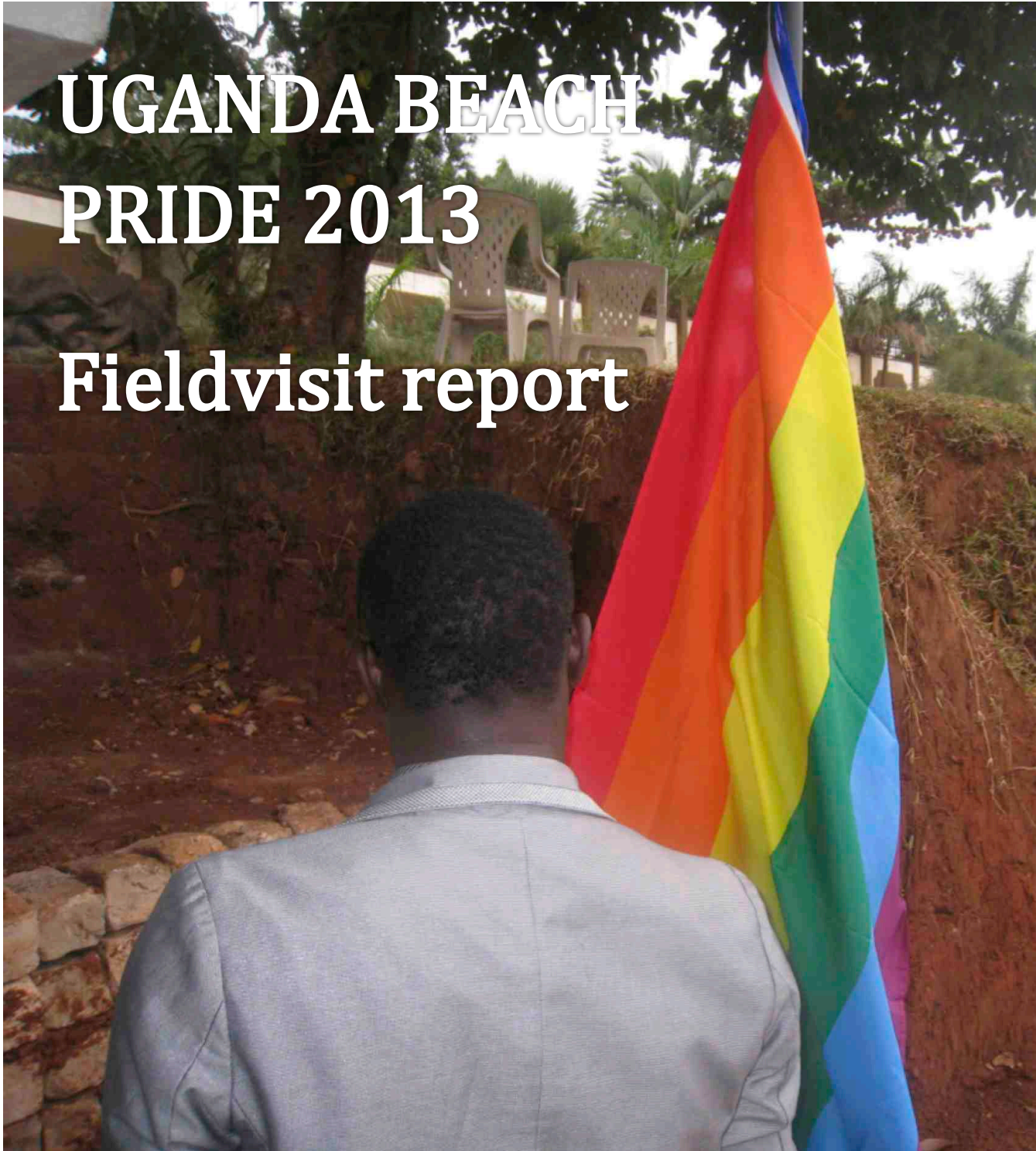
Am so innn,i feel ready fo waeva lyk nva bfo

1 hr · [Like](#)



Pride United
FOR A LGBT-FRIENDLY WORLD

UGANDA BEACH PRIDE 2013 Fieldvisit report



Kampala, August 2013
Frank van Dalen

Field-visit report

From Frank van Dalen
 Date August 4th, 2013
 Subject Uganda Beach Pride 2013

Introduction

This document is to inform you about the observations after a fieldvisit in Uganda by undersigned from July 30th till August 4th visiting the Uganda Beach Pride 2013. Despite the anti-gay laws being discussed in the Uganda Parliament, in 2012 for the first time a pride-event in Uganda took place. This year for the second time the pride event was organized.



Background of LGBTI in Uganda

Uganda, with a population of 36 million people, can be considered to be extremely homophobic. Support for LGBTI in society is almost completely absent. In almost all cases openly LGBTI's are outcasted from their families, cut off from money for education, often fired from their jobs, openly harassed or under severe threat. Homosexuality is under criminal code. On top Ugandan parliament proposed the so called "anti-gay bill", basically criminalizing every aspect of suspected homosexuality. Due to international protests the president, fearing negative economic consequences, declared he would not sign the bill when adopted by the parliament. The bill is still in first reading, out of three, and is not to be expected to be adapted to its full extend on

short notice. Religious leaders, some of them from the USA, feed homophobia further. Several cases brought to justice by LGBTI's on infringements of rights of assembly and privacy have been won. Nevertheless needless to say to Uganda for LGBTI is an extremely uncomfortable place to live.

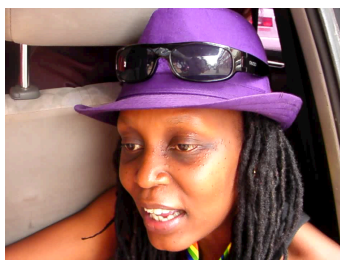
Background Uganda Pride 2012

On August 4th local Ugandan LGBTI-activists dared to organize a pride event. Originally it was planned to run for a full week. In the end the pride-event took place for three days. A total of 250 people participated. For some it was a moment of public/family coming out. Also LGBTI-expats living in Uganda participated as well as some straight alliances. A priest gave blessing to the event. The party after the pride-march was interrupted by the police. The organizers were arrested but set free the same evening. There were no grounds to keep the activists detained. For the authorities the event was very confusing and there was no clear strategy from authorities side how to deal with the event.



Organizational committee:

Based on the principle that no organization should own the Ugandan Pride it was decided to set up a separate organizing committee with key-members from the Ugandan LGBTI-movement. There is no formal legal structure, therefor it functions as a network. Beneficial of this is that the non-existent organization can't be tracked or traced by government bodies.



Last year the pride coordinator was Kasha Jacqueline, supported by a group of volunteers. This year an organizing committee was established, with Kasha Jacqueline giving space to the members, but continue to play a key-role behind the scenes in supporting the team:

They keymembers of the committee are now: Diane Sydney Bakuraira, Sarah Ndugga, Warry Ssenfuka, Pepe Onziema, Frank Mugisha, Richard, Junique Wambya, Lynn Chen, Chanel Mugisha, Ambrose Barigye and Lauren Daphen.

Program as unfolded in 2013

- Wednesday July 31st Opening party with speeches, video-presentations of last years pride-event and party afterwards. #people: 150
- Thursday August 1st Transgender festival, Gay Queen and King election and filmfestival with party-celebration afterwards. #people: 75
- Friday August 2nd Cultural program with organizations presenting themselves, movies, debate, traditional clothing presentations with party afterwards. #people: 100
- Saturday Augusts 3rd Pride March and beach party with BBQ. #people: 150



Key factors to understand

Premises who host pride activities put themselves at risk by public mobbing, raid by police and the possibilities of losing the permit to operate. Still there is support in society with entrepreneurs willing to take the risk. New laws are under way (Public Order Management Bill – the week after the pride actually passed parliament) extending the possibilities of authorities to intervene in what they see as unwanted gatherings.

Open invitation policies as well as public announcements where the activities of the pride event take place are limited. Anti-gay forces actively combat every possible event from their perspective to promote homosexuality. Making homosexuality visible as such is considered to be pro-LGBTI propaganda. Especially some religious leaders have a strong voice on this. This can result in exposing attendees publically as well as putting them under threat of violence.

Public media reports about the event are limited as a consequence as well. Public visibility of attendees can't only scare LGBTI's of to attend, but when accidentally disclosed as LGBTI put those at serious risk.

When working together with the organizing committee and being part of the processes around or the event itself, these keyfactors need to be understood. Above all the organizing committee should always be in the leading position when it comes to the where, what, when and how regarding Ugandan Pride and possible future collaborations.

Transition in 2013

For 2013 the organizers faced new challenges. After the first pride that caught the authorities as well as the public by surprise, this year most likely was expected them to be more alert without knowing the consequences. Public mobbing, authorities preventing the event from happening as well as police interventions including arrests were part of the possibilities. These possible outcomes were to be considered based on the homophobic atmosphere in Uganda, the hate-campaigns on social media and beyond as well as the arrests last year at the closing party.

As precaution next measurements were taken:

- closed of area at the premises where the pride was planned to take place (and did) – were last year the premises was open to the public
- alignment with the police (police protection was bought – unofficial process) – last year this was absent
- short pride-walk (15 minutes compared to 3 hours last year)



In difference to last year the number of participants decreased. This is most likely due to the arrests last

year, fearing people of. Also expats stayed away, afraid to lose their permits to stay in the country in case of arrest.

How to value the pride event

Taking the activities that took place the pride event can be considered to be a modern gay pride (combination of culture, debate, political statements, parties and a pride march). At the same time the amount of participants is limited. This is due to the participation fee to be paid (10.000 shilling – 3,87 USD, reported more than once to be a reason not to attend, the limited public outreach to those not being part of the LGBTI-scenery and therefore not knowing the event actually takes place, the safety measurements so the locations where the events take place are not disclosed and the general fear attending a LGBTI-event. The pride event in itself is empowering the participants, but is limited in getting visibility in society and to have political and social impact. This is also due to the decisions made to limit the pride march in 2013. Amongst the leadership a debate is developing about the strategy for 2014. Some consider the pride 2013 to be a step back compared to 2012 where others see it as a transition towards the third year with the desire to expand.

Although there is no formal organization with legal status, the organizing committee seems to be strong, committed and most important not depending on one person. In essence, change of leadership did not prevent the event from happening.

The police

The police being present at the pride-event in order to prevent harm done to the participants by possible protesters can have two impacts: 1) Ugandan government in international bodies when being questioned about the anti-gay bills and homophobia in the country (which has been happening at almost all international levels in an intensive



way) stating that in Uganda even pride events can take place with the police preventing from wrongdoing by protesters to happen. This is risky because needless to say that this has nothing to do with the extremely problematic difficulties LGBTI's in Uganda face every day. 2) When applying for a permit to walk the roads instead of a limited closed area the argument that police protection was given before and no incidents happened can be brought forward. At the same time this can also backfire by the local police-commander being criticized for not preventing the event to happen. Taking into account the homophobic political atmosphere it is not said that his decision in counter respect will not be overturned.

International community

Many LGBTI-organizations in Uganda are supported by western donors. This focuses on HIV/Aids, advocacy and related capacity building. In the community itself some question whether the money is really improving the situation of the LGBTI's on the ground. Secondly possibilities to get financial support for the pride event is limited. Some parts get external funding like the filmfestival.

Western embassies are familiar with the pride event, but concrete support (i.e. presence) is limited.

International media-attention for the event is limited as well.

Many don't know of the event taking place as well as because of safety-measurements to prevent participants from being outed.

Based on Uganda Pride 2012 and now 2013 some LGBTI-activists in other African countries get inspiration to have pride events in there own countries. Some actually attended this years event. However, knowledge about how the achieve this is very limited and circumstances to get a pride event differ from country to country.



Uganda Beach Pride 2014

Some members of the committee feel strong to make a step forward in 2014. In general they want to be out en open in the streets (Kampala, instead of a smaller city 45 km outside Kampala in Entebbe), to have more (straight and media) alliances supporting the pride-event, to have better outreach to the LGBTI in the whole country (via the media), to have stronger public visibility (via the media) and make stronger political statements towards the position of LGBTI in Uganda. In the months to come the organizing committee will define it's future strategy.

Primary support

Although it is up to the organizing committee of Uganda Pride to decided on the support needed, some suggestions were made several times:

- be part of the global pride movement – i.e. exchange experiences
- get training and/or support on the strategic part developing a pride event in pressured areas (using experiences from eastern Europe)
- get finance generating support

Secondary support

- Support the ambition to set up gay pride events by local activists in other African Countries

Prides under pressure – personal observation

In most cases when talking about prides under pressure the focus is on prides in East Europe. These prides already have a lot of attention of European organizations. Moscow Pride at the other side is not supported by local LGBTI-activists, which is key before deciding to support a pride under pressure.

Besides it is key to have an integrated and coordinated approach in order to support a local pride under pressure. In essence, to give support on moral, organizational, financial level and at the same time prevent the leakage of resources of the local activists who are organizing the pride by overwhelming them with international attention (i.e. this should be coordinated as well).

Possible roadmap

- Get alignment with the organizing committee on the support needed
- Have a strategic pride plan on the table, paying attention specifically to 1) political impact, 2) outreach to LGBTI's in Uganda, 3) connectivity amongst LGBTI's 4) connectivity between LGBTI-movement and Uganda society
- Define the (collaborating) partners to support the Ugandan Pride movement

This report

This report is based on the fieldvisit Frank van Dalen brought to Ugandan Pride. He attended all activities. During his visit he spoke intensively with the committee members, local activists as well as those attending the event. He also



had the opportunity to talk with some local politicians and western experts about the general political situation in Uganda.

This report, before releasing, has been shared with the organizing committee to make sure facts are right and to give space for comments on observations being made.

This report has been shared with the Dutch Embassy in Uganda, the Human Rights Committee of InterPride and with the LGBTI-workgroup of Liberal International. A copy has been sent to the American Embassy in Uganda, ILGA Africa, EPOA (European federation of pride organizers) and ILGA.

About the author

Frank van Dalen is former chair of the Dutch LGBTI organization COC Netherlands and former chair of Amsterdam Gay Pride. He is now chair of the LGBTI workgroup of Liberal International, chair of Pride United and member of the human rights committee of InterPride. Liberal International is the global federation of liberal political parties, the African Liberal Network being part of that. Pride United is committed to build alliances between worldwide and international operating LGBTI-organizations to align objectives, strategies and combined actions in order to further swift the global LGBTI-developments. In July 2013 Pride United hosted the first joined meeting ever between representatives of ILGA, Glisa and InterPride. InterPride is the world federation of pride organizers.

Pride United

www.prideunited.eu
contact@prideunited.eu
 Amsterdam, Netherlands





INVITATION ROUNDTABLE

Prides in hostile Environments - day 3 – during lunchbreak

In South Africa gaypride events do take place. Over the last two years in Uganda a pride event took place. Frank van Dalen was paying a fieldvisit to this pride.

InterPride is committed to support public LGBTI-events in hostile environments. InterPride and Pride United want to explore the ambitions and if any, the needs for support, regarding (semi-)public LGBTI-events in Africa.

Join us at the roundtable and share ambitions – if any at all – for (semi)-public pride events and support needed (if so) from InterPride.

InterPride

Our members produce Pride events around the world for people identifying as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex (LGBTI) and/or other emerging sexual identities.

Our shared vision is a world where there is full cultural, social and legal equality for all. Our mission is to increase the capacity of its network of LGBTI Pride organizations around the world to raise awareness of cultural, social and legal inequality, and to effect positive change through education, collaboration, advocacy and outreach.

Solidarity Committee

The mission of the Solidarity Sub-Committee of InterPride's Human Rights Committee is to distribute the voluntarily collected funds from our membership and sponsors, to organizations and/or individuals who are helping to create change and promote a better understanding of the LGBT community. The committee does this by awarding grants. A review of each received applicant's proposed project is conducted. We also review the applicant organization or individual for verification of validity, and legality. Committee members can suggest organizations and/or individuals for review as well. Every January the application process is open for submissions. Based on past practice, grants have been awarded once a year, are up to USD\$1,000.00, and are targeted, but not limited to, projects in areas that are deemed "hostile environments."



A CROSS-CONTINENT PRIDE MOVEMENT IN AFRICA?

Introduction

In South Africa there are several Gay Prides taking place. Supported by a constitution that secures non-discrimination and the right of assembly these gay prides have been able to develop into massive events. In Uganda in 2012 and 2013 a full-fledged gay pride event took place as well. What the possibilities are in 2014 remains uncertain.

The question arises whether developing a gay pride movement in other African countries can be supportive to the LGBTI's in Africa and if so, how a gay pride movement should be developed.

Roundtable objectives

General objectives of the roundtable are:

- To familiarise roundtable participants with the current status of prides across the African continent
- To inventory benefits and drawbacks that might be triggered by pride events
- To identify eventual needs for a further development of prides across the African continent
- To define best practices and recommendations on organising prides in hostile environments

Key-objective is:

Explore the ambition regarding (semi-)public pride events in Africa and the needs for support from InterPride

Questions that can be debated:

- In what ways can (semi-)public prides contribute to a reduction of stigma and discrimination and how can prides help to improve LGBT rights?
- If so, which do's and don't's should be adopted as guiding principles when implementing a pride event in a hostile environment?
- In which African countries, if at all, is there a desire by the local LGBTI-movement to organize a pride event?
- If African countries with the local LGBTI-communities to develop a local pride movement can be identified, what is needed to implement such?

Background of pride events

Pride events are most of the time events of multiple days including components relating to culture, emancipation, information, health, party and a public gathering showcasing the diversity of the LGBTI-movement and political messages. International solidarity and gay-straight alliances strengthen the pride movement. Fundamental idea behind a pride event is: "What is visible can not be ignored and has to be dealt with".

Organising partners

InterPride.org: InterPride is the international organization that ties Pride together globally. InterPride's Vision is a world where there is full cultural, social and legal equality for all. InterPride's Mission is to increase the capacity of our network of LGBTI Pride organizations around the world to raise awareness of cultural, social and legal inequality, and to effect positive change through education, collaboration, advocacy and outreach.

PrideUnited.eu: PrideUnited is committed to contribute to a LGBTI-friendly world. It will do so by building coalitions and implementing high-profile politics in order to stimulate pro-LGBTI developments and shift anti-LGBTI forces. Primary focus is decriminalization of homosexuality and social acceptance on the base of LGBTI-rights as human rights. PrideUnited will operate on global level meanwhile securing local impact.