

AFRICAN VOICES FOR EQUALITY

Human Rights First is concerned about the rising tide of legislation in Africa that criminalizes homosexuality or otherwise infringes on basic human rights but we are also inspired by the brave leaders who are standing up for equality and dignity for all people. We believe more such voices will emerge and that they will ultimately lead to change across the continent.

“There is neither heterosexual nor LGBT, for you are all one under Jesus Christ.”
– **Bishop Christopher Senyonjo, Uganda**

“If you cannot allow me to choose who I am to love, then you are denying me a fundamental right.”
– **Fox Odoi West Budama North M.P., UGANDA**

“I am in full solidarity with the LGBT community and I will continue to defend their rights in Uganda and across Africa.”
– **Speciosa Wandira-Kazibwe, former Ugandan Vice-President and U.N. Special Envoy for HIV-AIDS in Africa, UGANDA**

“Africans must stop hiding the reality. Society always denies the reality, homosexuality existence cannot be denied.”
– **McHenry Venaani, Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA), NAMIBIA**

“As long as we confine gays and lesbians into dark corners ... the battle on HIV and AIDS can never be won.”
– **Festus Mogae, former President, BOTSWANA**

“South Africa believes that no persons should be subjected to discrimination or violence on any ground, including on the basis of sexual orientation.”
– **Clayson Monyela, Department of International Relations and Cooperation, SOUTH AFRICA**

“What is unAfrican is this: the criminalisation, persecution, prosecution, imprisonment, rape, torture and killing of adults whose only crime is to love one another. We should actively speak out against these harmful actions.”
– **Edwin Cameron, justice of the Constitutional Court, SOUTH AFRICA**

“We can no longer allow such grave transgression on private life whether it being related to sexuality, belief or philosophy”
– **Mohamed Salah Ben Aïssa, Minister of Justice, TUNISIA**

“[Politicians] dehumanize the gays. They know they can say such horrible things with impunity, [but]... We are talking about human beings after all.”
– **James Tengatenga, former Anglican Bishop for Southern MALAWI**

“[The President] wants gay rights protected...these people are human beings.”
– **Presidential Press Secretary Viola**

“Sexual orientation is a private matter...this is not a State matter at all.”
– **Tharcisse Karugarama former Minister of Justice, RWANDA**

“Homosexuals are not criminals.”
– **Cardinal Peter Kodwo Appiah Turkson, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, GHANA**

“The rights of everybody—including homosexuals—should be protected.”
– **Nana Oye Lithur, Minister for Gender, Children, and Social Protection, GHANA**

“Gay rights are human rights”
– **Dr. Willy Mutunga, Chief Justice, KENYA**

“The Ministry ... has a constitutional obligation to provide health services to all without discrimination,” in the face of “increased fear, stigma, discrimination and potential acts of violence.”
– **James Macharia, Health Secretary, KENYA**

“Teachers and school administrators must be supportive to gays and lesbians.”
– **Lindiwe Dlamini, Ministry of Education and Training, SWAZILAND**

“No one should be discriminated against on the basis of their sexual orientation.”
– **First Lady Dr. Christine Kaseba Sata, ZAMBIA**

“We can no longer afford to discriminate against people ... we need to unleash the full potential of everyone.”
– **Joaquim Chissano, former President, MOZAMBIQUE**

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