



# Economic Empowerment of LGBTI in Africa

Presented by Samuel Matsikure, GALZ Programmes Manager



# African economies and labour

---

- **Marginalisation** and social exclusion, prevents LGBTI from participating in society on equal terms
- **Limitations** of earning a livelihood and providing for themselves.
- Widespread poverty among LGBT persons in many countries
- **Heteronormative economy - Labour laws cases**
- **Economy** are structured in ways which exclude and adversely include people according to their sexual and gender identities and relationships.
- **Gender stereotyping** and opportunities
- Few countries such as **South Africa** have non discriminatory labour laws that are protective on minority rights



# African economies and Covid-19

---

- African economies are on a steep decline due to COVID-19 which will amplify societal inequalities and worsen political tensions in some countries.
- Africa's informal sector provides over 7% of employment and contributes over 50% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- The economies of most African countries are connected and the extension of lockdowns and precautionary measures economically affect the regional blocs collectively.
- The closure of borders by most countries in the SADC region has negatively affected regional trade and business and impoverished the millions

# African economies and Covid-19

---

- For example to a 2018 International Monetary Fund report, Zimbabwe's informal economy is the largest in Africa, and second only to Bolivia in the world
- Most countries did not have economic recovery packages or social grants to support the most vulnerable
- LGBTI people are more impact due to high levels of unemployment (food security, shelter, poverty)



# Voices of African people Agenda 2063

---

- **Pan African vision** of *“an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena.”*
- United voices, well-being of its people, integration, free citizens
- self-confident in its identity, heritage, culture and shared values
- **Africa and Diaspora**, united in diversity, young and old, men and women, girls and boys from all walks of life, deeply conscious of history, express our deep appreciation to all generations of Pan-Africanists.
- Agenda 2063, rooted in **Pan Africanism and African Renaissance**, provides a robust framework for addressing past injustices and the realisation of the 21st Century as the African Century.
- Accountability within institutions and commit to mobilization of the people, ownership , self-reliance, capacities, inclusivity
- Transformative leadership

# Vision 2063 Aspirations for Africa

---

## OUR ASPIRATIONS FOR THE AFRICA WE WANT

1. A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development
2. An integrated continent, politically united and based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance
3. An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law
4. A peaceful and secure Africa
5. An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values and ethics
6. An Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children
7. Africa as a strong, united and influential global player and partner

# Human rights discourse in AFRICA

---

- Africa aspires to the principles of human rights, gender equality, justice and the rule of law as they subscribe to
- **The African charter on human and people's rights** Equality, and respect of all

Article 22: All peoples shall have the right to their economic, social and cultural development

**Maputo Protocol** guarantees non-discrimination, equitable gender inclusion, and respect for human dignity for all women in Africa

**African Youth Charter**- guarantees enjoyment of rights for all youths regardless of status

**Universal Declaration on Human rights**

**International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural rights**

Rights embedded in country **Constitutions**

*NB. Africa continues to have weak institutions, poor governance systems and disregard of the rule of law*



# Rights based approach

---

*“Rights based approaches must maintain the principle of the integrality and indivisibility of human rights, and recognise the interdependence of sexual rights with rights to health, housing, food and employment.”*



VISION  
a just society that promotes and  
protects the Human Rights of LGBTI people  
as equal citizens of Zimbabwe

MISSION  
To promote, represent and protect the rights and  
interests of lesbians, gays, bisexuals  
trans-gender and intersex people through  
Advocacy,  
Lobbying,  
Empowerment,  
Education,  
Research,  
Provision of safe spaces  
in order to influence positive attitudes  
of the broader society.

Website: [www.galz.org](http://www.galz.org)  
Tel: +263 4 741 736/ 740 610 Fax: +263 4 740 610  
Twitter: @galzinf  
Contact: info@galz.co

ZHRC  
ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
For Human Dignity

Protecting  
Promoting  
and

Enforcing  
Human Rights



# Status of LGBTI persons within the African economies

---

- Exclusion from work place, scarce employment opportunities, and discrimination in the workplace
- Invisibility of the LGBTIQ+ people within business sector except a few countries
- LBGTIQ+ have been relegated to the HIV sector and viewed as disease vectors- (**safe space**)
- Violence, stigma and discrimination affects participation within public domain and economies (**corrective rape, murder**)
- Economic status and poverty affects how people negotiate sexuality norms
- Constrain sexual expression.
- Regulates people's sexual practices- **criminalization**
- Setting constraints on space, social status, sex to be had, confidence and self-esteem
- Affect leeway for negotiating other structures-business, political, social

# What do we know

---

- Organisations and alliances working to advance economic justice have been limited (Bedford and Jakobsen 2008).
- Agenda of leave no one behind at International economic and development policy, “inclusive economic growth” and development
- Efforts have been made at LGBTIQ organisations to alleviate poverty
- Uganda organisations-Confectionary skills
- Kenya- LGBTIQ in business, Arts, writers, Legal, tourism
- Sex work as work and human rights protection
- Netherlands Non-profit Enterprise and Self-sustainability Team documented LGBT businesses globally, to exploit market niches, others to create income-generating opportunities for marginalized constituents.
- LGBT organizations continue launching social enterprises for the express purpose of creating employment or other economic benefits to marginalized LGBT people themselves

# What do we know

---

- The **Other Foundation** allyship and business sector network initiatives.
- The **Arcus Foundation** makes the case for international funding of both LGBT rights work and poverty alleviation among LGBT in the North and the South (Galst 2010).
- **GALZ** provides scholarships for students for basic education and struggling undergraduate university students
- **Economists and policy makers** across regions have explicitly embraced the idea that inclusion of all groups in a population for share prosperity and development



# Barriers to economic participation

- Evidence that LGBT persons all over the world continue to experience violations of their human rights
- Homosexual activity among men attracts the death penalty or long time imprisonment
- Arbitrary arrests and violence of LGBTI people, blackmail.
- Banning and harassment of LGBTI Organisations and self organising groups
- Inequality and discrimination against LGBTQ women-within the sector and society
- No political will on the protection of LGBTI rights in many African states

## Theories of inclusion in the development agenda

---

Full inclusion of LGBT people in economic, social, and political settings may well be linked to improved well-being at the macroeconomic level:

- **Human Capital** looks at skills, ability, knowledge, and health attributes that shape individuals' productivity and influence overall economic output . There are existing tensions between LGBTI movement and Africa populace in the development agenda;
- **Post materialist value**' they argue that countries are more likely to value minority rights after they have developed economically and become more economically secure (Inglehart, 1981, 2008).



- **‘Strategic modernization’** links LGBT inclusion and the economy through a country’s interest in strategies that enhance both inclusion and economic development. (*Sustainable development Goals agenda, Leave no one behind*)
  - The goal is to use that **modern image** plus other efforts to enhance the country’s attractiveness to **tourists, potential foreign investors, or other trading partners.**
  - **Capabilities approach** conceptualizes development as an expansion of freedom for individuals to make choices about what they can do and be
  - **Gender** equality and non-discrimination with the development strategy
- NB** Understand the approach and context that you exist in to model and promote economic agenda for LGBTI persons is important

# Recommendations

---

- Recognize opportunities and spaces in economic development agenda nationally, regional and global-sustainable development goals agenda-Safe cities, equality, well-being, basic to higher education
- Harness and promote diverse skills and innovative through Private partnerships
- Youth and innovative hubs in Africa-mentorship, social, economic and political capital
- Pink economy modelling within African context
- Support Small LGBTI owned businesses, and note a growing desire by the business sector at large, to tap into LGBTI markets
- Dominance of LGBTI people within private and public sector-fashion, tourism, branding, manufacturing
- Demanding for rights protection-Right to Association, Assembly, Information, Privacy Property rights, Economy
- Recognize opportunities for inclusion, transparency and accountability within the private sector-non-discriminatory, promotion of diversity workforce and labour practice

# Recommendations (cont.)

---

- Regional blocks initiatives on LGBTI and Business e.g. National business networks (The other foundation initiative)
- Allyship with the business sector
- Develop sustainable and deliberate efforts to harness the power of business for LGBTI economic empowerment and social acceptance in Africa as a whole.
- Promotion and protection of human rights across Africa in allyship with other human rights organisations and business sector.
- Safety and security is key and every effort comes with risk.





# References

- African on Human and People's rights. [file:///Users/macshack/Downloads/banjul\\_charter.pdf](file:///Users/macshack/Downloads/banjul_charter.pdf)
- Agenda 2063, The Africa we want (2015)  
[https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Policy-Documents/Agenda2063\\_Popular\\_Version\\_English.pdf](https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Policy-Documents/Agenda2063_Popular_Version_English.pdf)
- M.V. Lee Badgett, Kees Waaldijk, Yana van der Meulen Rodgers (2019)  
**The relationship between LGBT inclusion and economic development: Macro-level evidence**
- **Kit Dorey (n.a)** The sustainable development goals and LGBTI inclusion  
<https://www.stonewall.org.uk/system/files/sdg-guide.pdf>
- SIDA (2010) Poverty and Sexuality: What are the connections? <https://www.sxpolitics.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/sida-study-of-poverty-and-sexuality1.pdf>
- Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (2020) Rights in Crisis; An analysis of covid19 Pandemic in Zimbabwe



Thank You