

EMOLEMO QUEER TIMES

Free State Queer Newsletter

ISSUE 1.

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Nosana Sondiyazi and Bookholane Sekhonyane. Moustaches for Us - Gender Based Violence Advocacy Campaign.

Policy regulation of 5% daily positive LGBTQIA specific content on national SA media.

A government regulation of 5% daily positive LGBTQIA specific content on national broadcasting channels by 31 December 2021 is necessary. All radio stations, TV channels and print media need to cover LGBTQIA+ content, prioritizing LGBTQIA+ lives and stories.

With national coverage on mainstream media of LGBTQIA+ issues, we shall see the normalization of LGBTQIA+ individuals and the queer community. We call for a #TotalQueerShutdown campaign to highlight and sensitize LGBTQIA+ needs and concerns to the entire South African population. LGBTQIA+ Rights are Human Rights only in black and white in the South African constitution. No actual visible execution of these rights are being exercised or pushed by government regulation.

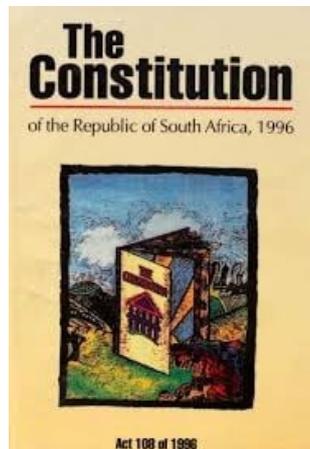
LGBTQIA+ individuals in South Africa continue to suffer prejudice, discrimination and stigma at home, school, places of work, and while accessing public health, social and justice services. LGBTQIA+ human rights violations continue to remain unreported as they occur in rural areas and are committed by supposedly ignorant perpetrators who claim to not understand, diverse gender identities and homosexual sexual orientations.

We call for national media coverage for and by the LGBTQIA+ community.



Beverley Ditsie (Facebook) and Boy George (YouTube)

South African LGBTQ+ activist Beverley Ditsie is the inspiration behind pop legend Boy George's new song, *Rainbow in the Dark*.



TRANSGENDER ADVOCACY

❖ LGBTQIA+ & MSM struggle accessing equal rights at Department of Home Affairs

- Denied same sex marriage even with Civil Union Amendment Bill enacted
- Struggle to access gender marker change and name changes



"NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US"

Responsible services for TRANSGENDER INDIVIDUALS

Tholwana e Molemo

PEP & PrEP

TEST for HIV

We refer you for your pre or post exposure needs



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RESPECT EQUALITY

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OUR SERVICES



-  HIV Testing
-  STI Screening
-  TB Screening
-  HRT referral
-  Referral for PEP
-  Referral for PrEP
-  Psychosocial Support
-  Wellness Clinic
-  Health Advocacy
-  Linkage and Adherence to requested support
-  Condom and Lubricant Distribution
-  Community Dialogues
-  Support Group
-  Distribution of I.E.C. Material
-  Documenting Human Rights Violations

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SEX, GENDER IDENTITY & SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Sex organ that is involved in sexual reproduction. The reproductive organs together constitute the reproductive system. The testis in the male, and the ovary in the female, are called the primary sex organs.

Intersex is a general term used for a variety of situations in which a person is born with reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't fit the boxes of "female" or "male." Sometimes doctors do surgeries on **intersex** babies and children to make their bodies fit binary ideas of "male" or "female".

Gender identity is your internal and psychological sense of yourself as a woman, a man, both, in between or neither. e.g. binary, non-binary, gender non-conforming, transgender, cisgender, gender fluid. Only you can determine your gender identity.

Sexual orientation is a term used to describe your pattern of emotional, romantic or **sexual** attraction. e.g. Heterosexual, bisexual, homosexual, pansexual, queer, sexually fluid.



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Sign the petition



<http://chnng.it/cWTscSrzMd>

Policy regulation of 5% daily positive LGBTQIA specific content on national SA media.

Policy regulation of 5% daily positive LGBTQIA specific content on national SA media.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Comments from petition supporters



petition



<http://chnng.it/cWTscSrzMd>

Policy regulation of 5% daily positive LGBTQIA specific content on national SA media.

Moses Mokena

I'm signing this petition because I believe that the LGBTQIA+ is being shunned when it comes to content.

thank you!



petition



<http://chnng.it/cWTscSrzMd>

Policy regulation of 5% daily positive LGBTQIA specific content on national SA media.

Thabiso Chaka

I am an Lgbtqi person

thank you!



petition



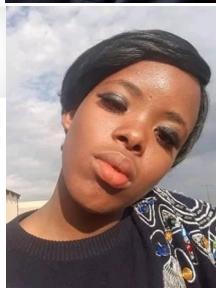
<http://chnng.it/cWTscSrzMd>

Policy regulation of 5% daily positive LGBTQIA specific content on national SA media.

Tshepang Ramolula

I'm signing the petition because we all as humans deserve equal treatment

thank you!



petition



<http://chnng.it/cWTscSrzMd>

Policy regulation of 5% daily positive LGBTQIA specific content on national SA media.

Sphiso Raphuthi

I'm a transgender model and I want to see a better future for all LGBTQ people and to have freedom of choice in any career

thank you!



petition



<http://chnng.it/cWTscSrzMd>

Policy regulation of 5% daily positive LGBTQIA specific content on national SA media.

Dr Mzikazi Nduna

We need positive representation of diversity, including gender and sexual orientation diversity.

thank you!



petition



<http://chnng.it/cWTscSrzMd>

Policy regulation of 5% daily positive LGBTQIA specific content on national SA media.

Qwama Tshoni

I'm signing because LGBTQIA+ specific content on national SA media will contribute towards changing gender norms to be more inclusive and reflect SA's diversity, as well as end discrimination and violence against the LGBTQIA+ community.

thank you!



petition



<http://chnng.it/cWTscSrzMd>

Policy regulation of 5% daily positive LGBTQIA specific content on national SA media.

Gleo Booysen

A much needed advocacy. I stand with you!

thank you!



petition



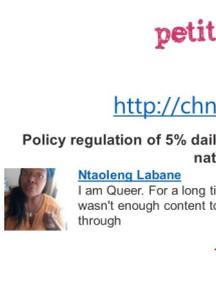
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Policy regulation of 5% daily positive LGBTQIA specific content on national SA media.

Sixolile Nacobe

I support the ask and believe it should be done

thank you!



petition



<http://chnng.it/cWTscSrzMd>

Policy regulation of 5% daily positive LGBTQIA specific content on national SA media.

Ntaoleng Labane

I am Queer. For a long time I struggles to relate who I am because there wasn't enough content to teach people around me about what I was going through

thank you!



petition



<http://chnng.it/cWTscSrzMd>

Policy regulation of 5% daily positive LGBTQIA specific content on national SA media.

Rea Buhle Mokone

This is so critical. I remember growing up with ZERO Queer content and narrative on TV and due to that lack of representation, very few individuals understood who I was and what I was likely going through. This made the isolation I felt growing up compound. WE NEED MORE CONTENT THAT RELATES TO QUEER LIVES.

thank you!



petition



<http://chnng.it/cWTscSrzMd>

Policy regulation of 5% daily positive LGBTQIA specific content on national SA media.

Terra Dick

It's about time for our Content to have a right to be published in South African media platforms e.g. SABC.

thank you!



petition



<http://chnng.it/cWTscSrzMd>

Policy regulation of 5% daily positive LGBTQIA specific content on national SA media.

Noluthando Gwedashe

I feel more LGBTQIA+ issues need to be reflected on main stream media.

thank you!



petition



<http://chnng.it/cWTscSrzMd>

Policy regulation of 5% daily positive LGBTQIA specific content on national SA media.

Mawethu Zita

To start increasing awareness about who we are to end stigma and discrimination

thank you!

Sign the petition

<http://chnng.it/cWTscSrzMd>





MALE



FEMALE



UNISEX



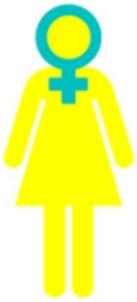
MALE



FEMALE



UNISEX



LESBIAN

a homosexual woman
a woman who is sexually or romantically attracted to other women

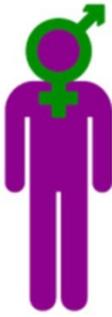


GAY

a homosexual man
a man who is sexually or romantically attracted to other men



BISEXUAL WOMAN

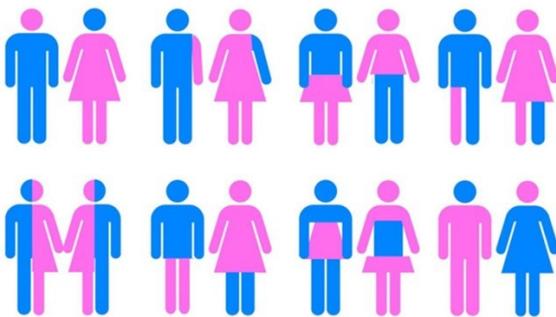


BISEXUAL MAN

Bisexuality is romantic attraction, sexual attraction, or sexual behavior toward both males and females, or to more than one sex or gender. It may also be defined as romantic or sexual attraction to people of any sex or gender identity, which is also known as pansexuality.



Denoting or relating to a person whose sense of personal identity and gender does not correspond with their birth sex. For example, a transgender person may identify as a woman despite having been born with male genitalia. And vice versa.



TRANSGENDER

People in the transgender community may describe themselves using one (or more) of a wide variety of terms, including (but not limited to) transgender, transsexual, gender fluid, gender non-conforming and non-binary. Always use the term used by the person.

Like everyone else, transgender people have a sexual orientation. Transgender people may be straight, lesbian, gay, bisexual, or queer. For example, a person who transitions from male to female and is attracted solely to men would typically identify as a straight woman. A person who transitions from female to male and is attracted solely to men would typically identify as a gay man.





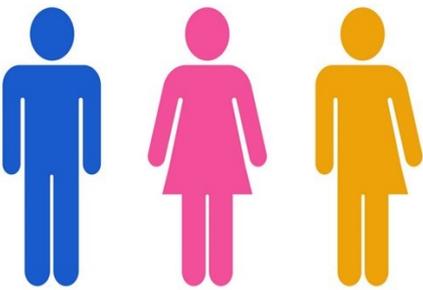
Queer is an umbrella term for sexual and gender minorities who are not heterosexual and cisgender. Queer includes all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex.

QUEER



Intersex people are individuals born with any of several variations in sex characteristics including chromosomes, gonads, sex hormones or genitals that, "do not fit the typical definitions for male or female bodies".

INTERSEX



Asexuality is defined as a lack of sexual attraction; an asexual is someone who is not sexually attracted to anyone.

ASEXUAL



Unisex refers to things that are not sex-specific, being suitable for any sex. It can also be another term for gender-blindness or gender neutrality.

Intended for use by both males and females.

UNISEX

Name: Morapedi Matlolane

Age: 33

Pronoun: He

Gender Identity: Male

Sexual Orientation: Gay

Q: Please give us a background on your Life... Childhood... Coming out...

I was born in Virginia but moved to Botshabelo after two years. I am the second born at home, the only boy, I have two sisters, and was raised by both of my parents.

I grew up in a very loving community because I never received stigma or discrimination from my neighbours. I felt special because my life was not that tough like others in the LGBTQIA+ community; who faced hardships in childhood, so I consider myself a lucky person.

I never come out because I was never in closet. My parents noticed that I was gay at a young age, because most of the time I was playing with girls and crying for my parents to buy me girls clothes. I would otherwise wear my sisters clothes. LOL.



Q: What does LGBTQIA+ Pride mean to you?

LGBTQIA + PRIDE is where we embrace ourselves and show that you should respect us and know that we are existing.

Q: Who is your favourite South African queer person and why?

Nelly Mahloko. I learn't a lot from her. She's a loving, caring and supportive person. What I can say about her is she makes us all understand and respect transgender women. Most young transgender women should respect her. She makes sure the community understands what is transgender and how they should be treated.

Q: Who is your favourite international queer person and why?

NONE

Q: Do you know your HIV status? Would you like to test for HIV?

YES

Q: What have you gained most from being introduced to Tholwana e Molemo?

I gained a lot from Tholwana e Molemo by knowing more about transgenders and how to communicate with them without offending them.

Q: What is the difference between a MSM (men who has sex with men) and gay men?

- Gay men are attracted to same sex physically and emotionally.
- MSM are men who do same sex for pleasure or fun. No strings attached.

Q: What is the typical gay/MSM lifestyle you are aware of in the LGBTQIA+ community?

MSM life is difficult because they don't want to be known by the community. Some they have wives and girlfriends. In daylight acting like they don't like gay people, but after nine run after them.

Q: What is the typical transgender lifestyle you are aware of in your community?

Most of the transgender population gets too much stigma from the community. They are women and clarify themselves as women to the community, but people don't understand that because of a lack of knowledge.

Q: How does COVID19 affect your life?

Eish!! My life changed because am no longer hanging out with my friends... but luckily I got married to the man I love most, Thapelo Olifant.

Q: What is your wish for the LGBTQIA+ community?

Feel free and respected by the community and feel safe without stigma and discrimination.

Interview by: Nosana Sondiyazi



Q: How were you introduced to Tholwana e Molemo?

By two peer educators (Kano Mashinini and Thabang Mosoeu). They came to my place and told me what Tholwana e Molemo services offered to the LGBTQIA + community.

Q: What are your views on online dating?

I personally don't like online dating because it's too risky. You fall in love with someone you don't know...

I was raised by a step father who resented me for my sexuality, and believed if he treated me bad enough I would toughen up and be a man. When that did not happen, he kept abusing me and forcing me to do all house chores, because he believed if I saw myself as a woman, then I would be subjected to women responsibilities. The stepfather would force me to wash and prepare his children every day for school, clean the house, do laundry and cook.

I never had a relationship with my mother because of the abuse I suffered, and because I was prevented by my stepfather to even be close to her. I used to blame my mother for what was happening, even though I could sense she was trying to show me that she loves me. I could not trust my mother and relatives with my sexuality, because I thought they would treat me just the way my stepfather treated me. I was surprised one day at a family gathering while people were talking and they asked my mother saying, *“What is happening with your child why is he doing everything like girls?”* and my mother answered them saying, *“This is my child, I have raised him, and I know who he is, and I have accepted him so don’t bother him”*. I asked my mother after the incident to tell me what she meant and she said that she has always known about me and accepted me from when I was a baby into the young person I am that I was a transgender, the clothes I preferred, the friends I kept and my feminine skills.

I still experience the same treatment I suffered from my stepfather, but that does not bother me at all because I know my mother and relatives have accepted me and I have accepted myself also.



Name: **Tebogo Thabana**
 Age: **21**
 Pronoun: **She**
 Gender Identity: **Transgender**
 Sex: **(Assigned Male at Birth) AMAB**
 Sexual Orientation: **“I have sex with straight guys.”**

Q: How were you introduced to Tholwana e Molemo?

A: I met with Thabang & Desmond (Tholwana e Molemo peer educators) August 2019. They reached and tested me.

Q: How did you feel when you were reached? The questions are quite personal.

A: I felt scared because I was not ready to get tested and some questions were scary.

Q: What made the questions scary?

A: They were too personal and I did not think I was ready to talk to anyone about my deep personal issues. They made me go to a scary place of my behavior and think very hard about their possible consequences. The peer educators created a safe space for me as they were my peers (TG) and I became honest.

Q: Can you tell us more about your behavior at the time?

A: I used to have unprotected sex with many different sexual partners and I drank alcohol too much.

Q: And when you found out your status, how did you feel?

A: I felt happy because I now know my HIV status. Knowing your status early helps you take care of yourself better and things like going to clinic became part of my normal life. And lucky enough the clinic I go to has staff that treats people with respect and it has become my home.



Tebogo Thabana

Q: How did you become a Tholwana e Molemo ambassador?

A: I wanted to work for NGO's, after my contract as part-time Sesotho Radio presenter at CUT fm ended. Radio show was 00:00 to 03:00 during the week. I volunteered at Tholwana e Molemo as it was the most relevant organization that took care of me and I wanted to use its platform to help other TGs who go through what I went through. Tholwana gave me a 2 month contract as a mobilizer. Then I worked another 2 months unpaid as a volunteer.

Q: You are saying that Tholwana took care of you, can you elaborate on how you were supported?

A: The peer educators were supportive and gave me attention and introduced me to Tholwana staff and Tholwana staff accepted me and supported me. Tholwana exposed me to health information that helped me make informed decisions about the importance of changing my behavior and live a long and positive life.

Q: What have you gained most from being introduced to Tholwana e Molemo?

A: I gained a lot of knowledge and exposure from trainings that developed my future and life. I needed the trainings as being part of Tholwana e Molemo requires a person to be a smart and fast thinker, so I developed my thinking skills now at least when I am among other people, I am confident because I was developed as a person intellectually.

Q: How are you now compared to before you knew about Tholwana e Molemo?

A: I can say, I'm good, satisfied and happy; developed, strengthened and positive about life. I have changed my behavior in that I am very selective when it comes to sexual partners, and I don't go to too many parties, and I don't even drink as much alcohol anymore, I am more assertive about sticking to my decisions.

Q: What was your job as a mobilizer?

A: I was working with the transgender programme. I reached clients and referred them to clinics.

Q: Why do you think you were given the mobilizer position? Why do you think you were good at it?

A: Because I was good at mobilizing and I knew I would bring a lot of transgender people to Tholwana e Molemo. I talk to people and like to be in different places to explore.



Q: What do you do for the community that Tholwana e Molemo serves?

A: Change community lifestyles, and give the community the information they don't have now. I support the community, even using radio show opportunities to reach TG's and give them relevant health related information.

Q: Do you see a future for yourself related to the work you do at Tholwana e Molemo?

A: Yes. I do see a future because I encourage people to get tested and I give them information, or make them aware of what they are not aware of.

Q: Can you do this as a career?

A: Yes, because up to so far, I have a lot of information on health etc.

Q: How would you introduce Tholwana e Molemo as a radio announcer to your audience?

A: In Free State we are having the best organization that helps the LGBTQI community to live a Healthy lifestyle!

Q: Are you still volunteering at Tholwana e Molemo?

A: No, I am now a full time employee as the Community Engagement Officer. I would like to say I prefer working for Tholwana as I am both their employee and a client now (laugh), and I still continue utilizing services such as psychosocial support/counseling, I continue to talk to the social worker at Tholwana, and plan to continue.

Interview by: **Nosana Sondiyazi**

I was born in Thaba Nchu, first of four girls. I am from a very loving Christian family. My father used to work in the mines, Rustenburg, Welkom and Virginia... so my mother literally raised us on her own but being raised from a town like Thaba Nchu would also mean that I was also raised by the community which will include aunts, grannies and family friends.

Being the first born with my father not around, I carried a responsibility of helping my mother with my siblings. All this time later however, we share and have the best laughs about times before.

I never came out of the closet because I was never in a closet ... LOL... I have never regarded myself as a girl and I didn't even know what homosexuality was. In 1994 I read an article was about Beverly Ditsie and Simon Nkoli who were the members of GLOW(Gay and Lesbian Organization of Witwatersrand).

At a very early stage of my teenagehood I dressed like a boy and it was never a problem, I really must say my introverted, shy and laid back approach to life I think prevent me from experiencing direct discrimination. Even one of my teachers used to call me *tomboy* or *mshoza*.

I have been in a number of relationships both good and bad...LOL.. I have no regrets. I am currently single and still believe in love, marriage and starting a family, nothing will make me lose sight of it.

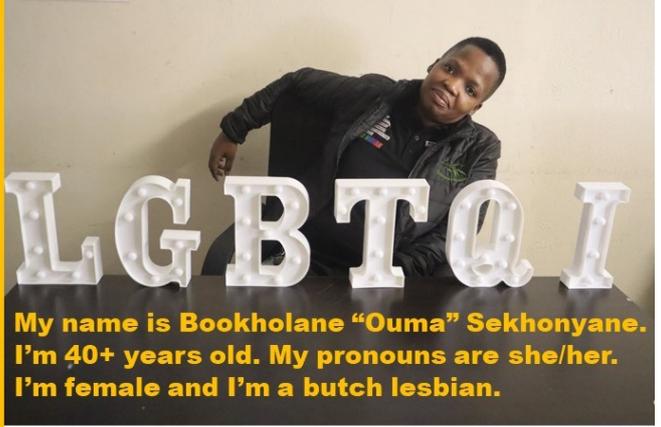


Q: What is the typical lesbian lifestyle you are aware of in the LGBTQIA+ community?

A: As lesbians we treat each other differently based on our social standing (eg. expensive cars, expensive clothes and pretty girls) is what I think separates lesbians. This creates unnecessary jealousy and feelings of inferiority within the lesbian community.

Q: As a lesbian what is your responsibility as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community?

I always try to create a platform to talk about issues that I know are challenges for us to achieve good conduct of ones life. I share my personal experiences, how I overcome challenges and difficulties for the benefit of those who seek advice.



My name is Bookholane "Ouma" Sekhonyane. I'm 40+ years old. My pronouns are she/her. I'm female and I'm a butch lesbian.

Q: How were you introduced to Tholwana e Molemo?

A: I was introduced to Tholwana e Molemo through a childhood friend who was a professional nurse at Tholwana e Molemo then, Refilwe Mototo.

Q: How did you become a Tholwana e Molemo ambassador?

A: I was offered a 2 month contract and worked as a mobilizer on the transgender programme; after my contract expired I continued working with Tholwana E Molemo on a volunteering basis

Q: What was your job as a mobilizer?

A: My job was a mobilize was to reach out to the Transgender community, explain the services that Tholwana E Molemo is offering and encourage them to know their HIV statuses/Get tested for HIV

Q: Why do you think you were given the mobilizer position? Why do you think you were good at it?

A: Firstly because I am member of the LGBTQIA+ and I have always wanted to work with the community, secondly my target was the transgenders in the townships (which is where I also reside) I think I was good at it because of the understanding of their daily challenges and my mission to make a difference in someone's life.

Q: What have you gained most from being introduced to Tholwana e Molemo?

A: Understanding gender dynamics, sexuality, and sexual orientation. I had no clue how diverse these are.

Q: Do you know your HIV status? Would you like to test for HIV?

A: I know my HIV status and would like to encourage other members of the LGBTQIA+ to get tested and know their status.

Q: What do you want to do for the community that Tholwana e Molemo serves?

A: Firstly, I want to share the love I have received from my upbringing and then advocate for change in the LGBTQIA+ community. Encourage skills development which I believe assists a lot to sustain a better life

Q: How are you now compared to before you knew about Tholwana e Molemo?

A: I am now better informed with health and social issues that affect the LGBTQIA+ ,some of which I was never aware of. I am also more appreciative and grateful of what I have. I have seen how people are suffering.

Q: Do you see a future for yourself related to the work you do at Tholwana e Molemo?

A: Yes, this is where I always wanted to be and with the kind of working environment & set of staff members I definitely see myself as one of the people taking Tholwana e Molemo to achieving its mission.

Q: How would you introduce Tholwana e Molemo to someone who does not know the organization?

A: In the initial stage of my introduction to Tholwana e Molemo I would have said "Tholwana e Molemo is an organization that offers health related services like HRT, HTS, condom and lubricant distribution and psychosocial support. Now "I say Tholwana e Molemo is a Free State based non-profit organization delivering a broad spectrum of services with a footprint across South Africa and African Continent. (Which is T.E.M's vision)

Q: Are you still volunteering at Tholwana e Molemo?

A: LOL, no I am now permanent employee at Tholwana e Molemo. I serve as a Community Engagement Officer doing Liaison between the LGBTQIA+ (on behalf of the organization) and one of the funders of the programme (AFSA)



Interview by: Nosana Sondiyazi

Name: Jackson Letanta
Age: 29
Pronoun: He
Gender Identity: Male
Sexual Orientation: Gay

Jackson Letanta is a self described smart, young, open minded and talented gay guy from Botshabelo, in the Free State.

My childhood wasn't simple, especially in my neighborhood as I experienced a lot of discrimination and stigma growing up. Being called names like "stabane" was one of the worst painful life experiences I could ever have imagined. But because I have a very supportive family, I couldn't care less about what other people say about me or their acceptance. Hence it was so simple for me to come out.

I grew up in a very homophobic environment, especially at school. But that didn't stop me from working hard in my studies and living my life only for me.

I matriculated in 2009 and furthered my studies at Central University of Technology (still going forward). In my life experience, I got the opportunity to work with Free State Rainbow Seeds as an Ambassador for HIV/AIDS & TB Stigma Reduction Campaign. During that journey, I developed a passion for helping my fellow LGBTIQIA+ with living a healthy lifestyle, and hence I am now working as Peer Educator and a Lay Counselor for the Free State Department of Health.



Q: What does LGBTQIA+ Pride mean to you?

A: This is when the LGBTQIA+ embrace who they are and act against the stigma and discrimination they face in their everyday life. It is the promotion of the self-affirmation, dignity, equality and visibility of the LGBTQIA+ as a social group.

Q: Who is your favourite South African queer person and why?

A: The late Lebo Mathosa. Although she never formally came out as a queer, but it was well known in the music world that she was involved with another woman. She lived her everyday life normally like everyone, even though she was always called names, she was always happy and never cared about what other people say about her or her lifestyle.



Jackson Letanta

Q: Who is your favourite international queer person and why?

A: None

Q: How were you introduced to Tholwana e Molemo?

A: I was introduced to the origination by one of its Peer Educators (Morapedi Matlolane) in 2019. He once invited me to his OSG (Open Support Group) whereby we were sharing ideas on how can we reduce stigma and discrimination within our community, as well as sharing life experiences.

Q: What have you gained most from being introduced to Tholwana e Molemo?

A: The knowledge about transgender people and the approach one should use when addressing LGBTQIA+ issues.

Q: What is the difference between a MSM (men who has sex with men) and gay men?

A: MSM's are men who have sex with other men regardless of how they identify themselves, for either sexual pleasure or fun.

GAY's are men who are physically, emotionally attracted to other men.

Q: What is the typical gay/MSM lifestyle you are aware of in the LGBTQIA+ community?

A: MSM's are not easily identified (unless a person discloses). They are regarded as "after-nines" in our community. They don't like their business being known by everyone, especially in the community because of the fear of rejection, stigma and discrimination.

Q: What is the typical transgender lifestyle you are aware of in your community?



Tholwana e Molemo

Interview by: Nosana Sondiyazi

A: Transgenders are unique, brave, strong and loving human beings. They love fashion (especially transwomen). Most of the transgender people in my community are accepted and live their lifestyle freely.

Q: Do you know your HIV status?

A: Yes.

Q: How does COVID19 affect your life?

A: It has affected my life in a way that I cannot be able to do things I used to do before, like hanging out with friends, going out and meeting new people.

Q: What are your views on online dating?

A: That's a tough one, LOL. I personally do not have a problem with online dating, as long as you have done research about that person. Most of them don't end well, especially "long distance" online dating.

Q: What is your wish for the LGBTQIA+ community?

A: I just wish we could live our lives freely without any hate, discrimination and the stigma we experience in our everyday life. Let us not try to FIT IN...WE BELONG!!!

Name: Casper Vusumzi Ramoluoane
Age: 36 years
Pronoun: He
Sex: Male
Sexual Orientation: Gay Man

Casper Vusumzi Ramoluoane is a guy from Thaba Nchu, Mokwena, raised by a single mother and grandparents. My childhood was very easy going, I was always protected by my family, and community. I have never been identified as a gay boy, I have always been identified as Casper. *I am Casper before I am my sexuality. It was surprising to hear community members say, Casper is not gay he is just Casper.*

I have never had to come out to my family, they just knew that I was gay, and they showed no funny attitude with regard to my sexuality.

My first relationship lasted for 4 years, and I had a amazing time with the guy. We taught each other so much about life, and even though my career and academic advancement created a gap that caused us to break up. We still talk, and it's safe to say that we still love each other, and we are waiting for the universe to reconcile us again in future.

Being gay has never been a struggle in my life. In fact it has provided me with confidence and strength to succeed in this world. I won't change it for any other thing.



Q: How were you introduced to Tholwana e Molemo?

A: I got to be part of Tholwana since the inception of the organization as member, volunteer as well as employee. I am responsible for training and development. My role is making sure that all employees and volunteers are capacitated to perform their duties in professional manner.

Q: What have you gained most from being introduced to Tholwana e Molemo?

A: I am professional trainer, licensed assessor and moderator for six qualifications. I am a member of the executive management, heading youth development. I've been exposed to multiple opportunities for learning. I am a leader, manager, facilitator, negotiator and motivator because of Tholwana.



Q: What is the difference between a MSM (men who has sex with men) and gay men?

A: Gay men are men who understand their sexuality, and they are not only sexually attracted to men, they're emotionally and physically attracted to same sex.

MSM are the men who are only sexually attracted to other men. There are no emotions or future plans in these relationships.

Q: What is the typical gay man lifestyle you are aware of in the LGBTQIA+ community?

A: Gay men in my community are very accepted. And the community seems understand gay men.

Q: What is the typical MSM lifestyle in the society?

A: We still have MSM that are hiding, and they are night people, where they target young gay men for sex.

Q: What is the typical transgender lifestyle in society?

Transgenders in my community are accepted, and they don't have any challenges that I am aware of, in terms of how the community treats them.

Q: How do you wish to advocate for transgender rights?

By being part of the advocacy movement.

Q: As a gay man what is your responsibility as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community?

A: My role is to develop my fellow LGBTQIA+ community to be resilient, self sufficient and be able to stand on their two feet, and empower them to be confident. This can be done by giving them skills and education, that will enable them to be employable and start their own businesses.

Q: Do you know your HIV status? A: Yes I know my status

Q: What do you want to do for the community that Tholwana e Molemo serves?

A: Up skill the community to be resilient, and self sufficient.

Q: How would you introduce Tholwana e Molemo to someone who does not know the organization?

I have introduced young people to the organization mostly in training and approached them to volunteers



Interview by: Nosana Sondiyazi

Name: Thabang Mosoeu
Age: 28
Pronoun: She
Gender Identity: Transgender Woman
Sexual Orientation: I'm attracted to men

Q: Please give us a background on your Life... Childhood... Coming out...

My life has been an open life to the society at large and I've been an extroverted person, I was not aware that I'm a transgender woman, I didn't have information until in 2011. I met an organization called "MOSAIC". I attended workshops, support groups, LGBTQI studies/research and film screenings.

Then I met the organization "ICAP", followed by "ANOVA HEALTH4MEN" and FSRS (Free State Rainbow Seeds). I applied at Free State Rainbow Seeds in 2016 as a peer educator, educating people about health related issues and about the "MSM" and "LGBTQI" communities.

Childhood life was about the vicissitudes of life, because I was a very good child to my parents and the community. When I was with my parents I acted strange or weird because I was afraid to show them I'm different to other young boys. However when I was in the street I'd show the community who I am and I gave them a true story about myself. They called me names e.g. "trasi", "gay", "stabane" and so forth. My parents didn't like that, they finally realized that it was true what people said about me.

Coming out was never a problem to me because I've been an open book and I always gave people a true story about the LGBTQI. Funny enough, I've been teaching the community about the type of people we are, just living my life, so I've never been in the closet.



However the only problem I had was my dad who nearly kicked me out of his house when he realised when I was in matric in 2012 who I was.

He disowned me for 2 weeks or a month and it impacted my matric results because I had to repeat the class in 2013. My mother had to go visit the principal and talk to him about me going back to school. Fortunately enough I made it to the newspaper of the 2013 matriculants. I also managed to go to university and dropped out.

Q: What does LGBTQIA+ Pride mean to you?

LGBTQI Pride means that unity is the power in the community because it teaches us that we are diverse. It is the promotion of self-affirmation, dignity and equality.

Q: Who is your favourite South African queer person and why?

Somizi Mhlongo and it is because they are the struggle heroes and they are now wealthy.

Interview by: Nosana Sondiyazi

Q: What is the difference between a MSM (men who has sex with men) and gay men?

- MSM are men having sex with other men who are just doing it for sexual pleasure.
- A gay is a man who's attracted to other men physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Q: What is the typical gay/MSM lifestyle you are aware of in the LGBTQIA+ community?

MSM when actually approaching or asking for sex, they don't wanna be seen. That's why they are always doing it at night or in the absence of people.

Q: What is the typical transgender lifestyle you are aware of in your community?

Transgender lifestyle is a very sensitive lifestyle because they don't like people who are very harsh on them.

Q: Do you know your HIV status? Would you like to test for HIV?

I don't prefer to answer about my HIV status.

Q: How does COVID19 affect your life?

Covid-19 has affected me by me not being able to go to places, we can't even visit our families.

Q: What are your views on online dating?

Online dating has its advantages and disadvantages, it might happen that when you are dating someone, you find out that the very same person is cheating.

Q: What is your wish for the LGBTQIA+ community?

My wish for the LGBTQI is to see the organization growing and helping people who are at the ground.



Q: Who is your favourite international queer person and why?

Sam Smith because he is the artist that inspires me.

Q: How were you introduced to Tholwana e Molemo?

I was introduced to Tholwana e Molemo by Refilwe Mototo because she saw the potential in me.

Q: What have you gained most from being introduced to Tholwana e Molemo?

At Tholwana e Molemo I've gained a lot because I now know how to write reports. And that as a person you need to be dedicated to what you are doing.

QUEER EYE INTERVIEWS

QUEER EYE INTERVIEWS

26
AUGUST
7pm

Thlowana e Molemo

Thao King ENTREPRENEUR, Max Molale EDUCATOR, Moses Moleka HEALTH COORDINATOR

zoom f LIVE

QUEER EYE INTERVIEWS

30
AUGUST
4pm

Thlowana e Molemo

NELLY MAHLOKO, GLEO BOOYSEN, ROXY MOFUBETSOANA

zoom f LIVE

QUEER EYE INTERVIEWS

4
SEPTEMBER
10am

Thlowana e Molemo

NOSANA SONDIYAZI, THABO LEKOKO

Thlowana e Molemo, FREE STATE RAINBOW SEEDS

zoom f LIVE

QUEER EYE INTERVIEWS

7
SEPTEMBER
7pm

Thlowana e Molemo

HLONNY HLANYANE, MCDONALD MOCHAKI, TEDDY B

zoom f LIVE

QUEER EYE INTERVIEWS

12
SEPT
4pm

Thlowana e Molemo

TOPIC: CULTURE TRADITIONAL CEREMONIES & QUEERNESS

NELLY MAHLOKO, KEM BLANK, TEBOGO THABANA

zoom f LIVE

QUEER EYE INTERVIEWS

29
SEPT
3pm

Thlowana e Molemo

LEBO BOTLHOKO

QUEER EYE INTERVIEWS

15
JANUARY
8pm

Thlowana e Molemo

TOPIC: SOCIAL BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE

KEKE MOLARENG, SANDILE MPINGA

Thlowana e Molemo, @Thlowana Advocacy

zoom f LIVE

QUEER EYE INTERVIEWS

30
JANUARY
12pm

Thlowana e Molemo

TOPIC: GENDER FLUIDITY

MAX, THABO

Thlowana e Molemo, @Thlowana Advocacy

zoom f LIVE

WHATSAPP DIALOGUES

MSM AND GAY MEN ADVOCACY DURING COVID19 LOCKDOWN

24
APRIL
4pm - 6pm

CHAT WITH US

Responsible services for GAY MEN & MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN

"NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US"

Thlowana e Molemo

ALLIES join MSM AND GAY MEN ADVOCACY DURING COVID19 LOCKDOWN

30
APRIL
4pm - 6pm

CHAT WITH US

"I'm not gay, I'm an ally. I just support this crazy thought that everyone should have equal rights"

Responsible services for GAY MEN & MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN

Thlowana e Molemo

MSM AND GAY MEN ADVOCACY DURING COVID19 LOCKDOWN

30
APRIL
2pm - 4pm

CHAT WITH US

Prioritizing services for GAY MEN & MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN

"NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US"

Thlowana e Molemo

MSM AND GAY MEN ADVOCACY DURING COVID19 LOCKDOWN

8
MAY
4pm - 6pm

CHAT WITH US

Responsible services for GAY MEN & MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN

"NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US"

Thlowana e Molemo

MSM AND GAY MEN ADVOCACY DURING COVID19 LOCKDOWN

7
JULY
4pm - 6pm

CHAT WITH US

Responsible services for GAY MEN & MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN

"NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US"

Thlowana e Molemo

MSM AND GAY MEN ADVOCACY DURING COVID19 LOCKDOWN

25
JUNE
4pm - 6pm

CHAT WITH US

Responsible services for GAY MEN & MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN

"NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US"

Thlowana e Molemo

MSM AND GAY MEN ADVOCACY WHATSAPP DIALOGUE

17
JAN
5pm - 7pm

CHAT WITH US

Do you know your rights? Would you report a crime at a police station? Are you comfortable going to the clinic? Have you experienced stigma? What are your issues as a gay man?

Responsible services for GAY MEN & MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN

"NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US"

Thlowana e Molemo

MSM AND GAY MEN ADVOCACY WHATSAPP DIALOGUE

20
JAN
5pm - 7pm

CHAT WITH US

Responsible services for GAY MEN & MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN

"NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US"

Thlowana e Molemo

Event Highlights 2020

I AM HUMAN

23 Jan 2020
11 am - 4pm
WHITE HOUSE CAR WASH
43 PARK ROAD WILLOWS
BFN

For more info: 076 037 1985
info@tholwanaemolemo.co.za

I AM GAY
I AM STRAIGHT
I AM LESBIAN
I AM BISEXUAL
I AM TRANSGENDER
I AM MSM
I AM HUMAN

OUR BODIES DON'T DEFINE US

23 Jan 2020
11 am - 4pm
WHITE HOUSE CAR WASH
43 PARK ROAD WILLOWS
BFN

For more info: 076 037 1985
info@tholwanaemolemo.co.za

FREE STATE RAINBOW SEEDS & THOLWANA E MOLEMO PRESENT

#Lover's Chair

14 FEB 2020
2PM - 6PM
SGELA TAVERN
THABA NCHU

#UNMUTE ME
#LESBY
#IAMHUMAN

For more info:
FMS 051 430 1023
076 430 1254
Thabang 073 537 3276
info@tholwanaemolemo.co.za

LGBTQIA+ SERVICES FORUM

Date: 4 March 2020
Venue: Bon Hotel Bloem Plaza East Burger Street BFN

Time: 9:00 - 16:00
RSVP: 076 037 1985
info@tholwanaemolemo.co.za

TRANSGENDER GBV ADVOCACY DURING COVID19 LOCKDOWN

19 JULY
3pm - 5pm

Responsible services for TRANSGENDER GBV ASSAULT

WhatsApp: +27 76 037 1985

"NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US"

REPORT GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

JOIN US AND RECEIVE FREE GIVEAWAYS

LGBTQIA+ SENSITIZATION

7 August 2020 SOUTPAN

Activities:
• COVID19 screening
• TB & STI screening
• GBV screening
• HIV Testing
• PrEP referral

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@Tholwana_Advocacy
@Tholwana_EMolemo

Tholwana e Molemo

OUMA SEKHONYANA
HOST BUTCH LESBIAN TRANSMAN POTJIEKOS

PINKIE'S HAIR SALON
9 AUGUST 2020
11am to 2pm

RSVP: 067 013 7319

SUSTAINABILITY DYKE
LITERARY LEZ
DANDY DYKE
FAG DYKE

Tholwana e Molemo

BUTCH LESBIAN TRANSMAN POTJIEKOS

THABA NCHU OFFICE
5 September 2020
11am to 2pm

078 521 0028 / 078 388 4929 / 071 745 8303

SUSTAINABILITY DYKE
LITERARY LEZ
DANDY DYKE
FAG DYKE

LGBTQIA+ SENSITIZATION

18 Sept 2020
Community Hall WEPENER

Activities:
• COVID19 screening
• TB & STI screening
• GBV screening
• HIV Testing
• PrEP referral

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@Tholwana_EMolemo

JOIN US AND RECEIVE FREE GIVEAWAYS

Tholwana e Molemo

MSM & GAY MEN POTJIEKOS

10 OCT 2020
11am to 2pm

Bra Moss's Place
1132 Thema Street
Batho Location, BFN
RSVP: 076 037 1985

QUEER... JOY EXPERIENCE

31 OCTOBER 2020
REAL TIME GUEST HOUSE
THABA NCHU
10AM - 5PM

RSVP - 066 558 7808

PICK UP POINTS
BOTSHABELO - BUS RANK 9H30
BFN - HOFFMAN SQUARE 9H00

Activities:
• COVID19 screening
• TB & STI screening
• GBV screening
• HIV Testing
• PrEP referral

Tholwana e Molemo

TRANSGENDER WELLNESS DAY

21 NOVEMBER 2020
DERSLEY MANOR BOUTIQUE HOTEL
4 DEALE RD
BAYSWATER
BFN

9AM - 5PM
RSVP - 068 261 0132

UNMUTE ME AIDS DAY CELEBRATION

26 NOV 2020
NICRO HALL SECTION B
BOTSHABELO
10AM - 2 PM

FOR MORE INFO 068 261 0132

5 DECEMBER 2020 VOLUNTEERS DAY

"Kindness, like a boomerang, always returns." - Author Unknown
"Being good is commendable, but only when it is combined with doing good is it useful." - Author Unknown
"No one is more cherished in this world than someone who lightens the burden of another." - Author Unknown
"Volunteers are not paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless." - Author Unknown

MENTAL HEALTH WALK AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

10 DEC 2020
WORLD HUMAN RIGHTS DAY
ROUTE: RAMPKRAAL TO HOFFMAN SQUARE

09:00 - 12:00

CONTACT:
NOTHING: 0800 428
TOLL FREE: 100-78679

AIDS DAY CELEBRATION

MARCH FROM MANYATSENG LIBRARY TO ITUMELENG HALL

18 DEC 2020
9:00 - 13:00
ITUMELENG HALL

ACTIVITIES:
MARCH STARTS 9:00
HIV TESTING & COUNSELLING
CANDLE LIGHT CEREMONY

@Tholwana EMolemo
@Tholwana Advocacy
084 781 9415

Campaigns 2020



REPORT LGBTQIA+ ASSAULT

Respect

Safety

Confidentiality Privacy

DO NOT TALK

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@Tholwana EMolemo

Tholwana e Molemo

HIV STATUS CONFIDENTIALITY FOR LGBTQIA+

Respect

Safety

Confidentiality Privacy

DO NOT TALK

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"I care about the safety of my community. I want them to know there is still hope in fighting gender based violence."

Cebo 'Star' Sochenywa

RED LIPS FOR MEN

TO END GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US

Tholwana e Molemo

MOUSTACHES FOR US

TO END GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US

Tholwana e Molemo

VICTIM EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

ACTIVITIES

1. FOCUS GROUPS & DIALOGUES
2. FAMILY SENSITIZATIONS
3. SUPPORT GROUPS
4. SOCIAL BEHAVIOR CHANGE
5. COMMUNITY REFLECTIVE DIALOGUES WITH MEN AND BOYS
6. SOCIAL CRIME PREVENTION
7. AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS ON GBV, IPV, HRV & HATE CRIME
8. PSYCHOSOCIAL COUNSELLING & SUPPORT BY THE SOCIAL WORKER
9. LIFE SKILLS CLUBS
10. CAREERS EXPO
11. REFERRALS TO EXTERNAL RESOURCES/ORGANIZATIONS
12. JOB/TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

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VICTIM EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

WHAT IS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)?
VIOLENCE THAT IS DIRECTED AT AN INDIVIDUAL BASED ON HIS OR HER BIOLOGICAL SEX OR GENDER IDENTITY. THREATS, RAPE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, PHYSICAL ASSAULT, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND EMOTIONAL ABUSE.

WHAT IS INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV)?
IPV IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (VIOLENT OR AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR WITHIN THE HOME, TYPICALLY INVOLVING THE VIOLENT ABUSE BY A CURRENT OR FORMER SPOUSE OR PARTNER. IPV CAN BE PHYSICAL, VERBAL, EMOTIONAL, ECONOMIC OR SEXUAL ABUSE.

WHAT IS HATE CRIME?
A CRIME, TYPICALLY ONE INVOLVING VIOLENCE, THAT IS MOTIVATED BY PREJUDICE ON THE BASIS OF RACE, RELIGION, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, OR OTHER GROUNDS.

WHAT IS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION (HRV)?
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ARE THE VIOLATIONS OF THE BASIC RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS THAT BELONG TO EVERY PERSON IN THE WORLD, FROM BIRTH UNTIL DEATH. THESE BASIC RIGHTS ARE BASED ON SHARED VALUES LIKE DIGNITY, FAIRNESS, EQUALITY, RESPECT AND INDEPENDENCE. THESE VALUES ARE DEFINED AND PROTECTED BY LAW.

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WHITE RIBBONS FOR MEN

"I PROMISE TO NEVER COMMIT, CONDONE OR REMAIN SILENT ABOUT MEN'S VIOLENCE AGAINST LGBTQIA MEMBERS. FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, I PROMISE TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION IN ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST LGBTQIA MEMBERS AND ALL GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE."

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GENDER BASED VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT HELP CONTACT: HOTLINE 0800 428 428 TOLL FREE: 12074674

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

"I PROMISE TO NEVER COMMIT, CONDONE OR REMAIN SILENT ABOUT MEN'S VIOLENCE AGAINST LGBTQIA MEMBERS. FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, I PROMISE TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION IN ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST LGBTQIA MEMBERS AND ALL GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE."

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@Tholwana Advocacy

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT HELP CONTACT: HOTLINE 0800 428 428 TOLL FREE: 12074674

ARE YOU TRANSGENDER?

Are you depressed or suicidal during lockdown?

WhatsApp number for appointment +27 73 592 0835
Our social worker will call you for a telephonic session during

+27 73 592 0835

@Tholwana Advocacy

@Tholwana EMolemo

ARE YOU MSM (MAN WHO HAS SEX WITH MEN) OR GAY?

Are you stressed or having an emotional breakdown during lockdown?

WhatsApp number for appointment +27 73 592 0835
Our social worker will call you for a telephonic session during office hours

+27 73 592 0835

@Tholwana Advocacy

@Tholwana EMolemo

www.tholwanaemolemo.co.za
Contact: info@tholwanaemolemo.co.za
Tel. 051 436 3044

ARE YOU AWESOME?

WE'RE HIRING!



Job Title: Professional Nurse

Job Location: Mangaung
Employment Type: Contract
Remuneration: Market Related
Benefits Provided: None
Vacant Positions: 3

Job Brief:

Advocate for the TG community to access health care and to protect and maintain the rights of TG when seeking health care services and diagnosis and treatment of STIs and other SRH services for transgender community

Key Duties and Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Overall responsibility for administration, program management, performance monitoring and technical implementation and oversight of all aspects of activities, under the oversight of the Program Management Team
- Provide support and oversight to specialized peer navigators who will do intensified outreach and linkage to care for HIV-positive including PrEP
- Provide follow up care for TG patients on treatment in line with DoH HIV Management guidelines
- Routinely monitor performance of Peer Educators with regard to registers of (TB/HIV/PMTCT) programmes at facility level and provide mentorship and technical support where required
- Identify poor performing indicators, put together quality improvement (QI) plans and implement as agreed upon with the team Peer Educators and facilities

Minimum required qualifications and experience

- A degree or diploma qualification as a Professional Nurse.
- Registration as a Professional Nurse with the South African Nursing Council
- Familiar with latest HIV Management, TB and PMTCT guidelines
- A minimum of one year of experience working with HIV



Closing Date: Thursday, 4 February 2021

Send CV and Qualifications to programmes@tholwanaemolemo.co.za



Job Title: Social Auxiliary Worker

Job Location: Mangaung
Employment Type: Contract
Remuneration: Market Related
Benefits Provided: None
Vacant Positions: 4

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Provide psychosocial support to the TG community and Tholwana e Molemo staff, including adherence support for treatment/PrEP
- Lead in depth one on one counselling sessions
- Establish and facilitate support groups for newly diagnosed clients and those not yet stable on treatment as and when required
- Provide pre and post test counselling as well as step up adherence counselling
- Assist in the following up of clients who have not complied with a scheduled visit or who require psychosocial support
- Review, evaluate and document clients' progress

Minimum Requirements:

- Appropriate qualification in Social Auxiliary work
- Registration with SACSSP
- Minimum of 1 year experience in HIV field

Closing Date:

Thursday, 4 February 2021

Send CV and Qualifications to: programmes@tholwanaemolemo.co.za



Job Title: HTS Counsellor

Job Location: Mangaung
Employment Type: Contract
Remuneration: Market Related
Benefits Provided: None
Vacant Positions: 4

Job Brief:

Conduct intensified outreach and linkage to care for HIV-positive TG Assist in the establishment of fifty-nine MSM/TG competent PHC facilities Establish and support safe spaces to provide a package of services through trans networks / organisations

Provide comprehensive services of HIV and AIDS Testing and Counselling

Key duties and responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Keep an updated record of number of clients offered HTS, tested, tested HIV positive, linked into care, etc.
- Provide health education to TG community
- Participate in outreach campaigns to reach TG and distribute IEC material
- Improve access and uptake of HTS and linkage to care by TG community
- Improve retention in care and virological suppression
- Screening and testing: TB and STIs, HIV testing and counselling
- Create safe spaces for TG to discuss social and health-related issues affecting them
- Provide support to TG community
- Serve as a link between TG community, local clinics, CBOs and other health services within the community

Minimum requirements:

Matric Certificate, (HTC) HIV Testing and Counselling certificate and Peer Educator certificate.

Closing Date:

Thursday, 4 February 2021

Send CV and Qualifications to: programmes@tholwanaemolemo.co.za

