

# EMOLEMO QUEER TIMES

Free State Queer Newsletter

ISSUE 7.

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## INTERVIEW WITH COMMISSIONER MX BUSISWE DEYI

Tholwana e Molemo Advocacy Officer – Nosana Sondiyazi interviewed Commissioner from Commission for Gender Equality, Mx Busisiwe Deyi.

Definition Mx - A title used before a person's surname or full name by those who wish to avoid specifying their gender or by those who prefer not to identify themselves as male or female. This prefix is for men, women gender non-conforming individuals, married or unmarried. Mx can be used instead of Mr, Mrs, Miss or Ms.

Mx Deyi answered questions and gave advice to listeners interested in legal rights for LGBTQIA+ people, as well as share insights on how to access services from Commission of Gender Equality and the Equality Court, as well as Act 49 of 2003.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O8xrCby6QRo&t=593s>



**THE EQUALITY ACT PROVIDES NONDISCRIMINATION PROTECTIONS FOR EVERYONE.**

#EQUALITYACT

**QUEER EYE INTERVIEWS**  
TOPIC: SPIRITUALITY AND SEXUALITY

27 JULY 2021 4:00pm

## INTERVIEW WITH INTERSEX SPIRITUAL MAKHOSI PROFESSOR SPIRIT

Makhosi Professor Spirit is an intersex person who shared his personal journey born intersex and how his sex, gender and sexual orientation has directed his path and choices in life.

Link: <https://fb.watch/7dXV1Adyhy/>

The circle is unbroken and unornamented, symbolising wholeness and completeness, and our potentialities.

We are still fighting for bodily autonomy and genital integrity, and this symbolises the right to be who and how we want to be.

**What does 'intersex' mean?**

Intersex is an umbrella term used to describe a wide range of natural bodily variations.

Intersex people are born with sex characteristics (including genitals, gonads and chromosome patterns) that do not fit typical binary notions of male or female bodies.

# #ColourMeIn

Editor-in-Chief: Mx Nosana Sondiyazi

# REPORT GENDER BASED VIOLENCE



## WHAT IS GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE?

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. Denial of Resources, opportunities and services.

Economic or Education Deprivation, whether occurring in public or private life.

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 +27 73 592 0835

 @Tholwana Advocacy



[www.tholwanaemolemo.co.za](http://www.tholwanaemolemo.co.za)  
Contact: [info@tholwanaemolemo.co.za](mailto:info@tholwanaemolemo.co.za)  
Tel. 051 436 3044

# hobo·sexual

*noun*

A person that enters into a relationship to prevent themselves from being homeless



## What Is Depression?

Depression is a mood disorder that causes distressing symptoms that affect how you feel, think, and handle daily activities, such as sleeping, eating, or working. To be diagnosed with depression, symptoms must be present most of the day, nearly every day for at least 2 weeks.

## What Are the Main Causes of Depression?

- Death or a loss
- Abuse
- Certain medications
- Personal conflicts or disputes with family members or friends.
- Genes: Family history of depression may increase the risk.
- Trauma or major events such as losing a job/income, divorce or breakup and even good events such as starting a new job, graduating, or getting married can lead to depression.
- Problems such as social isolation or lack of social support.
- Serious illnesses
- Substance abuse



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Responsible services for LGBTQIA+



## What Are The Signs And Symptoms of Depression?

- Mood swings
- Feelings of guilt, worthlessness, hopelessness or helplessness.
- Loss of interest or pleasure in hobbies or activities.
- Fatigue or loss of energy
- Difficulty concentrating, remembering, or making decisions.
- Difficulty sleeping or oversleeping
- Loss of appetite or eating too much
- Weight loss or weight gain
- Thoughts of death or suicide
- Suicide attempts
- Restlessness or irritability
- Aches or pains, headaches, cramps, or digestive problems without a clear physical cause and/or that do not ease even with treatment.



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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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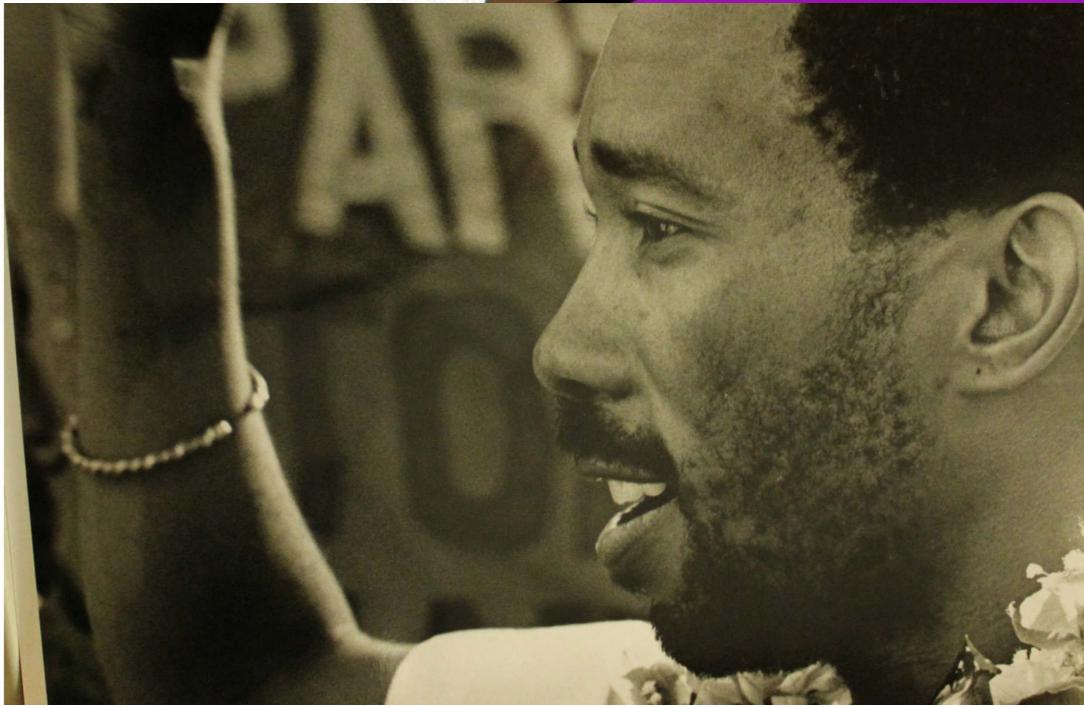
**HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS DOCUMENTATION. ADVOCACY ISSUES. SEX GENDER AND SEXUALITY.**

**2 JULY 2021**  
**09:00 – 13:00**

**FACILITATOR: THOLWANA E MOLEMO ADVOCACY OFFICER NOSANA SONDIYAZI**  
Email: [tholwanaadvocacy@gmail.com](mailto:tholwanaadvocacy@gmail.com)  
Tel. 076 037 1985



# AMAZING YOU NEED



## **Simon Nkoli (1957-1998)**

One of South Africa's most influential LGBTQ+ activists, Simon Nkoli fought not only the apartheid regime, but all sorts of stigmas, discrimination and prejudice against marginalised communities. At the young age of 18, Nkoli came out to his mother and was welcomed with the options of conversion — his mother took him to a priest and psychologists in hopes of changing his sexuality. While in prison in 1984 for treason alongside other anti-apartheid activists in the Delmas Trial, the organisation declined to support him, stating that the charges were not “gay matters”. After his release, Nkoli established the Gay and Lesbian Organisation of Witwatersrand (GLOW) alongside fellow LGBTQ+ activist Beverly Ditsie. The organisation went on to lead the first Gay and Lesbian Pride March in the country in 1990 with 100 people in attendance.

“I am black and I am gay. I cannot separate the two parts of me into secondary or primary struggles. In South Africa, I am oppressed because I am a black man and I am oppressed because I am a gay man. So, when I fight for my freedom I must fight against both oppressions...” Nkoli said in 1990 at the march.

# ACTIVISTS TO KNOW



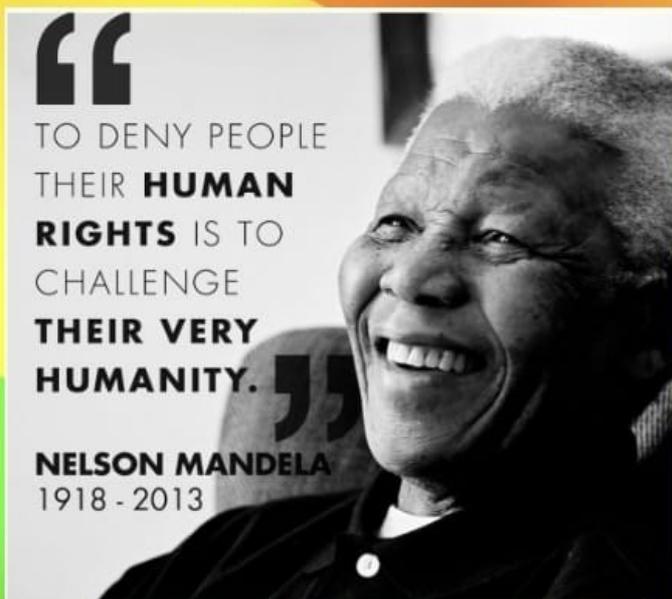
## **Marylize Biubwa (1991 - present)**

Marylize Biubwa is a queer activist from Nairobi, Kenya. The east African country still upholds laws that came into place during the colonial era that criminalise gay sex. When she came out to her family, Biubwa was kicked out of her home and told to only return once she was a “normal person”.

Biubwa has been part of and moderated panels in Kenya about gay rights. She uses her social media platforms to dispel myths about women and their sexuality, and myths about people within the LGBTQ+ community and the lifestyles they lead through the agenda of acquiring and providing information.

She currently runs the Face on Project, a research project for LGBTQ+ people in Kenya.

# NELSON MANDELA'S IMPORTANT LEGACY FOR THE LGBTI MOVEMENT



**When Nelson Mandela was elected President of post-apartheid South Africa in 1994, he stood in solidarity with his LGBT friends and fellow citizens. Under his leadership, the South African constitution included sexual orientation and gender among the enumerated classes protected from discrimination.**



In response to Policy regulation of 5% daily positive LGBTQIA specific content on national SA media petition. In collaboration with Free State Wombman in Theatre, TEM joined a cinematography workshop conducted by Motheo Moeng with the Nala Film Development and Training Program. Participation was an exercise to be better equipped to film queer stories.

# 5 Countries in Africa That Have Legalized Same-Sex Relationships in the Past 10 Years

Nearly half of the countries worldwide where homosexuality is outlawed are in Africa.



## 1. Angola

Angola is the latest African country to decriminalize same-sex relationships, after passing a new law that came into effect in February 2021. The new law overturned a ban on same-sex relationships that dates back to when the country was a Portuguese colony; and states that discrimination based on sexual orientation can be punishable by imprisonment of up to two years.

## 2. Botswana

In a landmark moment for the country, Botswana's High Court decriminalized both male and female same-sex relationships in 2019. It replaced a law that has been in place since 1965, when the country was under British rule, which outlaws “carnal knowledge of any person against the order of nature” and was punishable by up to seven years in jail.

## 3. Mozambique

In 2015, Mozambique dropped from its penal code a colonial-era clause outlawing same-sex relationships as “vices against nature”. According to the Globe and Mail, the UN's independent expert on sexual orientation and gender identity, Victor Madrigal-Borloz, visited Mozambique in late 2018, and said it had a “high level of tolerance” — but warned that LGBTQ+ people still face discrimination and violence at home, work, school, and when accessing health services or police support.

## 4. Lesotho

Before the current Penal Code act, homosexuality was illegal for men, but in 2010 homosexuality was decriminalized in its entirety. Once the law came into effect, activism work with regards to HIV/AIDS was able to reach more people within the community in order to offer prevention strategies, as Lesotho is one of the countries hardest hit by HIV.

## 5. Republic of Seychelles

Seychelles decriminalized “same-sex acts” in May 2016, after lawmakers voted to amend section 151 of the country's Penal Code Act that referred to sodomy as a felony and made it punishable with up to 14 years in prison. The amendment came just three months after a national address by the nation's President James Michel, saying that his government would introduce a bill to abolish Section 151.



**Name:** Teko Nape  
**Age:** 30 years  
**Pronoun:** He  
**Gender Identity:** Transgender Man  
**Sex:** Assigned Female At Birth  
**Sexual Orientation:** I am attracted to women

**Please give us a background on your Life:**  
 I was born in Botshabelo.

**Childhood:** Growing up, I was always around boys and I was involved in sports a lot (soccer and cricket).

**Coming out:** It was not difficult growing up as a lesbian because of the amazing support I got from my family as I didn't have to come out, they just saw that I'm different. Coming out as a transgender was also not difficult, just I had to explain everything to them so that they can understand. I'm blessed.

**What does LGBTQIA+ Pride mean to you?**

To me it means celebration of identity, representing freedom of expression and pride of being able to live my life in an "out and proud" way.

**Who is your favourite South African queer person and why?**

Prince Kyle, because he was the first transgender man I came across when I was about to start with my journey. I've learnt a lot from him.

**Who is your favourite international queer person and why?**

N/A

**How were you introduced to Tholwana e Molemo?**

By a friend, Kymo.



Interview by: Bookholane Sekhonyane

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

It helped me to get the referral to access my hormone therapy. Thank you so much.

**What is the difference between a lesbian and a transman?**

Lesbian refers to woman who has a romantic or sexual attraction towards women, while transgender refers to a person whose sense of personal identity or gender does not correspond to the sex they were assigned at birth.

**What is the typical lesbian lifestyle you are aware of in your community?**

They are bound to each other, helping each other where they are struggling.

**What is the typical transman lifestyle you are aware of in your community?**

We are there for each other helping each other where we are struggling.

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

Yes, I do. I test regularly.

**How does COVID19 affect your life?**

I am unable to live my life the way I used to, the pressure that I get from school and losing the people that I love.

**What are your views on online dating?**

Everyone must be safe from online dating. This world is full of cruel people.

**What is your wish for the LGBTQIA+ community?**

I wish everyone a successful journey in their lives.



Interview by: Bookholane Sekhonyane





**Name: Mapaseka Pesh Mahlose**  
**Age: 31 years**  
**Pronoun: She/Her**  
**Gender Identity: Female**  
**Sex: Female**  
**Sexual Orientation: Homosexual**

**Please give us a background on your Life:**

I was born in a small town called Matoporong, Reddersburg, a few months later, I moved to Bloemfontein. I was raised by both my parents whom I love with all my heart. I am the last born of 4 siblings. I grew up separated from other siblings because they had to stay behind with our granny and finish school, but my parents made sure they find the best schools for us and we got everything a child could wish for especially love from parents.

**Childhood:** I was a very sweet child who didn't like to play with other kids especially girls. I would only play with them for a while, but with boys it was a different story. I would be hyper active when playing with them. We would climb trees; play with marbles and all sorts of games a boy child could play.

**Coming out:**

It was right after my miscarriage I was invited by a girl on Mxit. That was in 2011. She was a Zulu girl from Durban eThekweni, we started talking everyday and night. Then we decided to visit each and I told my big sister that I am in love with a girl. My sister did not say anything she then told my mom IYOO! My mom was like "Not that in my house that is totally evil". I decided that my family won't stop me from loving this beautiful Zulu girl I am going to take a risk and bring her to the Fres State if mom chases us away so be it. That was in August and in December the Zulu girl came and when my mom saw her, she knew that I was serious about my thing. She didn't hesitate, she loved her and said to me "my child knew from way back that you have this on you" and she was happy.



Interview by: Bookholane Sekhonyane

**What does LGBTQIA+ Pride mean to you?**

As a lesbian I feel you have to be yourself, don't care who says what about you. Just hold your head up high and shake that butt with pride. Let love guide you through this sometimes unfriendly world. Seeing other's fears as a reflection of them not you.

**Who is your favourite South African queer person and why?**

Somizi and Lebo Molax, I just love how they feel free and proud of their sexuality and they inspire a lot of homos who are afraid of coming out and afraid of showing the world who they are.

**Who is your favourite international queer person and why?**

Ahhh, none

**How were you introduced to Tholwana e Molemo?**

I actually saw it on Facebook and started following. I love what they do to the youth and people at large.

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

A lot hey, they really helped me to actually feel proud of who I am and to always walk with pride.

**What is the difference between a lesbian and a transman?**

A lesbian is a woman who feels sexually attracted to other women.

A Transman is a person who was born in a wrong body and identifies as a man.

**What is the typical lesbian lifestyle you are aware of in your community?**

Lesbians usually judge each other and they have this pride and don't love one another.

**What is the typical transman lifestyle you are aware of in your community?**

Some transmen feel like the world revolves around them.



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

Yes, I know my HIV status and I test every 3 months.

**How does COVID19 affect your life?**

Ahh Covid neh. It affects me badly starting by losing people who are close to my heart. Secondly I lost my job and financially things are bad.

**What are your views on online dating?**

I met my wife online so I think people should go for it, because you will end up meeting your soul mate there.

**What is your wish for the LGBTQIA+ community?**

My wish is for them is to support each other and stop this hatred towards each other. For them to achieve their goals and be successful.



Interview by: Bookholane Sekhonyane



**Name: Oatlegile Thami**

**Age: 22**

**Pronoun: He**

**Gender Identity: Male**

**Sexual Orientation:**

**Please give us a background on your Life:** My life has always been about me and me alone, some took advantage of my quietness and all that.

**Childhood:** I am a first born and became an older brother at the age of 13 years. I was raised very well, I was daddy's boy and he used to call me "Mfana" but sadly he passed away when I was 15 years old. I was on my own, without a brother or sister to fight for me. I was bullied at school, because of being quiet and my eye problem.

**Coming out:** Well coming out was never easy, I grew up feeling comfortable playing with girls only. Everyone could tell how gay I am, but every time I heard that I always ran to my mom crying. Then 2015 I met a friend called Riaan De Vries (gay), that was when I saw that I'm not a 'black sheep' and that's when I was like "aag I am going to be me" that was also when my mom saw how comfortable I am. Then she bought me the sex for man to man books, condoms, & lubricants and I remember one day she was like "I want to see that Kagisho guy that makes you so happy."

**What does LGBTQIA+ Pride mean to you?** Being you and being proud of what and who you are; and also being comfortable in your own skin.

**Who is your favourite South African queer person and why?** Somizi Mhlongo he just makes coming out and being gay easy to live.

Interview by: Tebogo Thabana



**Who is your favourite international queer person and why?**

Sam Smith. He is him and he is flawless.

**How were you introduced to Tholwana e Molemo?**

I was introduced to Tholwana e Molemo through Tebogo Thabana, by that time I needed condoms and lubricants, HIV testing and counseling.

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

Sense of belonging, knowing that you have a second home where there are people always waiting for you to come in when needing any kind of help. And knowing that you will not be judged but experience that unbelievable love.

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

MSM are guys who enjoy having sex with other guys but are afraid to come out, or being themselves, knowing exactly what they want. Gay men are men having feelings, and being comfortable having sex with the same gender.

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

These days I believe there is only 10% of straight people that we see "after 9's" being afraid to come out, because of being afraid of being judged and neglected.

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

They are free souls and are most comfortable. I have never seen a transgender that cares what people say about them; and that also makes me proud of being part of the LGBTQIA+ community.

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

Yes I do know my HIV status. I would like to test in the next 3 months again.

**How does COVID19 affect your life?**

It affects my life so badly, because I lost 2 jobs and now it also delays my starting date of the new job I got. So I am still at home waiting for the call.



Photo: Oatlegile Thami

**What are your views on online dating?**

Its not good at all.

**What is your wish for the LGBTQIA+ community?**

My wish is that the government educates people about the LGBTQIA+ community, and set a holiday whereby the whole nation honor and celebrate us. I LOVE BEING GAY.

Interview by: Tebogo Thabana





**Name:** Realeboga Setlhaku  
**Age:** 29 years  
**Pronoun:** She  
**Gender Identity:** Female  
**Sex:** Female  
**Sexual Orientation:** Lesbian

**Please give us a background on your**

**Life:** Born in Bloemfontein in 1992, raised by a single parent. I grew up in a family which had women only. Now I am married and I am a mother.

**Childhood:** My childhood was pretty normal. I went to school, played with my friends, had a loving family.

**Coming out:** Coming out for me was really not a big deal, because I had been seeing girls since from a young age. I only made it official once I started bringing them home for sleepovers.

**What does LGBTQIA+ Pride mean to you?**

Pride for is a day whereby everyone can be themselves. Love one another, no judgments also getting more educated in LGBTQIA healthcare.



Interview by: Bookholane Sekhonyane

**Who is your favourite South African queer person and why?**

Sade. Started to love her from way back when she was still very young, I would watch her on YO TV and I love her because her life doesn't have much drama or scandals. She is a hard worker and inspirational.

**Who is your favourite international queer person and why?**

Don't have one.

**How were you introduced to Tholwana e Molemo?**

By a friend.

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

Information on HIV, PrEP and living positive.

**What is the difference between a lesbian and a transman?**

A lesbian is a woman who is fully attracted to other women. A transman is a woman transitioning to be a man, a woman who feels born in a wrong body.

**What is the typical lesbian lifestyle you are aware of in your community?**

A lot of lesbians are free to do whatever they want.

**What is the typical transman lifestyle you are aware of in your community?**

Haven't met one yet in my community.

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

Yes, I know my HIV status.

**How does COVID19 affect your life?**

Covid 19 affected my life financially, because I can no longer make money as an artist. Because the events are called off and the taverns/clubs as well. So I cannot work.

**What are your views on online dating?**

Online dating, I don't think works very much, because people can get cat-fished and sometimes while chatting things are nice. But when meeting up face to face things are not as nice, and very awkward.

**What is your wish for the LGBTQIA+ community?**

To be at peace, love one another and not judge.



Interview by: Bookholane Sekhonyane



**Name:** Kaymo Matekane  
**Age:** 30 years  
**Pronoun:** He/Him  
**Gender Identity:** Transgender Male  
**Sex:** AFAB  
**Sexual Orientation:** Heterosexual

**What does LGBTQIA+ Pride mean to you?**

*It means celebrating the resilience of LGBTQIA+ community through struggles and triumph.*

**How does COVID19 affect your life?**

*I am one of those who lost loved ones due to Covid 19, people lost jobs, no entertainment, no nothing. Covid 19 really messed up my world.*

**What is your wish for the LGBTQIA+ community?**

*I so wish they can stop this thing of criticizing one another, give each other support and be one.*



Tholwana e Molemo

Interview by: Bookholane Sekhonyane



**Name:** Zola Ndayi  
**Age:** 36 years  
**Pronoun:** She/Her  
**Gender Identity:** Female  
**Sex:** Female  
**Sexual Orientation:** Lesbian

**What does LGBTQIA+ Pride mean to you?**

*LGBTQIA+ Pride to me means celebrating our existence and teaching people about us.*

**How does COVID19 affect your life?**

*There are no longer gatherings and workshops where we learn about our rights as the LGBTQIA+ community because of Covid19.*

**What is your wish for the LGBTQIA+ community?**

*My wish is to see my LGBTQIA+ community being treated with respect like any other members of the community, by society and equally.*



Tholwana e Molemo

Interview by: Bookholane Sekhonyane



**Name:** Motshidisi  
**“Blessing” Matasane**  
**Age:** 18 years  
**Pronoun:** She/Her  
**Gender Identity:** Female  
**Sex:** Female  
**Sexual Orientation:** Lesbian

**What does LGBTQIA+ Pride mean to you?**

*It means being proud of myself.*

**How does COVID19 affect your life?**

*Negativelu. Living in fear of losing my loved ones*

**What is your wish for the LGBTQIA+ community?**

*My wish -Being under the LGBTQIA+ is challenging traditional binary male and female roles and expressions. Challenging societal understandings of gender roles across cultures and throughout history.*



Interview by: Bookholane Sekhonyane



**Name:** Gomotsegang  
**Ozzynior Mocumi**  
**Age:** 24 years  
**Pronoun:** She/Her  
**Gender Identity:** Female  
**Sex:** Female  
**Sexual Orientation:** Lesbian

**What does LGBTQIA+ Pride mean to you?** *LGBTQIA+ means we should unite and become as one.*

**How does COVID19 affect your life?** *Covid19 affected me badly, there is poverty, lack of jobs and education. It left us with high death rate. I always wish we could get cure so that everything can go back to normal.*

**What is your wish for the LGBTQIA+ community?** *My wish for the LGBTQIA+community is that I wish we could all get employment without being judged and have equal treatment as straight people. I also wish that society should know more about us and my biggest dream is to find justice for other LGBTQIA+ members who died terrible deaths in Mzansi. Lets unite and fight for UBUNTU in the LGBTQIA+ community after all we are all human beings.*

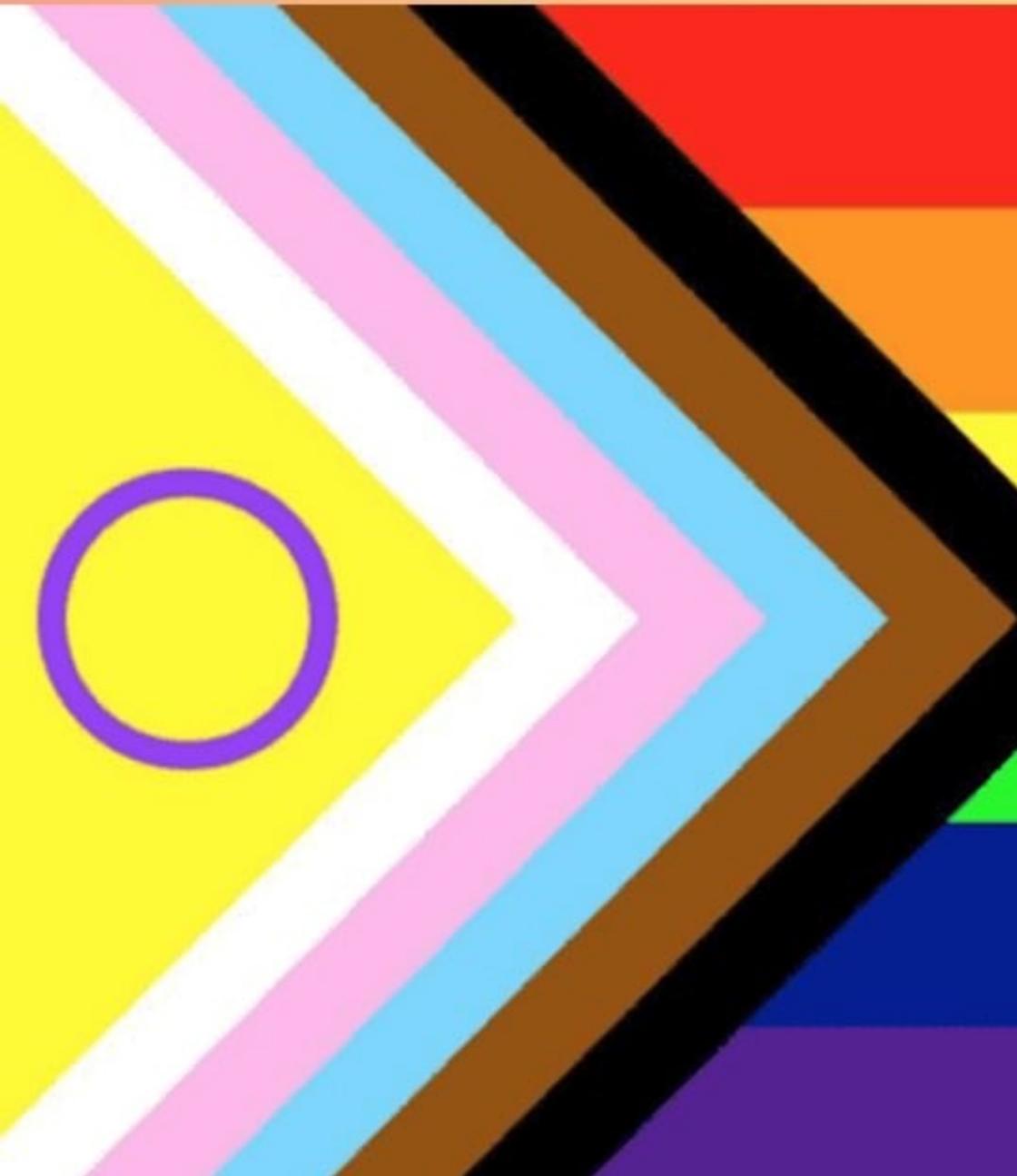


Interview by: Bookholane Sekhonyane

2021

# Intersex

The most recent Program was designed to better serve the intersex community. This new program is a model that honours the history of the intersex community and creates a pathway toward a more inclusive and equitable future.



ress Pride Flag update  
er represent the intersex  
ly designed flag is one  
ory of the pride flag and  
wards inclusivity.

