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WhyCantWeGetMarried.Com West Africa Chapter



**Dear readers, friends and partners
of WhyCantWeGetMarried.Com,**

Welcome to our second newsletter of 2010 (issue 2) featuring recent WCWGMC HIV/AIDS projects pictures and events. Prominent here is the Sierra Leonean LGBTQ young people live stories. Exploring comments from participants on safer sex practices, which was presented at the 1st LGBTQ safer sex practices workshops ever held in Makeni and Freetown.

WCWGMC, in conjunction with LGBTQ student Network is forming a support Group for all HIV infected and affected LGBTQ young persons in Freetown and Makeni.

The LGBTQ group will have their first meeting for participants to brainstorm and record their own histories and tell their own stories. You can read more about this on the newsletter. We hope that readers of our newsletter will find this issue to be thought-provoking and informative. We welcome contributions and suggestions from LGBTQ young people for future editions, the editor can be contacted at Mobile Number: +232 33 844310 or Email: sierra.leone@whycantwegetmarried.com

We hope that you will enjoy the issue.

With Best Wishes,

George, Denzil and all at WhyCantWeGetMarried.Com

LGBTQ Youngster Photo Gallery



Participants doing ice breaker at the Workshop



HIV/AIDS School Peer education Campaign



LGBTQ Youth Community Outreach program in Freetown



Live Stories from LGBTQ Youngsters in Freetown and Makeni



"Due to the illegal situation in Sierra Leone, it is still a problem for us LGBTQ young people to have access to tangible information about safer sex practices. We still have to hide our same sex relationships as the government and community people are still homophobic and trans-phobic" A young Lesbian in Makeni

"I want to kiss my boy friend in public without the fear of ridicule. I want to marry the man of my choice without the fear of being stoned. All this I will achieve in a country where homosexuality is legal"

A young gay man in Freetown

"For the past 5 years I have been engage in unprotected sexual intercourse with men and women in Freetown as that is my only means of survival. Since I was born, I have never used a condom and I do not believe that HIV is real" A Bisexual man in Makeni

"I have being a cross dress for the past two years. Most times I engage in unprotected sex with different sex partners as it is difficult for me to have a stagnant love relationship in Sierra Leone. I was kicked out of my family house and disowned by my parents because, I am a transgender person who enjoys dressing like a woman.in Sierra Leone, there is no access to healthcare facilities and information on HIV/AIDS for us transgender people as we are seen as outcast in the society. I am pleading to the government to make LGBTQ right to healthcare possible".From Winnie a Transgender woman in Freetown

Comments from LGBTQ Youngsters & Other information

"The first LGBTQ HIV/AIDS Workshop was a great opportunity for me to link the youth movements of sexual orientation and gender identity with sexual and reproductive rights in a very friendly

environment" James

"The huge HIV/AIDS event in Sierra Leone is for me a landmark for WhyCantWeGetMarried.Com and the LGBTQ youth activism in Sierra Leonean society"

What's on the Next Newsletter!

Watch Out for Interviews with the Project Coordinator about the HIV/AIDS project, comments, suggestions and condom promotion with the National AIDS Secretariat in Sierra Leone and many more issues!

"The first issue of the Pride Guardian really motivated me to advocate and defend the right of LGBTQ people in my community".

HIV/AIDS LGBTQ Support Group

WhyCantWeGetMarried.Com in partnership with Dr. Lakoh and LGBTQ Student Network will like to invite LGBTQ youths to the first meeting of forming a support group. The group aims to provide a supportive safe space for HIV affected and infected LGBTQ Youths in Freetown and Makeni communities.

This first meeting will be held on Sunday, 28 November 2010 @ 16h00 GMT. The meeting will be held on the First Floor 15 John Lane, Via Campbell Street.

"Since I was born I thought I was the only gay in Freetown, this is my first time to hear about lesbian and gay HIV/AIDS project. I was not at the workshop, but this project creates the link for me to go for VCCT services" Mike in Bo

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