



The Rock Of Hope

ESWATINI

BACKGROUND HISTORY

The Rock of Hope (ROH) is a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) rights organization based in Manzini, Eswatini. Founded in January 2011 and formally registered in 2012, ROH works nationally to ensure the LGBTI community gains acceptance within the communities in which they reside. Historically, ROH's main area of focus has been on health advocacy, working to eliminate all non-financial barriers that prevent LGBTI people from accessing high quality health care. The scope of this work eventually expanded to creating safe social spaces in the broader community through religious advocacy and community engagement, as well as legal advocacy through sensitization and coalition building with lawyers and police officers in an effort to eliminate barriers to protections by the state.

SERVICES PROVIDED

- Psychosocial support.
- Provision of health commodities (condoms, lubes and dental dams).
- Advocacy in relation to LGBTI issues.

HOPES FOR THE YEAR

Greetings and compliments of the new-year to everyone. Once again we are hard at work as the Rock of Hope Eswatini, working diligently to serve you the community.

This year promises to be very hectic, as we have so many activities and events lined up. One with which we are very proud of is launching the Rock of Hope news-letter which will

keep you updated on the proceeds of all our work and activities. Sharing briefly on our work this year, we shall place our focus on challenging the common law under the sodomy act which criminalizes consensual same-sex relations in the country and possibly have a constitutional review of the Sodomy Act. We hope that Emaswati will stand behind us during this plight to ensure that all citizens of the nation get to enjoy equal rights. It is imperative to note that this particular common law touches on all living in the Kingdom; whether of homosexual or heteronormative nature. It is because of this notion that the Rock of Hope Eswatini hopes to rope in other organizations', companies and grass root organizations in ensuring that parity exists and is fulfilled as a concept in society.

The organization will continue advocate for the rights of LGBTIQ+ identities, sex workers, prisoners and all marginalized group. We will not be leaving anyone behind this year as our mandate continues to be that we Serve.




The Rock Of Hope ESWATINI




COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF PRIDE STEERING COMMITTEES


The Rock of Hope Eswatini had a brief interview with some of our committee members, trying to learn more about them and of-course letting them give us a brief description of what they promise to deliver.




First on the podium was our very own Mangaliso "Manga" a socialite and well known dancer. Manga is a proud LGBTIQ+ member who once worked for ROH as an outreach worker and got himself an award as an outreach of the year. Manga maintains that he is very simple and patient and loves working with people.



Representing the femmes is our very own Nobuhle, a multi-talented young woman. She is known to rub shoulders with the who's who and we are so sure she will have her counterparts join us in this years' Pride. In her words, she claims that she is willing to do anything to change the world and making people understand what it means to be part of the LGBTIQ+ community



Mciniso also know as "So-Gu" is a quirky yet debonair man. Upon arrival at the office, he mentions that there is not much rainbow color in it. He echoes that we should be proud, out and shine. A proud husband to one wife, he is sure to give bisexuals a voice and bring an end to Bi-erasure.



Lindokuhle "Tidee" literally the apple of everyone's eye, but don't be fooled. She is a well of talent; gracefully humble yet she sure knows her stuff. She aims to use her creativity and wacky imagination to make this event one that is unforgettable. "Most people don't understand that I get inspiration from literally anything including the surrounding environment. I hope to show people that talent and opportunity and the willingness to serve is what it takes to make an impact in society. Do expect to be wowed, she says as she showcases her newly designed dress.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Pride Eswatini March

Along the stretch of nine years the organization hosted tons of events which were aimed at making every member of the LGBTIQ+ feel un-ashamed of their sexuality and gender; be free to embrace their differences without fear of discrimination. Events that have be hosted by the Rock of Hope include:

Pride Eswatini, which involves a parade (outdoor event) celebrating the LGBTIQ+ social and self-acceptance walk. Many thanks to the local mainstream media for continuously endorsing such an epic event. It goes without saying that the publicity and awareness received from such is monumental. This years' Pride event specifically aims to raise awareness, legalization of the LGBTIQ+ rights, such as same sex marriage, it also aims to welcome everyone who is a part and not a part of the community; encouraging them to embrace their diversity.

This year's Pride indeed promises to be the talk of the town. A Pride steering committee has been elected with each individual representing LGBTIQ+ cascade. The committee will be responsible for gathering information from the community at large on what they specifically would like to see happening at the Pride. They will also be responsible for advertising Pride using different communication platforms, and also coming up with different activities that will be done during the event. Moreover, Pride ambassadors will also be selected you the community and these will be airlines, people who are part of the LGBTIQ+ community, or people who support the community who will expand or increase the reach of Rock of Hope and also promote Pride through their social networking sites.

Congruently, be on the lookout for the International Day Against Homophobia Transgender Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHOBIT) which is observed in May. This will surely unite us as a diverse group and help stimulate interest in LGBTIQ+ rights. It is a day aimed at raising awareness therefore we expect all individuals to take part in it. We are not done just yet, expect to be wowed by the Rainbow Night, Community Involvement and engagement event amongst other just to list a few.



Thulisile "Skimmer", a teacher by day, thriving socialite by night and a seasoned advocate for human rights." I am a loyal, outspoken and proactive LGBTIQ+ member who believes passionately in fairness", she opines. Skimmer promises to keep everyone in the loop with regards to Pride and of-course continuously crack us up with her jokes on our platforms.



Polycarp "Model C", a down to earth Swati woman and seasoned activist from TransSwati. She is always willing to help and continues to be open minded when it comes to discussions. Model C is sure to give you an ear yet fill you with the amount of experience she has gained being a trans-woman in this country. We are truly proud to have her as part of the team.



Our very own "Son of the rainbow" decided to grace us with his flamboyant personality. Yes, it is our very own young stylist who promises to bring us flamboyance and flare at this years' pride. During the interview, he mentions that he was quite elated when he was approached for this position. "You guys, what took you so long? I mean I have all these great ideas and I so want to implement them.