

THE ROCK OF HOPE ESWATINI AUGUST NEWSLETTER



“It is tricky to support African countries where homosexuality is punishable by death.” This statement was posted earlier onwards this week and it really sparked a deep sense of feeling. I personally like to look at things from a standpoint of parity, that is to say looking at from both sides and then building a consensus thereafter.

SUPPORT

Support can be defined by linguists as a manner of standing with and not being against. A more defined version alludes that it encompasses holding something up and providing assistance of any sort; either monetary etc. In this particular context I believe it entails standing firm with the ideologies of and providing a form of support to African countries even though one may not necessarily share the vision of certain country in respect to homosexuality views.

CONSENSUS

Making reference to the statement, many would allude that there is a form of ignorance and arrogance in the statement raised. Some even believe that by not supporting these countries which tend to punish people of the same sex. As far as support goes, it depends on the assistance rendered and the end beneficiary of which I believe encompasses every citizen in the country. For instance if the support rendered is inclusive of a water and sanitation hygiene which is meant to benefit the people of the community. Should we render it null and void such that the whole community suffers in part? I personally believe this is not the way to go about it.

A more presided and acceptable manner would be to acknowledge that sexual orientation should not be a means to issue out any assistance or more. In-fact, sexual orientation should not be an issue and just an all-round concept that should be accepted without fail. Individuals’ sexual orientation and how they interact with other members of the society should not be a source for exclusion from certain cause of support.

SPEAKING OF HOMOSEXUALITY

For the longest time society has heard various views about the 'gay agenda' as some would say. These notions have unfortunately more often fallen on the negative side of the scale, therefore rating and labelling all who engage in same sex relationships as being demon possessed and better yet not so normal.

Individuals who have identified as being homosexual have either been bashed, assaulted or have at some point in time had derogatory commentaries (stigma and discrimination) shared to them.

In some countries, this is extensive as laws and policies tend to promote such through punishing those who are homosexuals by death. This is of-course utter violation of human rights and yet still in our day and age, it still exists.

GUEST



NONTOBEKO JINX DLAMINI

This month we have a familiar face being part of our newsletter. She is kind hearted, speaks her mind and yet a hardcore boss and known LGBTI health activist. It is no other than Nontobeko Jinx Dlamini, the Executive Director of House of Pride. This is what she shared with us.

So tell us about yourself?

Most people know me as Jinx but my birth name is Nontobeko and I am the first born of two girls, grew up in the village, Big Bend and started working for House of our Pride as a peer educator in 2014 and am now the executive Director of the same organization am a lesbian feminist, and in a committed relationship. I am a lover of everything beautiful, and surround myself with people who share the same values of me.

How do you manage to be both a human rights defender and executive director of an LGBTI organisation?

When I started working for the LGBTI community, 2014 I did it because I wanted to enjoy my fundamental rights face any form of threat, attack and criminalization head on, that's why even now as an Executive Director I still fight for those, am a human rights defender first so I wake up with the same motivation and that helps me as a director.

In your line of work, what have you seen to be a challenge due to covid-19?
Not being able to help your community due to the rules we have to live by lately, it is a different world now and we are limited to the services we provide to the community.

What messages do you have for the LGBTI community post covid-19?
Basically the message that has been going around, stay at home, be safe and reach out when you can no longer handle some things.

On a lighter note, what does a human rights defender like you do in their spare time?
Wow, me well I enjoy my movies and series and I do a lot of reading about current events happening around me, also YouTube helps me catch up faster.

Messages From the Community

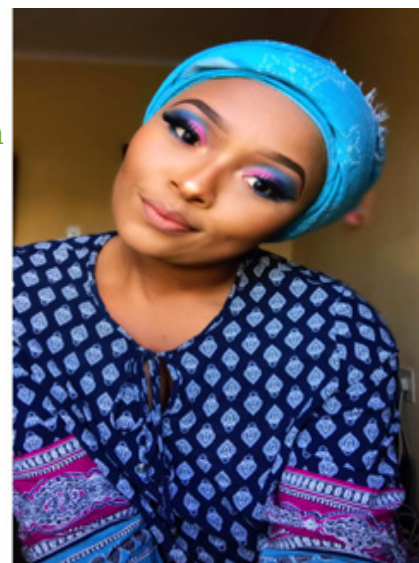
All over the world, people have been sending messages to encourage everyone to stay at home and rest assured that corona-virus will be over in due time. The Rock of Hope didn't want to leave LGBTI individuals out, they were asked to send words of encouragement to the nation and this is what they had to say.

“To the nation, I urge you all to be strong now because things will get better. It might be stormy now, but it can never rain forever. Let's be patient and put our trust to the Almighty. Tough times never last, but tough people do. Let us stick to the rules and precautions stated by the government. Let's stop the spread of Covid- 19.”



THULANI MBEMBE DLAMINI

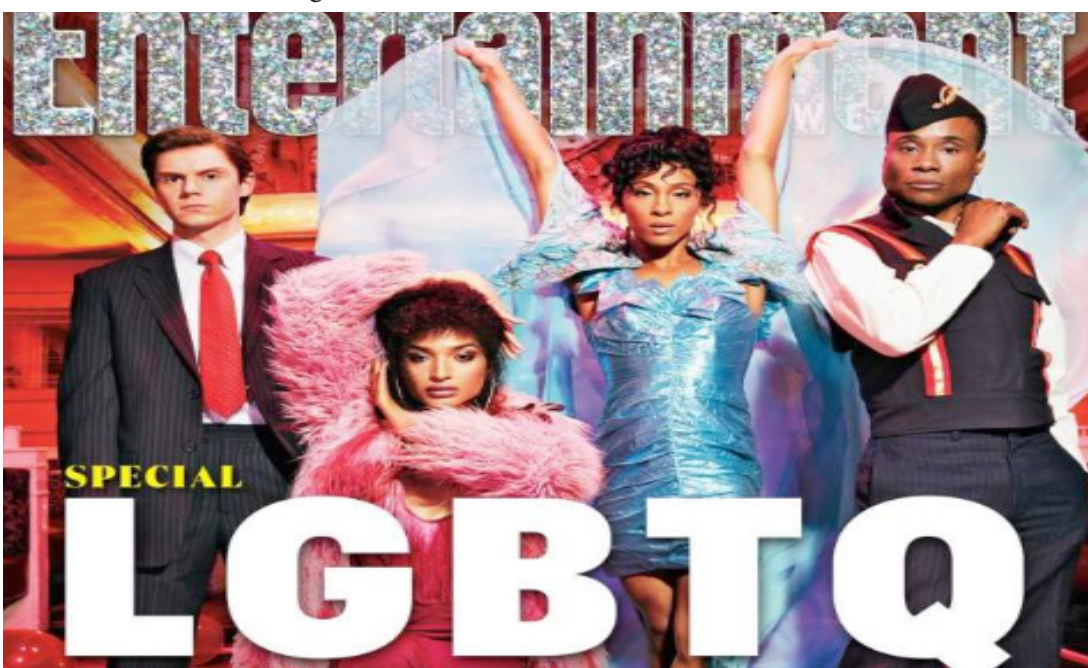
“Don't be a alarmed for this too shall pass, it might not be as soon as we want it to but want matters is that it shall come to an end. Please stay at home and be safe, remember to wash your hands every now and then. Lastly, never share masks as this will put you at high risk of being exposed to corona-virus.”



NOBUHLE MASEKO

Movies / series for LGBTI

Here is a series recommended for the LGBTI individuals to watch and keep themselves entertained during lockdown: POSE



An American series about African American and Latino and gender nonconforming individuals who lived in the 1900s, it looks at the juxtaposition of several segments of life and society in New York. It shows how difficult life was for LGBTI individuals, being accepted by the families, getting medical health assistance, going for sex change operation, assumptions that they were spreading HIV and a lot of them were dying from AIDS. This is a must watch as it resonates with the challenges faced by LGBTIQA+ persons during the COVID-19 pandemic.