



OUT & PROUD: LGBTI equality and rights in Southern Africa

Implementing organisation(s)	Southern Africa Litigation Centre (SALC); COSPE Onlus; Centre for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR); National Rainbow Alliance (NRA); Rock of Hope (ROH); Trans Research, Education, Advocacy & Training (TREAT)
Duration	1 February 2020 – 31 January 2023
Location	Eswatini; Malawi; Zimbabwe
Keywords	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Intersex (LGBTI), Gender & Sexual Minorities, Human Rights Defenders

In order to reach the overall objective the **specific objective** is to strengthen the capacities of and opportunities for LGBTI Human Rights defenders (HRDS) and their organization in Malawi, Eswatini and Zimbabwe to defend, advocate and promote their rights and fight discrimination.

Target groups

- 500 LGBTI HRDs in the targeted countries, of whom at least 50% gender minorities;
- 20 Southern Africa LGBTI HRDs and their organisations;
- 500 members of local communities and service providers (health care, police, traditional authorities, religious leaders);
- 20 Southern Africa CSOs and HRDs organisations; 50 Southern African Journalists;
- 50 Southern African Lawyers for HRs;
- 120 Policy makers: 100 government's officials and HRs Commissioners in the 3 targeted countries, 20 United Nations (UN) and African Union (AU) Commissioners



Final Beneficiaries

- LGBTI people in the 3 countries (estimated number 5000);
- LGBTI communities in Southern Africa (estimated number 20.000);
- Public opinion reached by the awareness actions and media coverage (estimated number of 100.000 people)

Project Description

The **overall objective** of Out & Proud Project is to improve the legislative frameworks and non – discriminatory environment in favour of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people in Southern Africa.

Key message of the project

People cannot be discriminated against on the basis of their sexuality and stereotypes linked to the LGBTI world must be contrasted and brought down



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Main Outcomes

1. LGBTI HRDs and their organisations are better able and more secure to operate in their countries;
2. LGBTI HRDs create/reinforce alliances and solidarity networks at regional level;
3. LGBTI HRDs engage with HRs international mechanisms and advocacy at national level for policy reforms and awareness raising

Main Activities

1.1 Development of Risk and vulnerability analysis for LGBTI HRDs in each target country.

1.2 Capacity building and technical assistance in sound organisational management, quality control, admin & finance, monitoring and reporting for LGBTI CSOs.

1.3 Training and support to actions on crisis management and security for LGBTI HRDs (use of law, digital security, trial observations, preventive security, police engagement).

1.4 Strategic litigation for the rights of LGBTI people and freedom of expression and association of LGBTI HRDs (legal empowerment of HRDs, pre-litigation research, legal action, follow-up assessment)

1.5 Support to LGBTI organisations to fight violence and discrimination, especially for gender minorities, through pilot actions on community/service providers' outreach. (Outputs: strengthened organisational and protection capacities of LGBTI HRDs organisations; improved jurisprudence on the rights of LGBTI persons and HRDs)

2.1 Organisation of a yearly LGBTI HRDs Forum at regional level to build solidarity and a

common LGBTI Agenda for Change with Sectoral Policy Briefs.

2.2 Regional training and capacity building for LGBTI CSOs and lawyers

2.3 Media engagement (capacity building, codes of ethics, media coverage)

2.4 Development of a LGBTI Barometer. (Outputs: one permanent platform created at regional level for capacity building, advocacy and exchanges among LGBTI HRDs; increased quality and quantity of media coverage of LGBTI issues; increased capacities of CSOs and lawyers to support LGBTI people and HRDs)

3.1 Elaboration of shadow reports according to the UN and AU countries' calendars;

3.2 Organisation of missions of LGBTI HRDs to present reports/submissions to UN and AU HRs' Commissions and Offices;

3.3 Elaboration of national agendas through which involving other civil society organisations and new allies

3.4 National awareness campaigns to challenge social norms and gender roles (social media, Prides, festivals, art & performances) and advocacy for change (petitions, policy briefs, marches, lobbying)

Outputs

- increased LGBTI skills to engage with HRs international mechanisms and advocacy instruments;
- increased opportunities for advocacy at national and international level