

2021

LGBTI

# VIOLATIONS REPORT



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## An overview of violations cases documented in 2021

This report documents and contains 38 actual reported cases of violations that detail how in Zimbabwe, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people endure hate-motivated violence, abuse, detention, criminalization and discrimination in jobs, healthcare and other places because of their real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

The report is desegregated as follows:

The report outlines cases of human rights violations perpetrated in 2021 collated from reports from Harare, Bulawayo, Mutare and Masvingo and online. Additional information is provided from regional Affinity Groups. The purpose of this report is to highlight the widespread and systematic human rights violations experienced by LGBTI people in Zimbabwe despite the country's constitutional guarantees of equality and non-discrimination and softening of government stance on homosexuality.

in particular, the report draws attention to the following issues/emerging trends:

- are the top forms of violations experienced by LGBTI complainants who reported the cases documented in this report.
- reported most of the documented cases.
- Emerging cases of eviction require increased knowledge of property rights
- Covid-19 remained a limiting

In light of these, key recommendations range from the need to strengthen rights awareness to comprehensive personal and information security capacity building as well as continued advocacy for recognition of LGBT rights as human rights.

# INTRODUCTION

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The monitoring and documentation of LGBTI human rights breaches is a continual and active GALZ process, which is essential to keep track of public acceptance and tolerance while also raising awareness of discrimination, stigma, and Human Rights abuses faced by the LGBTI population in Zimbabwe. Systematic violence and discrimination against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex (LGBTI) people based on their actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or sex characteristics (SOGIE) have been well documented. Disownments, extortion, threats of violence, murders, physical assaults, torture, sexual assault, arbitrary arrest and imprisonment, and discrimination in a range of domains, including the labour market and health care services, are examples of these abuses. It is critical to gather information and document evidence of human rights violations against LGBTI people to give advocacy and policy-oriented work credibility. It is, however, neither sufficient nor simple as a data indicator.

To begin, data collecting and reporting must be converted into action for change at a variety of levels (national, regional,

and international) and in a variety of domains (legislation, policies, and social attitudes and behaviours) where various challenges remain. Second, the analysis and potential answers are not straightforward or monolithic. Indeed, discrimination based on real or perceived SOGIE characteristics is frequently compounded by discrimination based on other factors such as sex, gender, nationality, race, ethnicity, indignity, language, age, religion, belief, political or other opinions, disability, health (including HIV status), economic or social status, migration status, family status, or being a human rights defender.

As a result, taking an intersectional approach to SOGIE campaigning is often critical, taking into account and addressing the fact that prejudice sometimes happens as a result of numerous grounds of identity being combined.

# OBJECTIVES

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The report intends to give an overview of the Zimbabwean context about abuse and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The value of documenting violations against LGBT people lies in seeking to inculcate a culture of reporting abuses when they are experienced.

This report is not an exhaustive account of all violations experienced by the LGBTI community in Zimbabwe; GALZ predominantly collects cases from members who report to GALZ officers, where non-GALZ members may also experience violations based on their sexuality and be linked to the organization.

It also emerged that many cases of violations frequently go unreported because victims do not trust the police, are afraid of reprisals, are unwilling to identify themselves as LGBTI, or have a general lack of awareness of their rights as victims. By documenting the lived realities of LGBTI people in terms of the experiences of human rights violations perpetrated against them, this report adopts the multi-pronged approach of raising awareness on key issues affecting this community,

while seeking to influence policymakers and human rights bodies to take action by way of effectuating policies that advance the interests and rights of LGBT communities as equal citizens. The Constitution of Zimbabwe guarantees gender equality as one of the key founding values and principles (Section 3). Section 56 of the Constitution, in particular, espouses the values of equality and non-discrimination and highlights that

(1) all persons are equal before the law and have the right to equal protection and benefit of the law

(3) every person has the right not to be treated in an unfairly discriminatory manner on such grounds as their nationality, race, colour, tribe, place of birth, ethnic or social origin, language, class, religious belief, political affiliation, opinion, custom, culture, sex, gender, marital status, age, pregnancy, disability or economic or social status.

Therefore, in a society that values human dignity, no violation should go unreported.

The report is also intended for the LGBTI community to be aware of the nature of violations that they are prone to, their rights, and measures that can be taken when those rights are violated.

# ABOUT GALZ

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Established in 1990, GALZ is one of the oldest established LGBTI rights organizations in Southern Africa. GALZ has managed to continue to exist and even grow over the past thirty years, despite operating under challenging political and socio-economic conditions. It has maintained its position with the shift in political dispensation and subsequent election and results.

Initially GALZ was known as an acronym representing the Gays and Lesbians Association of Zimbabwe, but with the evolution of its work with a more holistic Human Rights-based service ethos, GALZ has now remodeled to be known as an Association of LGBTI People in Zimbabwe. This shift affirms its commitment to serving all its members, championing rights for all.

## **GALZ's work focuses on the following key strategic pillars:**

1. Building capacities of the LGBTI community.
2. Advocating on behalf of the LGBTI community and defending the rights of LGBTI people.
3. Lobbying to engage and influence policy.
4. Mobilising resources within the movement to create a voice for greater tolerance and greater acceptance and inclusivity of LGBTI in the larger community.

Attaining social justice is a key objective of GALZ to ensure that there is fair and equal distribution of wealth, opportunities and privileges within society. GALZ's theory of change is anchored on obtaining social justice. We believe that the work to realise equality, build capacities to lobby and advocate for greater tolerance, acceptance and inclusivity of LGBTI people in the broader community is a continuous process. As such, we believe in enhancing social justice through empowering our communities to demand and lobby for social justice.

# GALZ STRATEGIC PILLARS

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## 1

### **Strategic Priority Pillar 1: Membership and Community Empowerment**

- Building an all-inclusive movement
- Fortifying our ongoing movement-building initiatives by strengthening the capacities of LGBTIQ+ persons to demand meaningful inclusion, challenge discrimination and lesbophobia, biphobia, homophobia, transphobia and demand access to services
- Empowering LGBTIQ+ person to effectively and meaningfully participate in socio-economic and political life
- Strengthening and expanding initiatives for psycho-social support, mental, financial and emotional wellness and social well-being protection of LGBTIQ+ persons

## 2

### **Strategic Priority Pillar 2: Knowledge, Documentation and Ideas**

- Building evidence to inform policy and practice
- Enhancing media visibility to counter toxic narratives
- Building the capacity of the community to tell stories from their perspectives
- Build a knowledge hub on gender and sexuality diversity for the community and external users
- Strategic Priority Pillar 3: Policy, Law, Human Rights and Access

## 3

### **Strategic Priority Pillar 3: Policy, Law, Human Rights and Access to Justice**

- Strengthening the capacity of GALZ to advocate for LGBTIQ+ persons' access to justice and protection by the law
- Building a broader coalition of advocates for the inclusion of LGBTIQ+ person

# 4

## **Strategic Priority Pillar 4: The GALZ Home: Governance, Institutional Innovation, Systems Adaptation & Resources**

- Organisation, management and administration of GALZ for effective delivery of the strategy and GALZ mandate
- Strengthening and widening funding partnerships and resource mobilization initiatives



# DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

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## 1

### **ASSAULT**

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Assault in this report refers to either physical or verbal attacks.

## 2

### **BLACKMAIL**

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An act of coercion or extortion, where unjustified threats are made to gain or cause loss to another unless a specified demand is met.

## 3

### **DETENTION**

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Detention in this report refers to arrest by the ZRP and being kept in custody.

Unlawful detention is arrest without reasonable suspicion that an offense has been committed, and an individual being kept in custody for a period exceeding 48 hours without access to redress through the courts or subsequent release without charge.

Lawful detention refers to arrest on reasonable grounds of suspicion that an offense has been committed.

## 4

### **DISCRIMINATION**

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The unjust or prejudicial treatment of people, on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity

## 5

### **DISPLACEMENT**

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Displacement refers to the act of compelling a person/persons to leave their usual places such as home or country.

# 6

## **DISOWNMENT**

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Denial of relationship and condition of forcibly renouncing or no longer accepting an individual as one's kin or member of the family.

# 8

## **HOMOPHOBIA**

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Homophobia refers to all the negative attitudes that can lead to rejection and direct or indirect discrimination toward gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, transsexual or transgender people, or towards anyone whose physical appearance or behaviour does not fit masculine or feminine stereotypes.

# 10

## **OUTING**

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An act of disclosing a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) person's sexual orientation or gender identity without that person's consent

# 7

## **HATE SPEECH**

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Any communication (speech, gesture or conduct, writing, or display) that disparages a person or a group based on some characteristic such as race, colour, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, or religion which may incite violence or prejudicial action against an individual or group.

# 9

## **INVASION OF PRIVACY**

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Intrusion into the personal life or private affairs of an individual without just cause. This may include public disclosure of private information that may be considered embarrassing.

# 11

## **THREAT**

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Threat refers to a declaration of intent to cause harm or inflict punishment. In this report, Threat refers to situations where some form of action is promised, e.g threats of assault, detention, being 'outed' etc.

# KEY ACRONYMS

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<b>DIC</b>	Drop-in Centre
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-Based Violence
<b>IDAHOT</b>	International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia
<b>IPV</b>	Intimate Partner Violence
<b>KP</b>	Key Populations
<b>LGBTIQ</b>	Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, Inter-sex, Queer
<b>M &amp; E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>MSM</b>	Men who have Sex with Men
<b>PE</b>	Peer Educator
<b>PC</b>	Peer Coordinator
<b>SGBV</b>	Sexual Gender-Based Violence
<b>SRHR</b>	Sexual and reproductive health and rights
<b>STI</b>	Sexually Transmitted Infection
<b>UNCHR</b>	United Nations Commission on Human Rights
<b>WSW</b>	Women who have Sex with Women
<b>ZANU PF</b>	Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front
<b>ZHRC</b>	Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission
<b>ZLHR</b>	Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights
<b>ZRP</b>	Zimbabwe Republic Police

# VIOLATIONS CATEGORIES

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From the recorded cases, it can be seen that the violations experienced fall into the broad categories of:

- 1 Outing**
- 2 Assault (physical and sexual)**
- 3 Threats**
- 4 Hate Speech**
- 5 Blackmail**
- 6 Disownment**
- 7 Discrimination**
- 8 Eviction**
- 9 Police harassment and detention**

# **VIOLATION HANDLING PROCEDURES**

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GALZ is strategic in dealing with human rights violation cases that occur based on sexual orientation and gender identity and expression.

GALZ strives to operate within the confines of the law and constitution so that violation cases are resolved amicably and legally. The first step for all human rights violations cases that can be backed by the constitution such as sexual and physical assault, is reportage of the matter to the nearest Zimbabwe republic police station to where the violation would have occurred. Upon receiving the violation, a case will be opened and entailed in a docket, a legal document for the crime reported with a number issued for means of investigation.

The survivor of the violation is then directed to the nearest health facility whereby, they will be provided with medical attention if bodily harm is done. In some instances, a survivor may be directed to a medical facility for a forensic report used to gather evidence or a violation having been committed to them.

GALZ also works with human rights defenders such as Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) who assist in the acceleration of cases or offer legal representation to survivors in the court of law.

The survivor is also provided with psychosocial support to help deal with the aftermath of the violation. Psychosocial support is essential for maintaining good physical and mental health and provides an important coping mechanism for LGBTI people who would have experienced post-traumatic stress. The process is long-term and the survivor may continue to receive counselling regularly to assess the speed of recovery

All cases of violations are compiled and archived by GALZ in a systematic and comprehensive way

# METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

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This section discusses the methods used to gather (compile) data, various sources that violations are collected from and how they are analyzed. It outlines the procedural steps taken in each process from compiling to analyzing the data.

Violations from 2021 were gathered from reports filed through site visits, mobile messaging and referrals. A majority of cases reported were through community-driven focal persons who deliver the violations physically or through social media messaging. Some LGBTI persons come in person or through the PFLAG WhatsApp platform. Ordaa coordinators are also sent out into the community to verify the genuineness of cases and the urgency with which they need to be addressed.

Counsellors documented all violations using human rights violations case notes which are archived in the cloud for easy retrieval. A total of 38 violations were filed in 2021 and analysis is derived from that population. The counsellor also drafts follow-up notes to keep track of progress in resolving the violation.

Focus group discussions were also conducted in 2021 where issues such as COVID-19 lockdowns were revealed to be one of the major causes of Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual assault and Sexual Assault.

# **2021 VIOLATIONS**





## **DATE | OCT 2021**

**CASENOTE** In October 2020, Lloyd's mother was selling airtime at their residential home in Runyararo when the accused perpetrator bought airtime and complained that the airtime was not valid. It is said that the perpetrator harassed Lloyd's mother, and started calling the client "ngochani, unorara nevarume iwewe" (gay, you sleep with other men). It is said that people began gathering around the place, as the perpetrator continued to harass and embarrass the client and the mother.

**INTERVENTION** The team made an effort to track down the perpetrator so that they hear their side of the story. In the aftermath of the incident, the counsellor managed to track down the mother and offered her counselling together with the client.

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## **DATE | 22 NOVEMBER 2021**

**CASENOTE** Hillary is a gay man from Mutare, he went to a club with his boyfriend (Innocent) and was accompanied by his boyfriend's sister and his friend. They spent the day at the club enjoying the burnouts. It was in the evening during the after-party when Hillary was assaulted. The boyfriend's friend under the influence of alcohol, approached Hillary and began harassing him and proceeded to beat him up. Hillary thought it was just a minor issue, he did not report to the police or seek medical assistance. On Monday morning he called the Coordinator after he woke up with a black swollen eye.

**INTERVENTION** The coordinator rushed him to the CeSHAAR clinic for medical assistance and he got the necessary treatment. He was then referred to VFU to report his case. He was skeptical about reporting the issue because of the people around him and their bond hence he was referred to the counsellor for a session. A virtual follow-up and home visit were done to check on his well-being and was also referred to the counselor for post-traumatic stress.

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**DATE | 17 AUGUST 2021**

**CASENOTE** Peter, a gay man from Harare the 15th of August, witnessed his friend being assaulted by Tafadzwa a male perpetrator. He felt helpless to assist his friend at the time of the assault because as a fellow gay man, he feared he might also be attacked. Peter also added that he felt threatened by a group of five heterosexual men who sat by the roadside and drank alcohol in addition to strong substances. They have threatened to beat them up until they become straight. They often accused Peter and his friend of wanting to seduce the men.

**INTERVENTION** The counsellor gave online emotional support to the two via WhatsApp and also asked them to give updates if they experienced any further threats.

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**DATE | 26 NOVEMBER 2021****CASE No | 418066-7**

**CASENOTE** Memory is a 36-year-old transgender who stays at Entumbane, Bulawayo. She is currently unemployed and stays with her brother and cousins. Memory reported to GALZ that she was on their way from Mathonisa beer garden with a straight female friend (Talent) when they met four men. She could only identify one man whom she recognized as Prince. The four men attacked them and memory was hit in the head with a log. While Talent managed to escape, Memory was gang-raped with the four men taking turns to penetrate her without protection.

**INTERVENTION** Memory reported the case on the 24th of November at Entumbane police station where they took a statement and medical report to be examined and treated. She was also given Pep. The police are looking for Prince and his friends who are on the run. GALZ gave Memory emotional support and she received counselling.



## **DATE | 28 JULY 2021**

**CASENOTE** Dzikamai a member of the community went out for drinks with a relative (Tanaka). While they were out, his relative stole two cell phones. The matter was reported to Kuwadzana 2 police station and police officers hunted him down and were apprehended. His mother promised to replace the stolen gadgets. The issue took place 3 days ago in Kuwadzana around the 25th of July 2021. In the aftermath of the incident, Dzikamai noted that Tanaka was publicly outing him in the community to his brother and some of his other close relatives. He began threatening to expose him on social media. He reported feeling despair and not being able to confidently walk within the community.

**INTERVENTION** Counsellor conducted case conference with Ordaa coordinator and mapped out a way forward to mediate on the case. Investigations also revealed that the perpetrator was a drug abuser which was the main source of his problem.

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## **DATE | 28 JUNE 2021**

**CASNOTE** Fidelis is a gay man who lives in Pumula, Bulawayo. On the 28th of June, Fidelis contacted GALZ stating that he was afraid of losing his job following an incident WhatsApp conversation between his Brandon and him were uncovered. The chats contained Fidelis encouraging and convincing Brandon, to get circumcised and also informing him of the procedures. The two got to a point where Fidelis spoke about sexual orientation and defining what is to be gay, lesbian, heterosexual and also being asexual. They also unpacked sexual desires such as oral sex and bondage.

As convinced earlier, Brandon was circumcised but was not incentivized with the five dollars that he had been promised by Fidelis should he be circumcised. Fidelis failed to produce the agreed amount and Brandon's reaction was a threat to sue Fidelis for sexual harassment as his texts were disturbing and uncomfortable. Fidelis apologized for his actions and pleaded that they negotiate and contain the story, but Brandon kept stressing that he wanted to report the matter.

**INTERVENTION** Fidelis received counselling and was enlightened of the danger of his actions. Brandon however was not available for counselling and negotiations.

**DATE | 05 OCTOBER 2021**

**CASENOTE** Stephenson Nyoni is a 27 years old gay man staying and working at a Wellness Clinic in Victoria Falls. Upon receiving his salary, he requested Robert, a taxi driver (and also boyfriend at the time) to convert his salary into a favourable local rate so he could use the money to buy food and other necessities. When Stephenson attempted to make a follow-up on his request later that day, Robert was nowhere to be found. He reported the fraud case to the police who also informed him that Robert was wanted on several charges. Days later, Robert reached out to Stephenson threatening to expose his sexual orientation if he pursued the case any further.

**INTERVENTION** GALZ's intervention was to submit the case to the police for further investigations.



**OUTING**



**DATE | 01 APRIL 2021**

**CASENOTE** On the 2nd of April 2021, Lynette was outed to her family. Her family knowing that she was a lesbian, gave her two ultimatums, either for her to change her sexual orientation or move out of the house the reason that her 'behaviour' would be a bad influence on her younger siblings. Lynette chose to move out. She went to stay at Masvingo Technical College where she was undertaking her attachment in information systems at the time. She reached out to GALZ Masvingo for psychological support and to appeal for funds to support her while she adjusted to her current situation. She also noted that her family members continuously called her, forcing her to 'amend her ways'.

**INTERVENTION** GALZ coordinator reached out to Lynette for emotional support and also referred her to the counsellor for further psychosocial support.

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**DATE | 12 APRIL 2021**

**CASENOTE** Esther is a 31-year-old bisexual woman from Masvingo, she was in a heterosexual relationship four years ago, and had a child with her then partner before their separation. When she got into a same-sex relationship with a transman, they got into an argument and the partner disclosed Esther's sexuality and HIV status to the ex-husband. The ex-husband began pressuring Esther for both of them to get tested, even though they were no longer together and had not had sex with each other in 4 years. When they last tested on two occasions, the husband tested HIV negative. The husband, who is a police officer used his occupation to exert pressure on Esther.

**INTERVENTION** The client was offered counselling by the Counsellor and a peace order was sought to prevent the officer from further harassing her.

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**DATE | 16 APRIL 2021**

**CASENOTE** Charles Shoniwa is an 18-year-old LGBTIQ member from Mutare. On their first anniversary with his boyfriend, Nicholas, who is their mutual friend proceeded to post a message on WhatsApp status with the couple's picture attached as a way of congratulating them. The text read "Celebrating love, I celebrate you guys my crush couple. To many more years in this lovely relationship u deserve it *chommie*, to companionship, to grace, to fidelity to communication to trust and to many more that bind your relationship lots of love guys). Later during the day, Charles received a message from another member notifying him that a screenshot of the status update was circulating in Mutare Celebs a prominent group for young people in Mutare. An officer prompted to notify Charles about it and also called Nicholas to remove the status before more screenshots were captured. Charles reported feeling traumatized and depressed in the aftermath of the event.

**INTERVENTION** The counsellor booked him for a counselling session on 20/04/2021 and investigations were launched.





**DISOWNMENT**



### **DATE | 13 July 2021**

**CASENOTE** Charmaine is a lesbian from Harare and a GALZ member. Her mother died when she was 8 years old leaving her with no option but to stay with her grandmother. She developed a close bond with her mother's sister whom she described as a mother, a sister, and a friend. She introduced her to her lesbian lover disguised as her friend. Her 'friend' later also build a strong relationship with Charmaine's mom's sister. She eventually disclosed to her that Charmaine and she were dating. When she came back from South Africa where she had been working for a while she cut off any communication with Charmaine upon hearing the news that she was a lesbian.

**INTERVENTION** Deconstruction and reconstruction of the aunt's reaction and a way forward were established by the counsellor.

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### **DATE | 12 MARCH 2021**

**CASENOTE** Joel is a lesbian who resides in Harare, she was physically assaulted by her partner shortly after commenting on the short dress that she was wearing. Joel described the event as violent with biting and scratching. In addition to that, her uncle also assaulted her, dragging her in the street and stomping her with heavy boots over a 5-dollar note that she had taken. This exacerbated the fight that Joel and her partner were already having, as a cohabiting couple. As a breadwinner, Joel's girlfriend sacked her out of the house. Joel noted that she had nowhere to go and her mother to whom she had disclosed her sexual orientation also did not want anything to do with her.

**INTERVENTION** Measures that were taken include narrative listening , normalization, trauma brief therapy, pain management, clinical referral to Covid-19tests for shelter admission, and safety to reduce infection.



## **BRIBERY AND BLACKMAIL**

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## **DATE | 12 MARCH 2021**

**CASENOTE** Roman is a 26-years-old gay man residing in Dangamvura. He was involved in a relationship with Vincent. The relationship had been going on for a year and six months. One day the couple had a fight in which Roman threatened his partner (Vinnie) that he was going to create a WhatsApp group and post their explicit intimate pictures for the whole family to know if he attempted to break up with him. Vincent notified the GALZ Officer about the issue and sent a screenshot of the group that had been created.

**INTERVENTION** He gave the GALZ officer a detailed overview of what was happening and the officer then went to pick them both up and brought them to the DIC for counselling. A follow-up was made with the union to check on their progress and confirm if pictures and videos were deleted. They confirmed the pictures and the videos were deleted and were back on track.

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## **DATE | 15 FEBRUARY 2021**

**CASENOTE** Ashely, a gay man from Harare reported to the Harare site following an incident whereby his friend Percy visited him at his homestead in Chitungwiza. After a few drinks, both of them lay on the same bed in their boxer shorts before Percy was reported to have begun kissing Ashely. Ashely then restrained him before any further action took place. He then accompanied Percy back home to Highlands where he resides. The following day, Percy began to threaten Percy and accuse him of seducing him and bedding him against his will. he demanded expensive clothing items from Percy as a bribe.

**INTERVENTION** In addition to encouraging the member to join GALZ as a member, the Harare Counsellor also gave the victim some counselling and advised archiving of messages if a legal actions were to be taken, the matter eventually subsided.

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## **DATE | 06 NOVEMBER 2021**

**CASENOTE** Chenjerai is a gay man from Masvingo. On 6 November 2021, he called GALZ on a blackmail case from his partner (Nelson). He and his partner began cohabiting together and agreed to have unprotected sex as a couple shortly after they get tested at the New Start Centre. Nelson denied going to the New Start Centre giving citing the reason that he was once an employee there, he rather suggested that he uses Pep after their encounters. Chenjerai agreed to the alternative and both had unprotected sex for a prolonged period until one day Nelson confessed that he was HIV positive. Devastated, Chenjerai thought of moving out and quitting the relationship. His partner blamed him for giving him HIV and proceeded to threaten Chenjerai that he would disclose their status and living arrangement to his parents.

**INTERVENTION** Peer counselling and support advice on how to monitor the healing process, daily follow-up (on WhatsApp) and home visits.

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## **DATE | 26 MARCH 2021**

**CASENOTE** Robert is a Harare-based renowned journalist working for Zimpapers and was involved in a relationship with Tsungai who is based in the UK. Upon breaking up, Robert succumbed to blackmail, and threats to be outed from Tsungirai among other serious threats. The complainant reported that one Saidi was building a case against him. He believed that Tsungai was paying Saidi and other people out of bitterness to get back to the complainant. Robert was granted bail on the 6th of April 2020 for RTGS 2000. He appeared before the Magistrates Court on Monday 12 April 2020 and the case was moved to 14 May 2020 for trial.

**INTERVENTION** The matter was forwarded to be handled by ZLHR, Robert also received psycho-social support at GALZ.

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**DATE | 15 JULY 2021**

**CASENOTE** Dyke is a gay man aged 30 years based in Barbourfields in Bulawayo, He was in a relationship with Khumo Moloji aged 27 years of age and based in Harare. The two were in a relationship for one and a half years. Khumo asked for Dykes Toyota Alteza's to use as he was into buying and selling. He was granted permission as Dyke at the time was using a company vehicle. sometime that year the car breakdown while in Khumo's custody and Dyke had to go to Harare to look for a mechanic to repair the car. They began having problems when Dyke discovered that Khumo tried to sell the car parts without his knowledge. The two argued a lot because of the issue and Khumo threatened to tell Dyke's bosses that he was gay and that his previous employer had also fired him because of his sexual orientation. Khumo also threatened to contact his friends and business partners to expose his sexual orientation. Dyke reached out to GALZ for assistance in the negotiation process.

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**DATE | 03 AUGUST 2021**

**CASENOTE** John is a 50-year-old gay man who resides in Kenilworth in Bulawayo, who also cohabited with Thembaletu, a 30-year-old gay man. John narrated his case which involved Craig their mutual friend who claimed to have seen John hire a young sex worker. Craig is said to have had inadmissible evidence of John hiring the sex worker. John claimed that he had previously also hired Craig to have sex with him. John approached GALZ with a request for a conversation to be mediated between Craig and him before matters got out of hand.



**DETENTION &  
POLICE  
HARASSMENT**

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## **DATE | 25 MARCH 2021**

**CASENOTE** Gerald is a 29-year-old gay man from Masvingo who came in presenting issues of forced conversion therapy and forced institutionalization at a psychiatric hospital . The client narrated that the challenge he faced came after his parents got to know about his sexuality and that he was injecting himself with drugs. He acknowledged the use of drugs but explained that it was only when he was having sex and he was not addicted. GALZ offered counselling sessions to this client and conducted an assessment of the drug use and uncovered that it was mild. His parents admitted him into the Ngomahuru Psychiatric Unit where he spent three months each on two stays.

**INTERVENTION** GALZ reached out to the parents at different intervals to offer family counselling. Five counselling sessions were done with the client. Three counselling sessions were done with the parents, one physical and two virtual.

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## **DATE | 24 APRIL 2021**

**CASENOTE** Simbarashe is a 26-year-old gay man from Gweru. On the 22nd of March 2021 around 2300hrs, he was intoxicated on his way from the nightclub. He saw the complainant Security Guard at CABS and Simbarashe initiated a conversation by asking if he was aware that it is possible that a man can have sexual intercourse with another man. The Security Guard inquired if Simba was initiating the conversation as a way of asking for sex with the security guard to which Simba responded by expressing that if possible he definitely would want to have sex with the security guard. The security guard is said to have been freaked out by Simba's response after which he asked Simba again what he exactly was talking about and again Simba reiterated his earlier catch line " A man can have sex with another man", believing he had won the guy over, Simba touched the guy's waist ( He refutes that he touched the penis as stated in the article).



The Security guard ordered Simba to the room behind the building where there was his female colleague and locked Simba there highlighting that he was going to report the case to the Police. Simba was left locked up under the watch of a female guard and the police took him to the remand cells on the 23rd of March 2021. He was taken to court. He contacted the KP Officer James and other unnamed MSM community members whom all advised him to plead guilty as pleading not guilty would mean he was going to be remanded in Hwahwa as there would be while further investigations took place. After his initial arrest, Simba informed the NAC KP Officer, New Start Site Manager, and Team Leader of his situation. They allowed him to continue coming to work and were hoping that the case would eventually steam off. After the publication of the case in Masvingo Mirror, Simba was verbally advised not to report for duty with effect from Monday 25 April 2021 while awaiting communication from the Human Resources Department. He indicated that he had a one-year contract with PSI.

**INTERVENTION** The case shared with the GALZ ReACT Team and for special labor practices interpretation by the GALZ HR Officer for advice. Case notes were shared with ZLHR Bulawayo Regional Office for legal interpretation and review.



# **DISCRIMINATION**



#### **DATE | 02 MARCH 2021**

**CASENOTE** Ngonidzashe is a member of the community in Harare who tested HIV positive on the 11th of January 2021. He working as a salesperson at a cement Hardware shop in Glen-Norah. He disclosed his status in mid-February to his employer so that he could be permitted time to collect his pills at regular intervals. The employer's reaction was to lay him off giving grounds that because of dust he would not be able to work and that would complicate his health. Ngonidzashe is currently doing piece works to sustain himself.

**INTERVENTION** In response to the case, the counsellor assessed the client's stress at adherence and drug side effects and also offered post-HIV test counselling after revealing their HIV+ status.

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#### **DATE | 14 JULY 2021**

**CASENOTE** Tafadzwa Ncube is a 21-year-old gay man based in Lobengula West in Bulawayo. Tafadzwa claims that his boss found out about his sexual orientation and was dismissed with immediate effect. Tafadzwa provided GALZ with a WhatsApp audio from his boss claiming that he was aware that Tafadzwa was gay and also stressed will not allow such people to come to his shop.

**INTERVENTION** Tafadzwa has since been open to his mother and brother about his sexual orientation who have both received counselling.

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#### **DATE | JULY 2021**

**CASENOTE** Michelle is a 20-year-old lesbian who faced emotional abuse from her same-sex partner. She reported experiencing suicidal ideation due to her victimization.

**INTERVENTION** She was courageous enough to approach the centre in Masvingo, and was offered peer support and referred to the counsellor for further psychological support.

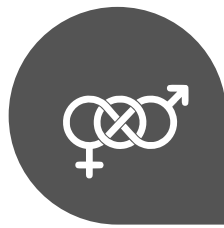
## **DATE | 25 OCTOBER 2021**

**CASENOTE** Davies is a 34 -year-old gay man who stays at Entumbane, Bulawayo and is

currently unemployed. He stays with his mother and cousin ( Michael).

Michael reached out to GALZ on the 25th of October after uncovering a suicide letter under Davies's pillow that was written that his days 'were numbered'. The letter also stated that he was HIV positive and it was hard to swallow the results, as he has been faithful and loyal to his partner who had "unfairly sentenced his whole life to take ARVs". When Michael approached Davies with the letter, he denied ever writing it and rather protested that his friend had written it. Michael reported that Davies was exhibiting anti-social and self-destructive behaviour.

**INTERVENTION** Nkosilathi, the case handler visited their home only to be informed that Davies had ingested rat poison and admitted to Mpilo Hospital.



# **SEXUAL ASSAULT**

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## **DATE | 15 MARCH 2021**

**CASENOTE** Tatenda a lesbian from Harare, grew up being sexually assaulted by her father. She did not have anyone to confide in as she was distant from her mother and grew up with her grandmother. She tried to confront her mother who denied the allegations and did not take any action against her father. Tatenda felt resentment and hate towards her father for rapping against her. She experienced depression and sometimes anxiety attacks. She stopped working for her as a field officer in commercial bee-keeping. She also talked to her father about his ill habits and he kept on abusing her nonetheless.

**INTERVENTION** Actions that were taken were narrative listening and normalization, deconstruction and reconstruction of the father's sexual assault, exploration of belief systems, and widening support system.

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## **DATE | 13 JULY 2021**

**CASENOTE** Ekem a gay man from Mutare on the evening of 13 July was raped by his friend who had visited him for drinks. Around 11 pm, the friend announced that he was leaving. As Ekim was walking him to his car, he was grabbed, shoved on the car bonnet, and penetrated. Ekim cried for help but no one came to his rescue. Afterward, the friend pulled up his trousers, got into his car and drove off.

**INTERVENTION** Ekem reported the case to GALZ and stressed that he did not want to make it a police case because of his sexual orientation. Actions taken include; peer counselling and support, advice on how to monitor the healing process and move on, and daily follow-up (on WhatsApp).

## **DATE | 06 NOVEMBER 2021**

**CASENOTE** Dylan Makowa is a 26-year-old MSM currently staying at Esigodini where he works as a gold panner. Dylan started to have some irritating, smelly urine and some pains on his manhood on 4 April, after he had unprotected sex with Busani, who is also a gold panner. Dylan claims that neither of them ever negotiated for safe sex as they were both drunk. The GALZ officer observed that it was not the first time Dylan came seeking similar service in 2019. Dylan last tested for HIV in 2019 and his status was negative and not on PrEP.

**INTERVENTION** The Officer Explained to Dylan the risk of unprotected sex which results in STIs such as Syphilis, Gonorrhoea and Chlamydia among others. She also explained the risks of contracting HIV when having unprotected sex and was encouraged to use condoms and lubricants. He was also encouraged to test for HIV and to know his status to make some informed decisions on PrEP and ART. Dylan was referred to PSI Bambini Centre for clinical services.

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## **DATE | 13 APRIL 2021**

**CASENOTE** Trust Mudanga is a 36-year-old MSM currently cohabiting with his partner in Nketa, Bulawayo, and they both work as security guards at Fawcett security company. His partner Sibangani Sibanda is also 36 years of age. Last year Trust Mudanga started developing some small growth, passing blood each time he visited the toilet and itchy lumps around the anal area. He was referred to CesHHAR, and they also referred him to PSI where they told him he has Genital warts. At PSI they gave him treatment lotion cream to apply. He was later called for a review to come and try to freeze and blow away warts but at PSI they had no Gas to blow away warts. He went several times but they had no gas and he lost interest and warts now are becoming bigger and itchy. Trust and his partner have continued to indulge in unprotected sex he told the officer that his partner and Trust his currently on PrEP and the partner is HIV negative and not on PrEP.

**INTERVENTION** Trust was reminded that genital warts are sexually transmitted infection and is caused by unprotected sex and having multiple partners also indulging in unprotected sex. Sometimes warts are not visible and they needed to be checked with the partner. Trust gave the officer contact details of Sibangani to also encourage him to get tested and the importance of protected sex. The officer contacted the PSI Colours team about the availability of the gas and medication and he was assured of the availability Trust was referred to the Bambanani center.

## **DATE | 19 APRIL 2021**

**CASENOTE** Talent Moyo is a 29-year-old gay man who stays in Esikhoveni, Esigodini. He is a UCCSA church member. Talent claims on the 2nd of April he attended a Church Easter ceremony in Hope fountain just kilometers out of Bulawayo, where during the night he shared a bed with Mpumelelo (0785 036 600) of Bulawayo. He claims Mpumelelo is a straight young man aged 22 years of age. During the night Talent kissed Mpumelelo and Mpumelelo kissed him back. The next morning, they did not talk about what transpired last night. Talent claims that they shared the same bed again where he slept grabbing him and Mpumelelo quickly shifted and went to sleep in the next room. Following morning Mpumelelo started to WhatsApp, Talent that he didn't like the way Mpumelelo handled himself the previous night. Talent apologized to Mpumelelo that he was sorry and that will never happen. Mpumelelo informed the church leaders about the incident and they advised that it should be reported to the police. Mpumelelo claims that he reported the case to the police and Talent was informed by some members of the church that he should deny the case and should seek some lawyers to be on the safe side. The police had not reached Talent yet.

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## **DATE | 12 JUNE 2021**

**CASENOTE** Gerald is a 28-year-old Gay man who lives in Bulawayo and is a student at Bulawayo Polytechnic. Gerald started to have pains when urinating and also during sexual intercourse and yellowish discharge on the 11 th of June 2021. Gerald is on PREP since last year February and has admitted that he has indulged in unprotected sex on the 8 th of June with Terrence of Mahatshula, whom they met at a dating site GRINDER, and it was a sexual encounter as they are not in a relationship and it was an excitement which led them to do unprotected sex.

**INTERVENTION** The Counsellor explained the risks of unprotected sex and that PREP does not prevent STIs hence it's important to use condoms regularly and consistently especially if the docent knows one's HIV status since it was a hookup. Gerald was referred to PSI colours, encouraged to be a GALZ member and benefits of being a member, and was provided with condoms and lubes.



## **DATE | 12 JUNE 2021**

**CASENOTE** Martin is a 25-year-old single bisexual man who resides in Nketa9 in Bulawayo. Martin called the GALZ officer on the 12th of June and he narrated that he has a group of large lumps around the anal area. The lumps started to develop last month in May and they have been on and off this time they are itchy and painful and sometimes he usually bleeds and this has made him uncomfortable he last had sex at the beginning of May was protected sex. He currently doesn't know his HIV status as he last tested in January last year and he was HIV negative. Martin claims that he last had unprotected sex in South Africa in December 2020.

**INTERVENTION** The project officer explained the importance of testing HIV regularly and also encouraged was to get tested again if found negative it was important to take PREP he was referred to PSI for assessment and medical attention

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## **DATE | 25 JULY 2021**

**CASENOTE** Nkosinathi IS A 27-year-old gay man working as a Sales Representative for Early Ashes Hardware in Bulawayo and has been with the company for the past three years. According to Nkosinathi, he heard through a fellow friend that there was a gay traditional healer Mzi Gatsheni (aged around 23-25 years) who helps people having spiritual-related matters and that he can be contacted through Grindr. Nkosi claims he used Grindr and managed to get to the profile from which they had conversations on consultations and made an appointment. On an unspecified date, Nkosi indicates that he went to Mzi's place for help and was spiritually helped, however one thing led to another and they had unprotected sex. Cognisant of being HIV positive, Nkosi advised Mzi to get Post Exposure Prophylaxis( PEP), it is unknown if Mzi acquired PEP. A few days after the initial encounter, Nkosi claims that he received a call from Mzi's sister who told him that for him not to have bad luck and make amends for what he had done to her brother, he had to come back and have sex with Mzi again of which he complied and had unprotected sex again. It is said that on Friday the 23 rd of July 2021, Mzi ordered Nkosi to come and have sex with him which he refused, from whence Mzi started yelling at him via the phone and WhatsApp messaging threatening that he will go to his workplace to make known to the bosses that he indecently aggravated him. Nkosi indicates that the insults were too much, especially on Saturday the 24th Of July 2021 to an extent that the only immediate solution in sight was suicide.

Nkosi further claims that his partner Tafadzwa (age unspecified) got into a cyber argument with Mzi on the matter. He ended up WhatsApp blocking him on Sunday the 25 th and reached out to Samuel Matsikure and as stated earlier Tadios Munyimani further picked up the case. As of Monday the 26 th of July 2021 Mzi texted (Screenshot below) Nkosinathi indicating that he had gone to his workplace but was told he did not come and that he will be coming to Nkosi's place of residence. Basic voice call Counselling was rendered to Nkosi on the 25 th to calm him and discourage him from having suicidal thoughts. Nkosi was advised to take an Off day from Work to monitor if Mzi would act on his threats. With Mzi having gone to Nkosi's workplace, GALZ reached out to Mzi to set an appointment to talk to him and try to resolve the matter outside the workplace. Mzi has agreed to meet up on Tuesday 27 July 2021, however, there is the possibility of him meeting with the GALZ Officer Nkosilathi Mlala later on Monday the 26 th of July 2021 as they stay in suburbs closer to each other. Mzi has narrated his side of the story which is not too divergent from what Nkosinathi shared.

**INTERVENTION** An attempt is still being made to establish what Mzi thinks is the just solution to the case, before the meeting. In the interim, Nkosinathi has been updated on the interventions, and it is promising that Mzi is willing to engage to resolve the matter amicably. Nkosinathi has been given an option for a referral for Counselling with a professional (Physical or Virtual) and has in principle accepted but will indicate when exactly.



# **EVICTION**



## **DATE | 11 MARCH 2021**

**CASENOTE** Joel, a trans from Harare who was living with her grandmother, was chased out of his grandmother's house by her relatives following her death. Joel strongly believes that she was sacked out due to her sexual orientation. Her relatives also accused him of theft of two cellphones and a speaker. He was physically assaulted by his cousin Kudzai who also believed that Joel had stolen some of their grandmother's property. Joel is HIV positive following a previous incident whereby he was gang-raped by a group of four men at a gay party. Joel could not tolerate the abuse anymore so he escaped home with his ARV, bags, and educational certificates.

**INTERVENTION** Actions taken include; Investigations and verification conducted, narrative listening empathies with client empowerment therapy, and building resilience normalization.

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## **DATE | 12 JULY 2021**

**CASENOTE** Kudzai was a 22-year-old gay man from Sakubva where he resided with his aunt. His mother passed away in 2008 and his father was a deadbeat. On the evening of 14 June 2021, Kudzai's aunty hijacked his phone and uncovered messages from his gay partner. The aunty called for a family meeting where it was deliberated that he be given a grace period of up to November to complete his exams and move out as the aunty stressed that she would not live with a gay man under her roof.

**INTERVENTION** The counsellor and the client discussed issues of obedience and punctuality until he finishes his school exams to reduce the aunt's fury. The coordinator booked the member for a session with the counsellor.

## **DATE | JAN 2021**

**CASENOTE** Innocent is a 31-year-old bisexual man who relocated to Mutare to stay with his aunt following an altercation with his mother who disapproved of his sexual orientation and chased him away. She uncovered a text message from Innocent's phone. While staying in Mutare, he got arrested for money theft and slapped with a USD\$ 1500 bail. His aunty had to bail him out as he could not afford the bail. From thereon, his aunty was cross and did not want to associate with Innocent any further. He was sent packing. Innocent, started staying with his girlfriend who was not aware that he was bisexual.

**INTERVENTION** Actions taken include; Peer counselling and support advice on how to monitor the healing process, daily follow-up (on WhatsApp).

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## **DATE | 22 JULY 2021**

**CASENOTE** Tendai Gwite is a 25-year-old gay man who was staying with his married sister with her husband in Borrowdale. He was allocated a room to stay which he shared with the husband's nephew, Leonard. Tendai narrated that the Friday 16 th of July 2021 he woke around midnight and masturbated in the room where he shared with Leonard. He ejaculated on the bed and went out to the bathroom to take a cloth to clean the bed but by the time he got back Leonard had slept on top of the sperms. He went on to sleep on the other side but early in the morning Leonard woke up and noticed he had sperms on his clothes and went on to the bathroom to change and he slept in the other room. The following morning, Tendai's sister was made aware of the happenings and she accused Tendai of sodomizing Leonard. His sister called the police on him. He was detained at the police station Saturday and Sunday waiting to attend a court session. Monday the 19 th of July 2021, he attended the court session with a help of a lawyer his partner Tanyaradzwa Chijaka 28 years old had looked for him. On Monday he was sent to the remand prison and the lawyer Samson Dzingira applied the bail for him and he managed to attend the court session the following day 20 July and he was granted bail. After he was granted bail, he went on to stay with his partner in Borrowdale because the bail conditions restricted him from being in contact with Leonard and his sister's family. They are relocating at the beginning of August to stay in the avenues with their partner and they are planning to stay together with both of them contributing.

**INTERVENTION** Basic counselling was done by the programs manager on the 26 th of July August and case notes were sent to ZLHR for him to get a representation for his case.



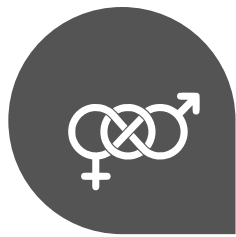
**INTIMATE  
PARTNER  
VIOLENCE**

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**DATE | JAN 2021**

**CASENOTE** Washington is a transwoman who was involved in an abusive relationship with an illegal gold panner in Masvingo. She was beaten and severely injured during encounters with the panner. The case was reported to the Masvingo site by members who were aware of the happenings, the victim was contacted and she confirmed that it was true.

**INTERVENTION** She visited the centre, got medical care and was admitted into counselling upon referral.



# **DENIED RIGHT TO IDENTITY**

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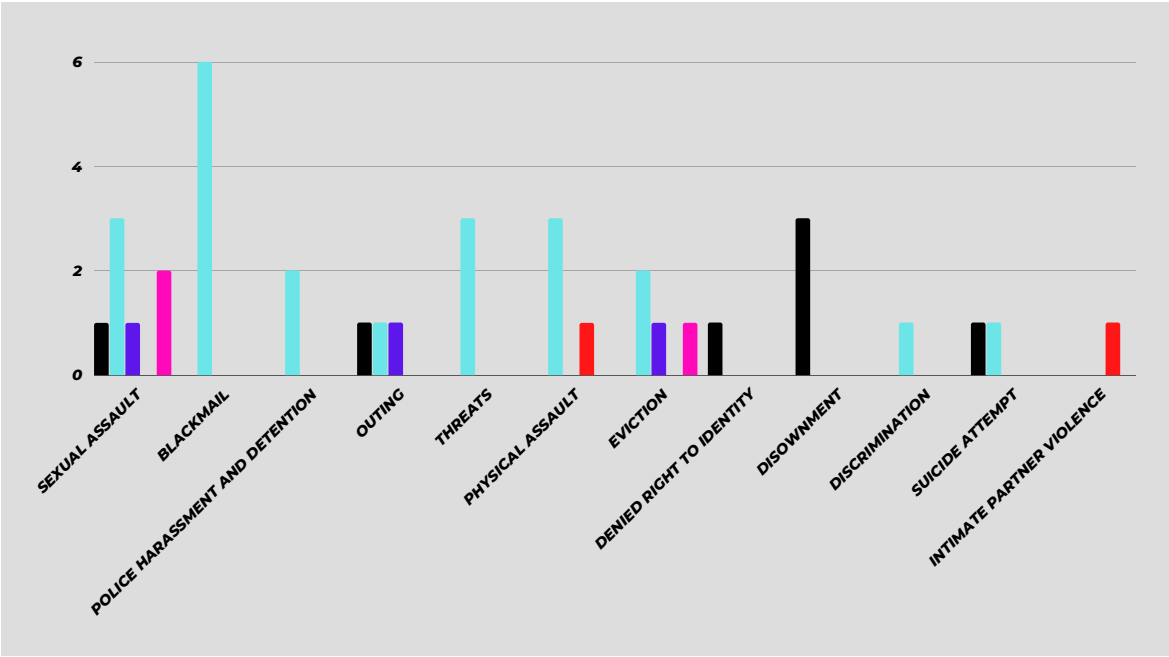
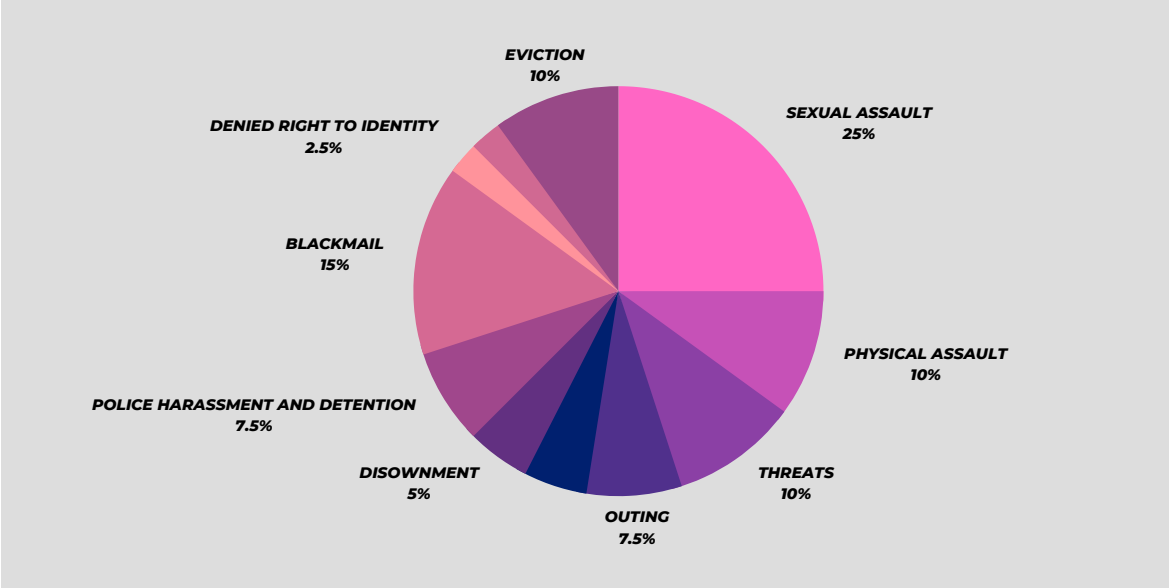


**DATE | 10 MARCH 2021**

**CASENOTE** Carol was a lesbian female teacher at Twin Rivers Private school in Harare. The incident at St Johns School, whereby a gay teacher was sacked and harassed by parents and other teachers, gave her fear that the same consequences would apply to her if she brought her identity to light. She eventually quit her job and came out to her mother, a deaconess at a ZAOGA church in Kadoma. Her mother did not support her identity, regardless that she proceeded to marry her lesbian partner Rhulani. Carol still feels anxiety attacks at night because of her mother's disapproval. She fears that she will die of hypertension just like her father did in 2014.

**INTERVENTION** Actions that were taken include; narrative listening and normalization psychodynamic analysis.

# DISAGGREGATION OF VIOLATIONS



■ MSM
 ■ Trans
 ■ Bisexuals
 ■ Gays
 ■ Lesbians

## DATA ANALYSIS

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The common violations reported to GALZ in 2021 were sexual assaults (25%) and blackmail (15%). Sexual assaults materialized in the form of corrective rape. Intimate partner violence is also a major experience in cases of sexual assault. Blackmail was interlinked to a majority of cases whereby, victims were threatened to be outed if they do not provide the perpetrator with some sort of compensation such as money, sex, clothing items or performing a task. Counsellors also noted a rise in blackmail through social media as chats and pictures were kept as a bargaining tool. It is apt to note that the linkage between blackmail and sexual assault has almost been inseparable as one has often led to another.

Counsellors have also taken note of the rise in evictions and physical assault. A growing concern is also that a significant number of cases are going unreported due to fear of LGBTI people involving authorities in cases such as physical assault. There is a need to equip the community with adequate information on procedures to take when violated. Counsellors also noted that in the majority of cases, the victims did not wish to take legal action against the perpetrators which shows how the culture of silence is still a growing concern.

Although violations have been noted, it is also apt to mention that positive reinforcement and tolerance have been built more or less as the general population in some cases has come to the defense of LGBTI people when they witness violations. Several victims have testified that they sought protection from the heterosexuals who responded positively to their appeal.

# 2021 MEDIA ANALYSIS

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## **ANALYSIS OF PRIVATELY-OWNED MEDIA**

Privately owned media in Zimbabwe encompass media houses and establishments that operate independently from the state. Most prominent include Alpha Media Holdings (AMH) which has subsidized Newsday, The Independent and The Standard. It is apt to note that in 2021, violations and reportage of LGBTI issues have been mainly covered in electronic tabloids (which are also classified under privately-owned media) and social media particularly facebook.

The private media in 2021 has been largely polarised with some giving salience and sympathy to the plight of LGBTI in Zimbabwe while some have maintained a strong resentment for LGBTI people. Visual media in particular Youtube have promoted LGBTI rights. SlyMedia, Bustop TV, and The Naked Truth are strong examples of this case whereby iconic community members have been interviewed and given a platform to openly discuss sexuality. On Facebook, however, there has been a strong backlash against the community which is the opposite of Instagram whereby the community has been relatively embraced and accepted. In privately-owned Newspapers such as Newsday, they have maintained a neutral perception on LGBTI issues, neither criticizing nor openly promoting their rights or existence.

## **ANALYSIS OF STATE-FUNDED MEDIA**

state-funded or state-controlled media in Zimbabwe are media houses or establishments that are regulated, funded and controlled by the state. This include; The Herald, Sunday Mail, H-Metro and B-Metro. This also includes the state broadcaster, ZBC (Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation) together with its portfolio of radio stations such as Power FM, Radio Zimbabwe, and National FM.

An analysis of state-operated media in 2021 shows that there is no change in reportage of LGBTI-related human rights violations. They have not paid little to no attention to these violations. Rather they have focused more on high-profile cases with 'sodomy' being a major headline in the majority of the state-operated media newspapers. This indicates that state-controlled media still aligns any same-sex relations with misconduct or worse criminalism.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

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## RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

1. Sexual assault is the most common violation in 2021. An analysis of the case notes shows that a majority of the cases are a result of inadequate knowledge of intimate and partner violence, the community should be sensitized and made aware of their rights
2. Blackmail is the second common violation, the community should be sensitized and more awareness is to be made on blackmail for violations
3. Community to become familiar with online and local resources for LGBTI

## RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE ORGANISATION

1. GALZ should strengthen couples counselling and provide training for couples such that information imparted minimizes violations relating to partnerships and intimacy
2. GALZ should have an assessment tool and an evaluation form for violations
3. Should provide training and sensitize the community on different types of violations giving them the capacity to be able to classify violations as they occur
4. Should also strengthen victim-friendly unit to encourage survivors of violations to open up
5. Create a database for blackmailers and educate communities on the blackmail charter
6. Create public awareness of citizen's rights to foster relationships between the community and the general population
7. Engage more with human rights and gender commission

## RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT

1. There is a need to sensitize police on human rights that encompass everyone including LGBTI people
2. Everyone should be protected regardless of sexual orientation or sexual status as enshrined in the constitution, Section 56
3. Government to ensure equitable inclusion of LGBTI employees in the labour policies as a majority are experiencing workplace discrimination

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