

# Quarterly Newsletter

ISSUE 12 - JANUARY – MARCH 2011

## I N S I D E ...

DIRECTORS NOTE

BREAKING NEWS

EVENTS

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

OPPORTUNITIES/ TRAINING

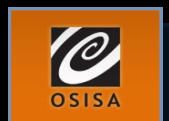
## BREAKING NEWS

DONORS SEIZE AID BECAUSE OF ANTIGAY LAWS- MALAWI <http://www.mask.org.za/donors-seize-aid-because-of-antigay-laws-malawi/>

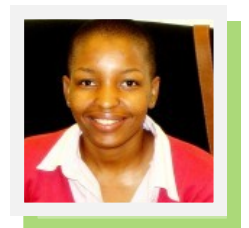
VISUAL ACTIVIST'S WORK RECOGNISED <http://www.mask.org.za/visual-activist%e2%80%99s-work-recognised/>

GAYS URGED TO VOTE DESPITE GOV "FAILURE" TO ENFORCE THEIR RIGHTS <http://www.mask.org.za/gays-urged-to-vote-despite-gov-failure-to-enforce-their-rights/>

SA SIGNS UN GAY VIOLENCE STATEMENT <http://www.mask.org.za/sa-signs-un-gay-violence-statement/>



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE



**W**elcoming you in the new year, I would like to dedicate this

note to a comrade in struggle, David Kato who was brutally murdered earlier this year, due to, what I believe is a deep rooted intolerance of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people, a raging issue in the African continent as we speak. While police are still investigating the reasons to his murder, I would like to remember Kato as an inspirational figure who never feared to stand up for what he believed in and his courage as a gay man living in a largely homophobic country like Uganda gave strength to many of us working in the LGBTI sector that our contribution in this struggle has made an impact and that one day the struggle shall be conquered.

Many packed their bags and left Uganda when the pain was just too much to bear, but David and a few other LGBTI Ugandans who believe in human rights and equality for all were never shaken by the daily threats, on their lives, at workplaces, social platforms and even by the politicians, religious and cultural fundamentalists. Their work is evident on the stagnant anti-homosexuality bill, designed specifically to rip them off their human rights. While I wish strength and courage to the family of David and the activists in Uganda, I would also like to say that LGBTI people are born every day in this continent and to perpetrators, YOU WILL NEVER KILL US ALL, because one day, it will be you sister, brother, cousin, uncle or aunt.

Rest in Peace David  
You will stay forever in our hearts.  
Aluta Continua  
Thuli Madi

# Advocating for rights of minorities

**A**s part of our mission to advocate for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people Behind The Mask, in solidarity with other South African gay rights groups rallied outside the offices of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) in Pretoria, 01 February 2011, an event spearheaded by the Lesbian and Gay Equality Project.

Over 150 people attended the march which called for DIRCO and government as a whole to uphold and promote the South African Constitution and urge African Union member states to fight discrimination against LGBTI people.

The march also aimed to condemn the recent brutal murder of Ugandan gay rights activist David Kato.

"What we want is for our government to start representing their own constitution and stand their



ground when they meet with their AU brothers. If they keep being apologetic about it, others will keep picking on them, when actually they have done the right thing by including sexual orientation in the constitution", Perdita Bokeer, board member of Forum for the Empowerment of Women (FEW) said.

According to LGEP, the United Nations General Assembly, supported by the South African gov-

ernment, voted to include protection of LGBTI people in a crucial resolution condemning extrajudicial executions and other unlawful killings in December 2010.

"Following this positive move at the UN, the South African government must urge AU member states to protect LGBTI people in our continent from any forms of violence, discrimination and persecution", Phumi Mtetwa of LGEP said.

## Promoting understanding of MSM and WSW



**B**ehind The Mask was part of the African Same-Sex Sexualities and Gender Diversities (ASSGD) Conference, held on 13 to 16 February 2011 aiming to, among others, promote understanding and further study of male and female

same-sex sexual practices, identities and communities, including expressions of gender diversity, in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The conference also aimed to promote understanding of social and structural prejudice towards sexual and gender diversity and strategies to address this prejudice, explore how social and structural factors affect the well-being and health of persons engaging in same-sex sexual practices or with gender diverse backgrounds and identify ways of enabling the social environment and

reducing vulnerability, support capacity building in research and advocacy and to strengthen the development of MSM/WSW/transgendered communities.

This conference, a first of its kind, saw over 80 participants from over 20 countries on the African continent coming together to share best practices, experiences and to identify ways forward to address issues facing these sexual minorities.

# Advancing lives of LGBTI people in Africa

As part of Behind The Mask's commitment to participate in projects aiming to advance lives of LGBTI people in Africa, the organisation was, on 11 March 2011, part of a discussion forum where the *Coalition for Advancing Lesbian Business (CALBIA)* and the planned *1st African LGBT Business and Human Rights Forum* were introduced with the aim to garner support from LGBTI organizations and individuals in South Africa.

Held at IBM offices in Sandton, CALBIA was described as a program designed to promote equality for lesbian women and transgendered persons by enabling their financial independence through offering support for them



to be able to run small business that could sustain their lives. According to Andreas Citak, Executive Director of CALBIA "CALBIA strives to give South African lesbians the knowledge and tools to help themselves, so to ensure sustainable development and improvement of their lives both professionally and personally." Behind the Mask is already part of

this project and is excited to play its role of identifying and linking potential entrepreneurs with CALBIA for selection purposes. Meanwhile the African LGBT Business & Human Rights Forum is planned to take place later this year and aims to raise awareness about LGBTI people's issues, share best practices for achieving workplace equality, promote the adoption and implementation of diversity inclusion policies in businesses throughout Africa, and connect key stakeholders to help facilitate the advancement of workplace equality and human rights into the future for lesbian LGBT employees and citizens.

## Events & funding opportunities

### OUT IN AFRICA FILM FESTIVAL

The 18<sup>th</sup> Out in Africa (OIA) Gay & Lesbian film festival kicks off on Friday 01 April to 10 April 2011 and is set to show case the best international Gay and Lesbian films also introducing a new style format that will see three festivals being screened throughout the year, instead of the usual once a year event.

For more information on the films that will be screen, ticket information and venues visit [www.oia.co.za](http://www.oia.co.za)

### Alert

Alert is an independent fund that supports progressive projects by and for youth. Alert supports youth initiatives all over the world with small-scale subsidies.

Contact Person: Maarten can der Drift  
Email: [alert@alerffonds.nl](mailto:alert@alerffonds.nl)

Website: <http://www.alerffonds.nl>

### Frontline- The international Foundation for the protection of human rights defenders

Front Line runs a small grants program to provide for the security needs of defenders. Front Line mobilizes campaigning and lobbying on behalf of defenders at immediate risk. In emergency situations, Front Line can facilitate temporary relocation.  
Telephone: (+353) 1 212 3750  
Facsimile: (+353) 1 212 1001  
Email: [info@frontlinedefenders.org](mailto:info@frontlinedefenders.org)

### Ford Foundation

The Ford Foundation works to strengthen democratic values, reduce poverty and injustice, promote

international cooperation and advance human achievement. Sexuality is one of their interest areas.

Visit: <http://www.fordfoundation.org/>

### Levis Strauss Foundation

The Levi Strauss Foundation has a focus on HIV/AIDS and supports policy advocacy, law reform and other efforts to ensure that people living with HIV/AIDS are treated with dignity and respect and have access to critical services.

Visit: <http://www.levistrauss.com/about/foundations/levi-strauss-foundation>

# More funding and training opportunities

## 2011 New Media Women Entrepreneur Funding

The McCormick Foundation New Media Women Entrepreneurs (NMWE) is a unique initiative addressing opportunity and innovation, recruitment and retention for women in journalism by spotlighting their ingenuity and entrepreneurial abilities. Supported by the McCormick Foundation, the project seeks to spotlight the creative assets of women and help address issues of opportunity and innovation, recruitment and retention for women in journalism. The submission deadline is 4 April 2011.

To submit entries, refer to:  
[www.newmediawomen.org/application](http://www.newmediawomen.org/application).

For more about NWME, refer to:  
[www.newmediawomen.org](http://www.newmediawomen.org).

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## Thabo Mbeki African Leadership Institute: Introduction to Thought Leadership for Africa's Renewal

The Thabo Mbeki African Leadership Institute (TMALI) invites applications for its short course on Introduction to Thought Leadership for Africa's Renewal, which takes place from June to October 2011 in Pretoria.

Contact Person: Lucky Phosa, Administrative Assistant, E-mail: [phosml@unisa.ac.za](mailto:phosml@unisa.ac.za), Tel: 012 337 6013, Mobile: 083 965 4977.  
The application deadline is 30 June 2011.

For more about this course, refer to: <http://goo.gl/ou27Z>.

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## Siyakhula Trust: Competent Assessor Programme

Siyakhula Trust assists community leaders, CBOs, NPOs and government officials develop skills so that they can efficiently initiate and manage development and job creation projects to the benefit of the communities they serve. Siyakhula Trust is conducting a four-day Competent Assessor Programme from 4-7 April 2011 in Johannesburg.

For more information or to book for this course, contact Mothusi Ndlovu, Tel: 011 886 2647, E-mail: [mothusin@siyakhula.org.za](mailto:mothusin@siyakhula.org.za).

## IAJ: Journalism 2.0 - An Introduction to Twitter and Blogging and the Brave New World of Social Media

The Institute for Advancement of Journalism (IAJ) was set up in 1992 to help improve journalism just as South Africa entered a new democratic era. Since then, thousands of people have passed through its doors. The IAJ places special emphasis on interactive learning, giving participants scope to develop their skills through discussion, role-play and hands-on exercises.

The IAJ is conducting a one-day course on 'Journalism 2.0: An Introduction to Twitter and Blogging and the Brave New World of Social Media' on 4 April 2011 in Cape Town.

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## University of Witwatersrand: Introduction to Vulnerability Risk Assessment

The University of the Witwatersrand will be conducting a NQF Level 5-rated certified short course in Vulnerability Risk Assessment from 11 - 15 April 2011 and 26-30 September 2011 in Johannesburg.

The course is aimed at providing government and non-government practitioners. Times: 08h00 - 17h00 (finishing at 15h30) Cost: R6 750 per person (including all materials, lunches and teas, excluding accommodation) For more about University of the Witwatersrand, refer to:  
[www.wits.ac.za](http://www.wits.ac.za).

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## University of Johannesburg: Knowledge Management

Judi Sandrock, in association with the Department of Information and Knowledge Management at the University of Johannesburg, is conducting a short course on Knowledge Management from 6-8 April 2011 in Johannesburg. Cost: R9 300 (excluding administration fee). Participants will learn how to:

- Develop a knowledge management (KM) strategy;
- Understand and implement Communities of Practice.
- Measure the value of your KM implementation.
- Sustain your KM efforts and create processes for sustainability.

For more about the University of Johannesburg, refer to: [www.uj.ac.za](http://www.uj.ac.za)