



CAPACITY STRENGTHENING FORUM ON HUMAN RIGHTS, BUILDING RESILIENCE AND TOLERANCE

CONCEPT NOTE

A. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The coastal region of Kenya is an area whose inhabitants are cultured with Islamic religious beliefs and traditional conservatism. Consequently, this elicits very low tolerance to the gender and sexual minorities from the wider society. The level of stigma and discrimination is heightened due to the fact that the current laws criminalize the same sex relationships including sex work. This current scenario has brought up cases of human rights violations meted against the GSM community not only in the general society but also specifically in service provision institutions. In this regard, access to services in the county of Mombasa, Kilifi, and Kwale is still significantly low, since most of the programs do not adequately reach the GSM community, including access to health. Nevertheless, the survivors of human rights violations fail to seek justice due to fear of being victimized due to the sexual identities. This presents many unreported cases of human rights violations that impede access to health and other social services. The “Beyond Inclusion Project” seeks to solve these challenges by engaging all the key actors in the service provisions including the Law enforcement officers, the Law makers, and the health care providers on all aspects of human rights, fostering collaboration and creating a conducive environment for access to health and other social services and inclusiveness in policies that guide access to these services.

Sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) meted on the LGBTI persons increase their risk of contracting HIV due to the fear of accessing health services or HIV prevention services. Some of the security issues faced includes; violence, unlawful arrests, mob justice instances from the general public, and harassments from communication devices like mobile phones via text messages and calls from unknown individuals. These have the culminating effect of further stigmatizing and discriminating LGBTI individuals.

B. JUSTIFICATION

Despite the above challenges, PEMA in support by AJWS has implemented various activities to address SGBV and other societal challenges that GSMs face. These include; civic education and human rights training for the LGBT community, Police trainings on

gender and sexual diversity, HIV, GBV and human rights, and maintaining a violence response team working in collaboration with trained police officers. As a result, there has been a significant change on the level of violence meted against the LGBT community: the number of public attacks on individuals perceived or known to be GSMs has reduced based on the reduced reporting on such cases and at most times no cases on monthly basis; reported cases of eviction of LGBT individuals from their houses by the landlords have also reduced significantly. This is evidenced by the growing level of tolerance in the general public around gender and sexual diversity issues, stemming up from media engagement in Mombasa County.

Building on to the previous AJWS supported activities, PEMA Kenya seeks to conduct a two days capacity strengthening forum on human rights, building resilience and tolerance for the 30 LGBT community in the County of Mombasa.

C. OBJECTIVES

The Key objectives of the forum include:

- To enhance understanding of human rights among the LGBT community
- To build resilience and tolerance among the LGBT community.
- To strengthen the skills of the LGBT members to engage with key stakeholders.
- To establish a cohort of PEMA Kenya LGBTI advocacy champions

D. EXPECTED OUTPUT

The main expected output is the establishment of the PEMA Kenya LGBTI advocacy champions within the county of Mombasa.

E. METHODOLOGY

The forum will involve oral presentations from experts, panel discussions, group discussions and question and answer session among the participants.

F. PARTICIPANTS

A total of 30 participants are expected to take part in the workshop including gender and sexual minority groups.

G. DATE AND VENUE

H. The two-day forum will be held on **12-13 October, 2018** in Mombasa County.