

PEMA KENYA BIENNIAL NEWSLETTER

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ABOUT US

We have made a lot of achievements and we the PEMA Kenya family feel that we no longer wish to remain **Persons Marginalized and Aggrieved...**(cont.Pg.2)

TAKE IT UP

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ABOUT US

PEMA-Kenya is a membership-based organisation founded in 2008 whose work is premised upon creating an enabling environment for its members and the general population to thrive.

PEMA is an acronym for a *Persons Marginalized and Aggrieved*. The organization was registered as a Community-Based Organization (CBO) on August 6, 2009.

The history of the name, however, dates much earlier to when, in June 2008, “PEMA” (meaning a “*Place of Solace* or a *Good Place in Kenya*.”) was designated as the name of the organisation. **PEMA Kenya** as a name will remain the same but we have now reclaimed our initial name PEMA Kenya, a Kiswahili word ‘PEMA’ meaning a **PLACE OF SOLACE** or **A PEACEFUL PLACE** in Kenya.

RADIO TALK SHOW

...we looked at the progressive milestones of the LGBTIQ+ movement in Kenya to this extend. (cont.Pg.7)

ABOUT US: TRANSITIONING

We have made a lot of achievements and we the **PEMA Kenya** family feel that we no longer wish to remain **Persons Marginalized and Aggrieved**. This was suggested and voted for at the **AGM** held on **30th June 2018** and agreed on by all members present. We will soon be completing our full legal registration as a **CHARITABLE TRUST** from a **CBO**. Our assurance to you is that in spite of this, **PEMA Kenya** will still ensure that our existing and future partnership will not be affected in any way.



"I believe that profound, positive change is possible. I have seen it in my own lifetime. It can be done. With your help, and the help of many others, we can prevent killings, violence, humiliation and fear for our Gender and Sexual Minority (GSM) community. We can conquer hate!"

- *ISHMAEL BAHATI, Executive Director*

Our Vision

"A society that embraces justice and diversity."

We believe in;

1. COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP: Our core existence is based on our members. We seek to implement the activities and ideas generated by our membership and stakeholders.

2. RESPONSIVENESS: We understand and will continue to appreciate the dynamism in the sector within which we work. We commit to be responsive in all matters in which we engage.

3. COMMITMENT: We pledge to follow through on the promises we make to our members and stakeholders. Persistence in our path will be the guarantor of our success.

4. INTEGRATION/INCLUSIVITY: We affirm that there cannot be progress without congruence of thought and purpose. We strive to consult all relevant parties and include them in the decisions and progress we make.

"TAKE IT UP AND READ", an ongoing social campaign.

These faith spaces aid the GSM community to unlearn toxic narratives and teachings of faith which will in turn ignite a positive inquiry into the role of faith in their lives. 'Seed of Faith' and 'Colourful in Faith' are affirming spaces that build courage and confidence for the GSM to participate in faith spaces and engage in dialogue with Religious Leaders. Individuals get to inquire, confirm and verify early messages of faith.



We also celebrated the #PrideMonth2021 and launched a campaign that would see GSM persons embrace scripture as a personalised reflection. The day was celebrated with faith based affirming performances like poems, spokenword, Bible and Quran Quizes, songs and a Play. The message that carried through out the day is...

"Take it Up and Read"

Let us embrace the Scriptures by Reading it for ourselves.

Faith is **PERSONAL!**

Faith is **FUN!**

Faith is **POWERFUL!**

We hosted several GSM persons in faith spaces to experience **Spirituality** in a more **inclusive** and **affirming way**. The

meetings were coordinated and convened by the participants who are **queer persons of Faith**. They

determined their activities, rituals and sharing according their needs at that moment. The

CHRISTIAN SPACE is called 'COLOURFUL IN FAITH' and the **MUSLIM SPACE** is called 'SEED OF FAITH.'



AMKENI AND MALINDI DESIRE are ready to engage Faith Leaders.

Pema Kenya ensures that critical conversations on **Health, Human Rights and Sexual and Gender Diversity** are initiated and sustained. By mentoring LGBTIQ+ organizations to conduct their own engagements with faith leaders, we have **increased the number of platforms for meaningful and healthy conversations** towards **INCLUSIVITY, JUSTICE and HEALTH.**



In the first half of 2021, **MALINDI DESIRE INITIATIVE, UKWELI CBO and LEGETO CBO** were targeted with mentorship that would build their capacity to **CREATE SPACES FOR DIALOGUE WITH RELIGIOUS LEADERS** and other stakeholders. Consequently, AMKENI and MALINDI DESIRE conducted a **FAITH LEADER SENSITISATION** that had **30 PARTICIPANTS** on Gender and Sexual Diversity through the support of **PEMA KENYA and CHURCH WORLD SERVICE**. These dialogues became more impactful and targeted when **LGBTQ+ persons and other organizations** participate.

"We give special mention to our non-LGBTIQ+ Faith Leaders Trainers of Trainers (TOTs) whose flexibility and tact is highly appreciated".

DEATH AND MEMORIAL OF Archdeacon John Kariuki Kambo

ARCHDEACON KAMBO, a trained theologian of the **AFRICAN INDEPENDENT PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF AFRICA**, succumbed to Pneumonia on the night of **14th of April 2021**. Besides being a Pastor, Archdeacon Kambo was a great ally of the **LGBTQ+ community** and a **human rights defender**. He was also a trained TOT by Pema Kenya and **CHURCH WORLD SERVICE**. Several Faith leaders' allies were created under the tutelage the late Archdeacon Kambo. Several religious leaders testify to becoming friendly to **LGBTIQ+ persons** after a session or two with Archdeacon Kambo. These include **CATHOLIC & ANGLICAN PRIESTS, PENTECOSTAL PASTORS and BISHOPS**. He has also offered consultation to several organizations conducting Faith Leader engagement in Kenya.



DEATH AND MEMORIAL OF

Archdeacon John Kariuki Kambo

IN APPRECIATION of a life well lived and a sacrifice that cannot be compared, Pema Kenya conducted a **Memorial in his name on the 30th of June 2021** at **Our Lady Pastoral Centre Tudor**. The Memorial was graced by several *religious leaders, Pema Kenya Partners, Family and Friends*.

Pema Kenya Celebrated the Life and the great work of Archdeacon Kambo, in respect and support of the Family he left behind. His passion, resilience and commitment towards the inclusion of the LGBTIQ+ community will be fondly missed.

REST WITH THE ANGELS Archdeacon!!



100 GSM PERSONS ENGAGED WITH KNOWLEDGE on COVID 19 and the AstraZeneca Vaccine.

The lack of information on the COVID19 vaccine plus the several myths and misconceptions around the COVID19 pandemic creates a barrier to accessing health. In addition, the tough regulations instituted by the state through the Ministry of Health, has created a **PSYCHOLOGICAL BARRIER** that needs to be overcome.

*"We create a **free society, a discrimination-free society, a stigma-free society.** That is our goal and that is the society we are **yearning for.**"*

- *The Late Archdeacon John Kambo*

Through the support of **GLOBAL FUND** and **KENYA RED CROSS**, Pema Kenya was able to host a space for learning facts on COVID19 and unlearning myths and misconception around the same.

This activity was hosted at Red Cross Rooftop Hall from the 4th to the 7th of June 2021. The activity was attended by **103 GSM PARTICIPANTS**. The forum was facilitated by **Fatma Mohamed**, who was representing Mr Hussein Gure Bilali of the *Mvita Sub-County Disease Surveillance Coordination Office, Mombasa County* and **Mr Richard**, a representative of the **WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**.



24 GSM PERSONS ENGAGED IN

2 LILO IDENTITY WORKSHOPS

in Kisii and Mombasa Kenya.

24 individuals move towards a positive LGBTIQ+ identity through the 2 LILO IDENTITY WORKSHOPS IN Kisii and Mombasa, Kenya. The LILO Identity workshop is a personalised approach to exploring gender identity and sexual orientation. It responds to high levels of self-stigma and minority stress in LGBTIQ+ people, working therapeutically with individuals to raise awareness of the self, to reclaim and reframe personal narrative, and promote self-acceptance of sexual orientation...



LGBTIQ+ MEMBERS BENEFIT FROM 74 LILO BARAZAS CONDUCTED

from Jan-Jun 2021 in Mombasa.

"I have attended several baraza's and I am now able to share other issues that I struggled with and also by listening to other's sharing their issues, I have become a stronger person."

- A LILO Baraza participant

18 NON-LGBTIQ STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGED THROUGH THE LILO CONNECT WORKSHOP in Mombasa.

This method is designed to assist non-LGBTIQ+ individuals to move towards more positive levels of attitude (*support, admiration, appreciation and nurturance*) to LGBTIQ+ people, and other marginalised groups, through IDENTIFICATION and EMPATHY. The workshop is suitable for staff and board members of organisations wishing to work with LGBTIQ+, and also as an advocacy tool for working with staff of institutions such as the police, religious leaders and health workers that could better support these groups. This method has been used in **more than 10 countries in Africa** with some remarkable results for example, major HIV service provider organisations dramatically improve their collaboration with non-LGBTIQ+ partners, shifts in government policies in several countries, improved collaboration with health service providers staff amongst others.



RADIO TALK SHOW: Recognizing and celebrating PRIDE month 2021,

LGBTIQ+ heroes and LGBTIQ+ milestones in Kenya.

THE PRIDE MONTH 2021

The 2021 theme “The Rainbow After the Storm” reflected on the past year being one of major PAIN, SORROW, and UPHEAVAL in our community and the world as a whole. It represented an opportunity to come together again, and support each other in healing from the events of the past year, and in committing to continuing to work as a community toward ACCEPTANCE, JUSTICE, and UNDERSTANDING.



By recognizing, we looked at the progressive milestones of the LGBTIQ+ movement in Kenya to this extend. For example, successful cases won by the community or members of the community before and have significant effect to the lives and association of queer persons including the #Repeal162 case currently in the court of appeal. **For example;** (i). *The Kwale Case against anal testing*, (ii). *The registration of NGLHRC* and (iii). *The Audrey Mbuguas case*.

By celebrating, we looked at particular organizations and individuals contribution in the LGBTIQ+ community and movement. We also looked at specific and commendable achievements of queer heroes in the LGBTIQ+ community in Mombasa and Kenya at large.

YOUNG LGBTIQ+ HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS harmonize their roles for a Common Strategy.

We held a HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY WORKSHOP for the GSM community in the county of Mombasa. The forum drew in young human rights activists who use diverse platforms in raising awareness on human rights issues including policy, socio-economic and health matters affecting the LGBTIQ+ community at the Coastal region. This came at the most opportune period when Kenyan LGBTIQ+ citizens face exacerbated challenges such as increased insecurity and vulnerability due to the COVID19 pandemic. In this case, the workshop stemmed from the rising need for advocacy in the LGBTIQ+ human rights sector mostly because of the desire for inclusion, equality, non-discrimination and a sense of community. The need is even greater in Kenya because of the conservative nature of Kenyans that still consider the LGBTIQ+ to be ‘gross’, subjecting them to both emotional and physical torture.

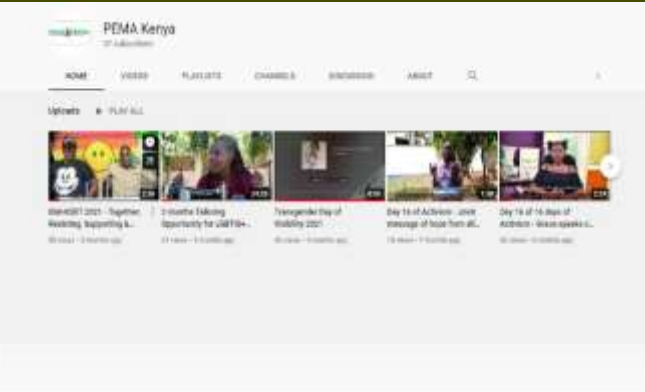


LGBTIQ+ MEDIA ADVOCACY TRAINING.

The activity aimed at building the capacity of the young LGBTIQ+ activist on matters advocacy to be able to engage effectively and be more influential within their spaces and the general population. We established the Pema Advocacy Team (PAT) who shall continue receiving support to implement advocacy strategies developed by themselves. The PAT members will from time to time engage in debates or discussions with UON law students, inform of exchange forums, Radio talk shows on human rights, gender and sexuality and social media advocacy campaigns including tweeter chats and podcasts.



BELOW ARE SOME LINKS TO SOME VIDEOS & AUDIOS that we have created or been featured in;



1. Pema Kenya YOUTUBE CHANNEL
Click here> <https://bit.ly/3yab2qD>



2. BBC, People Fixing The Word
Click here> <https://bbc.in/3B1JaGT>



3. Radio Talk Show
Click here> <https://bit.ly/3B2Obz8>



4. IDAHOBIT2021
Click here> <https://bit.ly/3yc3Xpk>



5. Tailoring opportunity for GSM
Click here> <https://bit.ly/386L5NU>



6. Transgender day of visibility
Click here> <https://bit.ly/3y30Ccg>

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021.



SPECIAL APPRECIATION to our Members, the Secretariat, the Board of Governance (BoG) and the Board of Trustees (BoT) for making the **13TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** a success. Our LGBTIQ+ members were taken through the audit reports for 2020-2021 Financial year as well as the organizational status. Our members also shared their thoughts, ideas and opinions on the general operation and welfare of the organization and its membership.

We also recognized the great contribution of the **2 exiting BoG members, AHMED 'Ruby' MUGAMBI** and **STEPHEN AUYA** and **1 BoT member, DERRICK OKADIA** towards realizing the vision that Pema Kenya has for the GSM community in Kenya. We wish the three best of luck in their future endeavors.

Pema Kenya Obituary

On the 10th May 2021, **Joash Mosoti**, Pema Kenya member and a HRD working with the HIV/AIDS PEOPLES ALLIANCE OF KENYA was found murdered at his home on top floor of a 5-storey flat in Bamburi area, Mombasa Kenya. The deceased was dedicated to serve the community as a paralegal. Further investigations are underway. We call upon relevant state institutions to act so that **#JusticeForMosoti** is attained.

REST IN POWER Joash!!



On the 14th May 2021, we lost a jovial, energetic and charismatic member, **Badi Twii** who succumbed to a long time illness. Badi was one of oldest Pema Kenya members who had actively participated in most our activities and always left a smile on you once you engaged with him. The Pema Kenya family will dearly miss Badi Twii.

REST IN POWER Badi!!



Special appreciation to our PARTNERS.



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FACEBOOK GROUP: [PEMA Kenya](#) (for LGBTIQ+ members only) TWITTER: [@pemakenya](#)

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