



INTERNATIONAL GAY AND LESBIAN
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
HUMAN RIGHTS FOR EVERYONE. EVERYWHERE.

TRAINING

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Understanding the Human Rights Framework

This document was developed by IGLHRC's Senior Africa Specialist, Cary Alan Johnson, for trainees with an interest in and/or background in sexual rights. An electronic version of this publication is available on our website: www.iglhrc.org

The Objective:

To help individuals who have had a basic introduction to international human rights instruments operationalize their understanding of the human rights framework. This exercise is designed specifically for those with an interest and/or background in sexual rights. While this version of the exercise uses the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) since it is the most basic human rights agreement, human rights treaties such as the ICCPR, ICESCR, African Charter, CEDAW and the Yogyakarta Principles may be used in addition or instead, removing scenarios that do not have relevance to these treaties and statements.

Instructions:

- 1- Facilitator distributes copies of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to each participant (or each group).
- 2- Each individual or group reads through the UDHR. Participants may ask a few questions regarding the articles.
- 3- Facilitator reads the following instructions:
"Below you will find a number of situations. Some are historically accurate. Others are

fictionalized. Using the principles and articles of the UDHR, determine the human rights principles that are called into question in each scenario. Remember that each scenario may involve more than one human rights violation."

- June 1976. Black students in townships throughout South Africa demand an end to educational instruction in the Afrikaans language. The police and security forces respond to the mostly peaceful protests with a violent crackdown. Hundreds are wounded, dozens are killed, and schools are closed for months.
- Ranking members of the CDM, an opposition party, including its charismatic leader Morley Tsangiro, are accused of plotting the murder of the president, and charged with treason, an offense punishable by death. No tangible evidence is presented that any such plot took place and the prosecution calls no credible witnesses. Nevertheless, the leaders are found guilty.
- Lolisa K. is fired from her job as a bank officer when her name is printed in a list of women who are purportedly lesbians by a local newspaper, the Black Mamba. Until then, her job performance had been exemplary and her

relationship with her supervisors had been superb.

- Pasteur Bizimungu, former president of Rwanda under the c Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF)-led government, was arrested on April 19, 2002, after attempting to launch a new political party. He has been held on remand in Kigali's central prison since his arrest on charges of threatening state security, criminal association, and illegal possession of a firearm. No credible evidence has been presented to support any of these charges.

- Jose M., a Mozambican university student, and Carlos, his male roommate, enter into a romantic relationship. When Carlos fails to find money to pay his tuition fees, he threatens that he will tell the police that Jose gave him alcohol and drugs and raped him, unless Jose agrees to pay university fees on his behalf. Jose refuses. A few days later, Jose is taken into custody for several days until friends intervene and pay police officers to get him released. Upon return to the university, Jose finds that he has been expelled by the Rector because of the allegations related to his sexuality.

- The Ministry of Education in France has issued a decree that overt religious symbols cannot be worn or displayed in schools. This includes the wearing of Hijab (traditional headscarves for girls). Some Muslim parents refuse to send their daughters back to school. Despite fulfilling all of the administrative requirements, the LGBT Association of Botswana (LEGABIBO) is denied an official registration certificate by the government. This makes it impossible for it to apply for grants

from mainstream foundations. As result, the organization is forced to close its HIV prevention programs, thereby eliminating the only HIV programs in the country targeting gay men and lesbians.

- Bokasa M. begins hearing rumors in his town that his daughter is in love with another young woman. He locks her in the house for more than one month, beats her, and then arranges for her marriage to a distant cousin who lives in a neighboring village.

- In May 2005, the home of Ugandan human rights activist V. M. is raided by local officials. Papers, videos, and other documentation related to LGBT organizing in East Africa are confiscated. Mukasa's houseguest, O., is taken into custody by the authorities. She is verbally abused, and at one point, forced to strip to "prove that she is a woman."

- May 2005, eleven gay men are arrested in Yaounde, Cameroon, while socializing in a bar known to be a meeting spot for gays. The men are held for more than one year, under Article 347 of Cameroon's penal code, which criminalizes consensual sex between people of the same sex. With no evidence to prove that a crime has actually taken place, the government threatens to force the men to undergo an examination of their anal cavities to "prove" their homosexuality. At the final hearing, nine of the men are convicted and two are acquitted with no real explanation as to why. One of the men, Ali Mongoche, dies within a week of his release, due HIV/AIDS related complications.

