

BONELA Reaches Hundreds in Francistown

Through Human Rights/HIV and AIDS Awareness Bash



BONELA JOINS HANDS IN CELEBRATING JUNE 16



Planning and budgeting for the Wellbeing of the Child:

A collective Responsibility: 16 JUNE 2010

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



I am delighted to note that amidst the ongoing organizational development and strategic refocus, BONELA remains firm and visible. We have done quite a lot in terms of taking stock as an organization, for instance, we had a highly resourceful and impactful staff team building whereat pertinent issues by my team were ventilated and addressed. The common theme was that BONELA needs to refocus strategy urgently. Consequent to that need, I appointed a team amongst my staff to drive the process. The members at the Annual General Meeting, scheduled for the 19th November 2010, will get a chance to engage with the proposed change strategy and adopt or reject it. My staff has and continues to embark on trainings that are aimed at developing them, such as project management courses and accounting courses. A better equipped staff naturally leads to a better performing and efficient organization!

Externally we have scored victories in litigation and advocacy. We managed

to present on the HIV probe among men who have sex with men (MSM) at the National AIDS Council (NAC) in May 2010. The feedback by NAC members, including His Excellency the Former President of Botswana Mr. Festus Mogae, was positive and very encouraging. Mr. Mogae spoke strongly against discrimination and abuse of MSM and sex workers, the Minister of Health called for provision of condoms to prisoners. In fact, Mr. Mogae, more recently, at the 2010 Vienna AIDS Conference, spoke against laws that prohibit sex work and sodomy and called for removal of such laws in statute books. When I publicly asked him what he intends to do on the matter back home, he promised to do something, without giving specifics. We are watching the space.

In the August sitting of the NAC, chaired by the Vice President Mompoti Merafhe, as Mogae was abroad, the Vice President informed us that government would not entertain, nor debate, the

issue of condoms in prisons. That revelation was a sad day in the history of Botswana's response to the epidemic. No doubt! We have now decided to challenge the anti sodomy law at the High Court. We believe if we succeed in challenging the law, everything else will fall into place, including availing condoms to inmates who engage in sexual intimacy.

The past months have been fantastic for me personally. Firstly, I had the rare privilege of being invited by the United States of America President, Barack Obama, to the Whitehouse. It was an amazing and moving experience. As if that was not enough, I have been selected to receive an award on the 2nd November 2010 in Osaka, Japan. The award is presented by Junior Chamber International to Ten Outstanding Young Persons of the World.

Both the meeting with Obama and the award bears testimony to my successes as a BONELA employee and by extension to BONELA successes. It is fitting, therefore, to declare that BONELA is one of the widely respected and recognized brands internationally.

Lastly, I bid farewell to Skipper Prisca Mogapi who has since left BONELA to pursue other interests. I wish him well in his future quests. I welcome to the fold, Caine Kaene Youngman, who replaced Skipper. I have no doubt that his abilities and passion will see him through. My goodbyes also go to Forum Syd, one of our donors, whose relationship with us is ending because their principal, SIDA, has replaced them with the Southern African AIDS Trust, whom we warmly welcome. It is important to note that we have not lost funding but the modalities of receiving the same.



BONELA JOINS HANDS IN CELEBRATING JUNE 16

PLANNING AND BUDGETING FOR THE WELLBEING OF THE CHILD: A COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY: 16 JUNE 2010 THEME BY: MALEBOGO MMUALEFE

To honor the memory of those killed and the courage of all those who marched, the Day of the African Child has been celebrated on 16 June every year since 1991 when it was first initiated by the Organization of African Unity (OAU). The Day also draws attention to the lives of African children today. This yearly event celebrated throughout Africa for African Children and Youth dates back to the student uprisings of the 16th June 1976 in Soweto, South Africa only to fight for their Right to Education.

BONELA joined in to celebrate day of the African child this year with Balete at Ramotswa village Kgotla where the BONELA director Mr. Uyapo Ndadi had the honor to give the key note address as a guest speaker. Together with the director,

the Assistant advocacy officer Malebogo Mmualefe and the Legal aid volunteer Tumisang Phiri attended the celebration. This year's theme was "Planning and Budgeting for the Wellbeing of the Child: A collective Responsibility." This year the event in Ramotswa was attended by the village Kgosi representative and his assistants, the village councilor, the magistrate office, BONELA staff, students, teachers and villagers.

The objectives of this commemoration are to promote understanding of children's rights and responsibilities, to promote integration of issues relating to children by planning and budgeting at national, organizational and family level to strengthen partnerships between government, civil society organizations

and the private sector in the provision and support of child care initiatives intending to improve the welfare of children.

Mr. Ndadi defined a child as any human being under the age of eighteen and noted that "children are as a result incapacitated to make decisions on their own for themselves. They are required to obtain the consent of their parents or guardians in the event that they need to contract on anything."

During his address he mentioned and explained challenges that young people in Botswana face, as drafted on his speech:

Absence of socio-economic and cultural rights, this is for the reason that such rights are not guaranteed in our constitution therefore children can be denied free education or can be sent away from school for whatever reason and have no recourse in the law. The Director mentioned that Children with disabilities and children on ART are often left out of HIV prevention and treatment interventions such as those who use Braille and cannot read whether the condoms have expired or not. There are inconsistencies in the law regarding differences in years used to define a child and be able to access or do certain things, for example at 7 years a child is not criminally liable while they can in actual facts be able to kill a person. At 16 they can lawfully have sex but cannot test for HIV, at 18 they can obtain a drivers license but cannot obtain land. Child abuse is particularly in instances where older men engage children in early sexual debuts. Discriminatory policies in treatment of children particularly those children born between Batswana men and non citizen women who are excluded from antiretroviral treatment by government when in fact those born between Batswana women and

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BONELA REACHES HUNDREDS IN FRANCISTOWN THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS/HIV AND AIDS AWARENESS BASH BY DORIS N. KUMBAWA



Figure 1 Members of Various support groups in Francistown registering their presence at the bash

BONELA successfully held its human rights and HIV/AIDS awareness raising campaign on the 12th of June 2010 in Francistown, in the northern region of Botswana. This activity came about as a result of the realisation by the organisation in 2009, that although, it had been proactive over the years in initiating various activities through-out Botswana, it had to come to a point where it worked to consolidate these activities.

The activity was thus held in line with

the organisation's strategic objective 3 which takes cognizance of the need to forge new and strengthen existing partnerships in the fight against the discrimination and/or stigmatization of people affected by HIV and AIDS.

The event brought together about 400 people; including 1 Member of Parliament; 10 local councillors; 120 members of the Francistown Network of Support Groups (FNSG); Francistown-based members of the Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals of Botswana (LeGaBiBo); members of

trade unions such as the Botswana Public Employees Union (BOPEU) and the Botswana Land Boards and Local Authorities Workers Union (BLLAWU); Forum Syd; the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR); Barclays Bank and Stanbic Bank amongst others.

The local media was also present resulting in coverage from The Gazette; Sunday Standard; Mid-week Sun; Mmegi; Daily News and The Voice. An interview was also held on Radio Botswana.

The activity was officiated by the Mayor of Francistown, and key speakers were the Francistown District AIDS Coordinator; the Tati Town Customary Court President; the Director of BONELA; BONELA's Legal Officer; BONELA's legal aid and the Acting District Officer for Francistown.

It is anticipated that the presence of the Member of Parliament will result in him carrying forth the HIV Employment Law as a Private Member's Bill. BONELA also hopes to have the support of the trade unions in the HIV Employment Law Campaign who were present at the bash.



Figure 2: Mr. Motshegwa President of Botswana Land Boards and Local Authorities Workers Union (BLLAWU)



Figure 3: Francistown South Member of Parliament, Mr. Wynter Mmolotsi (center) discusses the HIV Employment Law with BONELA Director Mr. Uyapo Ndadi (front right) and Media and Advocacy Officer Doris Kumbawa (front left)



Figure 1: Members of Various support groups in Francistown registering their presence at the bash



Figure 4: Tati Town Court President Mrs. Mosojane (center) joins in the march for human rights

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non citizen men are enrolled at government's expense. Property grabbing in inheritance matters by relatives where children orphaned by HIV are concerned and lastly loss of focus in life by children whereby they find joy in things that do not develop them mentally and in life as they deploy their energies towards destructive things such as alcoholism and drugs.

Other popular identified challenges faced by children in Botswana are poverty and life adversities, consequences of orphan hood and broken families, diseases and abuse, lack of food, shelter and transport, lack of access to education and health facilities, challenges in coming up with policies and laws that work to protect children. Therefore when we talk about planning and budgeting for the wellbeing of children it means realizing and advancing children's rights to be able to comply with international conventions such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

The event was led by students themselves for reasons that two female Directors of Ceremonies were students, others delivered objectives and the day's speech. The day was graced by a range of entertainment such as traditional dance, dram majorettes and music by the police band.

1976 Soweto uprising: Picture taken from HREA resources

ON THE ROAD AND ROUND UP SECOND QUARTER

Treatment Literacy

Aligning to the BONELA strategic focus of empowering people affected by HIV/AIDS and building strategic linkages through forging new partnerships with communities, community organizations and other institutions at district level, the Treatment Literacy team: Arnold Sokwa, Rodgers Bande, Chirwa Mahloko and Thata Keadire expanded the programmatic hub to include Selibe- Phikwe District through a 5 day Treatment Literacy Training form the 17th – the 21st of May.

The 5 day Training targeted 25 representatives in the district drawn from Positive a Living Helper Cells (PLHC), a support groups of people living with HIV, Child AIDS an OVC (Orphan and vulnerable children) support organization, Men Sex and AIDS, Botswana National Youth Council (BNYC) and Botswana Red Cross Society

The training provided a platform for participants to appreciate the relevance of Treatment Literacy as part of the broader community and district prevention, treatment, care and support response model in particular recognizing the need to further strengthen the district response to not only HIV but TB as an emerging public health problem.

With a district treatment cure rate of 76.30% , a treatment success rate of 75.70% and a failure rate of 1% (Source – District Treatment outcome report 2009), the District TB coordinator and participants recommended strongly that there is a need to strengthen the district social mobilization strategy and empower civil society and community groups to implement TB/HIV related

interventions with the goal of increasing the cure rates to 85% or above as per the WHO Stop TB Partnership recommendations by 2015.

With this recommendation, follow up activities have been planned to explore possibilities for further collaboration with the district specifically focusing on strengthening community involvement and capacity to support DOTS and to intensify TB case detection at community level.

As part of the agenda for the week, the Media department conducted interviews with PLWHIV as part of an ongoing process to document people's experiences on the ART program. Such documentation is hoped, will provide a practical instrument that will facilitate the sharing of information with authorities to scale up evidence based interventions that would contribute to more strengthened HIV prevention, treatment, care and support initiatives in Botswana.

Advocacy and Children's Rights

Nthabiseng Nkwe and Malebogo Mmualefe on the 29th April held presentations at Good hope senior secondary school on Human Rights, HIV/AIDS and stigma on children with special needs.

On the 10th to the 12 of May Malebogo Mmualefe and Nthabiseng Nkwe went around schools awarding those that took part in essay competitions that were held beginning of the year and

got first to third prizes. The schools are: Kgamanyane CJSS (Mochudi), Lesetlhana primary school (Ramotswa) and Modipane primary school (Oodi)

On the 12th of May presentations were held by Nthabiseng Nkwe and Malebogo Mmualefe at Notwane primary school (Gaborone) on HIV testing and confidentiality to be aired on Botswana Television Talk Back show.

Malebogo Mmualefe, Nthabiseng Nkwe, Rodgers Bande and Esther Nkhuhku-Orlando trained teachers and students on Children's rights, stigma and HIV/AIDS workshop at Botsalano Primary School in Tlokweng on the 25th to the 27th of May.

On June 16th Mr Uyapo Ndadi, Malebogo Mmualefe and the Tumisang Phirie, attended Day of the African Child commemorations

at Ramotswa village Kgotla where the BONELA director was a guest speaker and delivered a key note address.

LEGAL AID

Kabo Jolene Mathumo facilitated at a training from the 1st – 3rd June 2010 organized by the MCDA for 30 Peer Educators in Francistown on the position of the law and other legal implications in relation to sex work.

Dikeledi Phoo Dingake went to Maun to attend a forum for lawyers on discussion to engage them in pro bono work to facilitate the provision of legal aid to clients whose rights have been infringed on.

With a district treatment cure rate of 76.30% , a treatment success rate of 75.70% and a failure rate of 1% the District TB coordinator and participants recommended strongly that there is a need to strengthen the district social mobilization strategy



LACK OF POLITICAL WILL STIFLING HIV AND AIDS RESPONSE – OVERVIEW OF XVIII INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE BY DORIS N. KUMBAWA

The International AIDS Conference on HIV and AIDS was held from the 18th to the 23rd of July 2010 in Vienna, Austria. As a human rights advocacy organization, the Botswana Network on Ethics, Law and HIV and AIDS (BONELA) was one of the more than 20 000 delegates that convened at Wien Messe in Praterstern.

At the conference themed *Rights Here Right Now*, activists, organizations, donors and political leaders agreed that the marginalization of most at risk populations (MARPS), such as sex workers; lesbians, gays, bisexuals, trans-gender and inter-sexed (LGBTI); men who have sex with men (MSM) and injecting drug users was fueling the HIV pandemic. Attention was brought to the fact that the failure to date of the global response to the pandemic was directly attributed to the international negation of human rights issues in ensuring that the developmental goal of no new infections is achievable. Further, it was clear from paper presentations, research and discussions, that universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support, could not be achieved as long as MARPS continued to be ostracized and relegated to the margins of society.

There was consensus among delegates that Treatment 2.0 is

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XVIII INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE
JULY | 18-23 | 2010 | VIENNA AUSTRIA

Rights Here, Right Now

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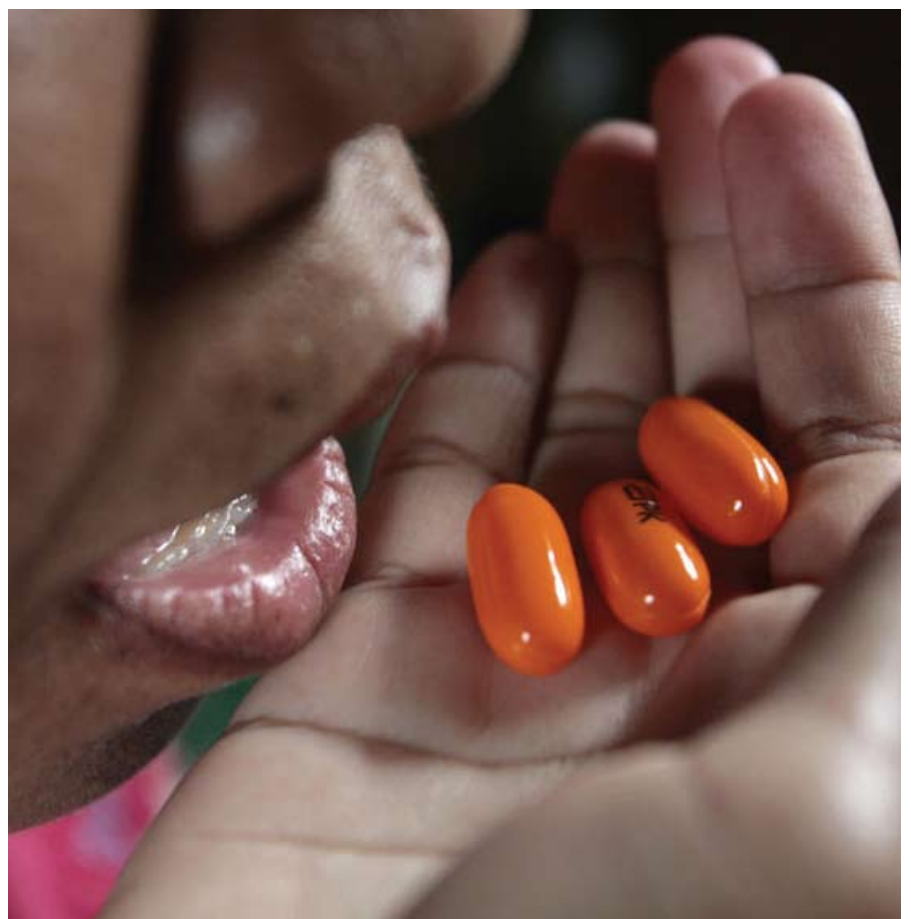
more than a buzz word in the HIV and AIDS community, but a tangible and empirically proven prevention mechanism. From time immemorial, the condom has been touted as ‘the’ prevention method, however, it has been proven over again that it is not enough. Access to treatment will ensure that the gaps in condoms will be filled by the inability of those who are HIV positive to transmit the virus beyond themselves.

It was apparent to all, that for universal access to be achieved, there is need to scale up on treatment, especially by reducing the commencement of treatment from 350 to 250 if the incidence of HIV is to be eliminated. Addressing the legal context was the most crucial factor as it directly impacts on inclusivity of MARPS into HIV and AIDS programming. In addition, universal access cannot be achieved with institutional discrimination firmly in place. It was thus important for governments across the world to decriminalize MARPS such that service providers can provide prevention, treatment, care and support services in a conducive, safe and non-discriminatory environment. These sentiments were also echoed by former president of Botswana, Festus Mogae in a session in which he and other civil leaders spoke against criminalization of HIV and MARPS.

As a human rights organization that seeks to integrate ethics, human rights and the law into Botswana’s response to the HIV and AIDS epidemic, the conference highlighted the pertinence of BONELA, which indeed has its work cut out. The agenda for the next couple of years was set out at this international forum for which decriminalization is key. Over the past 8 years, BONELA focused on preparing society through community awareness raising, but it became clear at the conference that the organization has to shift gears and work in legal reform that will decriminalize sex work and homosexuality.

BONELA also needs to continue

lobbying the Government of Botswana to remain committed to funding HIV and AIDS. The AIDS Conference, however, put emphasis on the need to fund biomedical research aimed at finding a cure for HIV. Advocacy organizations were also encouraged to commission applied research to strengthen their advocacy as it will be evidence-based. Non-governmental organizations need strong M&E systems such that when data is collated, they can show how many MARPS they are working with, the challenges they face, whether they have access to services. This baseline will be important to measure impact after decriminalization.



BONELA COMMENDS NACA ON INCLUSION OF SEXUAL MINORITIES AT CONFERENCE

The Botswana Network on Ethics, Law and HIV/AIDS (BONELA) highly commends the National AIDS Coordinating Agency (NACA) on its inclusion of organizations working on sexual minority issues at the ongoing second National HIV/AIDS/STI and other Related Infectious Diseases Research Conference (NHASORC).

Speaking on behalf of BONELA, Felistus Motimedi the Prevention and Research Initiative for Sexual Minorities (PRISM) Coordinator said: "It is the hope of BONELA that the inclusion of sexual minorities will extend to meaningful engagement with this community in a pragmatic manner that will ultimately result in the recognition of their needs by health care providers." She added that this development is a reflection that NACA has realized that BONELA's concerns regarding sexual minorities is one of the issues that need to be dealt with to reach the 2016 goal of zero new infections.

The Director of BONELA, Mr. Uyapo Ndadi added: "We hope that this admission by NACA will result in them spearheading change of the law to be enabling and accommodative to all possible interventions that would be inclusive of everyone irrespective of their sexual orientation.

Ndadi added that BONELA is delighted at the progressiveness of the *Mmegi* has also joined in the campaign calling for laws that are non-discriminatory to all, consistent with the principles of democracy.

BONELA takes this opportunity to wish the new Coordinator of NACA Mr. Matlhare, well in his new position and that he will remain steadfast in facing these contentious issues head-on.

BONELA COMMENDS NAC ON TOLERANCE OF MSM ISSUES

The Botswana Network on Ethics, Law and HIV/AIDS (BONELA), expresses sincere gratitude to the manner in which the National AIDS Council (NAC) dealt with the issues brought to the fore through its presentation of findings of a 2008 study on Men who have sex with other men (MSM) on Friday 4 June 2010.

Ms. Felistus Motimedi, the Coordinator of BONELA's Prevention and Research Initiative for Sexual Minorities, said, "BONELA is grateful to the NAC for the opportunity to present on an issue that has long been regarded as contentious, and highly commends the progressiveness in thinking exhibited by the leadership and other stakeholders present, who willingly engaged in the discussion

on MSM and called for tolerance, non-discrimination and a holistic approach to service delivery to these individuals. This is a vast shift in the mindset as well as attitudes by Batswana and it is the hope of BONELA that this will be manifested in the larger society."

In particular, BONELA was impressed by former President Mr. Festus Mogae's leadership on the day, who spoke knowledgeably on issues that leaders are unable to openly discuss due to influence of societal belief. Ms. Motimedi added that, "We are also heartened by the Minister of Health, who passionately called for the provision of condoms, arguing that we should stop being in denial of same sex sexual activities going on in our communities as we will later regret this. We are also proud of our



partners in civil society and faith-based organizations who diligently brought issues to the fore, enlightening leaders with certain aspects and supporting our cause."

As a direct product of the meeting, Mr. Mogae called for a motion regarding these issues, upon which the Council resolved that the Minister of Health move a motion Cabinet for the provision of condoms in prisons and tolerance by health care service providers.

EXHIBITING THROUGH BONELA STALL

BY MARGARET BAFFOUR-AWUAH

Introduction

It has been the Resource Centre privilege to exhibit through a BONELA stall time and time again, at different functions the organization is invited to, as well as those BONELA hosts. There have been interesting challenges, a lot of education and incredible blessing, let me share a few!!

Challenges: Environment

There was the time last year in Takatokwane when the sand, the wind and the posters decided to conspire to cause all in charge of stalls to do a running battle with them. The aim of what I term *conspiracy* might have perhaps been to promote exercising, which the Wellness Day was trying to encourage! After what seemed like an incredibly long journey we arrived at the grounds behind the clinic where the tent was shared with a few other stakeholders. We had Bostik for fixing material on to walls. We also had tacks for those posters that might have had to be stuck into walls. But we were very ill prepared, considering the force of the wind and the volume of sand. Considering also that a tent will not tolerate a tack nor Bostik for any length of time! One poster precariously hanging by a combination of clips, and Bostik flies left, just as an adjourning one flies across. Similar but not so dramatic experiences took place at stalls that were housed in tents during windy days, as at the BOSETU meeting hosted at Molefi Senior School. The question which I am yet to find answers to is how do you effectively stick a poster whether laminated or not onto a very hardy tent material? I am still looking for an answer.

Exercising

But despite the picture I've painted of the scenario, for some of us, there was a bonus of much needed weight loss exercise as we run around trying to catch and put the errant posters back where we had stuck them! There was also the deluge of sand that was vying with the books and brochures for a place on our BONELA table! Then a few bees decided to share

the soft drinks we had been supplied with. But it was all in all a lot of fun, numerous questions were answered in both Setswana and English, as people tried to find out what BONELA could do for them!

Queries & Answers

Where the stalls are in schools and formal structures are in place like the Mochudi Local Council Wellness Day at the Linchwe CJSS, the challenges are not as dramatic. They tended to be more like content challenges. Two young ladies kept coming back again and again, until they met me one time by myself and one asked in a whispering tone whether BONELA could sue her live-in boyfriend for her! Not very sure I was hearing right I asked also in a whisper: "I hope he has not been assaulting you?"

"Oh no she assured me; its much worse: I think he may have given me HIV!"

I clutched at the word **may?**

May? Are you not sure?

"No, I am not! I haven't had the courage to go for a test! I have been living with him for three years. He's a good provider; he has a car repair workshop, one day somebody was looking for a tool and I went into his toolbox which he usually never leaves open, but that day it was open. I found many tools and hospital cards, etc. I also found evidence that he was on ARVs before he met me! Do you think I can sue him?" She looked expectantly at me. For a minute I was lost. Then I gulped and answered:

"you will have to talk to our BONELA Legal Officers, but you have to be sure of your status before you accuse him of anything. Did you get tested and find your status before you started living together? Are you still living with him since you found those cards?"

She kept quiet, almost as if choked with emotion.

Then I gave her BONELA brochures and

encouraged her to make an appointment to see the legal department. That was the third similar query in as many days. I wondered that people could open up to a perfect stranger about such an intimate issue. I wished I had counseling skills then I might have been able to deal with that situation more professionally.

A Different setting and Different Lesson

Then there was the blessing/education at the BONELA stall during an international conference. It was at a hotel and I was encouraging everybody to ensure they take information, education and communication (IEC) packages, especially I was emphasizing the need for cervical cancer brochures, encouraging men to share copies with the women in their lives: mothers, sisters, wives, girlfriends, in laws, nieces, etc. This lady stopped and said:

"My sister, you can't over emphasize the importance of educating people on cervical cancer and encouraging them on the importance of taking a smear test. I tell you it saved my life! After many years of marriage I wasn't falling pregnant, various tests were performed including smear tests which showed abnormalities. I eventually had to have part of my reproductive system removed. But it saved my life and conception took place not long thereafter. What was left of my reproductive system was able to nurture and carry a baby to term. The rogue cells had been cauterized and what was left was healthy enough. My precious child was the resultant gift. If I hadn't had that test I would not very likely be here today talking to you. We hugged and thanked God! Her testimony blessed me. I was encouraged: promoting smear tests could save lives!"

At the MTTC, we encouraged people to go when the institution organized to take people to clinics for the tests, am glad to say the requests for testing far exceeded the organization's willingness and ability to commit to.

BONELA among other NGOs

was funded by the National AIDS Coordinating Agency to set up a stall at the recently ended **NHASORC: (19 – 21st May 2010)**. At the end of the conference over 200 people had visited the BONELA stall (strategically positioned close to the entrance) of the GICC where the 2nd NHASORC was taking place. All BONELA IEC materials sent in there were distributed to those who had visited the stall. Some attendees requested extra copies for their offices, resource centers and other service points.

On our part as BONELA resource centre, we collected over twenty publications and several brochures were from different stalls as additions to the RC material. At the ACHAP stall we also received two copies of the MERCK Manual Medical Information, a very comprehensive reference tool which will assist Treatment literacy amongst other programs as well as lay enquiries into various health issues.

Verbal discussions on exchange of materials were entered into with a few organizations, as we visited stall to see what was on offer.

A list of the two hundred people who actually wrote their names is available. In many cases email addresses are available for communication on new publications. We hope organizations could become exchange partners.

Among queries at the stall were those issues BONELA has tackled, mostly legal issues. A few queries on services BONELA offered were received, and tackled to the best of my ability!! Once or twice BONELA delegates, were roped in to contribute, when they happened to come by. On Friday, last day of the conference, I had the chance of listening to the Director's paper. It was a very interesting presentation which provoked discussion and comments from visitors to the stall indicating that it had been well received.

Seven new members signed up at the stall, and paid the P20.00 joining fee. An interesting new member was the Acting Director of UB Health Services who wants to become an activist for minority rights and *is willing to join a delegation to present a case if need be!* All in all a very interesting experience.

Conclusion

So you see we share IEC and data with the many people who come to the stall, sometimes we organize mini quizzes, and offer T-Shirts and other IEC material as prizes, but like most teachers will tell you, in most interactions there's multiplicity of impact. We who think we are giving end up also receiving. It is indeed a privilege and a blessing to be at the BONELA stall. While we share and hopefully teach about ourselves, and what we advocate, we learn when we listen. Sometimes there's the added bonus of encouragement and blessing!

STAFF - PROFILE



Tumisang Phirie - Legal Intern

Tumisang Phirie is a final year Law student from the University of Botswana. He joined BONELA as the legal intern in May. As a student, the organization has become a fountain of knowledge for him. "BONELA has taught me a lot of things that I didn't know; it has also readied me for a real job and for that I will be forever be grateful," he said.



Pilot Mathambo - Advocacy Officer/Coordinator Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals of Botswana (LEGABIBO)

He has for the past decade worked with HIV/AIDS organizations-the likes of Coping Center for People living with HIV/AIDS (COCEPWA) and Botswana Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (BONEPWA). Pilot Mathambo has HIV/AIDS issues at heart, only this time he has shifted his passion to include the human rights concept to his cause. Mathambo works for LEGABIBO housed by BONELA and feels he could not have been in a better organization in so far as his passion for HIV/AIDS issues is concerned. "Being in BONELA is a step in the right direction and the commitment by staff is overwhelming, I love this place," he noted. Mathambo assumed his position in June and is looking no further.



Esther Nkhukhu-Orlando - Gender and Advocacy Intern

Esther Nkhukhu-Orlando is an intern in the Gender and Advocacy programme. She is a graduate from the Northern Arizona University in the United States of America. The internship with BONELA she says "is a requirement for me to successfully complete my Masters in Sociology." She says being in BONELA is a rewarding experience as her heart beats for HIV/AIDS and gender issues. She adds: "Working with BONELA staff has allowed me to realize the commitment they have in trying to change the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS in Botswana." Nkhukhu-Orlando confessed that working with BONELA staff brings her so much joy and she says: 'KEEP IT UP BONELA! WE CAN SHAKE THE WORLD!' She joined the organization on May 10th.

About BONELA

BONELA



Who Are We and What Do We Stand For

The Botswana Network on Ethics, Law and HIV/AIDS (BONELA) is a non-governmental organization established in 2002. It is dedicated to creating an enabling and just environment for people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS through the integration of ethical, legal and human rights dimensions into the national response to HIV/AIDS in Botswana.

Mission Statement

- BONELA promotes a just and inclusive environment for people affected by HIV and AIDS through education, legal assistance, research and advocacy.

Vision

- Making human rights a reality in the response to the HIV and AIDS pandemic in Botswana. To achieve its vision, BONELA works within the following five programme areas:

- Advocacy
- Legal Aid
- Training
- Media
- Research

Through these programmes, BONELA carries out activities that ensure that ethics, law and human rights are made an essential part of the national response to fighting HIV and AIDS in Botswana. This is done through a focus on Goal 5 of the National Plan of Action on HIV and AIDS as articulated in Botswana's National Strategic Framework on HIV and AIDS.

To contribute to this publication please write to:

The Editor

Doris N. Kumbawa

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Call for submissions

The Botswana Review of Ethics, Law and HIV/AIDS (BRELA) welcomes contributions on a wide variety of relevant issues from a broad range of disciplinary backgrounds. Each contribution sent for publication will be reviewed by a peer review committee.

Submission guidelines

- * Short articles should be up to 5,000 words long, Long articles should be up to 10,000 words including footnotes.
- * Recent Development and Events should be up to 2,500 words.
- * Reviews of books and articles should be up to 2,500 words

Format

All manuscripts should be submitted in their final form and should conform to the following guidelines;

- * Submissions must be typed, 1.5-spaced with pages numbered.
- * Contributions should include the name(s), professional details (including affiliation), and contact information of the authors (s).

You can:

- * share your opinions on controversial issues like providing condoms in prisons
- * exchange ideas about HIV and human rights
- * engage in debate about topics important to Botswana

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