



NYARWEK NETWORK

Let Good Be Told In us
Nyanza Rift-Valley Western Kenya Network
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NYARWEK LGBT COALITION STRATEGIC LAUNCH

Kisumu, Kenya - October 13 2016 – Nyanza, Rift valley, Western Kenya (NYARWEK) LGBT coalition had its strategic plan 2016 – 2021 launched on October 11 2016. This launch was graced by the deputy governor Kisumu County, the director of health Kisumu County, representatives of the county assembly of Kisumu, religious leaders, the police, the ministry of health, health service providers, different donors both local and international, NYARWEK member organizations and different partners including FHOK, LVCT, KMET, ANZA MAPEMA, IMPACT RDO among others.

The different stakeholders and partner vowed to contribute shaping NYARWEK strategic direction. These are some of the statements:

The executive director NYARWEK Mr. Daniel Peter Onyango, "Sexual minorities face great challenges in their quest to live dignified lives where they thrive, utilize their innate potential and express themselves as who they really are. In Kenya, LGBT persons operate in a constricted social environment with punitive legal and policy provisions which contradict the fundamental provisions of the Kenyan constitution which champions equality before the law and in which all forms of discrimination are outlawed. The social pillar of Vision 2030, Kenya's economic blueprint seeks to build a just and cohesive society with social equality in a clean and secure environment. NYARWEK recognizes that a just and cohesive society cannot be realized when a segment of the society is left out on the basis of their sexual orientation. NYARWEK is therefore pleased to launch its new strategic plan 2016 – 2021 and the strategic map is anchored in four key result areas namely: advocacy, health, livelihood and institutional strengthening."

The deputy governor, Kisumu county, Madam Ruth Odinga, " there is a lot of work to be done in relation to LGBT in Kenya and as a political leader coming out to publicly support LGBT persons will bring other leaders on board though I will not be blind to the fact that some of my opponents will take this support negatively. As a leader, I can't shun any person because every person has a right and LGBT persons have to be embraced for their betterment and with the aim of reducing stigma. I have a vast knowledge on LGBT because of my wide work experience in Europe. NYARWEK should think about engaging me more as part of ensuring your 2016 – 2021 strategic plan meet its intended outcome. I am willing to help you engage other like minded political leaders like me to help reduce stigma towards LGBT persons."



Scaling Equity, Health, Advocacy of the LGBTI in Kenya



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The director voices of women in western Kenya Ms. Georgina Adhiambo, "As VOWWEK the Strategic plan was very inclusive and spoke well on our behalf, and moving forward with our work. The Kisumu County Government engagement will be a model for other Counties to follow and the issues affecting the LGBTI persons will be addressed well so that we end the Stigma and Discrimination we are facing. Aluta continua."

The director The Eagles for Life (TEFL), Kisii, Mr. Enosh Abuya " the launch of our Strategic plan is one of our great achievement as a movement because it addresses our uniqueness in different environments in western Kenya. As TEFL we are glad to be a member organization that will benefit from focus areas of this strategic plan on issues in regards to human rights, health and security."

NYARWEL LGBT coalition was formed in 2009 to advocate and be the voice of LGBT persons in Nyanza, Rift valley and western Kenya. The organization has 16 LGBT member groups from these regions. The organization's mission is to create a society in which all members live in dignity, enjoy equal rights, freedom and opportunities. We do this by advocating for LGBT persons to live in dignity, enjoy rights and freedoms and their capacity for self reliance and sustainability, anchored on a versatile institutional framework. We work in five thematic areas i.e. Health, human rights advocacy, security, research and documentation and coordination and linkages.

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