

MAKING ACCESS REAL

Increasing Access to Health for
LGBTI communities
GALZ, an association of LGBTI of
people in Zimbabwe





Title: Increasing Access to Health for LGBTI communities

Name of Organisation: GALZ, an association of LGBTI of people in Zimbabwe

Country: Zimbabwe

Date: December 2016

Who are we? Gays and Lesbians Zimbabwe (GALZ) was established in 1990, and is one of the oldest LGBTI rights organisations in southern Africa. GALZ has managed to continue to exist and even grow over the past twenty-one years, despite operating under some challenging political and socio-economic conditions. GALZ carries out a range of programming designed to meet the varied needs of the LGBTI population in Zimbabwe.

What was the issue?

There is a high level of negativity, misconception and myth relating to key populations, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people, sex workers, people who use drugs and people living with HIV. Consequently, key populations face high levels of stigma and discrimination, and have little or no access to health services.

What was the change we wanted to see?

Greater access to health care services in general and HIV services specifically for key populations.

A developed referral network of clinics that would be sensitive to key populations, to which we could refer our members with confidence that they would receive the best possible care.

What did we do?

We used recommendations from the Ministry of Health and National AIDS Commission to approach a local clinic that is one of the biggest clinics in Harare working on opportunistic infections, HIV and AIDS, STI's and sexual and gender based violence and which is key in the referral system to hospitals.

Through a period of engagement GALZ worked with management of the clinic and developed a relationship that resulted in a Memorandum of Agreement.

We facilitated staff sensitisation training to ensure that negative attitudes and misconceptions affecting relationships with key populations were tackled.

We engaged in constant monitoring (through feedback from members, and "undercover" research) to ensure that key population members were getting the best possible care.

What did we achieve?

Sensitization of Health Care providers providing them with specific and targeted information on protective barriers methods for lesbian, gay and transgender people, and introducing the Counselling Tool Kit which highlights specific counselling needs for LGBTI communities.

Addressed on some level, stigma and discrimination arising from beliefs and cultural and religious systems.

Increased access to the clinic services, including SGBV Clinic, for those who needed support.

Decreased negative attitudes and mind-sets, and increased inclusion of key populations.

Key lessons

Monitoring

It was important to monitor the clinic through different methods so that we could be confident to refer members for services.

Solidarity

More engagement with our partners enabled us to carry our message to different platforms and for our partners to be part of our campaigns and become advocates for LGBTI and other Key Populations.

Advocacy

Intensive pre-work with policy makers and management at the clinic added to the success of our advocacy, as they facilitated access and ensured that a MOU was signed.

This Case Study was prepared by GALZ as part of the CAL Conversations Series: Co-creating Conscious Learning Cultures. These sets of Conversations are a part of the KP REACH Project, funded by the Global Fund through Hivos.

For more information contact:

Name: Diana Mailosi (Advocacy Officer)

Email Address: womyn2@galz.co

CAL KP-REACH NPO: Anthea Taderera

Email address: anthea@cal.org.za **Website:**
<http://www.galz.co.zw>