

Crossing continent with HIV/AIDS
Advocacy
The Story of African MSM in Europe

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Outline

- The Story so far
- Where we are
- Why organizing?
- How to organize
- The next step

Story So Far

- In 2008, there are 7,298 new diagnosis in the UK
- HPA, put the recent infection rate at 83,000, which MSM having the highest rate of infection.
- 4 in 5 of MSM acquired the infection in the UK
- The parliamentary report of 2009 said “1 in 5 got infected in the last 6 months, while in the Heterosexuals it is 1 in 10.

The Immigrant African MSM at Brussels Pride.



Where we are

- No data on Immigrant African MSM IN Europe, and where data exist, it it mostly lost in the generalized word “gay”
- The concept of Human Sexuality is defined by the politically correct politician, which does not reflect the community.
- The refusal of Immigrant African MSM to increase visibility gives skeptic reason to give up
- There are no organized coordinated effort by Immigrant African Advocate to lobby for inclusion.
- Governments and funders do not find Immigrant issue attractive.

Why Organizing?

- The absence of HIV epidemiology for Immigrant African MSM in Europe raises the question of either “invisibility or we do not care”
- The increasing rate of late diagnosis is controllable with coordinated organizing.
- One size does not fit all.
- We need a voice, because if we don't speak for us, no one will.
- Denial of access to treatment, Deportation of Immigrant MSM back to homophobic countries and detaining of Asylum seekers are violations of fundamental Human rights.

The Voice of Immigrant MSM in Europe

- **Aim:**
- “To advocate for the sexual and human right of African MSM in Europe and strategically contribute our expertise in the HIV/AIDS prevention framework in Europe.”

The next step

- The formation of Immigrant African MSM in Western Europe
- Work with already existing global network of Africa and Black Gay/MSM in Diaspora.
- Lobby the EU commission on HIV/AIDS to do social science research on the effects of Immigration, racism and homophobia on the Immigrant African MSM and HIV
- Fund the set up of a network of Immigrant African MSM in Europe.

Who we are:

- The Voice of Immigrant MSM in Europe, is a group of African refugee advocates in western Europe, who due to their proactive activities in lobbying for Sexual Health and rights of Men who have Sex with Men in various parts of African had to flee for their safety.

Why we exist:

- The organization was set up to response to the increasing in flocks of African MSM in Europe and to provide services to help reduce the incidence of late diagnosis and transmission, while we provide necessary support for undocumented or newly arrived Immigrants African MSM in Europe

Thank You



Partners

- WISH Brussels
- Rainbow House Brussels
- Naz Project London.
- EU Commission on HIV/AIDS



THANK YOU