

Gata Le LEGABIBO

NEWSLETTER



This issue at a Glance

- 4 implementation districts
- 28 healthcare providers trained
- 26 media practitioners trained
- 87 attitude surveys completed
- 3 national media interviews
- 45 community members reached through legal awareness
- 1 new online reporting platform launched (MOKGOSI)



LORATO KE LORATO: A CAMPAIGN FOR LOVE, EQUALITY AND BELONGING

This quarter, LEGABIBO launched Lorato ke Lorato, a national campaign promoting understanding, dignity and equal rights for LGBTIQ+ people in Botswana. Rooted in the values of botho, the campaign encourages open and respectful conversations about love, inclusion and human rights.

Launched at a pivotal moment as Botswana's High Court considers a landmark marriage equality case, the campaign aims to build public understanding of the constitutional values of equality, dignity and non-discrimination while creating spaces for meaningful dialogue.

As part of the campaign, LEGABIBO conducted street interviews, launched an anonymous public perception survey, convened dialogues with LBQ communities and civil society organisations, and hosted a media sensitization workshop to promote accurate and inclusive reporting.

Through these engagements, Lorato ke Lorato seeks to challenge misconceptions, foster empathy and inspire a Botswana where everyone is treated with dignity, fairness and respect.



STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH A HIGH-LEVEL MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

This quarter, LEGABIBO in partnership with Global Equality Caucus and Equality Now, convened a High-Level Multi-Stakeholder Engagement, representatives from government, development partners, civil society organisations, academia, community leaders and human rights advocates to strengthen dialogue on equality, inclusion and human rights in Botswana. The engagement also drew on regional expertise, featuring contributions from Steve Letsike, South African Member of Parliament and Deputy Minister for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities and Advocate Lelthogonolo Mokgoroane, a constitutional law expert from South Africa. Their insights enriched discussions on constitutionalism, inclusive governance and the role of strategic advocacy in advancing equality.

Participants exchanged perspectives, strengthened partnerships and explored collaborative approaches to advancing the rights and wellbeing of LGBTQ+ communities. Discussions highlighted the importance of inclusive policy-making, evidence-informed advocacy and sustained multi-sector collaboration in addressing discrimination and promoting social justice. Deliberations also emphasised the importance of democratic participation, exploring the ongoing Ya Reng Constitution (Amendment) Bill?, a multi-partner campaign to build public education on the proposed referendum to establish a constitutional court in Botswana.

The convening also provided an opportunity to reflect on Botswana's progress in advancing constitutional rights and to identify practical pathways for strengthening inclusion across public institutions, communities and development processes. Participants reaffirmed that meaningful and lasting change is achieved through open dialogue, shared learning and collective action. By fostering constructive engagement among diverse stakeholders, the event reinforced the value of partnership, regional collaboration and shared learning in advancing human rights and building a Botswana where every person can live with dignity, equality and respect. live with dignity, equality and respect.



PRIDE WEBINAR

LEGABIBO also hosted its Pride Webinar, creating a platform for advocates, community leaders and allies to reflect on Botswana's journey towards equality, celebrate progress made, and discuss the work that remains. Together, these conversations reinforced the power of dialogue, partnership and collective action in building a more inclusive future for all.

LEGABIBO TAKES OVER THE AIRWAVES

In celebration of Pride Month, LEGABIBO partnered with Gabz FM for a full day of live radio programming under the Lorato ke Lorato campaign, engaging listeners in conversations on marriage equality, human rights and constitutional values.

Throughout the day, LEGABIBO explored what marriage equality means, the constitutional rights, freedoms and liberties associated with marriage, and why equal protection under the law is fundamental to a democratic society. Listeners were also encouraged to reflect on the values of botho, dignity, equality and love, and the role these principles play in building an inclusive Botswana.

The broadcast created an opportunity to raise public awareness, address misconceptions, answer questions from listeners and encourage informed, respectful conversations about equality. Through initiatives like these, LEGABIBO continues to use public platforms to promote understanding, foster dialogue and advance human rights for all.



STRENGTHENING OUR IMPACT: 2026 STRATEGY REVIEW

This quarter, LEGABIBO conducted its 2026 Strategy Review of Beyond The Rainbow, bringing together the LEGABIBO secretariat, membership, the board as well as key stakeholders and development partners to reflect on organisational progress, assess the changing human rights landscape, and strengthen our strategic direction. The review provided an opportunity to celebrate key achievements, identify emerging priorities, and refine our approaches to advocacy, community engagement, health programming and organisational sustainability.

Through collaborative engagement with stakeholders, LEGABIBO affirmed its commitment to advancing equality, dignity and human rights for LGBTIQ+ people in Botswana. As the organisation continues to grow, the Strategy Review ensures that our programmes remain responsive, impactful and aligned with the needs of the communities we serve. The insights and priorities identified during the review will guide our work over the coming months as we continue building a more inclusive Botswana.



STANDING IN SOLIDARITY: JUSTICE FOR TSHEPI MARCH

On April 9, 2026, LEGABIBO joined members of the public, civil society organisations and other human rights defenders in the Justice for Tshepi march to Parliament. The march, which was organised by Kemmy Mpinang through Re A Bua Foundation, called for justice, accountability and an end to gender-based violence, by drawing particular attention to the case of Tshepi, a 13 year old who passed under suspicious circumstances in 2025. The march culminated in the submission of a petition to parliament, which was received by Vice President Ndaba Gaolatlhe.

LEGABIBO's participation reflected a commitment to human rights, that everyone has the right to live free from violence. Gender based violence affects a national crisis in Botswana, the UNFPA notes that upto 67% of women experience violence in their lifetime, over double the global average, while less than 1.5% of GBV incidents are reported to the police. By standing alongside others in this peaceful demonstration, LEGABIBO reaffirmed organisational commitment to advancing human rights, promoting safety and dignity for all, as well as working with partners to build a Botswana where every person can live free from fear and violence.



BUILDING REGIONAL SOLIDARITY FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY: REFLECTIONS FROM THE LORATO KE LORATO REGIONAL WEBINAR

LEGABIBO hosted the Lorato ke Lorato (Love is Love) Regional Solidarity Webinar on 26 June 2026, bringing together activists, human rights defenders, civil society organisations, faith leaders, legal practitioners and allies from Botswana and across the SADC region. The virtual dialogue formed part of the broader Lorato ke Lorato campaign, LEGABIBO's public education and advocacy initiative supporting marriage equality and promoting the constitutional values of dignity, equality, inclusion and botho.

Held under the theme "A Decade of Change: Celebrating Progress, Confronting Challenges, Imagining the Future," the webinar reflected Botswana's remarkable journey in advancing human rights of LGBTQ+ persons over the past decade since formal registration in 2016. Discussions highlighted landmark victories, including LEGABIBO's registration, legal gender recognition, the decriminalisation of same-sex intimacy, and the ongoing marriage equality litigation, while recognising that legal progress must ultimately translate into lived equality for LGBTQ+ people.

The panel featured legal expert Dr. Tshepiso Ndzingi-Makhamisa, renowned activist Tshepo Ricki Kgositau and Nadia April from the Women's Leadership Centre in Namibia. Each of the panelists shared unique perspectives on constitutional rights, movement-building, intergenerational leadership and the role of allies in advancing equality. The conversation underscored the importance of sustained advocacy, public education and regional collaboration in responding to growing anti-rights movements across the continent.

A key message that emerged throughout the webinar was that Botswana's progress has been made possible through the courage of communities, strategic litigation, collective advocacy and solidarity. Participants also reflected on the significance of the ongoing marriage equality case, recognising it as the next important step in ensuring that constitutional protections are fully realised for all people.

The webinar concluded with a renewed commitment to strengthening regional partnerships and continuing to build movements grounded in love, dignity, equality and justice. As the Lorato ke Lorato campaign continues, LEGABIBO remains committed to creating spaces for dialogue, fostering solidarity across borders and advancing constitutional inclusion for LGBTQ+ communities in Botswana and beyond.



PROMOTING INCLUSIVE AND ETHICAL MEDIA REPORTING

LEGABIBO hosted media sensitisation on June 3, 2026 for journalists and media practitioners to strengthen understanding of LGBTIQ+ issues and promote ethical, accurate and inclusive reporting.

The workshop provided participants with practical knowledge on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics, human rights principles, and the role of the media in shaping public attitudes and discourse. Discussions also explored responsible language, challenging harmful stereotypes, and reporting on LGBTIQ+ issues with fairness, dignity and respect.

By equipping media professionals with the knowledge and tools to tell more informed and balanced stories, the workshop contributes to a media landscape that fosters understanding, combats misinformation and supports a more inclusive Botswana.

INTRODUCING MOKGOSI: REPORT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ONLINE

LEGABIBO is committed to promoting access to justice and supporting individuals who have experienced human rights violations. Our Human Rights Violations Reporting System - Mokgosi provides a secure and confidential platform for reporting incidents and accessing support. The system can be used to report a wide range of human rights violations, including gender-based violence (GBV), physical or verbal assault, discrimination, harassment, unfair dismissal, and other forms of abuse. Reports may be submitted by survivors themselves or by someone reporting on behalf of another person.

By documenting these violations, LEGABIBO is better able to provide support, identify emerging trends, and strengthen advocacy for the protection and promotion of human rights in Botswana.

To submit a report, visit the LEGABIBO website and click the "Help & Support" button or access the reporting link in the website footer. Your report can make a difference. Together, we can build a safer and more just Botswana.

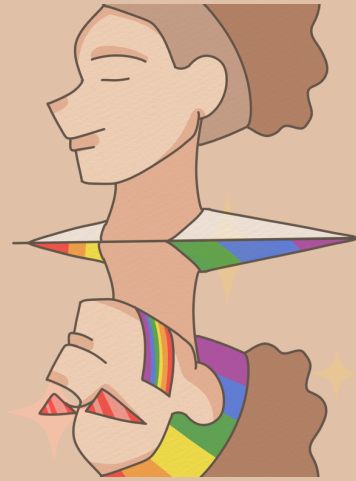
Need support or want to report a violation?

Visit the MOKGOSI platform today or contact LEGABIBO to learn more.



LOOKING AHEAD

- Healthcare baseline assessments
- Community Town halls
- Healthcare provider training
- Self-advocacy workshops
- Gata Le LEGABIBO Podcast Launch



GET INVOLVED:

Whether you're an LGBTIQ community member, ally, journalist, healthcare provider or development partner, there are many ways to support our work.

- Report human rights violations through MOKGOSI
- Share your iStory
- Attend upcoming community dialogues and other activities
- Partner with LEGABIBO
- Follow us on social media

We're conducting an anonymous survey on public perceptions of marriage equality in Botswana. Your views will help inform advocacy, public education and future dialogue.

Scan the QR code or click the link below to participate.

CLICK HERE



Until next quarter - stay informed, stay engaged, and keep standing for equality.

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