

Sexual Orientation, Violence and AIDS in Africa

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Outline

- A Global Phenomenon
- Gender Identity and Sexual Behavior
- The Legal Situation
- Violence and Other Social Risks
- AIDS
- Why Should Policy Makers Care
- Towards a Strategy

A Global Phenomenon

- Stigmatization, discrimination, the systematic violation of the human rights of sexual minorities, and violence against them among them are not just limited to Africa and other low income countries

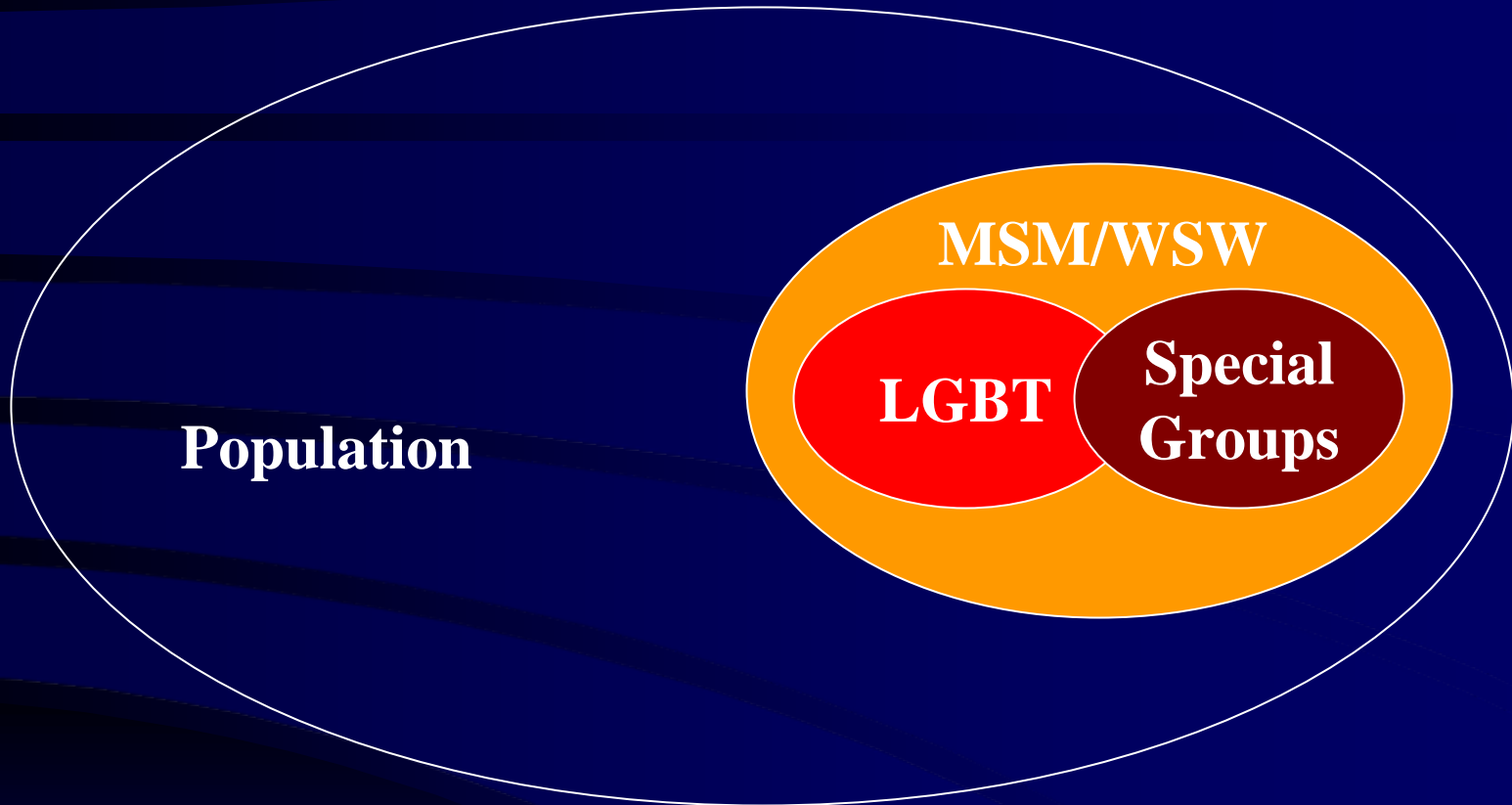
.....*It is a global phenomenon*

A Global Phenomenon

- In the developed world the gay liberation movement started to gain importance only since 1969, and even there violence on account of sexual orientation has not yet been rooted out.
- In most middle-income countries, violence against sexual minorities is still highly prevalent
 - Egypt, Romania, India, etc.

Gender Identity and
Sexual Behavior
in Low Income Countries

MSM Typology



WSW: Women having sex with women

MSM: Men who have Sex with Men

LGBT: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people

Special Groups: Inmates in correctional institutions, street boys, miners, long-distance truckers, etc.

Risk of being subject to violence due to personal sexual orientation

□ Non-existent

■ Medium

■ High

■ Very High

Gender Identity and Sexual Behavior

- Western ideas about sex and gender not directly exportable to other cultures and countries
- Gay identified men are a small subset of men who have sex with men
 - Most men who have sex with men are precisely and only that: men who have sex with men
- Same thing for WSW and Lesbian Women

The Legal Situation

International Law

- Articles 1 and 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights guarantee full and equal human rights for all, including the right of every person to protection against discrimination.
- Existing international human rights law, however, does not extend protection to all victims against systematic discrimination, including sexual minorities.

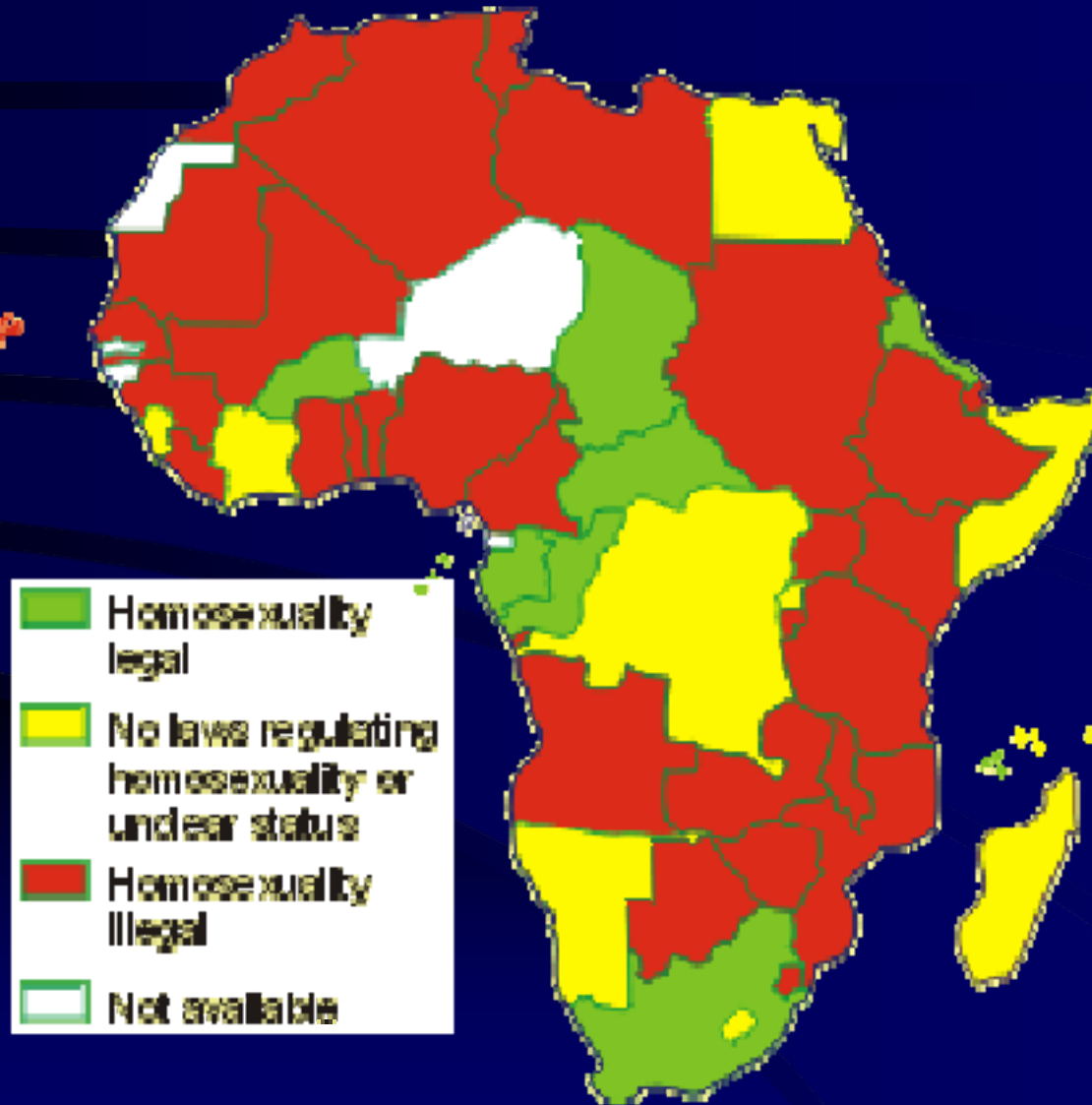
International Law (Continued)

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
 - Guarantees right “without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status”
 - In 1994 the Human Rights Committee held that “held that sexual orientation” was a status protected under the ICCPR from discrimination, with reference to “sex” including sexual orientation”
- Three more UN bodies have also pronounced on abuse of LGBT (see handout)

International Law (Continued)

- 1994 *Nicolas Toonen vs. Australia*, the UN Human Rights Committee struck down the Tasmania sodomy law and in that judgment held that "such laws violate protections against discrimination in the ICCPR, as well as article 17, which protects the right to privacy".

African Law



Violence

The Study of 250 MSM in Dakar

- Lives characterized by rejection and violence
- Half verbally abused by family members
- A fourth forced to move in the last 12 months
- 37 percent forced to have sex in last 12 months
- 13 percent have been raped by a policeman

Sexual Behavior

- Mean age of sample: 25 years
- Mean age at first sexual contact: 15 years
- One third of sample:
 - First male sexual encounter with family member
- Vast majority have had sex with women,
 - of these 88 % had vaginal sex, 25 % anal sex
- 13 % are married, 25 % have children
- Good condom knowledge, low use, even in anal sex
- Most reporting having had STI
 - But scared of seeking medical care

2002 WHO World Report on Violence and Health

- Sexual violence against men takes place in homes, schools, on the street, in the military, during wars, in prison, and at police posts
 - 3.6 percent of men report such violence in Namibia, 20 percent in Peru
- Forced sexual initiation during adolescence common for both men and women, but more for women
 - Ranges from 6.4 % of men in South African study to 30 percent in Cameroon study

Discrimination and Violence in Southern and Eastern Africa

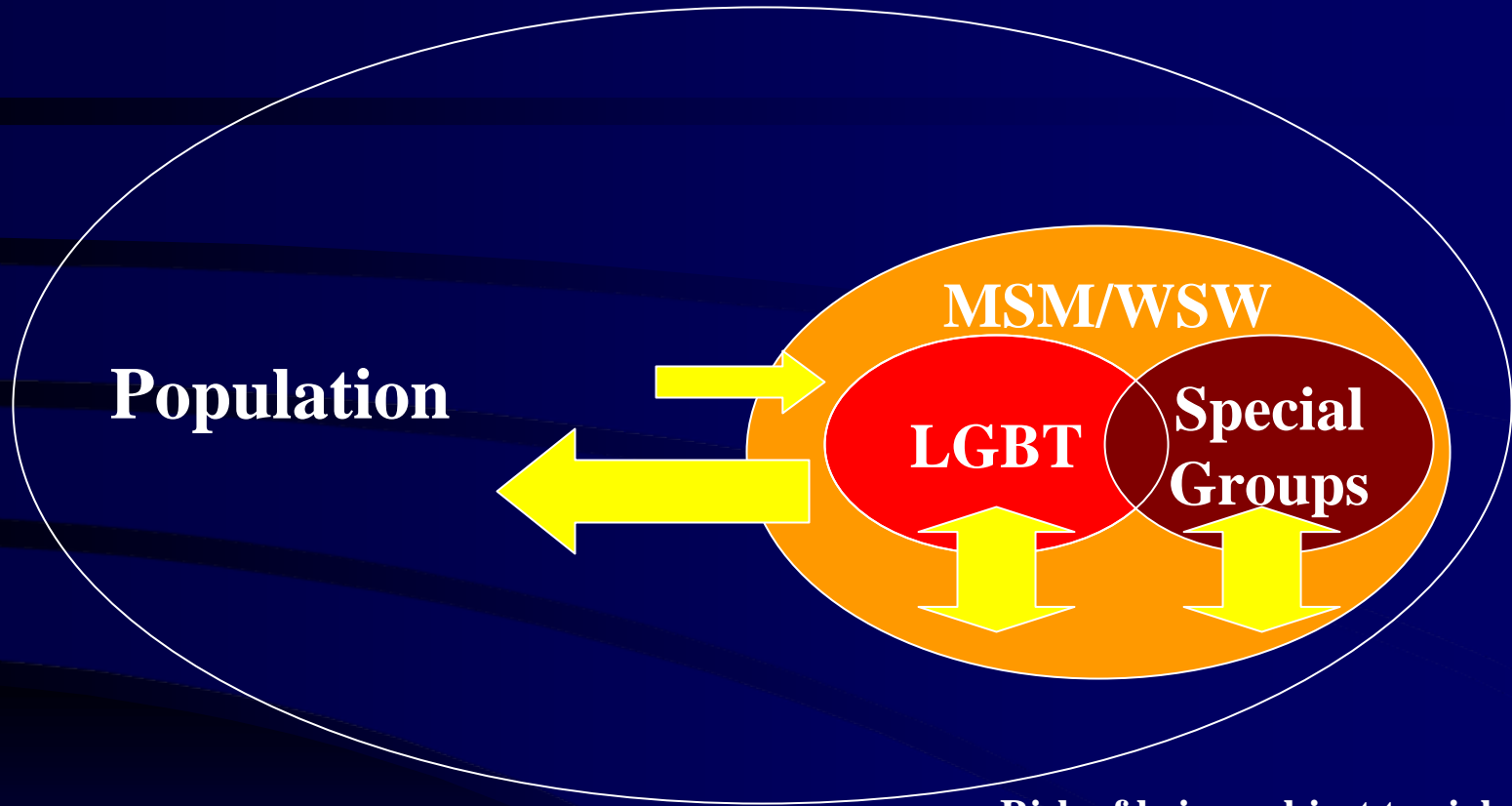
Country	Location	Intolerance		Violence		Rape			Sexual Abuse	
		Official[1]	Population[2]	Population[3]	Police[4]	Population[5]	Police[6]	Jail[7]	Girls[8]	Boys[9]
Senegal (Baseline) 33	Urban and periurban	M	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
Kenya 35	Nairobi	H	H	H	M	M	M	H	H	H
Zimbabwe 34	Urban	H	M	H	H	M	M	M	H	M
Uganda 33	Urban	H	H	H	H	H	M	H	M	M
Tanzania 33	Urban	H	H	M	L	H	L	H	M	M
Sierra Leone 31	Freetown	L	H	H	L	L	L	L	H	H
Namibia 27	Urban	H	M	M	L	L	L	H	H	M
Rwanda 14	Kigali	L	M	L	L	L	L	L	H	L
South Africa 16	Gay Youth	L	M	M	L	M	L	H	NA	M
South Africa 16	Township Lesbians	L	M	M	L	H	L	M	H	NA

Other Social Risks

Country	Location	<u>Loss of Livelihood</u> [1]	<u>Thrown out of home</u> [2]	<u>Evicted from housing</u> [3]	<u>Becoming a male sex worker</u> [4]	<u>Becoming a female sex worker with men</u> [5]
<i>Senegal (Baseline)</i>	Urban and periurban	M	H	H	H	? 7[6]
Kenya	Urban	H	H	H	H	L
Zimbabwe	Urban	M	M	M	H	H
Uganda	Urban	M	M	M	M	H
Tanzania	Urban	H	H	H	M	L
Sierra Leone	Freetown	H	H	H	H	H
Namibia	Urban	M	H	L	H	M
Rwanda	Kigali	M	L	L	L	L
South Africa	Gay Youth	L	L	L	M	NA
South Africa	Township Lesbians	L	M	L	NA	L

AIDS

The HIV/AIDS Bridges Between MSM/WSW and the General Population



MSM: Men who have Sex with Men

LGBT: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people

Special Groups: e.g. Inmates of correctional institutions

 Spillover of HIV/AIDS

Risk of being subject to violence due to personal sexual orientation

 Non-existent

 Medium

 High

 Very High

Sexual Orientation and HIV/AIDS Transmission

- Anal sex is the most efficient way to transmit HIV sexually, at least five times more risky to the receptive partner than vaginal sex
- Not all “homosexual sex” is anal and not all “heterosexual sex” is vaginal

Selected Facts About Anal Intercourse in Africa

Anthropological Reports:

- In 1925, 90% of the male population in Angola was behaviourally bisexual and 3.5% exclusively homosexual.
- Homosexuals reported sex with women, or were even married

Epidemiological reports:

- 42% of a sample of South African truck drivers admitted to engaging in anal intercourse.
- 42.9% of prostitutes in a South African sample admitted engaging in anal intercourse
- 9% of male and female students in a Tanzanian study reported that anal intercourse was their first sexual act
- 18% of males and 44% of females in a Senagalese survey reported homosexual experience.
- In Zimbabwe 35% of a large sample of persons aged 18-27 reported having had anal intercourse in the preceding two months.

HIV/AIDS in Sexual Minorities In Eastern and Southern Africa

Country	Location	Frequency of Suspected AIDS Deaths			Lack of Condom Use	Absence of HIV/AIDS Prevention Prgs		Absence of Anti-Retroviral Treatment	
		Male Sex workers[1]	Gay Men[2]	Lesbians[3]	MSM[4]	MSM[5]	WSW[6]	Population[7]	GLBT[8]
Senegal <i>(Baseline)</i>	Urban	H?	L	?	L	M	H	L	L 5
Kenya	Urban	H	M?	H	H	H	H	M	M 13
Zimbabwe	Urban	H	H	H	M	H	H	M	H 14
Uganda	Urban	H	M	M	M	H	H	M	H 12
Tanzania	Urban	H	M	M	H	H	H	H	H 14
Sierra Leone	Freetown	H	L	H	M	H	H	H	H 13
Namibia	Urban	M	M	L	H	H	H	H	H 12
Rwanda	Kigali	M?	L	L	M?	H	H	H	H 10
South Africa	Gay Youth	M	M	NA	M	L	NA	L	L 7[10]
South Africa	Township Lesbians	NA	NA	H	H	NA	H	L	L 7[11]

Why Should Policy-Makers Care?

Violence

- The level of general and sexual violence against MSM/WSW people is completely unacceptable
- Even more shocking is that some of this violence is perpetrated by policemen and tolerated in correctional institutions.
- A particularly distressing form of violence is sexual assault against boys, which is quite common.

Marginalization, destitution and poverty:

- MSM/WSW have been shown to be among the most vulnerable minorities
- Unless they successfully hide their sexual orientation and activities, they are not only stigmatized and discriminated against, but also at an exceptionally high risk of losing any social support and safety net from their families or society at large.
- This marginalization increases their disease burden, livelihood loss, destitution, and poverty, and exposes them to an increased risk of loss of life.

HIV/AIDS

- Given the special risks associated with anal sex, the prevalence of HIV/AIDS is likely to be significantly worse among MSM than the general population
- Significant spillover of the HIV epidemic to women and children.
- Because of marginalization and social isolation, many MSM/WSW will be even more isolated than AIDS victims in general and may have to face terminal illness and death alone.

In spite of these facts, in most countries there are as yet no prevention, care or treatment programs that reach sexual minorities, and this is unacceptable for them as well as the population at large.

Total Risk Scores for LGBT people in selected African Countries

Country	Intolerance and Violence	Other Social Risks	HIV/AIDS Risks	Total Risk
Senegal (Baseline)	17	8	8	33
Kenya	14	8	13	35
Zimbabwe	13	7	14	34
Uganda	15	6	12	33
Tanzania	11	7	14	32
Sierra Leone	8	10	13	31
Namibia	9	6	12	27
Rwanda	3	1	10	14
SA Gay Youth	8	1	7	16
SA Township Lesbians	8	1	7	16

Why are GLBT Organizations Needed

- Organizations are needed to spread information, reduce stigma, provide a social safety net, and fight against violence from the population and the police
- Given stigma, secrecy, service delivery from public sector or NGOs cannot reach MSMs and WSWs
- Only GLBTs can organize an effective HIV/AIDS prevention and care program
- On the other hand, LGBT groups also face limitations.
 - Difficult to work with special groups, or with gay and lesbian youth in need of counseling.

Where are These Groups in their Efforts to Organize and Resist

- With the exception South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia, associations remain informal, poorly organized and cannot sustain themselves
- Nearly impossible for groups to organize because of
 - oppressive laws and official campaigns against them
 - lack of information, negative media, deep cultural and religious disapproval
 - risk of social isolation, violence and livelihood
 - absence of safe meeting places, financial support

Existing Recommendations

UNAIDS 1998 Point of View:

- The key steps that need to be taken to effectively deal with HIV transmission in male-to-male sex are:
 - For political leaders, and all other key players to accept that sex between men exists and is relevant for AIDS prevention, care and support work;
 - For national AIDS programmes to include the issue of male-to-male sexual transmission of HIV in their planning and implementation;
 - For donor agencies to commit themselves to giving serious consideration to funding AIDS prevention care and support among MSM;

- For both governments and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to promote safer sex and the provision of condoms, conducting programmes involving: out reach work; peer education projects; and mass media and 'small media' campaigns;
- For national AIDS programmes and other partners to encourage the creation of gay organizations and strengthen existing networks of men who have sex with men;
- For national AIDS programmes and other partners to reproduce or expand HIV prevention approaches that have proved successful among MSM, locally and abroad;
- For political leaders and influential people in society to support HIV programmes directed to MSM; and
- For national AIDS programmes and donor agencies to ensure that effective HIV interventions among MSM are maintained.

Human Rights Watch/IGLHRC Report

- More Than a Name: State Sponsored Homophobia and Its Consequences in Southern Africa
- Great documentation of what has been going on in Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia
- Comprehensive recommendations for governments

Human Rights Watch

Recommendations

Call on States to:

- Publicize and promote awareness of rights protections and how to use them
- Create accessible remedies for human rights violations, with mechanisms to address the specific needs of vulnerable populations
- Ensure legal representation/remedy are economically and practically accessible to everyone; and
- Train state officials, particularly in the criminal justice system, in human rights, non-discrimination, sensitivity to gender, minorities, vulnerable groups

Human Rights Watch Recommendations (2)

Call on civil society to:

- Speak out whenever state officials incite or practice discrimination and abuse
- Seek out marginalized and stigmatized groups, and work to bring their concerns into the mainstream of human rights and other social movements

Three Basic Prevention Models

Pecheny M, Manzelli H.

- The *epidemiological-behavioral model*
 - centered on perceptions and behaviors of high-risk groups and seeks to alter such behaviors through interventions addressing information, risk perception, perception of control over one's behavior, self-confidence, and the attitudes of different population groups to the disease.
- The *anthropological-cultural model*
 - focuses on meanings of behavior, change codes and values that enhance risks and impede preventive behaviors.
- The *political-economic (or empowerment) model*
 - seeks to reduce social, rather than individual, vulnerability through community mobilization. According to this model, the root of the epidemic among sexual minorities lies in structural (i.e., class, gender, and lifestyle) inequality.

Black Swans of Africa: Recommendations for HIV Prevention

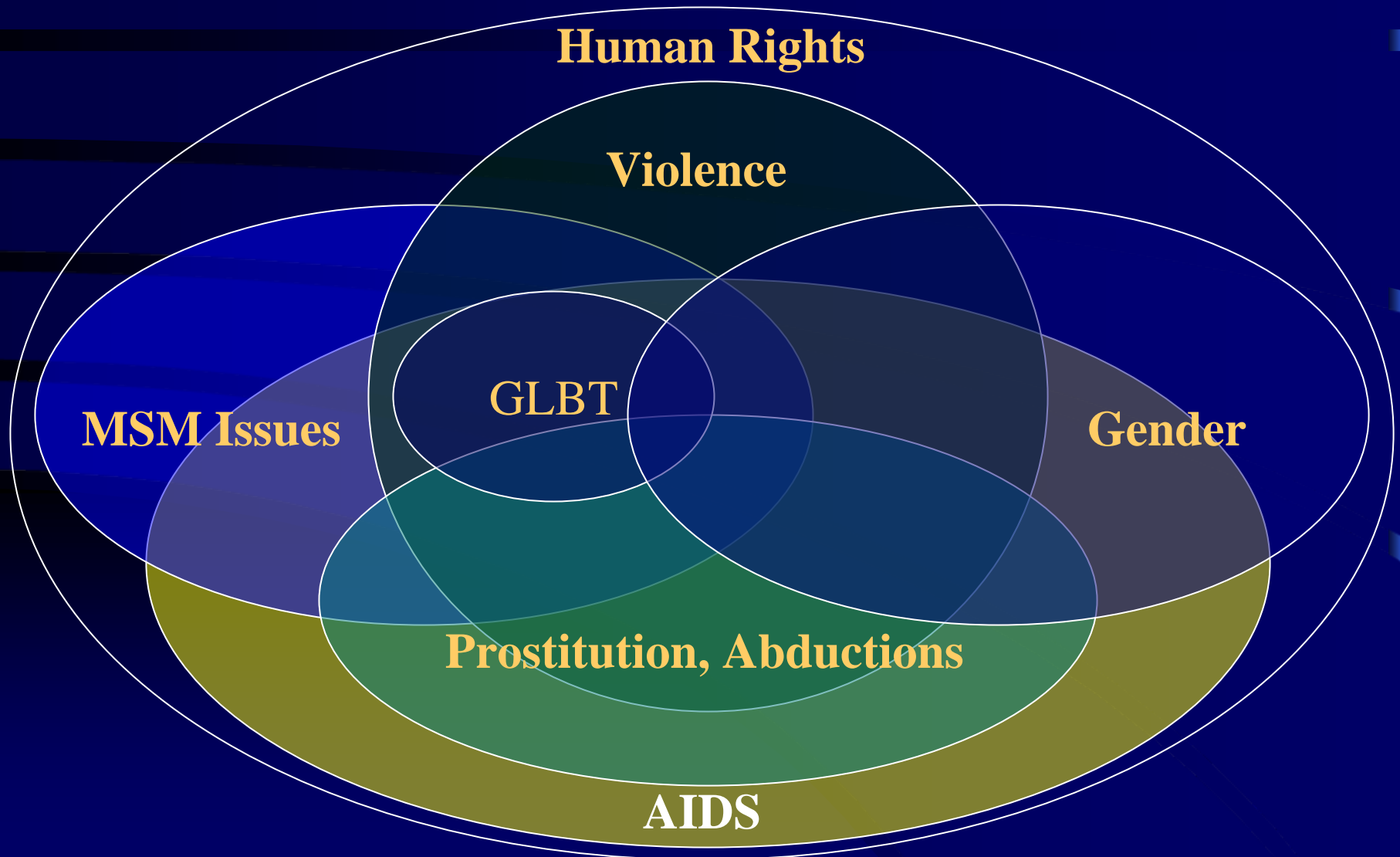
- Focus on Behavior, not groups of people:
 - Stop talking about homosexual or heterosexual transmission and start talking about sexual transmission: vaginal, anal, oral
- Educate people about the risks of sexual acts, graphically described
- Disaggregate prevention education strategies for men who have sex with men from the gay/human rights agenda

Recommendations of the All-Africa Rights Initiative

- HIV AIDS:
 - Advocate for access to healthcare for LGBT associations
 - Sensitize African LGBT about HIV and AIDS
 - Mainstream LGBT issues in HIV/AIDS literature, and in media programming
- Human Rights:
 - Denounce all human rights abuses among LGBT groups
 - Advocate for access to, and the protection of, legal systems
 - Engage African Union in LGBTI rights talks;

Additional Elements for a Strategy

Embed Topic into Broader Issues of Gender, Sexuality, Violence and AIDS



Three Key Actors

The State

- To focus HIV/AIDS prevention messages on sex: vaginal, anal, oral
- To improve the climate and legislation in support of human rights and prevention of violence

NGOs

- To spread the messages
- To advocate for human rights
- To provide health and other services to special populations

GLBT Associations

- At the core of targeted prevention efforts, care, treatment and livelihood development,
- Advocacy for and defense of their own human rights
- Put pressure on states and civil society

Three Key Actors

The State

- To improve the climate and legislation in support of:
 - human rights, prevention of violence and access to economic opportunities
- To focus HIV/AIDS prevention messages on sex: vaginal, anal, oral
- To ensure equitable access to health and education services and legal systems

NGOs

- To spread knowledge about the conditions of sexual minorities
- To advocate for human rights of sexual minorities and to provide capacity building support to LGBT
- To provide health and other services to special populations
- To spread general messages about the risks of STs and HIV associated with anal intercourse

GLBT Associations

- Advocacy for and defense of their own human rights
- Put pressure on states and civil society
- Efforts to reduce violence and prevent HIV/AIDS
- At the core of targeted prevention efforts, care, treatment and livelihood development

Building Implementation Capacities

1. Empower and build the capacity of GLBT groups and NGOs to become fully functional and self-sufficient organizations
2. Encourage a GLBT-led participatory approach to behavior change and use GLBT people to reach the general MSM population
3. Use specialized NGOs to reach certain special groups (e.g., miners, street boys, inmates of correctional institutions)

What is happening in the WB

- The Affinity Group on Gender, Sexuality, HIV/AIDS and Violence is including MSM and WSW issues in its work program for next year
- Within the Multi-Sector HIV/AIDS programs (MAP), the WB has already clearly stated that governments can use the funding for work on a variety of special groups, including studies of men having sex with men, and programs benefiting them
- Series of small profiling studies on gender issues in West Africa financed by the Gender Board trust fund
- With funding from the World Bank, Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ) has produced an operational manual for LGBT groups for Africa
- Support to a sub-Regional capacity building workshop for GLBT groups in Tanzania

Additional Components Suggested for a Joint UNAIDS Program

- Develop the authorizing environment for working on GLBT, MSM, and WSW issues
 - Intensive dialogue among UNAIDS and Co-sponsors, Global Fund, governments, Human Rights groups
 - Fully develop common vision and approach
 - Discuss in international fora for human rights, violence and health, HIV/AIDS
- Survey existing programs to combat violence, foster human rights, and deal with HIV/AIDS
- Facilitate further learning by doing, derive best practices
- Capacity Building for agencies, NGOs, LGBT groups

- PLEASE CONTACT WITH ANY QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

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- Resources available:

- Paper on Sexual Orientation, AIDS and Violence (contained in CD ROM)
- Operational and Mobilization Manuals for Emerging LGBT associations (contained in CD ROM)
- Paper on Sexual Minorities, Response in the Developing World (available in hard copy)
- Report on the All Africa Symposium on Human Rights and HIV/AIDS (contained in CD ROM)