



## **EFF STATEMENT ON ANGOLA DECRIMINALIZING SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIPS**

Saturday, 20 February 2021

The EFF joins all progressive forces in welcoming the monumental coming into effect of Angola's Penal Code that subsequently decriminalizes same-sex relationships and acts. We register this move as a long-awaited victory necessary in ridding the African continent of homophobic intolerance.

The socially entrenched hatred towards the LGBTQI+ has resulted in unredeemable loss of life, targeted violence, sexual violence and isolation of LGBTQI+ people globally. It must rightfully be the program of action for the remaining countries to decriminalise same-sex relations and the objective of all African countries to intentionally defend and protect the lives and human rights of all LGBTQI+ people.

The EFF reassert its call to all African countries to prioritise, resource and encourage programs that are aimed at educating society on rejecting social norms and beliefs that seek to render LGBTQI+ sexual preferences as abnormal. It is a horrifying reality that African countries that have harboured colonial laws that criminalise homosexuality still exist. The preservation of these laws has led the arrest and violence against innocent LGBTQI+ persons and activists who seek complete liberation from state resourced intolerance and violence against LGBTQI+ identifying persons.

With welcoming the long overdue victory of Angola, the EFF further call on enactment of progressive laws in the fight against homophobia, transphobia and queerphobia globally. This should lead to collective rights that are demanded by the LGBTQI+ persons and organisations across the continent beyond decriminalizing same-sex acts/relations and marriages being realised.

There should be improvement of access to adequate public healthcare interventions for gender affirming treatment for transitioning persons by all African governments.

Legislation concerned with adoption processes should be expanded to decisively deal with and penalise discrimination against LGBTQI+ individuals. Violent crimes against the LGBTQI+ should bear the brunt of their peculiarity by ensuring that the law encompasses and adequately punishes them as hate crimes as well.

In our celebratory moment, we must collectively take responsibility for allowing homophobia to thrive and for all the innocent lives brutally brought to an end because of homophobia. It is a fact that Homophobia is unAfrican, inhuman and every tenet that builds towards its ruin must be encouraged.

**ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS**

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