



EFF CELEBRATES PRIDE MONTH

Friday, 4 June 2021

The EFF celebrates Pride Month as we remember those who fought for LGBTQI+ bodies during the Stonewall Uprising which took place in New York City on the 28th of June 1969. Pride Month echoes the diverse identities within the LGBTQI+ community but most importantly it is a time for everyone to see and recognize them for who they are and not regard them as secondary citizens because of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

The month of June seeks to honor LGBTQI+ voices and lived experiences while drawing attention to issues members of the rainbow community still face. One of these issues being hate crime and homophobia which is very prevalent in our communities. Because of heteronormative social norms which declare LGBTQI+ sexual preferences as abnormal, many members of the LGBTQI+ community have been unfairly treated in the workplace, discriminated against at public health facilities and their cases of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and intimate partner violence mishandled and ignored by police officers.

The South African Police Service must establish a specialized law enforcement unit that will deal directly with LGBTQI+ related crimes only. LGBTQI+ persons are under siege and are forced to flee from their homes in order to find refuge where they will stay with other queer people who can accommodate them.

The lack of safe houses and lack of investment in LGBTQI+ centers by the government is the reason why many LGBTQI+ populations find themselves staying on the streets, vulnerable to further humiliation and crime. In our quest for justice, the Criminal Law Act and existing legislation need to include harsher minimum sentences for 'corrective' rape and crimes committed with hatred as motivation in general.

This Pride Month as we celebrate and commemorate the lives of LGBTQI+ people and activists we have lost to hate crime, may we also address the challenges faced by those who are still amongst us. South Africa's health care system, schools and public facilities need to implement gender-neutral toilet facilities in order to benefit transgender population and people outside of the gender binary.

We call on justice for Lindokuhle Cele, Sphamandla Khoza, Andile Ntuthela, Lonwabo Jack and many others who have been killed for daring to be different.

May we continuously aggressively engage in public awareness and communication strategies and training interventions aimed at or directed towards positively changing social norms which see LGBTQI+ people as undeserving of equal treatment.

ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS

Vuyani Pambo (National Spokesperson): 066 082 0889

Delisile Ngwenya (National Spokesperson): 066 388 8779

Sixelise Gcilishe (National Communications Manager): 071 142 1663

✉ communications@effonline.org

🌐 <http://www.effonline.org>

🐦 @EFFSouthAfrica

📷 @EFFSouthAfrica

📘 Economic Freedom Fighters