



Kaleidoscope Youth Network

Uniting the voices of LGBTIA youth in South Africa

kaleidoscopenetwork.wordpress.com / kaleidoscopenetwork@live.co.za

+27 83 947 8853 (GMT +2) / Xiraine (Skype) (Tish White - Secretary/PR)



1 May 2011

Statement on the murder of Noxolo Nogwaza from the Kaleidoscope Youth Network

Noxolo Nogwaza – a 24 year old lesbian who was raped and beaten to death in Kwa-Thema was buried yesterday.

We sorely regret not being present in Kwa-Thema to pay our respects, and add our voices of regret and outrage to those present. Noxolo will be remembered for many things that she has achieved in her twenty four years. We remember her courage, today, as South African youth. Never to be lost, nor forgotten, through memory or time, she will always be with us.

Young LGBTIA adults, particularly those in their twenties are continuous targets of inhuman hate crimes in South Africa. The notorious practise of raping lesbians is no exception. As a network of South African youth leaders, we demand swift justice to be brought, to this, and to existing cases pertaining to hate crimes. We refuse to deny who we are and live in fear in a country which enshrines our rights in the highest law of South Africa. Those in our sector who preceded today's youth did not fight for our freedoms to translate to paper houses of 'rights' in which Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Asexual citizens must hide in fear. We are not a generation that will stand by whilst the gross abuses of our fellow LGBTIA citizens go virtually unpunished.

We call upon government and police to

- Prioritise the arrests of Nogwaza's murderers and rapists
- Defend the rights of LGBTIA citizens who are targeted on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, conveying a zero tolerance policy towards hate crime perpetrators.
- Prioritise existing hate crime trials in court. Multiple postponements are a terrible example of apathy when it comes to persecuting hate crime perpetrators.

We call for solidarity and unity

Tish White

Kaleidoscope Youth Network Secretary, PR Officer and Webmistress.