

## ***The persecution of sexual minorities and the role of religious communities in Africa.***

### ***Strengthening and protecting LGBTI human rights defenders***

Conference organized by the Hirschfeld-Eddy Foundation coinciding with the visit to Berlin of African human rights defenders backed by the Federal Foreign Office

**Venue:** Auswärtiges Amt (Federal Foreign Office), Berlin, Besucherzentrum (Visitors' Centre) Halls II and III  
**Date:** 22 November 2012, 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Religiously inspired anti-homosexual attitudes take the freedom of belief to excessive limits when used to drive and justify legislation that contravenes human rights or when serving as a breeding-ground for discriminatory acts or even violent attacks on people.

African LGBTI activists need support, since the struggle for their human rights is being fought in Africa too. We encourage them to form alliances with other activist groups, including church-organised LGBTI-friendly groups.

Church and non-church organisations involved in development cooperation are called on to open up to the subjects of sexual identity and human rights, strategies to eliminate homophobic prejudices, removing taboos and raising acceptance of homosexuality, and the protection of LGBTI human rights defenders.

## Programme

- 1:30 p.m. Arrival/Registration
- 2:00 p.m. **Welcome**  
Axel Hochrein, Hirschfeld-Eddy Foundation
- 2:15 p.m. **The German government's commitment to LGBTI human rights defenders in Africa**  
Markus Löning, Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid at the Federal Foreign Office
- 2:30 p.m. **Sketch: Protecting and strengthening LGBTI human rights as a challenge for church development projects**  
Tim Kuschnerus, Protestant Secretary of the Gemeinsame Konferenz Kirche und Entwicklung [GKKE – Joint Conference on Church and Development]
- 3:00 p.m. **Reports from the field: LGBTI human rights defenders and their approach to homosexuality and religion**  
Judith Kotzé/Muhsin Hendricks, South Africa  
Michael Kimindu, Kenya  
Dorothy Aken'Ova, Nigeria  
Georges Azzi, Lebanon
- 4:00 p.m. **Coffee Break**
- 4:30 p.m. **Strengthening LGBTI human rights in Africa: expectations, instruments, strategies**  
Kasha Jacqueline, Freedom and Roam Uganda  
Marita Steinke, BMZ  
Peter Jörgensen, Federation of Protestant Free Churches  
Muhsin Hendricks, The Inner Circle  
Host: Klaus Jetz, Hirschfeld-Eddy Foundation
- 5:45 p.m. **Summary**  
Axel Hochrein, Hirschfeld-Eddy Foundation
- 6:00 p.m. **Get-together with snacks at the Federal Foreign Office**