

Advocacy

At a practical level, BONELA endeavors to provide a platform and a conducive environment to air and address human rights and HIV/AIDS issues through workshops, seminars and public debates. Previous debates that we have organized have been on Employment and HIV/AIDS, Routine HIV Testing, and Discrimination and Access to Health Care in relation to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people. At the policy and legislative level, BONELA advocates for laws and policies relating to HIV/AIDS to create a just environment in which the rights and best interests of people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS are considered. BONELA also provides the secretariat for the National AIDS Council Sector on Ethics, Law and Human Rights and actively assists with legislative review of all laws and policies regarding HIV and AIDS. BONELA has provided an initial draft bill on HIV/AIDS and employment which will hopefully inform a national policy resulting in appropriate legislation.

Community Involvement

BONELA supports several organizations including the Lawyer's Taskforce on HIV/AIDS and LeGabiBo. We are members of the District Multisectoral HIV/AIDS Committee and also sit on the Community Advisory Board of the HIV Vaccine Trials and the Community Education Board for the T sepo Study.

Regional Affiliates

BONELA acts as a focal point in Botswana for the AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa (ARASA) whose regional offices are in Windhoek, Namibia. ARASA was established in 2002 at a regional meeting held in Namibia by organizations that deal with HIV/AIDS and human rights in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

Bonela Publications

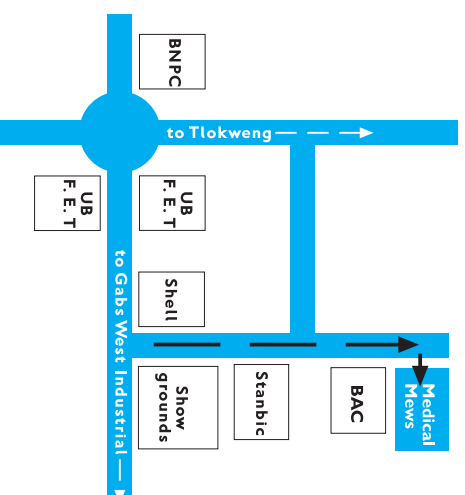
- Our quarterly newsletter the BONELA Guardian
- Challenging HIV-Related Discrimination: Protection for Employees in the Workplace booklet.
- HIV/AIDS and the World of Work booklet prepared by Monica Tabengwa

- A report on a seminar held in October 2002 entitled Justice, Reason and Hope in the HIV Epidemic in Botswana.

- A report on Routine and Compulsory Testing for HIV. Seminar held in September 2003.

- A report on a workshop held in May 2002 entitled Employment, HIV/AIDS and Human Rights.

Map of Location



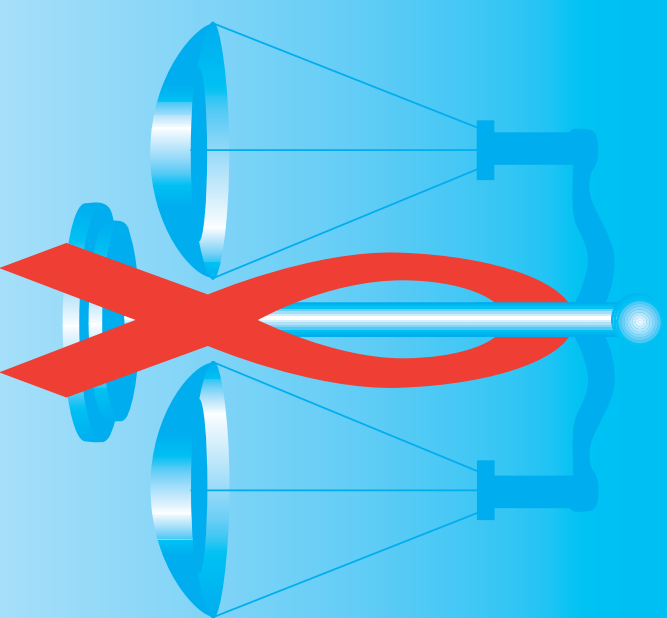
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The Botswana
Network on
Ethics, Law
and HIV/AIDS

Mission Statement

BONELA's mission is to create an enabling and just environment for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS through integrating an ethical, legal and human rights dimension into the national response to HIV/AIDS, facilitating education and conscientisation of society and advocating for policy formulation and legislative reforms. In so doing we strive to promote transparency, destigmatisation, and respect for humanity.

Goal

To ensure that human rights, legal and ethical considerations constitute the foundation of any response to the HIV epidemic in Botswana.

Brief History

BONELA was formally registered under the Societies Act in early 2002 and is governed by an Executive Committee. The organisation has grown significantly since then, employing 7 full-time employees and actively raising funds to fulfil its mandate in Botswana. BONELA is a network of concerned individuals, groups and organisations interested in protecting and promoting the rights of people infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Members include individuals from the legal community, community-based organisations, public and private sectors, academics, concerned individuals and people living with HIV/AIDS. If you are interested in joining this expanding network please contact us. (Contact details at the back of the leaflet)

Activities and Services

Capacity Building, Education & Training Workshops

BONELA facilitates workshops across the country to educate the general public on issues of human rights within the context of HIV/AIDS. Our newest endeavour is to raise awareness amongst stakeholders nationally, and building the capacity of health care workers and a variety of community groups, enabling them to adopt an ethical, legal and human rights approach to their response to HIV/AIDS. Some key topics covered are HIV & the Workplace, HIV Testing and Confidentiality.

Media Campaign

Our campaign aims to raise awareness on key human rights and HIV/AIDS themes. Through posters, pamphlets, a quarterly newsletter and other mediums of mass communication, we hope to help reduce stigma and discrimination surrounding HIV/AIDS. By the end of 2005 we hope to have produced 6 posters under the theme "Know Your Status Know Your Rights" 3 of which will be translated into Setswana.

Outreach and Legal Assistance

BONELA has a fledgling legal aid project that facilitates the provision of legal services to people experiencing discrimination on the basis of HIV/AIDS in various contexts. Working with a local private law firm, we have managed to successfully litigate and mediate cases. We then document such cases to raise awareness and establish precedent in the area of HIV/AIDS and human rights, all of which feeds into our advocacy work.

Research

BONELA undertakes action-oriented research on themes relating to human rights and HIV in Botswana with the goal of increasing awareness and lobbying for change. This research includes: the development of training materials, interviews, focus groups, data collection and literature reviews; the publication of documents on topical themes, representation on committees and advisory groups and contributing to domestic and international conferences and publications. Our most recent research initiatives include the development of training materials for health professionals on ethics, law and human rights in the context of paediatric HIV care in cooperation with the Botswana Baylor Children Clinical Centre of Excellence, and the development of workshop materials on gender, human rights and HIV.

BONELA's research has been published internationally in the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Review, Harvard's Health and Human Rights Journal among other publications. Our research will also contribute to legal and policy review and commentary for example: the BOCCONGO Complimentary Report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the proposed Domestic Violence Bill. BONELA's most comprehensive research project has been the development of a fourteen module resource and training manual covering a wide range of topics ranging from Confidentiality, to Women, HIV/AIDS and Human Rights, to Wills and Inheritance.