

Empowering Progressive Clergy in Africa

At its root, homophobia can be traced to religious origins as cultures wrestle with the “divine design” of LGBTI people and their reconciliation within faith communities. The Fellowship Global is working with advocates to establish an organization of United Coalition of Affirming Africans (UCAA) in Kenya, Rwanda, Zimbabwe and Uganda to be at the forefront of engaging faith leaders in difficult dialogue about culture and human sexuality.

Each UCAA national group will engage Christian clergy, and LGBTI activist primarily focused on the social, legal, and moral inclusion of LGBTI people in each country with a secondary emphasis on the economic and social concerns of the country. The constellation of UCAA national groups lays the groundwork for a pan African progressive Christian movement. UCAA has the potential for skipping decades of struggle and moving directly to a more collaborative model for the elimination of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Ultimately, this grassroots movement with a progressive faith frame can discern a path toward affirming the inherent dignity and equality of the LGBTI community in Africa while positively impacting its economic, social, and health concerns. The inter-sectional perspective of structural social change is critical as it proactively connects the LGBTI experience in Africa with the totality of the human experience in Africa. As has been the case in the American LGBTI movement particularly among Black Americans, the strategic points of access to drive LGBTI inclusion in Africa can be woman’s issues and HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment.