

# EQUALITY

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**15**

YEARS OF SERVICE  
TO THE COMMUNITY

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## ROSANNA FLAMER-CALDERA

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Executive Director  
EQUAL GROUND

**E**QUAL GROUND is 15! I can hardly believe such a lot of time has flown seemingly so quickly. It was just yesterday, in my head, we decided to come together; a bunch of friends who had ideas to change the world we lived in, to change the way we were perceived in this country. They were the first group of Trustees - Sahran, Tami, Husna, Ranjan, Emily and me. Through time, our board has changed and evolved, the society we live in has also changed and evolved and so has EQUAL GROUND. However, the essence of the organisation has not changed and it still has the same vision and mission, still the same strategy as before.

Throughout the years, we've been blessed with support not just financially. Volunteers still make their way to EQUAL GROUND and give us their valuable time and input. Staff members, there's been many throughout the years, have come and gone. Many of them have left behind a legacy that has served us well in our efforts to change the way Sri Lanka thinks of us. Our allies have grown exponentially, and we know that without them, we would not be where we are today. I distinctly remember when we first started EQUAL GROUND, how several members of the LGBTIQ community warned us against having heterosexual allies on board as our partners and supporters. "They have plenty of their own spaces so why have them in our limited space as well?" Our reply to that was always "We need to be inclusive of all persons. Exclusivity cannot be sustained and will not give us our rights." Now more than ever, we need to make sure that we never leave anyone out. We must embrace diversity and shy away from distrust, hate and division. Our country needs it, we need it.

From its inception EQUAL GROUND's focus has always been both local and international. We realised back then, that our battle is not just a battle we fight alone in our country but a battle we must fight on behalf of every LGBTIQ person across the world that faces discrimination, criminalisation, violence and hate. We are not alone in this battle. We can count on hundreds of activists from across the world as our allies and friends. Through the global discourse we have seen many incredible changes taking place. LGBTIQ issues are fairly and squarely the focus of attention of the UN, Foreign Offices and Governments and Corporate communities. Our voices are amplified through these sources to implement change in many, many countries. Over the years we have seen many countries decriminalise consenting same sex relationships, implement nondiscrimination policies to protect and serve the LGBTIQ community and legalise gay marriage.

In the past 15 years, we have also been actively engaged with the UN, utilizing the UN Treaty Bodies and other mechanisms to highlight the issues faced by the LGBTIQ community in this country. While there have been positive statements by our Government to accept legal change and implement nondiscrimination policies, none of it has been implemented, to date. There is simply no protection for LGBTIQ persons in this country - still. While the LGBTIQ community is more accepted in Sri Lanka and there is growing support for us here, it is sad that it is taking that much longer for our country to realise the importance of embracing diversity and all its citizens, regardless of Sexual Orientation and/or gender identity and expression. A very strong economic case can be made for decriminalisation of consenting same sex relations and embracing diversity and inclusion, not just in the workplace but in all spheres of society. Other countries that have changed their laws and attitudes to include the LGBTIQ community have seen exponential results in their economic growth.

Our international outreach and engagement has been constant over the past 15 years. Our engagement with ILGA (the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Association) has provided over 10 years of Executive Board representation. We are still a member of ILGA and work closely with them on UN matters. Our affiliation with The Commonwealth Equality Network (TCEN), has been active since 2013. We were founding members and provide the current Chair of TCEN. TCEN works within the Commonwealth and its engagement has seen positive gains within Commonwealth countries with more discussion and more focus growing daily, on LGBTIQ rights, the decriminalisation of consenting same sex relationships and the right to live as full citizens of the Commonwealth in every member state of the Commonwealth. Currently 36 Countries out of 52 member states have decriminalised consenting same sex relationships.

A key element of our strategic plan is the sensitising and education of civil society to enable them to fully realise the importance of human rights for all citizens of this country. The EQUAL GROUND team has worked in 12 of the 25 Districts of Sri Lanka, conducting sensitising and educational workshops with the general public, health care workers, local government authorities, law enforcement officers, lawyers and youth. These years of engaging with rural communities as well as urban dwellers have enriched us as well as opened doors to more understanding and support of the LGBTIQ community in this Country. We work closely with civil society and community based organisations to enable us to reach out to people from all walks of life, thus building a wider support base and increasing the engagement on LGBTIQ issues. This was very evident for example during the Constitutional reform process that saw all 25 districts recommend that Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) be incorporated into the constitution (Article 12).

Since 2005, EQUAL GROUND has organised Gay Pride celebrations in Sri Lanka. Colombo PRIDE too is in its 15th year of celebrating LGBTIQ lives in this country. While mostly based in Colombo and its suburbs, PRIDE has also visited Puttalam, Anuradhapura, Nuwara Eliya and Matara. We hope to eventually be more forthcoming in having PRIDE in other parts of the country. Colombo PRIDE has been key in highlighting and mainstreaming LGBTIQ issues in Sri Lanka. Over the years we have seen more and more persons coming out and participating in Colombo PRIDE and the other events we hold throughout the year. The LGBTIQ community has become more vocal and unafraid - this was very apparent in the Butterflies4Democracy protest last November and December (2018).

EQUAL GROUND has come a long way and has most definitely carved a place in society for LGBTIQ persons to stand tall and proud. Government apathy and opposition notwithstanding, we are confident that eventually we will see a Sri Lanka embrace the LGBTIQ community, we will see positive changes in the law and we will see more protection and nondiscrimination policies being implemented to protect our community from the needless homophobia and marginalization that still takes place in this country.

My one wish for the future is that we finally have competent, caring leaders for this country who put the country and its people before their own personal greed and satisfaction. Certainly, over the past 70 years since Independence, our country has been rocked by conflict and poor leadership opening doors for indecision, extremism and hatred to fester. I believe we would all like to see radical changes take place in this country, that will make living in this Paradise Island easier and safer for all its citizens. EQUAL GROUND is more committed than ever to make this a reality. We are committed to legal, constitutional and social change and we will continue to fight hard against tyranny and homophobia to make this happen. My message to the leaders of our country is simple and evoke the sentiments of one of my heroes, Harvey Milk:

*"It takes no compromising to give people their rights. It takes no money to respect the individual. It takes no survey to remove repressions."*

Give us our freedom, give us respect and in turn we will give our country a workforce, a community unshackled by discrimination and fear with the ability to contribute to our country's economic and social stability.



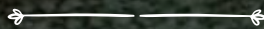
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# EQUAL GROUND

15 | YEARS OF SERVICE  
TO THE COMMUNITY

## FIFTEEN YEARS ON: COURAGE, FORTITUDE AND FELLOWSHIP

*By Edward Astor*

**T**his is the story of EQUAL GROUND, a justice organization forged in the crucible of San Francisco's gay revolution, molded in the struggle in Sri Lanka and honed through international bodies such as the UN, ILGA, The Commonwealth Equality Network (TCEN) and CHOGM, among others.

EQUAL GROUND celebrates a major milestone along the path of not just surviving in a harsh environment, but overcoming conditions that would rather see us vanish. Along with the joy of that celebration comes the opportunity to reflect on what it took to get here, to take stock of:

- the vision and courage that got us started,
- the stalwart support of many principled allies,
- the dramatic advances in the building of a strong LGBTIQ community nationwide, and, most of all,
- the inspiring stories of growth, progress and personal triumph of our members and colleagues.

The transition from living in the shadows to shining brighter than the spotlight in which we are now willing to stand, is the greatest

testament to EQUAL GROUND's tireless crusade over the last decade and a half. That there are so many of us standing out and proud and being more accepting of ourselves in ways that foster acceptance among those around us, is cause to rejoice.

From its inception, EQUAL GROUND's mission was making sure LGBTIQ persons in Sri Lanka, didn't have to face criminalisation, marginalization, violations of their rights, violence and family exclusion. This gamut of issues arises from a vestige of British Colonial rule - that terribly outdated law which deems consenting same sex relations a criminal offense. In light of this, EQUAL GROUND's fundamental goal was to work towards the decriminalisation of homosexuality and the nation's acceptance that it's OK to be gay.

It would be disingenuous to claim that life for LGBTIQ people in Sri Lanka is anything



but hard and challenging. It is still taboo for many to even talk about their sexuality and a lot of harassment from law enforcement, militant religious groups and the general public continues. However, into this hostile environment, EQUAL GROUND has introduced settings that are conducive to open discussion on the issues, about which there is now far more knowledge and acceptance throughout the country. Evidence of this progress can be seen today in urban areas where there are large pockets of LGBTIQ persons openly going about their business, proudly.

What enabled EQUAL GROUND to accomplish this was, and is, a determined commitment to a three-point approach that is now seeing these gains spread beyond urban centers. The first point is to address the need to educate and sensitize our own community. Our people grow up with so much homophobia around them that they internalize the negativity they experience every day and begin to believe there is something wrong with them. The adverse influences are no more visible than the number of Sri Lankan psychologists and psychiatrists who advertise widely discredited "cures" for gayness. Given the pervasiveness of the negativity, it is understandable that our people would feel that there is a stigma to being anything other than heterosexual in this country.

Faced with this, EQUAL GROUND devoted concerted efforts to communicating the message that being gay is legitimate and that we are entitled to feel the way we do. We wanted to create understanding of that as an undeniable fact, which is supported by a global authority - the World Health Organization (WHO) - that established that homosexuality is not a mental illness or sickness of any sort. When our people take this to heart they can begin the long process of counteracting the marginalization and dehumanization of sexually diverse people.

The second point is the other side of the coin where EG focuses efforts educating and sensitizing the general public. Just as it is vital to dislodge the generations of conditioning that homosexuals have undergone, it is also important to liberate

### *The Founder's Quest: An Origin Story*

*Rosanna Flamer-Caldera had the good fortune to be living in San Francisco during the time when Harvey Milk spearheaded the gay pride movement in the city by the bay. She experienced her personal transformation in that large vibrant gay community as it became increasingly politically formidable through the vigorous activism of many progressive organizations. For the 15 years she lived there, Flamer-Caldera experienced both the positive reinforcement of a supportive community and a series of formative events including the assassination of Milk, the benighted anti-gay advocacy of Anita Bryant and the HIV/AIDs epidemic.*

*While not involved in activism at the time, Flamer-Caldera's observation of how these progressive groups organized and operated served her well upon her return to her homeland. After living in a sophisticated, liberated city, the repressive laws and dehumanizing attitudes of Sri Lanka looked blatantly unjust to her. This spurred Flamer-Caldera's commitment to achieving justice for the persecuted and EQUAL GROUND was started.*

*It helped that Flamer-Caldera could proceed with the encouragement of a powerful network of friends and family. It was after all a generational family tradition to bring credit to one's community, as they had in the RAF, the medical profession, a high echelon of the police, the surf life saving movement, sport and business. In 2004 it was her turn to continue the tradition her way, and as the face of a new human rights organization, Flamer-Caldera could draw on this network to enlist support whenever needed and develop strategic alliances.*

heterosexuals from the misconceptions to which they have been subjected. This is essential to creating a productive society of mutual respect and peaceful coexistence wherein all lives matter as much as the other.

These two areas of focus develop the necessary groundswell of acceptance for our third and primary point - decriminalisation. That is what EQUAL GROUND has been working for tirelessly for the past 15 years. It is encouraged by the recent legislative triumphs in Trinidad & Tobago (2018) India (2018), and Angola (2019), and strives to join that list sooner than later.

An anniversary affords the celebrants an opportunity to reflect on what has been achieved and it came as somewhat of a surprise to EG's hard working staff and board of trustees when they looked back and saw all they have done in a relatively short time.

The most prominent, of course, is Colombo PRIDE. For every year of EG's existence, it has held about 8 events in 14-days for the Colombo PRIDE festivities. In some years there were 10 events in three weeks. Not only did the introduction of these public celebrations of homosexuality openly refute the government of the day's spurious contention that there were no gay people in Sri Lanka, it created a space where LGBTIQ people, for at least two or three weeks in June, can stand tall and proud. They can reach out to other LGBTIQ people and feel the relief and strength that comes from knowing they are not alone. This fellowship is vital because it assuages insecurities and fosters confidence just by 'hanging out' in a supportive community of shared values and struggles.

In the same spirit, EG hosted three big drag shows in Colombo which are extremely popular, packing a full house on every occasion. However, while these ground breaking events established gayness in the mainstream culture of Sri Lanka in a very visible way EQUAL GROUND also achieved many firsts with initiatives that build and support community more quietly. These include:

*With the steady progress EQUAL GROUND began making, it became apparent that to advance locally it had to be active globally. Flamer-Caldera joined the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex Association (ILGA) and served as ILGA Asia representative to the board and later its Co-Secretary General for two terms. Subsequently she was a founder of the Commonwealth Equality Network and is now its chair. These positions exposed Flamer-Caldera to a broad cross section of people in powerful positions - heads of state, foreign ministers, celebrities, diplomats, UN officials and activists, all of whom strengthened EG's existing local network with a higher level of power and ability to influence the Sri Lankan government and funding bodies. This has contributed immensely to EG's progress in Sri Lanka.*

*Flamer-Caldera gives credit to her staff of approximately 10, which on occasion, depending on project load, can double in number. Given the challenges and stresses listed in the main article and the constant pressure to gain sustainable funding, the average term of a staff member is 5 years. They move on to less taxing opportunities. The founder and executive director, however, has been at it for the full 15 years serving as both guiding light and driving force, committed to achieving EG's stated goals for the benefit of Sri Lanka. Evidently, Flamer-Caldera is still fired up about the years ahead as she recently declared, "For the LGBT community worldwide we have to be vigilant all the time. We can never be complacent. We need to work hard every single day, because it's just not going to be handed to us on a platter. It never will be, and we can't throw it away by being complacent."*

- Conducting formal research and studies on LGBTIQ lives in Sri Lanka;
- Designating the EG offices as a safe haven where people can be themselves in a space with a full library of DVDs and printed resources. Whether it is a movie night, barbecue or Bollywood night that EG hosts monthly, LGBTIQ people have a relaxing center for fellowship and sharing of common pursuits;
- Running a counseling phone line exclusively for LGBTIQ persons for all of EG's 15 years;
- Visiting rural areas and workplaces to openly discuss LGBTIQ issues and matters of importance to lesbians and bisexual women, such as violence against women;
- Writing an island-wide module for conducting workshops for members of remote communities on subjects central to the LGBTIQ experience;
- Writing regular columns in English and Sinhala daily newspapers to address an LGBTIQ audience and the general public to build understanding and acceptance.
- Introducing a corporate diversity and inclusivity program through which EG educates staff in ways to fully utilize the economic power of all employees instead of marginalizing some and limiting the company's economic performance. This has been well received in the hospitality industry, among others, and most notably in the large conglomerate, John Keels Holdings. Keel's leadership recognized the value of diversity and inclusivity and changed its human resources policies to accept sexual orientations and gender identities and expression and protect LGBTIQ people in the workplace. In working with Keels, EG educated almost 5,000 of their employees nationwide.
- Publishing material that addresses issues of everyday life. For example, publications catering to:
  - parents to help them understand and deal with the unique circumstances of their LGBTIQ children;
  - young LGBT persons to help them recognize who they are and be their authentic selves;
  - LB women about breast and cervical cancer;
  - victims of domestic violence issues;
  - addressing a broad range of topics such as law and human rights, among many others.

EQUAL GROUND takes great pride in its record of initiating so much progress and it is heartened to see that the outcome is increasing the numbers of LGBTIQ persons out and proud and actively participating in the nation's life. A splendid example of this occurred last year during the attempted constitutional coup in Sri Lanka. The LGBTIQ community peacefully took to the streets under the banner of Butterflies for Democracy to protest both the President's homophobic slurs about the Prime Minister and his cabinet, as well as the President's crude attempt to wrest control unconstitutionally. Joining other pro democracy protestors the over 100 LGBTIQ marchers showed they are ready to come out and assert their political rights. While the Butterflies4Democracy was not an EG initiated event, EG played an integral part in organising the event with the other members of the partnership forum (a caucus of LGBTIQ activists and organisations).

These great strides could not have been made without the strong backing of several international organizations and operational supporters. Financial support from:

- Hivos in the Netherlands;
- American Jewish World Services;
- Hilary Clinton's Global Equalities Fund;
- The governments of Norway, Britain and Finland;
- The State Department of the US government and
- Open Society Foundation
- The Local Diplomatic Missions of the US, EU, UK, Netherlands, Norway, Australia and Germany
- Equality Without borders

is crucial to sustaining EG's operations. Moreover, the operational support that we receive from the diplomatic missions and consulates of foreign governments in Sri Lanka has been hugely influential on the

effectiveness of EG. Thanks to their lobbying on our behalf at the UN, with their governments and with foundations, EG has been able carry out its mission despite facing many obstacles. Without their faith and support EG would not be able to improve the lives of so many.

While it might make eye opening reading if this article were to chronicle the litany of obstacles placed in the way of EG's progress - the death threats; the harassment by police; intimidation by random groups of men on the street who surrounded the car of EG's executive director; having to enlist the support of the supportive foreign governments to facilitate the closure of an extremist nationalist organization's Facebook page because it was inciting its 60,000 followers to commit violence against EG and attendees of EG events; constant surveillance and bugging by state security; the raids of partner organisations by the Criminal Investigation Department; the need to have security personnel in place to counter the constant danger of EG leaders being subjected to the common government practice of detaining human rights activists at the airport when they were leaving or returning to the country; and obstruction by municipal authorities who delay responses to permit requests until after the date of the applied for public event has passed - EG, in its characteristic emphasis on the positive, prefers that this article document the milestones achieved and the encouraging signs ahead.

One such source of hope is what EG speakers observe when they address senior students at schools run by international bodies not under the direct control of the Ministry of Education. Students react very enthusiastically. Many are gay or transgender or have friends who are. The students are not only well informed, but ask intelligent questions out of intellectual curiosity. These students are very fortunate they are growing up in a time when the Internet makes information easily available. They can access a range of information sources, including EG's web presence, and are able to connect, share and learn through social media. As a result they are more sophisticated, unprejudiced, and

many are motivated to become active in pushing for progress.

This is in stark contrast to the schools under the purview of the Ministry of Education where bullying of students who are not, or thought not to be, heterosexual is pervasive. The trauma experienced by these victims is so debilitating that many drop out before completing their basic secondary education. In addition to the damage this does to the lives of so many of our young citizens, this has a net negative effect on the economy. Illogically, the government does not see this as a problem even though they end up spending more on people who are less educated, who have mental health issues, who have physical disabilities all arising from the abuse and trauma of growing up LGBTIQ in a country where their very being is a crime. Somehow, the government rationalizes that it makes economic sense to brutalize people and pay them for their injuries, instead of educating them and allowing them to be healthy members of society who contribute energetically to its economic and cultural growth.

While EG is proud of its progress, it recognizes the importance of sustained effort. Resisting complacency is essential if the primary goal of repealing criminalisation is to be achieved. This is particularly true in these times with the resurgence of bigotry and hatred throughout the world. EG fully recognizes that its quest doesn't stop with decriminalisation - the ultimate goal is to make sure that all the persons from the LGBTIQ community regardless of their ethnicity, their religious beliefs, regardless of who they are and what strata of society they come from, enjoy the same rights as their fellow citizens who are heterosexual. The ultimate goal is that equality prevails; equality for all sexual orientations and gender identities, human rights for everyone: that's the EG mission.

It is the declared determination of EG that at some point in the future the headline of this article will be expanded from Courage, Fortitude and Fellowship to include Freedom.

# Sri Lanka

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- අපගේ සමාජිකයින්ගේ වර්ධනය හා ප්‍රගතිය පිළිබඳව තිබූ සුඛවාදී දැක්ම

සෙවනැල්ලක් තුළ පිවිත් වෙමින් ඒකාලෝක වූ තැනක හිඳ බලන විට අප අතර සිටින බොහෝ දෙනෙක් ආඩම්බර හා පීතිමත් වන්නේ ප්‍රජාව පිළිබඳ පිළිගැනීමක් ඇති කරන හෙයිනි.

රීක්වල් ග්‍රවුප් සංවිධානය ආරම්භයත් සමග LGBTIQ ප්‍රජාව උදෙසා අපරාධකරණය, ආන්විකරණය ලක් කිරීම, අයිතීන් උල්ලංඝනය කිරීම, සිය පවුලෙන් බහිෂ්කරණය කිරීම ආදියට එරෙහිව ක්‍රියා කරන ලදී. මෙම ගැටළු හුදෙක්ම ඩිනාතය යටත් විජිතකරණයෙහි ප්‍රතිපලයක් ලෙස ඇති වූ බැවින් රීක්වල් ග්‍රවුප් හි මූලික අභිප්‍රාය වන්නේ ජාතික වශයෙන් සමරිසි භාවයට ඇති විරෝධයට එරෙහිව කටයුතු කිරීමයි.

LGBTIQ ප්‍රජාව අරභයා පවතින අසමාන සැලකිල්ල එමටයි. ලිංගික දිශානතිය පදනම් කරගෙන හිතිය හරහැටි බලාත්මක නොවීම, මිලිටරි, ආගමික හා පොදු මහජනතාව තුළින් සිදුවන හිරිහැර තවමත් පවතී. මෙවන් වාතාවරණයක් තුළ රීක්වල් ග්‍රවුප් සංවිධානය ප්‍රසිද්ධියේ මේ පිළිබඳව සාකච්චාවන්ට ලක් කිරීම හේතුවෙන් නගරාසන්න LGBTIQ ප්‍රජාව නොබිඳව රැකියාවන්හි නිරත වීම පවා දැකිය හැකි වේ.

## නිර්මාතෘ: ආරම්භක පුවත

ථෝසනා ෆ්ලෙමිං-කල්දේරා හට සැන් ෆ්‍රැන්සිස්කෝ නුවර සිටින විට සමරිසි අභිමානය පිළිබඳ වූ ව්‍යාපාර තුළින් ලංකාව තුළ තම ප්‍රචාරණවේදයෙන් පැමිණි කිරීමට පන්තර්ගත ලැබීණි. වසර 15ක් පුරාවට එහි සිටිමින් LGBTIQ ප්‍රජාවෙහි හිතපුටු වීණිය ක්‍රියා කිරීම සිදුවූ අතර අදහස්වන බුහුණට භූමිකාවක් විභවය නොවන සහ එහි අයිතී / ඒකීයත්වය වැඩිවීමට කටයුතු කළ හැකි සඳහා ද දායක විය.

පැහැලුම තම මව් රටට පැමිණෙන ථෝසනා ෆ්ලෙමිං-කල්දේරා හට දැක්වූ ලැබෙන්නේ ලාංකික සමාජය තුළ පවතින සමරිසි විභවය ආකල්පයයි. එහෙයින් ඒකීයත්වය ග්‍රහණය කිරීමට සමරිසි ආකල්පයට මුලිකත්වය ගනු ලැබීණි.

මේ තුළින් ඉතා ශක්තිමත් පවුල් හා හිතමිත්‍රාදීන්ගෙන් ජාලයක් ලැබුණු අතර 2004 දී මානව හිමිකම් සංවිධානයක් ලෙස මුලෝපායිකව ඉදිරියට ගෙනයාම සඳහා සකස් කරගන්නා ලදී. දේශීය වශයෙන් පමණක් නොවන අන්තර්ජාතික මට්ටමෙන් සමුච්චි වන ILGA තුළ ප්‍රථම කාර්ය මණ්ඩලයක් හා පසුව වසර 4ක් එහි මහලේකම් ධුරය දරන ලදී. එමෙන්ම පොදු රාජ්‍ය මණ්ඩලය තුළ සමානාත්මතාවය සහිත වූ ජාලය තුළ මුලාසනය-රාජ්‍ය නායකයින්, විදේශ ආමානසූචක, ප්‍රසිද්ධ පුද්ගලයින්, රාජ්‍ය නායකයින්, එක්සත් ජාතීන්ගේ සංවිධාන නිලධාරීන් හා ක්‍රියාකරුවන් සමග හිඳිමින් ලංකාව වෙනුවෙන් නියෝජනය කිරීම සිදුවන අතර මෙය ඒකීයත්වය ග්‍රහණයට හේතු විය.

ෆ්ලෙමිං-කල්දේරා තම කාර්ය මණ්ඩලය තුළ ආසන්න වශයෙන් සිටින සමාජිකයින් 10 හට කාර්යයෙන් බෙදා දී ඇති අතර කාර්ය මණ්ඩලයේ එක් එක් සමාජිකයින් තමන්ට පැවරී ඇති වගකීම් ඉටු කිරීම සිදුවේ. කෙසේ වෙතත්, ථෝසනා ෆ්ලෙමිං-කල්දේරා පෙන්වා දෙන්නේ, "ලෝකය පුරා සිටින LGBT ප්‍රජාව සැමවිටම පුළුල් ක්‍රියාකාරී විය යුතුය. අපට තෘප්තියක් විය නොහැක, මන්ද සෑම දිනකම මහත් වී වැඩ කළ යුතු අතර එසේ නොකරන්නේ නම් අප බලාපොරොත්තු වන ඉලක්ක කරා ගැට නොහැකි වනු ඇත."

රික්වල් ග්‍රැන්ඩ් සංවිධානය නගර වලින් බැහැරව වැඩමුළු පවත්වන අතර සංවේදීකරණ වැඩසටහන් තුළින් සමරිසිභාවය පිළිබඳ පටු ආකල්පවලින් යුක්ත වුවන්ගේ ආකල්ප වෙනස් කිරීමට ඉවහල් වනු ලැබේ. ඒ තුළින් ක්‍රම ක්‍රමයෙන් රට තුළ සාහාත්මක අකාල්ප වලින් විසුක්ත සෑමට සමානව ගරු කරන ධනවාදී ආකල්ප වලින් පිරිපුන් ජනතාවක් ඇති කිරීම සිදුවේ.

රික්වල් ග්‍රැන්ඩ් සංවිධානය මේ සම්බන්ධයෙන් අවධානයට ලක් කරමින් සමරිසිභාවය හිතගත කිරීමට පක්ෂව ක්‍රියාකිරීමේදී විය ඇතැමුන් සන්නිවේදනයෙන් ග්‍රහණය කරගන්න අකාරය විවිධ වේ. විශේෂයෙන් ලෝක සෞඛ්‍ය සංවිධානය පවා සමරිසිභාවය මානසික රෝග ගණනයෙන් ඉවත් කර තිබීම තුළ තවමත් ලංකාව තුළ ලිංගික දිශානතිය අරභයා සිදුකරන ආන්චිකරණය දක්නට ලැබේ.

පොදු මහජනතාව සංවේදීකරණ වැඩසටහන් දියත් කිරීම රික්වල් ග්‍රැන්ඩ් සංවිධානය විසින් සිදු කරන දෙවෙනි කාර්යයකි. විෂම ලිංගිකයන් හට ද මෙවැනි ආකාරයෙන් සංවේදීකරණ වැඩසටහන් දියත් කිරීම තුළින් සෑමට සමානව ගරුත්වයෙන් යුතුව ක්‍රියා කිරීමට කටයුතු කරයි.

ඉහත කාරණා සෘජුවම ආන්චිකරණය මුලිනුපුටා දැමීම සඳහා කරන ප්‍රයත්නයන් ලෙසද පෙන්වා දිය හැක. විශේෂයෙන් ත්‍රිතිටුරැඩ් හා ටොබරගෝ (2018), ඉන්දියාව (2018) හා ආන්ගොලාව (2019) මෙන් රික්වල් ග්‍රැන්ඩ් සංවිධානය 15 වසරක සංවත්සරය පවත්වන අවස්ථාවේදී ලංකාවද විලෙස නෛතික ප්‍රතිසංස්කරණය සඳහා ගමන් කිරීම මග පෑදීම සිදුවෙමින් පවතී.

15 වසරක අභිමානය සමරන අවස්ථාවේදී ආපසු හැරී බැලීමේදී රික්වල් ග්‍රැන්ඩ් හි කාර්ය මණ්ඩලය හා භාරකාර මණ්ඩලය කෙටි කාලයක් තුළ ලබා ඇති ජයග්‍රහණ පිළිබඳ සිතා බැලීමට අවස්ථාවක් කරගත හැක.

වඩාත් කැපී පෙනෙන අවස්ථාවක් ලෙස, කොළඹ අභිමානය පෙන්වා දිය හැක. මන්ද ඇතැම් වසර වලදී දවස් 14ක් පුරාවට අංග 8කින් සමන්විත වන අතර ඇතැම් වසරයන් වල අංග 10කින් සති තුනක් පුරාවට ඇදී යනු ලබයි. සෑම වසරකම ප්‍රති මාසයේ පවත්වනු ලබන මෙය ලංකාවේ සිටින සියලුම LGBTIQ ප්‍රජාවට තම අභිමානය සුරක්ෂිතව ලොවටම විදහා පෑමට අවස්ථාවක් ලෙස පෙන්වා දිය හැක.

වමෙන්ම රික්වල් ග්‍රැන්ඩ් හි මුලිකත්වයෙන් Drag Show පවත්වනු ලබන අතර වය සංස්කෘතියේ හැරවුම් ලක්ෂයක් ලෙස හැඳින්විය හැක. කෙසේවෙතත් මෙවැනි දෑ තුළින් රික්වල් ග්‍රැන්ඩ් සංවිධානය LGBTIQ ප්‍රජාව සම්බන්ධයෙන්

පාරදෘශ්‍ය භාවයක් ඇති කොට ඇත. එනම්,

- ශ්‍රී ලංකාව තුළ දැනට LGBTIQ ප්‍රජාව කෙතරම් සිටීද යන්න සම්බන්ධයෙන් සමීක්ෂණ සිදුකරනු ලබයි.
- රික්වල් ග්‍රැන්ඩ් කාර්යාලය, LGBTIQ ප්‍රජාව කෙරෙහි සුරක්ෂිත අවකාශයක් ඇතිකර ඇත. පුස්තකාල, විද්‍යුත් හා මුද්‍රිත ඩී.වී.ඩී හා සිනමා ප්‍රදර්ශන ආදීන්ගේ යුක්ත වේ.
- රික්වල් ග්‍රැන්ඩ් 15 වසරක් පුරාවට මානෝවිද්‍යාත්මක උපදේශන සේවාවන් පවත්වාගෙන යනු ලබයි.
- දුර බැහැර ප්‍රදේශයන් හා සේවා ස්ථානයන් වෙත ගොස්, LGBTIQ ප්‍රජාව මුහුණ පාන ගැටළු හා සමරිසි, ද්විරිසි කාන්තාවන් හා කාන්තාවන්ට පවතින හිරිහැර පිළිබඳ සාකච්ඡා කරනු ලබයි.
- දීප ව්‍යාප්ත වන පරිදි LGBTIQ ප්‍රජාව පිළිබඳ සංවේදීකරණ වැඩමුළු පවත්වනු ලබයි.
- හිරන්තරයෙන්ම ඉංග්‍රීසි හා සිංහල මාධ්‍යයෙන් පුවත්පත් සඳහා වාර්තා පල කරනු ලබයි.
- ජෝන් කීල්ස් සමූහ ව්‍යාපාරය වැනි සේවා ස්ථානයන් වෙත ගොස් රික්වල් ග්‍රැන්ඩ් කාර්ය මණ්ඩලය 5000 කට අධික සේවකයින් සඳහා සංවේදීකරණ වැඩමුළු පැවැත්වීම සිදු කරන ලදී.
- විදිනදා ජීවිතය තුළ මුහුණ පාන ගැටළු සම්බන්ධ ප්‍රකාශයන් නිකුත් කිරීම සිදු කරයි;

1. LGBTIQ දරුවන් තේරුම් ගැනීමට දෙමව්පියන් සඳහා අත්පොතක් නිර්මාණය කිරීම.
2. තරුණ LGBTIQ ප්‍රජාව තමන් කවුරුන්ද යන්න නිශ්චිතව හඳුනා ගැනීම සඳහා උපකාරී වන්නා වූ අත්පොත් නිර්මාණය කිරීම.
3. සමරිසි හා ද්විරිසි කාන්තාවන්ට වැළඳෙන්නා වූ පිළිකා රෝග සම්බන්ධයෙන් අත්පොතක් නිර්මාණය කිරීම.
4. ගෘහස්ථ ප්‍රචණ්ඩත්වය සම්බන්ධ වින්දිතයන්ට පවතින ගැටළු
5. පුළුල් ලෙස මානව හිමිකම් හා හිතිය සම්බන්ධයෙන් අත්පොත් නිර්මාණය කිරීම.

රික්වල් ග්‍රැන්ඩ් සංවිධානය තබන සෑම පියවරක් පාසාම සැලකිය යුතු මට්ටමින් LGBTIQ ප්‍රජාව සජීවීව සහභාගී වීම දක්නට ලැබිණි. 'ප්‍රජාතන්ත්‍රවාදය උදෙසා සමනල්ලු' මේ සඳහා කදිම නිදසුනකි. ව්‍යවස්ථානුකූල විරෝධී ආකාරයෙන් ආණ්ඩුව පෙරලීම හා ජානධිපතිගේ සමරිසි හිතිකාව හේතුවෙන් පැනනැගුණු සාමකාමී විරෝධී රැල්ලට අපත් එක් පාර්ශවකරුවෙකු විය. ප්‍රජාතන්ත්‍රවාදය උදෙසා LGBTIQ ප්‍රජාව 100කුගේ සහභාගීත්වයෙන් මෙය යුක්ත විය.

මෙවැනි ක්‍රියාවන් නොධියව කරගෙන යාම සඳහා මූල්‍යමය දායකත්වයන් අන්තර්ජාතික වශයෙන් ලබා දුන්නන් ලෙස,

- නෙදර්ලන්තයේ HIVOS
- ඇමරිකානු ලෝක යුදෙව් සම්මේලනය
- හිලර් ක්ලින්ටන්ගේ ගෝලීය සමානතා අරමුදල
- නොර්වේ, ඩුනාන හා පින්ලන්ත රජය
- ඇමරිකානු රාජ්‍ය දෙපාර්තමේන්තුව
- විවෘත සමාජ පදනම
- ඇමරිකානු, යුරෝපා, ඩුනාන, නෙදර්ලන්ත, නොර්වේ, ඕස්ට්‍රේලියාව හා ජර්මනිය යන දේශීය රාජ්‍ය තාන්ත්‍රික සබඳතා

ඊක්වල් ග්‍රවුන්ඩ් සංවිධානය මේ තාක් කාර්යයන් ඉදිරියට කරගෙන යාමේදී අන්තර්ජාතික වශයෙන් ලැබෙන සහය අපරිමිතය. UN ඇතුළු සංවිධාන රජයන් සමග සාකච්ඡා කොට ගනු ලබන පියවර ද අගය කළ යුතුය.

ඊක්වල් ග්‍රවුන්ඩ් සංවිධානය විසින් ගෙනයන සාර්ථක කාර්යයන් හේතුවෙන් අප හට විවිධ මරණ තර්ජන, ඊක්වල් ග්‍රවුන්ඩ් හි අධ්‍යක්ෂක හට මෝටර් රථය වට කර චිල්ලු තර්ජන, පොලිසියෙන් හා විවිධ අන්තවාදී කණ්ඩායම් වලින් චිල්ල වන බලපෑම් මෙන්ම සමාජ මාධ්‍ය ජාලා, ෆේස්බුක් පිටුව හරහා අප සමග රැඳී සිටින 60,000 ක පිරිස අතරින් විවිධාකාරයෙන් චිල්ලවන විවේචනද වීමටය. මෙම වාර්තාව තුළින් බලාපොරොත්තු වන්නේ අපත්, අපගේ කාර්යයන්

පිලිබඳවත් සංවේදී හා විවෘත මනසකින් යුතුව අප දෙස බැලීමට ඇති කිරීමය.

අධ්‍යාපන අමාත්‍යාංශ යටතේ සෘජුව අධීක්ෂණයට ලක් නොවන ජාත්‍යන්තර පාසල් වල දරුවන් මේ පිලිබඳ සෙවීමට උනන්දුවක් දක්වයි. ඇතැමුන්ට සමර්සි මිත්‍රයින් හා සංක්‍රාන්ති ලිංගික මිත්‍රයින් ද සිටී. විෂයයන් සජීවීව ඔවුන්ට මේ පිලිබඳව සංවේදීකරණයක් හා දැනුවත් වීමක් පවතී.

විනෙන් රජයේ පාසල් තුළ මේ සම්බන්ධයෙන් දැනුවත් කිරීම් නොපවතින හෙයින් ප්‍රථිපලය වන්නේ LGBTIQ ප්‍රජාව වඩාත් ආන්තිකරණයට ලක් වීමයි. මෙය ඇතැම් විට රටේ ආර්ථිකයටද අහිතකර අන්දමින් බලපානු ලබයි. මන්ද, වෙනස්කම් වලට ලක්වන අවකාශයක් තුළ LGBTIQ ප්‍රජාව රැකියාවන්හි නිරත වීමටද ඇති අකමැත්ත හේතුවෙන් ලංකාවේ ශ්‍රම බලකායට ඉන් හානියක් වීම හා සමාජීය මට්ටමින් තවදුරටත් පහල යාම මින් සිදුවන බැවිනි.

මෙවන් අවස්ථාවක ඇත්තෙන්ම ඊක්වල් ග්‍රවුන්ඩ් හි ක්‍රියාකාරිත්වය අගය කළ යුතුය. මන්ද, LGBTIQ ප්‍රජාව විවිධ වාර්ගික, ආගමික විශ්වාසයන් මත වුවත් ආන්තිකරණයට ලක් නොකොට ඉදිරියට යාම බලාපොරොත්තු වේ. ප්‍රධාන ඉලක්කය වන්නේ විවිධ ලිංගික දිශානතීන් හා ස්ත්‍රී පුරුෂ සමාජභාවය වරෙහි වූ සැමට සමාන මානව අයිතිවාසිකම් හිමිවීමය.

COLOMBO PRIDE 2019 EVENTS

FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF  
LGBTIQ (FFLGBTIQ) FORUM  
සංදර්ශන මිතුරන් සමග LGBTIQ පවුලට  
LGBTIQ නොසලකා හැරීමේ ලිංගිකත්වයන්  
හරහා අන්තර්ජාතික මට්ටම  
On 11th June 2019

MUSIC & DANCE  
FESTIVAL  
සංගීත හා නර්තන ඉවහල  
කිසිදු පැවැත්මක් නොමැත  
On 13th June 2019

අහිමාණී  
AHIMANI | அஹிமணி  
"Sri Lanka's only Queer Film Festival"  
On 17th June 2019

Idea  
JUNCTION  
අදහස් මංසල | මෙහෙයවනු ලබන ආයතන  
On 21st June 2019

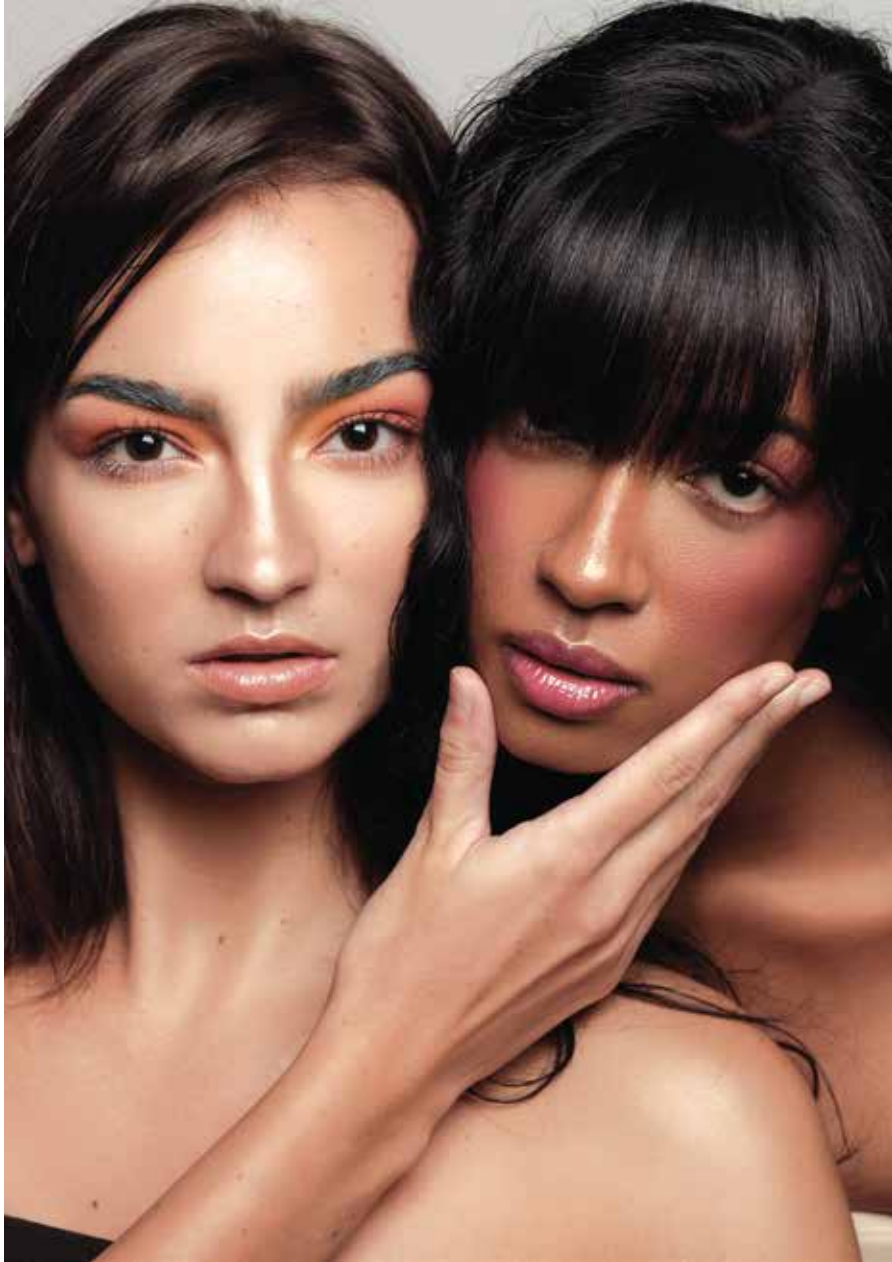
RAINBOW PRIDE  
PARTY  
දේදන සාදය | ආනන්ධය සැපයෙන  
විනෝදාස්පානය  
On 22nd June 2019

RAINBOW  
KITE  
FESTIVAL  
දේදන සරංගල් සැණකෙළිය  
ආනන්ධයේ කාර්තෘභූත නිලධාරීන්  
On 23rd June 2019



the agency  
sri lanka

A PROGRESSIVE TALENT MANAGEMENT COMPANY



we CHOOSE to celebrate diversity, today and everyday.

#LOVEISLOVE

## தைரியம், வலிமை மற்றும் கூட்டுறவுடனான 15 வருட பயணம்

இதுதான் ஈகுவள் கிரவுண்டின் கதையாகும். சான் பிரான்சிஸ்கோவின் ஓரினச்சேர்க்கை குழுவின் புரட்சியினால் ஒரு நீதி அமைப்பு நிறுவப்பட்டது, அத்துடன் இலங்கையில் நடக்கும் போராட்டங்களுடன் இது வடிவமைக்கப்பட்டது மற்றும் ஐக்கிய நாடுகள் சபை (UN), இல்கா (ILGA), The Commonwealth Equality Network (TCEN), CHOGM போன்ற சர்வதேச அமைப்புகளால் மற்றவர்களுக்கு மத்தியில் கௌரவிக்கப்பட்டது.

கடுமையான சூழலில் உயிர்வாழ்வது மட்டுமின்றி, அவ்வாறான கடுமையான நிலைமைகளை முறியடித்து ஈகுவள் கிரவுண்ட் ஒரு முக்கியமான மைல்கலை கொண்டாடுகிறது.

அந்த மகிழ்ச்சியின் கொண்டாட்டத்துடன், இவ்வாறான இடத்திற்கு வருவதற்கு மற்றும் இதில் பங்குகொள்வதை பிரதிபலிக்கும் காரணிகளாவன,

- எங்களுடைய உற்சாகம் மற்றும் நோக்கம்.
- பலமான கொள்கையுள்ள கூட்டாளிகளின் உறுதியான ஆதரவு.
- நாடுமுழுவதும் உறுதியான LGBTIQ சமூகத்தை உருவாக்குவதில் ஏற்பட்ட வியத்தகு மாற்றங்கள்.
- எங்களுடைய உறுப்பினர்கள் மற்றும் சக ஊழியர்களின் வளர்ச்சி, முன்னேற்றம் மற்றும் தனிப்பட்ட வெற்றி ஆகியவற்றின் எழுச்சியூட்டும் கதைகள்.

நிழலில் வாழும் வாழ்க்கையிலிருந்து இப்பொழுது நாம் நிற்க விரும்பும் கவனத்தைவிட பிரகாசமாக பிரகாசிக்கும் வாழ்க்கைக்கான மாற்றமே, இந்த 15 வருடத்தில் ஈகுவள் கிரவுண்டின் அயராது உழைப்பிற்கு சிறந்த சாட்சியாக அமைகிறது. எங்களில் பலர் வெளிப்படையாக வாழ்வது, பெருமைப்படுவது மற்றும் எங்களை சுற்றி உள்ளவர்களுக்கு மத்தியில் எங்களை நாம் நாமாக ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுதல் என்பனவே எங்களுடைய மகிழ்ச்சிக்கு காரணமாகும்.

LGBTIQ சமூகத்தினர் குற்றவாளிகலாக்கப்படல், ஒதுக்கப்படுத்தல், அவர்களின் உரிமைகள் மீறப்படுதல் மற்றும் குடும்பத்திலிருந்து விலக்கி வைத்தல் என்பன நடைபெறாமல் இருப்பதை உறுதிப்படுத்துவதே

## நிறுவனரின் தொடக்கக் கதை

சான் பிரான்சிஸ்கோவின் ஓரினச்சேர்க்கையாளர்களின் அமைப்பு முன்னணியில் இருந்த சமயத்தில் ரோசனா ப்ளமெர்-கல்தேரா அவர்கள் அங்கு இருந்தார். 15 ஆண்டுகளாக அவர் அங்கு வாழ்ந்தார். இக்காலத்தில் பாலின படுகொலை, அனிதா பிரையன்ட் மற்றும் எச்.ஐ.வி. எய்ட்ஸ் தொற்றுநோய் ஆகியவற்றின் படுகொலை உட்பட, ஒரு ஆதரவான சமூகத்தின் நேர்மறை வலுவூட்டல் மற்றும் பல தொடர்ச்சியான சம்பவங்களை ப்ளமெர்-கல்தேரா சந்தித்தார்.

மனித உரிமை நடவடிக்கைகளில் ஈடுபடாமல் இருந்த காலத்தில், ப்ளமெர்-கல்தேரா இவ்வாறான முற்போக்கு கூட்டணிகள் எவ்வாறு அமைக்கப்படுகின்றன மற்றும் எவ்வாறு நடத்தப்படுகின்றன என்பவற்றை அவதானித்தார். அதிநவீன விடுவிக்கப்பட்ட ஒரு நகரில் வாழ்ந்ததன் பின்னர், ப்ளமெர்-கல்தேரா இலங்கையிலுள்ள அடக்குமுறைச் சட்டங்கள் மற்றும் இலங்கையின் மனிதநேயமற்ற தன்மை ஆகியவற்றின் அநீதிக்கு எதிராக போராடுவதற்கு எடுத்த முடிவே ஈகுவள் கிரவுண்டின் தொடக்கத்திற்கு காரணமாகும்.

உறுதியான நண்பர்கள் மற்றும் குடும்ப அங்கத்தவர்களின் ஆதரவு இதனை ஆரம்பிப்பதற்கு உறுதியாக இருந்தது. 2004ம் ஆண்டு மனித உரிமைகளுக்காக போராடும் ஒரு நிறுவனமாக ப்ளமெர்-கல்தேரா இவ்வமைப்பை ஆரம்பித்தார். இதன் உறுதியான முன்னேற்றம் இவ்வமைப்பு நாடளாவிய மற்றும் உலகளாவிய ரீதியில் பிரபல்யம் அடைய தொடங்கியது. ப்ளமெர்-கல்தேரா அவர்கள் சர்வதேச பெண்ஓரினச்சேர்க்கையாளர், ஆண்ஓரினச்சேர்க்கையாளர், இருபாலுணர்வு கொண்டவர்கள், மாற்றுப்பாலினத்தவர்கள் மற்றும் இடையிலிங்கத்தவர்களின் அமைப்பில் (ILGA) ஆசியாவை பிரதிநிதித்துவப்படுத்தும் நபராக

ஈசுவன் கிரவுண் நிறுவனத்தின் ஆரம்பம் முதல் காணப்பட்ட நோக்கமாகும். பிரித்தானிய காலனித்துவ ஆட்சியின் அடிச்சுவட்டிலிருந்து எழும் மோசமான மற்றும் காலாவதியான சட்டமானது ஓரினச்சேர்க்கை உறவுகள் குற்றமாக கருதப்படும் என்பதை வலியுறுத்துகிறது. இந்த வெளிச்சத்தில், ஈசுவன் கிரவுண்ட் நிறுவனத்தின் அடிப்படையான இலக்காக அமைந்தது என்னவென்றால் ஓரினச்சேர்க்கையினை குற்றவிலக்கு செய்தல் மற்றும் ஓரினச்சேர்க்கையாளராக இருப்பது சரி என்பதனை நாடளாவிய ரீதியில் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளச் செய்தல் என்பவற்றுக்காக வேலைசெய்வதே ஆகும்.

இலங்கையில் உள்ள LGBTIQ மக்களுக்கான வாழ்க்கை கடினமாகவும், சவாலானதாகவும் இருக்கும் எனக் கூறும் கூற்று வெறுப்பாக இருக்கும். இன்னும் அவர்களுடைய பாலியல் தன்மை மற்றும் சட்ட அமுலாக்கம், போர்க்குணம் மிக்க மதக் குழுக்கள், பொதுமக்கள் என்பவர்களினால் ஏற்படும் துன்புறுத்தல்களை பற்றி பேசுவது கூட தடையாக உள்ளது. எனினும் இந்த விரோதமான சூழலில், ஈசுவன் கிரவுண்ட் நிறுவனமானது, நாடெங்கிலும் இதுவரை அதிக அறிவு மற்றும் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளுதல் காணப்படும் இவ்வாறான விடயங்களைப் பற்றி உரையாடுவதற்கு திறந்த களங்களை உருவாகியுள்ளது. இன்று நகர்ப்புறங்களில் உள்ள LGBTIQ சமூகத்தினர் வெளிப்படையாக மற்றும் பெருமையாக அவர்களின் செயல்பாடுகளில் ஈடுபடுவது இந்த முன்னேற்றத்துக்கான ஒரு சிறந்த சான்றாகும்.

நகர்ப்புறங்களில் மற்றும் நகர்ப்புறங்களுக்கு அப்பால் இவ்வாறான விடயங்களை சாதிப்பதற்கு ஈசுவன் கிரவுண்ட் மூன்று அணுகுமுறைகளை கையாண்டது, கையாள்கிறது. முதலாவதாக அமைவது எங்களுடைய சமூகத்தினருக்கு இவ்வாறான விடயங்களை பற்றி அறிவூட்டுதல் மற்றும் அவற்றை உணர்ச்சி செய்தல் ஆகும். எங்களுடைய மக்கள் தினமும் ஓரினச்சேர்க்கைப்பீதியுடனேயே வாழ்கிறார்கள். இதனால் அவர்கள் அவர்களுக்குள்ளே எதிர்மறையான எண்ணங்களை அனுபவிப்பதுடன் அவர்களிடம் ஏதோ தவறு இருப்பதாகவும் உணர்கிறார்கள். இலங்கையில் ஓரினச்சேர்க்கைக்கு எதிராக மதிப்பிழந்த சிகிச்சைகளை மேற்கொள்ளும் சில உளவியலாளர்கள் மற்றும் உளவியல் நிபுணர்கள் தவிர வேறுவிதமான எதிர்மறையான தாக்கங்கள் காணப்படவில்லை. எதிர்மறையின் பரவல் காரணமாக,

இணைந்தார். பின்னர் அதன் இணை செயலாளர் நாயகமாக இரண்டு தடவைகள் கடமையாற்றியுள்ளார். அதேபோல் அவர் COMMONWEALTH EQUALITY NETWORK இன் ஒரு நிறுவனரும் ஆவார். இவ்வாறான பதவிகளை ப்லேமர்-கல்தேரா கொண்டிருந்ததன் காரணமாக, வெளியுறவு மந்திரிகள், பிரபலங்கள், இராஜதந்திரிகள், ஐ.நா. அதிகாரிகள் மற்றும் ஆர்வலர்கள் போன்ற பலம் பொருந்திய நபர்களை அணுகும் வாய்ப்பு அவருக்கு கிடைத்தது மற்றும் இதனால் ஈசுவன் கிரவுண்ட் அமைப்பினை இலங்கை அரசாங்கம் மற்றும் நிதி நிறுவனங்கள் மீது செல்வாக்கு செலுத்தும் ஒரு பலம் பொருந்திய அமைப்பாக உயர்த்துவதற்கு காரணமாக அமைந்தது. இது ஈசுவன் கிரவுண்டின் முன்னேற்றத்துக்கு மிகப்பெரிய பங்களிப்பையும் வழங்கியது.

ப்லேமர்-கல்தேரா நீண்டகாலமாக தன்னுடன் இருந்த தனது சக ஊழியர்களையும் பெருமையுடன் நினைவூட்டுகிறார். இந்த கட்டுரையில் குறிப்பிடப்பட்டுள்ள சவால்கள் மற்றும் அழுத்தங்களுக்கு முகம் கொடுப்பதுடன் நிதியை பெற்றுக்கொள்வதில் ஏற்பட்ட சிரமங்களிலும் ஒரு ஊழியரின் சராசரி சேவை காலம் 5 ஆண்டுகளாக காணப்பட்டது. எனினும் இந்நிறுவனத்தின் நிறுவனர் மற்றும் நிர்வாக இயக்குனராக ப்லேமர்-கல்தேரா அவர்கள் தொடர்ந்து பதினைந்து ஆண்டுகளாக இலங்கையின் நன்மைக்காக பணியாற்றி வருகிறார். அவர் சமீபத்தில் அறிவித்தபடி "உலகெங்கிலும் LGBTIQ சமூகம் எல்லா நேரத்திலும் விழிப்புடன் இருக்க வேண்டும். நாம் ஒருபோதும் திருப்தியடைய முடியாது. ஒவ்வொரு நாளும் நாம் கடுமையாக உழைக்க வேண்டும், ஏனென்றால் அது உடனே எங்களுக்கு வழங்கப்படப் போவதில்லை. இது ஒருபோதும் இருக்காது, நாம் மனநிறைவோடு இருப்பதை விட்டுவிட முடியாது." என்பதை இன்னும் தெளிவாக உறுதிப்படுத்துகிறார்.



At The Silkroad, we are truly an international company. From our Showroom, based just outside London, we source the best of European design and craftsmanship and install it around the world. Whether you are in Sri Lanka, Dubai or The United States, we provide a seamless streamlined service for our clients from design, through to procurement and installation. Members of our team will be on hand at every stage of the process and will work with you to design a home which compliments your needs and reflects your personality.

We are currently working on a number of properties in Sri Lanka, apartments, houses and hotels and would be happy to arrange a consultation to discuss your requirements.

# the silkroad INTERIOR DESIGN

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## FEATURED PROJECT - KENSINGTON APARTMENT LONDON

Located in one of London's most prestigious neighbourhoods, in an Edwardian Mansion block only a stones throw away from Kensington Palace, our brief was to create a tranquil home to allow our client to escape the hustle and bustle of modern day London.

At The Silkroad, we believe that first impressions are everything and we only have one chance to create the wow factor. Upon opening the front door, you are immediately greeted by a bright open space, perfect for entertaining and welcoming guests. We needed the apartment to feel like a home and to reflect our clients personality, which was achieved through subtle Eastern influences to reflect his family heritage.

From the entrance lobby, your eye is immediately drawn down the long open hallway, which is lined with textured wallpaper to give it the feeling of pure luxury, whilst also being durable and practical for a family with young children.

Particular emphasis was placed on the lighting to subtly divide the large open plan space into functional zones, whilst highlighting many of the original features of the building.

The main entertaining space was divided into three sections with the focal point being the bespoke arabascato marble fire place, created by local British Craftsmen and designed by our in-house design team. We accessorised with a bespoke sofa and handmade curtains in the seating area and button back dining chairs in a herringbone fabric to further soften and warm the space. One of the major pieces of interest was the contemporary chandelier which hangs over the dining table taking advantage of the room's proportions. The semi-formal design was completed with some cocktail stools positioned at the marble clad island, perfect for some pre-dinner welcome drinks.



இந்தநாட்டில் நேர்பாலினத்தினை தவிர வேறு எதுவாக இருந்தாலும் அது ஒரு களங்கம் என்பதை எங்களுடைய மக்கள் உணர்கிறார்கள் என்பதனை புரிந்துகொள்ள முடிகிறது.

இதை எதிர்கொள்ளும் போது, ஈசுவன் கிரவுண்ட் ஓரினச்சேர்க்கையாளராக இருப்பது நியமானது மற்றும் நாங்கள் உணர்வதை செய்வதற்கு எங்களுக்கு உரிமை உண்டு எனும் ஒரு தகவலை தெரிவிப்பதற்காக அர்ப்பணிப்புடன் ஒருங்கிணைந்த முயற்சிகளை மேற்கொண்டது. ஓரினச்சேர்க்கை என்பது எந்த வகையிலும் ஒரு மனநோய் அல்ல எனும் உலக சுகாதார அமைப்பினால் கூறப்பட்ட மறுக்க முடியாத உண்மையினை பற்றிய புரிந்துணர்வினை ஏற்படுத்த வேண்டியிருந்தது. எங்களுடைய மக்கள் இதனை மனதிற்கொள்ளும்போது, பாலியல் ரீதியாக வேறுபட்ட மக்கள் ஒதுக்கப்படுதல் மற்றும் அவர்களை மனிதநேயமற்று நடத்துதல் போன்றவற்றிற்கு எதிரான நீண்ட செயல்முறையினை தொடங்க முடியும்.

அடுத்த அணுகுமுறையானது முதலாவது அணுகுமுறையின் மறுபக்கம் என கூறலாம். அதாவது ஈசுவன் கிரவுண்ட் பொதுமக்களை அறிவூட்டுவதற்கு மற்றும் அவர்களிடம் விழிப்புணர்ச்சியை ஏற்படுத்துவதற்கு தனது முயற்சியை செலுத்துகிறது. ஓரினச்சேர்க்கையாளர்கள் முகம்கொடுக்கும் தலைமுறை சீரமைப்புகளில் இருந்து அவர்களை விடுவிப்பது முக்கியமானது, அதேபோல் ஓரினச்சேர்க்கையாளர்களிடம் காணப்படும் தவறான கருத்துக்களிடமிருந்தும் அவர்களை விடுவிப்பது மிகமுக்கியமாகும். பரஸ்பர மரியாதையுடைய ஒரு சமூகத்தை உருவாக்குதல் மற்றும் அனைவரது வாழ்க்கையிலும் சமாதான சகவாழ்வின் உருவாக்குதல் என்பவை மிக முக்கியமாகும்.

மேற்கூறப்பட்ட இரண்டு அணுகுமுறைகளும் முன்றாவது செயற்பாடான குற்றவிலக்கு எனும் செயல்முறைக்கு அடிப்படையாக அமைகின்றன. அதனாலேயே ஈசுவன் கிரவுண்ட் கடந்த 15 ஆண்டுகளாக இதற்காக அயராது உழைத்து வருகிறது. டிரினிடாட் மற்றும் டொபாகோ (2018), இந்தியா (2018), அங்கோலா (2019) போன்ற நாடுகளின் சட்டமன்ற வெற்றி என்பன எமக்கு ஊக்கமளிக்கின்றன மற்றும் இந்த பட்டியலில் விரைவில் இணைவதற்கும் நாம் அயராது உழைத்து வருகிறோம்.

நிச்சயமாக மிகவும் முக்கியத்துவம் வாய்ந்தது கொழும்பு பெருமை நிகழ்வாகும். ஒவ்வொரு

வருடமும் 14 நாட்களில் 8 நிகழ்வுகளை உள்ளடக்கி ஈசுவன் கிரவுண்ட் இந்த பெருமை நிகழ்வினை நடத்தி வருகிறது. சில ஆண்டுகளில் மூன்று வாரங்களில் 10 நிகழ்வுகளும் நடத்தப்பட்டிருக்கின்றன. இந்த கொண்டாட்டத்தின் மூலம் இலங்கையில் ஓரினச்சேர்க்கையாளர்களே இருக்கவில்லை எனும் இலங்கை அரசாங்கத்தின் கருத்தை வெளிப்படையாக மறுப்பது மட்டுமின்றி இரண்டு அல்லது மூன்று வாரங்களுக்கு LGBTIQ சமூகத்தினர் அனைவருக்கும் பெருமையாக ஒரு நிகழ்வை கொண்டாடுவதற்கான சிறந்த ஒரு இடத்தையும் உருவாக்கியுள்ளது. இது ஏனைய LGBTIQ மக்களுக்கு அவர்கள் தனியானவர்கள் அல்ல எனும் நிம்மதியையும் அவர்களுக்கு பலத்தையும் அளிக்கிறது. இந்த கூட்டுறவு மிகவும் முக்கியமானது ஏனெனில் மதிப்புகள் மற்றும் போராட்டங்களை பகிர்ந்து கொள்ளக்கூடிய ஒரு ஆதரவான சமூகத்துடன் இணைந்திருக்கும்போது பாதுகாப்பற்ற தன்மையை மட்டுப்படுத்த முடிவதுடன் நம்பிக்கையையும் வளர்த்துக்கொள்ள முடியும்.

அந்த உணர்வுடன் ஈசுவன் கிரவுண்ட் கொழும்பில் மூன்று மிகப்பெரிய DRAG நிகழ்ச்சிகளை நடத்தியது. அவை இன்றும் மிகப்பிரபல்யம் வாய்ந்ததாக காண்படுகின்றன. எவ்வாறாயினும், இந்த நிகழ்வுகள் இலங்கையின் பிரதான கலாச்சாரத்தில் ஓரினச்சேர்க்கையை நிலைநாட்டுவதற்கு வெளிப்படையாக செயல்பட்டுக்கொண்டிருக்கும் வேலையில், ஈசுவல் கிரவுண்ட் அமைப்பானது LGBTIQ சமூகத்தினரின் வாழ்க்கையினை சீராக்குவதற்கு பல முயற்சிகளை அமைதியாக மேற்கொண்டது. அவை பின்வருவனவற்றை உள்ளடக்குகின்றன,

- LGBTIQ மக்களின் வாழ்க்கைமுறை பற்றி முறையான ஆய்வுகளை நடத்துதல்.
- LGBTIQ மக்கள் அவர்களின் அடையாளத்துடன் அவர்களாக இருப்பதற்கு ஈசுவல் கிரவுண்டின் அலுவலகங்களை பாதுகாப்பான புகலிடமாக உருவாக்கி வழங்குதல். இங்கு பயனுள்ள நூலகம் மற்றும் இறுவெட்டுக்கள் போன்றன காணப்படுவது சிறப்பம்சமாகும்.
- 15 வருடங்களாக LGBTIQ மக்களுக்காக, தொலைபேசியீனூடான ஆலோசனை சேவையினை வழங்குதல்.
- பெண் ஓரினச்சேர்க்கையாளர்கள் மற்றும் இருபாலுணர்வு கொண்ட பெண்கள் போன்றோருக்கு எதிரான வன்முறையினை தடுக்கும் வகையில் பின்தங்கிய கிராமப்புறங்களுக்கு சென்று LGBTIQ சமூகம் பற்றிய விழிப்புணர்வு நிகழ்ச்சிகளை நடத்துதல்.

- நாடளாவிய ரீதியில் தோலைநோக்கு சமூக அங்கத்தவர்களுக்காக LGBTIQ நபர்களின் அனுபவங்கள் மற்றும் முக்கியத்துவம் தொடர்பான பயிற்சிப்பட்டறைகளை நடத்துதல்.
- LGBTIQ சமூகம் மற்றும் பொது மக்களிடையே புரிந்துணர்வை ஏற்படுத்துவதற்காக நாளாந்த ஆங்கில மற்றும் சிங்கள செய்தித்தாள்களில் கட்டுரைகளை வெளியிடுதல்.
- சிலரை ஓரங்கட்டி, நிறுவனத்தின் பொருளாதார செயல்திறனை கட்டுப்படுத்துவதற்கு பதிலாக அனைத்து ஊழியர்களுடைய பொருளாதார சக்தியை முழுமையாகப் பயன்படுத்துவதற்கு வழிகாட்டுவதற்காக ஒரு பெருநிறுவன பன்முகத்தன்மை மற்றும் ஈடுபாட்டு திட்டத்தை அறிமுகப்படுத்துதல்.
- இது விசேடமாக விருந்தோம்பல் தொழிற்சாலைகளில் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளப்பட்டது. இதில் ஜோன் கீன்ஸ் (John Keels Holding) நிறுவனம் குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது. இங்கு எமது பயிற்சிப்பட்டறையினை நடத்திய பிறகு இங்குள்ள மனிதவள கொள்கைகளை மாற்றி LGBTIQ சமூகத்தினையும் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளும் ஒரு நிலை உருவானது குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது. இந்த நிறுவனத்துடன் இணைந்து பணியாற்றும்போது நாடளாவிய ரீதியில் அவர்களின் 5000 ஊழியர்களை அறிவூட்ட முடிந்தது.
- அன்றாடம் எதிர்கொள்ளும் பிரச்சனைகள் தொடர்பான வெளியீடுகளை அறிமுகப்படுத்தல். இதற்காக உதாரணங்களாக பின்வரும் விடயங்களை கருதலாம்,
  1. பெற்றோர்கள் தங்கள் LGBTIQ தனித்துவமான குழந்தைகளை புரிந்து கொள்ளுதல் மற்றும் அவர்களுக்கு உதவுதல்.
  2. இளம் LGBT நபர்கள் அவர்கள் யார் என்று அடையாளம் காணச் செய்தல் மற்றும் அவர்களை உண்மையான விழிப்புடன் இருக்க உதவுதல்.
  3. ஓரினச்சேர்க்கைபெண்கள் மற்றும் இருபாலினப்பெண்கள் போன்றோருக்கு மார்க்கப் புற்றுநோய் மற்றும் கர்ப்பப்பை வாய் புற்றுநோய் பற்றி விளக்குதல்.
  4. உள்நாட்டு வன்முறைகளை அனுபவித்த சாட்சியாளர்கள்.
  5. சட்டம் மற்றும் மனித உரிமைகள் போன்ற பரந்தளவிலான தலைப்புகள் பலவற்றை பற்றிய விழிப்புணர்வு.

நாட்டின் வாழ்வில் LGBTIQ சமூகத்தினரின் பங்களிப்பை அதிகப்படுத்துவதில் மேற்கொண்ட முயற்சிகள் முன்னேற்றம் காண்பதையிட்டு ஈகுவன் கிரவுண்ட் பெருமை கொள்கிறது. இதற்கான ஒரு சிறந்த உதாரணம் கடந்த ஆண்டு இலங்கையில் மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்ட அரசியலமைப்பு சதித்திட்டத்தின் போது ஏற்பட்டது. இலங்கை ஜனாதிபதி பிரதமரை விமர்சிப்பதற்காக பயன்படுத்திய வார்த்தைகள் ஓரினச்சேர்க்கையாளர்களை களங்கப்படுத்தியது, எனவே இதற்கு எதிராக LGBTIQ சமூகத்தினர் ஜனநாயகத்திற்கான வண்ணத்துப்பூச்சிகள்” எனும் பதாகைகளை ஏந்திக்கொண்டு அமைதியான முறையில் ஆர்ப்பாட்டங்களை மேற்கொண்டனர். இதற்காக 100 இருக்கும் மேற்பட்ட LGBTIQ சமூகத்தினர் தமது உரிமைகளுக்காக போராட முன்வந்தனர்.

மேலும், இலங்கையில் வெளிநாட்டு அரசாங்கங்களின் இராஜதந்திர நடவடிக்கைகள் மற்றும் தூதரகங்களில் இருந்து நாங்கள் பெறும் செயல்பாட்டு ஆதரவு ஈகுவன் கிரவுண்டின் இன் செயல்திறன் மீது மிகவும் செல்வாக்கு வாய்ந்ததாக உள்ளது. அவர்களது நம்பிக்கை மற்றும் ஆதரவு இல்லாமல் ஈகுவன் கிரவுண்டினால் பலரது வாழ்க்கையினை மேம்படுத்தி இருக்க முடியாது.

ஈகுவன் கிரவுண்ட் அதன் முன்னேற்றப் பாதையில் வெவ்வேறு விதமான தடைகளை எதிர்கொண்டுள்ளது. மரண அச்சுறுத்தல்கள் போலீசாரின் துன்புறுத்தல்கள், EG இன் நிர்வாக இயக்குனரின் காரை சுற்றிவளைத்த தெருவில் உள்ள ஆண் குழுக்களின் மிரட்டல் முகப்புத்தகத்தினூடாக எங்களுடன் இணைந்திருக்கும் 60,000 இற்கும் மேற்பட்டவர்களில் பலரிடமிருந்து வரும் அச்சுறுத்தல்கள் மற்றும் இடையூறுகள் குற்றவியல் புலனாய்வு திணைக்களத்தின் பங்குதாரர்களின் அமைப்புக்களினால் ஏற்படும் தாக்குதல்கள் மற்றும் ஈகுவன் கிரவுண்டின் சில நிகழ்வுகளை நடத்துவதற்கு நகராட்சி அதிகாரிகளின் ஆதரவு கிடைக்காதமை என்பவை பிரதானமானவை.

கல்வி அமைச்சின் நேரடி கட்டுப்பாட்டின் கீழ் அல்லாமல், சர்வதேச அமைப்புகளால் இயங்கும் பள்ளிகளில் மூத்த மாணவர்களிடம் ஈகுவன் கிரவுண்டின் பேச்சாளர்கள் உரையாடும் போது அவர்களிடம் அதற்கான ஒரு ஆர்வம் காணப்பட்டது. அவர்களில் பெரும்பாலானவர்கள்

ஒரினச்சேர்க்கையாளர்களாக அல்லது அவ்வாறான நண்பர்களை கொண்டவர்களாக காணப்பட்டார்கள். அவர்கள் இவ்வாறான விடயங்கள் பற்றி அறிந்திருந்தது மட்டுமன்றி அவர்களது அறிவுக்கும் மீறிய கேள்விகளை கேட்டனர். இணையத்தின் மூலம் அனைத்து தகவல்களையும் பெற்றுக்கொள்ளும் அதிஷ்டவசமான சூழலில் இம்மாணவர்கள் வாழ்கிறார்கள். இதன் மூலம் அவர்களால் ஈகுவன் கிரவுண்டின் வலைத்தளம் உள்ளடங்கலாக, வரையறைக்குட்பட்ட தகவல்களை கற்றுக்கொள்ள முடியும், மற்றும் சமூக வலைத்தளங்களின் ஊடாக தகவல்களை பரிமாறிக்கொள்ள மற்றும் கற்றுக்கொள்ள முடியும். இதன் விளைவாக அவர்களால் அதிநவீன, பாரபட்சமற்ற மற்றும் உற்சாகமான முன்னேற்றத்தை நோக்கி செல்ல முடியும்.

ஆனாலும் அரசாங்க பள்ளிகளில் இது மிகவும் வேறுபட்டதாக காணப்படுகிறது. அங்கு நேர்ப்பாலின மாணவர்கள் அதிகமாக காணப்படுவதால் ஏனையவர்கள் ஒதுக்கப்படுகிறார்கள் அல்லது துன்பத்திற்கு உட்படுத்தப்படுகிறார்கள். இவர்கள் அனுபவிக்கும் இந்த தடைகள் அவர்களது கல்வி நடவடிக்கைகளை பாதிக்கின்றது அல்லது முடிவுக்கு வருகிறது. இதனால் பலரின் வாழ்க்கை பாதிக்கப்படுவதுடன் நாட்டின் பொருளாதாரத்தின் மீதும் இது பாதகமான விளைவுகளை ஏற்படுத்துகிறது. உண்மையில் கல்வி அறிவு குறைந்தவர்கள், மனநோயாளிகள் மற்றும் அங்கவீனமானவர்களுக்கு அதிகமாக செலவு செய்வதை இந்த அரசாங்கம் நிறுத்தியிருந்தாலும், LGBTIQ மக்களின் விடயங்களை குற்றமாக மட்டுமே பார்க்கிறதே தவிர அவர்களின் அடிப்படையான பிரச்சனைகளை கருத்திற்கொள்வதில்லை. எவ்வாறாயினும் நாட்டின் பொருளாதார மற்றும் கலாச்சார வளர்ச்சிக்கு திறம்பட பங்களிப்பு செய்யக்கூடிய சமூக அங்கத்தவர்களை கல்வி புகட்டுவதற்கு மற்றும் அவர்களை ஆரோக்கியமாக இருக்க விடுவதற்கு பதிலாக அவர்களிடம் மிருகத்தனமாக நடந்துகொண்டு அவர்களின் காயங்களுக்காக பின்னர் செலவிடுவதையே இந்த அரசாங்கத்தின் செயற்பாடுகள் அர்த்தப்படுத்துகின்றன.

ஈகுவன் கிரவுண்ட் அதன் முயற்சியை பெருமையாக கருதும் அதேவேளை இந்த முயற்சியின் முக்கியத்துவத்தையும் அடையாளம் காண்கிறது. குற்றவிலக்குக்கான குறிக்கோளை அடைய வேண்டும் எனின்

மனச்சோர்வை எதிர்த்து நிற்பது அவசியமாகும். இன்றைய உலக சூழலில் இது ஒரு மறுக்க முடியாத உண்மையாகும். குற்றவிலக்கு பெறுவதுடன் மாத்திரம் ஈகுவன் கிரவுண்டின் பயணம் நின்றுவிடப்போவதில்லை. இனம் மற்றும் மதநம்பிக்கைகளை கருதாமல் LGBTIQ சமூகத்தினரும் அவர்கள் அவர்களாகவே இருந்து ஏனையவர்களைப் போலவே சகல உரிமைகளையும் அனுபவிக்கும் சூழலை உருவாக்குதல் மற்றும் சமத்துவத்தை நிலவச்செய்தலே இறுதி இலக்காகும். அனைத்து பாலியல் நாட்டங்கள் மற்றும் பாலின அடையாளங்களும் சமத்துவம் அனைவருக்கும் மனித உரிமைகள்” என்பதே ஈகுவன் கிரவுண்டின் நோக்கமாகும்.

எதிர்காலத்தில் இந்த கட்டுரையின் தலைப்பு “சுதந்திரத்தை அடையும்வரை தைரியம், வலிமை மற்றும் கூட்டுறவு” எனக் காணப்படலாம்.





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## AMEENA HUSSEIN

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**W**riting this piece on the fifteenth anniversary of EQUAL GROUND, not long after the Easter bombings in Sri Lanka, results in a myriad emotions running through me. Sri Lanka is a country that is truly multi-cultural and the tragic events fueled by hate, exclusivism, prejudice and racism have an impact on every single citizen. No-one is immune to anything that happens to even some of the people. We are all bound in grief, just as we celebrate together in joy.

It is with this backdrop that I write as a former trustee of EQUAL GROUND, the premier organization that works for the rights of the LGBT community in Sri Lanka. Perhaps, because of the environment in which I grew up, for much of my life I was never aware of the hostility experienced by those of a different sexual orientation. While it was never openly discussed it was certainly never denigrated and there was an air of acceptance of those we knew among our family and friends who had partners or 'special friends' they lived with.

Perhaps, it was this attitude that led me to the belief that regardless of whom one loves, everyone has the right to love, the right to live together as a family, the right to be acknowledged as a unit and to enjoy all the benefits and privileges accorded to others in society.

However much society may accept it or not, ultimate acceptance is when the country or state you live in legitimizes your unions and bonds of love be it in marriage or setting up homes together. It is a right that should not be denied to anyone regardless of gender or ethnicity. Sadly, the Sri Lankan state has still not accepted these rights as legitimate. And that's why EQUAL GROUND is so important in our country.

I had known Rosanna Flamer Caldera for a few years before she started EQUAL GROUND and it seemed fitting that she had finally found her *raison d'être* in a subject so close to her heart. She invited me to join EQUAL GROUND as a trustee in 2006 and it was an honour and a trust (befitting the title trustee) that I was happy to accept.

On the fifteenth anniversary of EQUAL GROUND, it gives me great delight and happiness that I have seen the organization grow from strength to strength and be a beacon of light not only for the LGBT community but also for the rest of the country. It is my strong belief that if some citizens are not able to enjoy the protection of all their rights, then it is not a just society that prevails. Thus, the reality of EQUAL GROUND, the very longevity of its existence ensures that we as a country are certainly on the right track, even though the road may be arduous and fraught with speed bumps and potholes.

With the wonderful work that EQUAL GROUND engages in, be it awareness, workshops, engaging with governments to decriminalize, and offering legal and social support, it is vital that such an organization is encouraged and supported in Sri Lanka. In the bleakest of times, there are those foundations and people that will always show that the cloud is not that dark, that the storm is not that fierce and that over and above it all, calm, peace and justice will prevail. I wish for EQUAL GROUND, all its members, past, future and present, that one day in the not too distant future all citizens of this country will enjoy every security, freedom and expression that is guaranteed by virtue of us being human. The freedom to love, the freedom to live, and the freedom to be!

With love and in celebration!

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ඊක්වල් ග්‍රවුන්ඩ් 15 වන සංවත්සරයට පා තබන මොහොතේ ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ ඉකුත් පාස්කු දිනයදා භූස්තවාදීන්ගෙන් සිදුවූ මිලේච්ඡ ප්‍රහාරය හේතුවෙන් ප්‍රකාශයට පත් කළ නොහැකි තරම් දුක්ඛිත සිතුවිලි සමුදාමයක් මා තුළ තෙරපෙන බව දන්නිමි. ශ්‍රී ලංකාව බහු වාර්ගික ජාතීන් ජීවත් වන රටක්ව තිබියදීත් මෙවැනි සිදුවීම් මත එක් පුරවැසියකු තවත් පුරවැසියකු දෙස වෛරී සහගත අකාල්පවලින් යුක්ත වීමත් විවිධ පුර්ව හිගමනයන් වෙත එළඹීම බේදජනකයි. එහෙයින් ඒ පිළිබඳවද මා ශෝක වෙමි. මෙවැනි අවස්ථාවක ඊක්වල් ග්‍රවුන්ඩ් 15 වන සංවත්සරයට සැමරිය යුත්තේ සියලුම මිනිසුන්ගේ ආදරය හා කරුණාව මධ්‍යයෙහි එකට එක්විය.

LGBT ප්‍රජාවෙහි අයිතීන් වෙනුවෙන් පෙනීසිටින සංවිධානයක් ලෙස ඊක්වල් ග්‍රවුන්ඩ්හි හිටපු භාරකරුවෙකු වශයෙන් මා කුඩා කල සිට හැදී වැදුනේ මෙම පරිසරය තුළ විවිධ ලිංගික දිශානතියක් සහිත පුද්ගලයන් පිලිබඳව ඒ හැටි දැනුවත්භාවයක් නොතිබූ අතර රට තුළ විවෘතව අදහස් ඉදිරිපත් කිරීම පවා සිදු නොවුණු බව සටහන් කළ හැකිය. ඔවුනොවුන්ගේ අනන්‍යතාවය හුදෙක්ම පවුලේ සමාජිකයින් හා හිත මිත්‍රාදීන් පමණක් දැන සිටින ලදී.

ඇතැම් විට මෙම ආකල්ප මාවෙත යොමු වූයේ, සැම කෙනෙකුටම ආදරය කිරීමේ අයිතිය හා ආදරය ප්‍රකාශ කිරීමේ අයිතිය, පවුලේ සමාජිකයින් සමග එකට වාසය කිරීමේ අයිතිය සහ ආදරය පිරුණු සමාජයක් ප්‍රතිස්ථාපනය කිරීමේ අයිතිය තහවුරු කළ හැකි බැවිනි.

කෙසේවුවත් සමාජය පිළිගත්තද නොපිළිගත්තද රට තුල හෝ ප්‍රාන්තය තුළ නෛතිකව ඕනෑම පුද්ගලයෙකුට ස්ත්‍රී පුරුෂ භාවය හා ලිංගික දිශානතිය හා ජනවාර්ගිකත්වය නොසලකා ආදරය කිරීමේ අයිතිය නෛතිකව ලබා දුන්නේනම් එකිනෙකා අතර ශක්තිමත් සහයෝගිතාවයක් ගොඩ නැගීමට ඉඩ තිබෙනු ඇත. එහෙත් බේදවාචකය වන්නේ ශ්‍රී ලංකාව තුළ එවැනි අයිතීන් නීතිගත කර නොමැති බවයි. එහෙයින්

එවැනි පසුබිමක් තුල ඊක්වල් ග්‍රවුන්ඩ් සංවිධානයේ අවශ්‍යතාවය පැහැන හරිනු ඇත.

මා රෝසෑනා ෆ්ලෙමිං-කල්දේරා හඳුනන්නේ ඊක්වල් ග්‍රවුන්ඩ් හි නිර්මාතෘ ලෙස සංවිධානය අරාමිභ කිරීමට වසර ගණනාවකට පෙර සිටිය. ඇගේ ආරාධනාවකට අනුව 2006 දී මා ඊක්වල් ග්‍රවුන්ඩ් හි භාරකරුවෙකු වනු ලැබිය.

ඉදින් ඊක්වල් ග්‍රවුන්ඩ් 15 වන සංවත්සරයට පා තබන මෙම මොහොතේදී මාගේ උණුසුම් සුබ පැතුම් එක් කිරීමට කැමැත්තෙන් පසුවෙමි. දෘඪ ආකල්ප වලින් තොරව LGBT ප්‍රජාව පිලිබඳව සානුකම්පිත හැඟීමකින් බලන්නාවූ සමාජයක් ඇති කිරීමට හැකියාවක් ලැබේවා යැයි ප්‍රාර්ථනා කරමි.

විශේෂයෙන් පවත්වාගෙන යනු ලබන දැනුවත්කිරීම්, වැඩමුළු පැවැත්වීම් ඇතුළු කාර්යයන් ඉදිරියටත් ශක්තිමත් ලෙස කරගෙන යාමට හැකි වීම තුළින් සමාජය තුළ ආන්ථිකරණයට ලක් නොකොට ප්‍රජාව සඳහා නෛතිකව සහය ලබාදීමට රැකුලක් වනු ඇතැයි විශ්වාස කරමි. මන්ද අන්ධකාරය තුළම නිමග්න නොවී සිටීමින් නුදුරු අනාගතයේ ආලෝකය කරා පිය නැගීමට හැකි වන බවද විශ්වාසය ඇතිකළ යුතු බැවිනි. මා පතන්නේද ඊක්වල් ග්‍රවුන්ඩ් සංවිධානය සමග බැඳුණු අතීත, සමකාලීන හා අනාගත හිත මිත්‍රාදීන් තම කර්තව්‍යන් සාර්ථක අන්දමින් කරගෙන යමින් මනුෂ්‍යයකු ලෙස ඉපදීම තුළින් හිමිවිය යුතු අයිතිවාසිකම් මෙන්ම හිදුනස් හා සාමකාමී පරිසරයක් තුළ ජීවත් වීමේ අවස්ථාව උදා විය යුතු බවයි !

සංවත්සරය සඳහා සුබ පැතුම් !

இலங்கையின் ஈஸ்டர் குண்டு வெடிப்பிற்கு பின்னர், எண்ணற்ற உணர்வுகளுக்கு மத்தியில் EQUAL GROUND இன் பதினைந்தாம் ஆண்டு நிறைவையொட்டி இந்த துண்டுப்பிரசுரத்தை எழுதுகிறேன். இலங்கையானது உண்மையில் பல கலாச்சாரங்கள் நிறைந்த மற்றும் ஒவ்வொரு பிரஜையின் மீதும் தாக்கத்தை ஏற்படுத்தும் வெறுப்பு, சுயநலம், பாரபட்சம் மற்றும் இனவெறி ஆகியவற்றால் ஏற்படும் துயர சம்பவங்களையும் உள்ளடக்கிய ஒரு நாடாகும். எந்தவொரு நபரும் ஏனைய சிலருக்கு ஏற்படும் எந்தவொரு அசம்பாவித்தையும் எதிர்ப்பதில்லை. மகிழ்ச்சியை ஒன்றாக கொண்டாடுவது போலவே நாங்கள் அனைவரும் இப்பொழுது துன்பத்தில் இருக்கிறோம்.

LGBTIQ சமூகத்தின் உரிமைகளுக்காக போராடும் இலங்கையின் முதன்மையான நிறுவனமாகிய EQUAL GROUND இன் முன்னாள் பொறுப்பாளர் என்ற பின்னணியில் இதனை நான் எழுதுகிறேன். ஒருவேளை, நான் வளர்ந்து வந்த சூழலின் காரணமாக வெவ்வேறு பாலியல் நடத்தைகளுக்கு எதிரான விரோதத்தினை பற்றி நான் அறிந்திருக்கவில்லை. இது பகிரங்கமாக விவாதிக்கப்படவில்லை என்றாலும், நிச்சயமாக அது ஒருபோதும் குற்றம்சாட்டப்படவில்லை மற்றும் எங்களது குடும்பம் மற்றும் நண்பர்களுக்கு மத்தியில் "விசேட நண்பர்கள்" மற்றும் துணையுடன் வாழ்ந்த சிலருக்கு சிறிய அங்கீகாரம் காணப்பட்டது.

ஒருவேளை இந்த அனுகுமுறைதான் யாரை விரும்புகிறோம் என்பதனை பொருட்படுத்தாமல், எல்லோருக்கும் அன்பு செலுத்த உரிமை உண்டு, குடும்பமாக ஒன்றாக வாழ்வதற்கான உரிமை உண்டு, சமூகத்தின் ஒரு அலகு என்பதனை ஒப்புக்கொண்டு மற்றவர்கள் அனைவருக்கும் வழங்கப்படும் நன்மைகள் மற்றும் சலுகைகளை அனுபவிக்க உரிமை உண்டு என்பதனை புரிந்துகொள்ள என்னை வழிநடத்தியது.

சமூகம் அதனை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளலாம் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளாமலும் இருக்கலாம், எனினும் நீங்கள் வாழும் நாட்டில் அல்லது மாநிலத்தில் உங்களுடைய கூட்டுறவு மற்றும் காதல் உறவுகளை திருமணமாகவோ அல்லது ஒரே வீட்டில் வாழக்கூடிய உரிமையாகவோ சட்டபூர்வமாக்குதலே இறுதியான அங்கீகாரமாகும். எந்தவொரு நபரின் பாலினமோ அல்லது இனமோ மறுக்கப்படக்கூடாது என்பது ஒரு உரிமையாகும். எனினும் இலங்கை அரசு இன்னும் இவ்வுரிமைகளை சட்டபூர்வமாக அங்கீகரிக்கவில்லை மற்றும் அதனாலேயே EQUAL GROUND அமைப்பு இலங்கையில் முக்கியமானதாக கருதப்படுகிறது.

EQUAL GROUND நிறுவனத்தினை ஆரம்பிப்பதற்கு சில வருடங்களுக்கு முன்னதாகவே ரோஸானா ப்ளெம்ரூ கல்தராவை அறிந்திருந்தேன். அவர் இறுதியாக அவரது மனதிற்கு விருப்பமான ஒன்றை செய்வதற்கு தொடங்கியிருக்கிறார் எனத் தோன்றியது. அவர் 2006 ம் ஆண்டு EQUAL GROUND இன் அறங்காவலராக இணையும்படி என்னை அழைத்தார். அது எனக்கு மிக பெருமையாகவும் நம்பிக்கையாகவும் இருந்தது, அதனை நான் மகிழ்வுடன் ஏற்றுக்கொண்டேன்.

EQUAL GROUND இன் பதினைந்தாவது ஆண்டு நிறைவில், இந்நிறுவனம் மேலும் மேலும் பலத்துடன் வளர்ந்து வந்து இன்று LGBT சமூகத்திற்கு மாத்திரம் இன்றி முழுநாட்டிற்கும் ஒரு கலங்கரை விளக்காக இருப்பதை காணக்கிடைப்பது எனக்கு மிகப்பெரிய ஆனந்தத்தை அளிக்கிறது. சில பிரஜைகளுக்கு தமது உரிமைகளை அனுபவிப்பதற்கு பாதுகாப்பு இல்லை எனின் அது நீதி நிலவும் ஒரு சமூகம் இல்லை என்பது எனது நம்பிக்கையாகும். இதுவரையில் EQUAL GROUND இன் யதார்த்தம் மற்றும் அதன் நீண்டகால நீடித்து நிற்கும் தன்மை என்பன கடினமான, குழிகள் நிறைந்த, வேகத்தடைகள் நிறைந்த பாதை எனினும் நாடு என்ற வகையில் நாம் அனைவரும் நிச்சயமாக சரியான பாதையில் பயணிக்கிறோம் என்பதனை உறுதிப்படுத்துகிறது.

இலங்கையில் விழிப்புணர்வை ஏற்படுத்தல், பயிற்சிப்பட்டறைகளை நடத்துதல், குற்றவிலக்குக்காக அரசாங்கத்துடன் இணைந்து பணியாற்றுதல், அரச மற்றும் சமூக ஆதரவை வழங்குதல் போன்ற மகத்தான சேவைகளை செய்யும் EQUAL GROUND நிறுவனத்திற்கு ஆதரவளிப்பதும் அதனை ஊக்குவிப்பதும் மிக முக்கியமாகும். சமூகத்தில் எப்போதும் இருள் சூழ்ந்திருக்காது, அனைவருக்கும் அமைதி மற்றும் சமமான நீதி நிலவும் பிரகாசமான சூழல் உருவாகும் என்பதனை எப்பொழுதும் எடுத்துக்காட்டுவதற்கு அறநிறுவனங்கள் மற்றும் நபர்கள் இருக்கிறார்கள். EQUAL GROUND இன் முன்னாள், தற்போதைய மற்றும் எதிர்காலத்தில் பணியாற்றவிருக்கும் அனைவருக்கும் என்னுடைய வாழ்த்துக்களை தெரிவித்து கொள்கிறேன். சீக்கிரமாகவே நாட்டின் அனைத்து பிரஜைகளும் பாதுகாப்பு, சுதந்திரம் மற்றும் வெளிப்பாடு என்பவற்றை நல்லொழுக்கத்துடன் அனுபவிப்பார்கள்.

அன்பு செலுத்துவதற்கான சுதந்திரம் மற்றும் வாழ்வதற்கான சுதந்திரம் உண்டாகட்டும்.

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## DR. DEVINDA KARUNARATNE

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### EQUAL GROUND: an inspiration!

My time as an EQUAL GROUND trustee was an inspiration.

I live in Whalley Range, Manchester, with my husband and last weekend - along with a small but passionate group of residents - we held our first LGBT+ Pride event.

With the support of The Arts Council and other local businesses and LGBT+ organisations we were able to create a fantastic weekend of live music and entertainment. Saturday kicked off with a parade through Whalley Range and we opened the day with a speech by Afzal Khan MP.

Rosanna and her work with EQUAL GROUND played a big part in the day. My husband and I were lucky enough to experience our first Colombo Pride last year and we were left with the feeling that we had to do more at home.

We have a strong LGBT+ community living in Whalley Range and the surrounding neighbourhoods and wanted to demonstrate the contribution that we can make to our vibrant and creative suburbs. Although things are better than ever before, we can't take our rights for granted, and we are aware that some people have anxieties about equality and we felt it was important to demonstrate that the LGBT+ community locally is something to be celebrated not condemned.

Sadly, we are aware that some parents locally are concerned that children in our schools will be taught about LGBT+ families and we wanted to allay their anxieties by informing their thinking with our first community Pride event. Hopefully the first of many!

Thank you Rosanna / EQUAL GROUND



# EQUALITY WARRIORS AWARDS

In celebration of 15 years of activism and service to the community, EQUAL GROUND celebrates its Anniversary this year with a Gala Reception and Awards ceremony in recognition of the many Allies who support and champion equality in Sri Lanka. Awards this year, will be bestowed in the categories of Business, Health Care, Education and Human Rights, with a special category honoring an Ally who has supported the organisation as well as the LGBTIQ community, well beyond the 15 years that EQUAL GROUND has been in operation. The idea of these awards is to create awareness and promote equality for all sexual orientations and gender identities/expression in a country that marginalizes and discriminates blatantly, getting people to think how they can be involved in promoting equality, how they can create accepting and diverse environments and how they can alter the current mindsets to think EQUALITY.

We are proud to announce the winners of the **EQUALITY WARRIORS AWARDS** for 2019:

**Lifetime Award:**

Mrs. Mystica Flamer-Caldera

For the many years of unwavering support as a parent and friend of the LGBTIQ community. She has shown her love and encouragement in so many ways for EQUAL GROUND and the many LGBTIQ persons who befriended her over the years.

**Business Award:**

Mr. Bazeer Cassim

For the more than 7 years of support to EQUAL GROUND and the LGBTIQ community particularly for Colombo PRIDE. Mr. Bazeer Cassim is the Group General Manager of Mt. Lavinia Hotel who is the hospitality partner for Colombo PRIDE since 2012.

**Education Award:**

Mrs. Elizabeth Moir

For the many years of support for LGBTIQ students at her school. Mrs. Moir is the Head of Moir International School and has collaborated with EQUAL GROUND for past 4 years, educating and sensitising students on LGBTIQ identities and issues.

**Health Award:**

Dr. Shreen Wilathgamuwa

For the many years of counseling and advising the LGBTIQ community. Since 2008 Dr. Shreen has been a beacon of hope to many LGBTIQ community members who have not only sought her advice on medical issues, but also on personal issues. Her partnership with EQUAL GROUND spans more than a decade.

**Human Rights Award:**

Mrs. Sandya Eknaligoda

For showing grace and strength and giving her support to the LGBTIQ community even through many adversities.



# සම විරුවන් සඳහා වූ සම්මානය

ඊක්වල් ග්‍රවුන්ඩ් සංවිධානය LGBTIQ ප්‍රජාව වෙනුවෙන් සේවය කොට වසර 15ක් සපිරෙන මොනොතක අප සමග මේ තාක් දුර සමානාත්මතාවය සඳහා අත්වැරුම් බැඳගත් මිත්‍රශීලීන් උදෙසා ප්‍රභූ රාත්‍රියක් සුදානම් කොට ඇත. සම්මාන දෙනු ලබන්නේ LGBTIQ ප්‍රජාව උදෙසා ව්‍යාපාරික, සෞඛ්‍ය, අධ්‍යාපනික හා මානව හිමිකම් යන ක්ෂේත්‍රයන්හි පුරා වසර 15ක්ම මුළුල්ලේ විධිමත්ව යුත් පරිසරයක් නිර්මාණය කිරීමට දායක වූවන් වෙතය. මෙම සම විරුවන් සඳහා වූ සම්මානය ලබා දීම සඳහා වූ පරමාර්ථය වන්නේ, කිසිදු අකාරයකින් පුද්ගලයකු ලිංගික දිශානතිය හා ස්ත්‍රී පුරුෂ සමාජභාවය මත සමාජයෙන් කොන් කිරීමට හෝ ආන්විකරණයට ලක් නොකොට යුතු පරිසරයක් තුළ සැමට සමානව ගරු කරමින්, සමානාත්මතාවයකින් යුතු පරිසරයක් බිහි කිරීමට විර්තමාන සමාජය තුළ උත්තේජනයක් ලබා දීමටයි.

2019 සම විරුවන් සඳහා වූ සම්මාන සඳහා තේරී පත් වූ නාමයන් මෙසේ සාඩම්බරයෙන් අප ඉදිරිපත් කරනු ලබයි:

### පිවිත කාලයට හිමිවන සම්මානය:

මිස්ටිකා ෆ්ලෙමර් - කල්දේරා

වසර ගණනාවක් පුරාවට LGBTIQ ප්‍රජාවගේ මව්පියෙක් හා සහෝදරයෙක් ලෙසින් නොසැලෙන සහයෝගයක් ඔබ විසින් දක්වා ඇත. ඊක්වල් ග්‍රවුන්ඩ් වෙතට සහ LGBTIQ ප්‍රජාව සඳහා ඇයගේ පවතින ආදරය සහ දිරිගැන්වීම් දීර්ඝ කාලයක් පුරාවට බොහෝ ආකාරවලින් ඇය පෙන්වා ඇත.

### ව්‍යාපාරික ක්ෂේත්‍රය සඳහා වූ සම්මානය:

බසීර් කසීම් මහතා

විශේෂයෙන්ම කොළඹ අභිමානය සඳහා වසර 7 කට වැඩි කාලයක් ඊක්වල් ග්‍රවුන්ඩ් සහ LGBTIQ ප්‍රජාව සඳහා සහයෝගය ලබා දීම සඳහාය. 2012 වසරේ සිට කොළඹ අභිමානය උදෙසා ආගන්තුක සන්කාරක හවුල්කරු වන ගල්කිස්ස හෝටලයේ සමූහ ප්‍රධාන සාමාන්‍යාධිකාරී බසීර් කසීම් මහතාය.

### අධ්‍යාපන ක්ෂේත්‍රය සඳහා වූ සම්මානය:

චිලිසබෙත් මොයිර් මහත්මිය

LGBTIQ දරුවන් උදෙසා පුරා වසර ගනනක් මුළුල්ලේ සිට ඇගේ පාසැල විවෘත ව පැවතීම, මොයිර් මහත්මිය, මොයිර් ජාත්‍යන්තර පාසැලේ විදුහල්පතිනිය වන ඇය ඊක්වල් ග්‍රවුන්ඩ් සමග එක්ව පුරා වසර 4ක් පුරාවට LGBTIQ දරුවන් ගේ ගැටළු හා අනන්‍යතාවයන් හඳුනාගනිමින් අධ්‍යාපනය හා සංවේදීකරණයන් ලබාදෙන ලදී.

### සෞඛ්‍ය ක්ෂේත්‍රය සඳහා වූ සම්මානය:

වෛද්‍ය ශ්‍රීනි විලන්ගමුව

වසර ගණනාවක් මුළුලෙහි සිට LGBTIQ ප්‍රජාවෙහි සමාජිකයින් උදෙසා උපදේශනයන් ලබා දී ඇත. 2008 සිට වෛද්‍ය ශ්‍රීනි විසින් LGBTIQ ප්‍රජාවෙහි සමාජිකයින් වෙත ඇතිවන්න වූ වෛද්‍ය හා පුද්ගලික ගැටළු සම්බන්ධ උපදෙස් ලබාදෙමින් එම ගැටළු නිරාකරණය කිරීමට කටයුතු කොට ඇත. ඇ ඊක්වල් ග්‍රවුන්ඩ් හා සමග සම්බන්ධ වී දැනට දශකයකටත් වැඩිය.

### මානව හිමිකම් ක්ෂේත්‍රය සඳහා වූ සම්මානය:

සන්ධ්‍යා චිත්තලිගොඩ මහත්මිය

LGBTIQ ප්‍රජාව උදෙසා තම ශක්තිය සහ සහයෝගය විවිධ අවස්ථාවල ලබාදී ඇත.



## சமத்துவ போராளிகளுக்கான விருதுகள்

இலங்கையில் 15 வருடங்களாக சமூக சேவை மற்றும் மனித உரிமை செயற்பாடுகளில் ஈடுபட்டுக் கொண்டிருக்கும் ஈகுவள் கிரவுண்ட் அமைப்பானது, இம்முறை தனது 15வது வருடப்பூர்த்தி விழாவினை கண்கவர் வரவேற்பு நிகழ்வு மற்றும் சமத்துவத்திற்காக கைகோர்த்து போராடிய சாதனையாளர்களை அடையாளம் கண்டு அவர்களுக்கான விருது வழங்கும் நிகழ்வுடன் கொண்டாடுகிறது. இந்த வருடம் வணிகம், சுகாதார நலம், கல்வி மற்றும் மனித உரிமைகள் போன்ற துறைகளில் விருதுகள் வழங்கப்படுவதுடன் ஈகுவள் கிரவுண்ட் இந்த 15 வருட சேவையில் LGBTIQ சமூகத்தினருக்கான சேவையில் அர்ப்பணிப்புடன் ஈடுபட்ட ஒரு நபரை கௌரவிக்கும் விதமாக சிறப்பு விருதும் வழங்கப்படவுள்ளது. அப்பட்டமாகவே ஒதுக்கப்படும் அல்லது வேறுபாட்டுடன் நோக்கப்படும் ஒரு நாட்டில் அனைத்து பாலியல் நாட்டங்கள் மற்றும் பாலின அடையாளங்களுக்கும் சமத்துவத்தை மேம்படுத்துதல் மற்றும் விழிப்புணர்வை ஏற்படுத்துதல், எவ்வாறு சமத்துவத்தை மேம்படுத்துவதில் ஈடுபடுதல் என்பதை சிந்திக்க வைத்தல், தற்போதுள்ள மனநிலைகளை மாற்றி எவ்வாறு பல்வகைமையான மற்றும் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளும் ஒரு சூழலை உருவாக்குதல் என்பதை பற்றி சிந்திக்க வைத்தல் ஆகியனவே இந்த விருதுவழங்கும் நிகழ்வின் பிரதான நோக்கமாகும்.

2019 ம் ஆண்டிற்கான **சமத்துவத்திற்கான போராளிகள் விருதுகளை** அறிவிப்பதில் நாங்கள் பெருமையடைகிறோம்.

### வாழ்நாள் விருது:

திருமதி. மிஸ்டிக்கா ப்ளெமர்-கல்தோரா

LGBTIQ சமூகத்தினருக்கு ஒரு பெற்றோராக மற்றும் நண்பராக இருந்து பலவருடங்களாக வழங்கிய நிகரில்லா பங்களிப்பிற்காக. அவர் கடந்த வருடங்களில் ஈகுவள் கிரவுண்ட் மற்றும் அவருடன் நட்புடன் இருந்த பல LGBTIQ சமூக அங்கத்தவர்களுக்கு அவருடைய அன்பு மற்றும் உற்சாகத்தை பல வழிகளில் வழங்கியுள்ளார்.

**வணிக விருது:** திரு. பஷீர் காசீம்

ஈகுவள் கிரவுண்ட் அமைப்பிற்கும் LGBTIQ சமூகத்தினருக்கும் விசேடமாக கொழும்பு பெருமை நிகழ்விற்காக ஏழு வருடங்களுக்கும் மேலாக உங்களது பங்களிப்பை வழங்கியதற்காக. திரு. பஷீர் காசீம் அவர்கள் 2012ம் ஆண்டு முதல் கொழும்பு பெருமை நிகழ்விற்கு விருந்தோம்பல் துறையில் பங்களிப்பை வழங்கி வரும் Mt. Lavinia Hotel இன் முகாமையாளர் குழுவினர் ஒரு உறுப்பினர் ஆவார்.

### கல்வித்துறைக்கான விருது:

திருமதி. எலிசபெத் மோயிர்

அவருடைய பாடசாலையில் பல LGBTIQ மாணவர்களுக்கு தனது ஆதரவை வழங்கியதற்காக. திருமதி மோயிர் அவர்கள் மோயிர் சர்வதேச பாடசாலையின் தலைவராவர் அத்துடன் ஈகுவள் கிரவுண்ட் அமைப்புடன் கடந்த நான்கு வருடங்களாக இணைந்து பணியாற்றியுள்ளார் மற்றும் LGBTIQ விடயங்கள் தொடர்பாக மாணவர்களுக்கு கல்வி புகட்டுவதிலும் ஈடுபட்டுள்ளார்.

### சுகாதாரத்துறைத் விருது:

வைத்தியர் ஷீர்ன் விளத்தமுல

பல வருடங்களாக LGBTIQ சமூகத்திற்கு ஆலோசனை சேவைகளை வழங்கியதற்காக. வைத்தியர் ஷீர்ன் அவர்கள் 2008ம் ஆண்டு முதல் பல LGBTIQ நபர்களுக்கு வைத்திய ரீதியாக மட்டுமன்றி தனிப்பட்ட ரீதியிலும் ஆலோசனை சேவைகளை வழங்கி ஒரு கலங்கரை விளக்காக இருந்துள்ளார்.

### மனித உரிமைகளுக்கான விருது:

திருமதி. சந்தியா எக்நலிகொட

பல்வேறு விபத்துக்களை சந்தித்த போதும் கூட அவருடைய கருணை மற்றும் பலத்துடன் LGBTIQ சமூகத்தினருக்கு அவருடைய ஆதரவை வழங்கியதற்காக.

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134 Campaign



134 Campaign



134 Campaign



In London 2016



Out for work 2007



LGBTIQ in Sri Lanka 2015



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