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24 WIJERAMA MAWATHA COLOMBO 7
WWW.BOHEMIANQUEST.COM
+94771335550
It's a new year, and much has happened over the past three months. We successfully provided scholarships under the Women on Top Scholarship program. Six LB women from our community received scholarships to help start and continue their education, assist with their vocational training and support their small businesses.

Last December at the commemoration of Human Rights Day, EQUAL GROUND launched the report of the Mapping survey of LGBT persons conducted in Colombo, Kandy, Matara & Nuwara Eliya. The report highlighted a staggering 19.6% of the population of the 4 districts identified as L, G, B, or T. Although this percentage may have been skewed on the high side due to the fact that our enumerators were LGBT friendly and interacted frequently with community members, it could be said that data could also be skewed on the low side as many might not divulge their SOGI to non LGBTQ enumerators for obvious reasons. It was also shocking to see the continued discrimination faced by our community. The study showed that over 25% of LGBT members were in forced heterosexual marriages, 46.7% of LGBT people experience police harassment, 72.2% were refused education, 57.14% were terminated from work, and 70% were denied medical assistance. Some face physical and sexual abuse as well as emotional distress due to their sexual orientation and or gender identity and expression.

On a positive note, we were invited to take part at the Peace Expo hosted by the Ministry of National Integration and Reconciliation at the Independence Square for International Human Rights Day 2017, which included a march at which community members proudly walked publicly with Rainbow flags. Rather than face harassment, scorn or bullying, the marchers were joined by the many non LGBTQ marchers on the road that day in singing songs and a show of solidarity and camaraderie - with a few well-placed toes of the horn by supportive motorists along the way! We see this as progress from where we were 3 years ago, where marching on the road may not have been this gladly looked upon.

EQUAL GROUND began 2018 with the launch of the 135 Campaign. We are happy to report that three months in, we've managed to quadruple the support from last year on our online petition. To sign the petition and lend your voice to ending the 135 years of systematic discrimination and abuse faced by the LGBTQ community of Sri Lanka go to https://www.change.org/p/end-135-years-of-criminalisation-of-same-sex-conduct-in-sri-lanka. Be the change you wish to see in our country!

Colombo PRIDE 2018 is around the corner, and we are preparing for nearly three weeks of celebrations this year. Our Colombo PRIDE 2018 line up is published here, but if you need breaking updates of events and venues and other pertinent information, please do like our Colombo PRIDE Facebook Page. We hope to see more and more of you at our events!

EQUAL GROUND is always looking for allies and friends who will help us create a safe and peaceful place in this country for our LGBTQ community members. To increase our support base and to also encourage more families and friends to accept their LGBTQ family members and friends, we launched the group FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF LGBTQ (FFLGBTIQ) and held the first ever meeting of this group in February 2018. It is increasingly evident that just as much as coming out is hard for the LGBTQ community, accepting and supporting a family member or friend that is LGBTQ is also a ‘coming out’ process for many families and friends as well. Eventually, we all have to realise that being LGBTQ is not a deliberate act to break up a family or bring shame on them. Being shunned by one’s family is the most heart breaking and devastating thing that can happen to a person. Fostering understanding and being there to support those families and friends, who are struggling to accept their LGBTQ child or friend, is foremost at FFLGBTIQ. Future plans include frequent meetings, peer support and counseling services in order to nurture a better understanding of the issues which will in turn stop the friction and trauma between parents, families and friends and their LGBTQ family member/friend.

EQUAL GROUND is constantly striving to create a platform or space whereby friends, allies and LGBTQ persons can get together in solidarity and fight against the constant harassment and discrimination the LGBTQ community faces in this country. Foremost on our radar is of course, decriminalisation. It’s sad that 70 years past independence and 135 years since the British brought these appalling laws to our country, the LGBTQ community are still marginalized, discriminated and treated harshly and disrespectfully.

On May 17th 2018 we commemorate the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia or IDAHOT as it is popularly referred to. Join us on this day as we talk about ways forward and how we can hold the Government of this country accountable for their commitment at the Universal Periodic Review of Sri Lanka last November, to put in place measures to combat discrimination and criminalization of the LGBTQ community.

The many unexpected changes and political uncertainties that continue to shadow progress in this country are alarming. We need to all keep in mind that we are all citizens of this country and as such, we shouldn’t be promoting the discrimination of others, under any circumstance. As a minority community we know first-hand what it means to be marginalized and experience stigma and discrimination on a regular basis. So, let’s look at all our brothers and sisters as one family, one nation and continue to spread messages of love and peace. Hatred and war must not have a footing in our island paradise.

As Bob Marley would say: “One love, one heart, let’s get together and feel alright.”

Wishing you all a Happy Colombo PRIDE - let’s get together and feel alright!

Peace and Love!

Rosanna Flamer-Caldera
Executive Director
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EDITOR - Rosanna Flamer-Caldera
COVER PAGE DESIGN - Amila De Silva
STAFF WRITER - Sriyal Nilanka
PAGE LAYOUT AND DESIGN - Hiran Hemantha

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Women on Top

PARTY

The Women on Top Appa party took place on the 19th of January, 2017 at the EQUAL GROUND office. Women on Top is an initiative launched by EQUAL GROUND to open up opportunities for lesbian and bisexual women looking to pursue vocational or educational training. During the event, we introduced our scholarship winners and enjoyed the night with a dinner that served hoppers as a tongue in cheek way of ridiculing the derogatory term used for lesbians.

EQUAL GROUND මහාඛාරාවේ සංස්කරණයක් "Women on Top" අතිවාහය කළවුණි මෙහෙන් 2017 වර්ෂයේ නුවර මෙහෙන් "Women on Top" එකින් ආරම්භ කරන අතර මෙයින් අනිවාර්ය ප්‍රශ්නයන්ට අඳුම්කරුව ආරම්භයක් අදායම් ය. ඉස්ලාමා ආරම්භයේ පැවති ලැයිස්තුවේ ධම්මේ දේශපාලනය මත මේවත් මදනක් නැති රාජ්ය උද්භාගයේ ආරම්භයක් ආරම්භයේ මෙය යිසි මෙයින් පැහැබීමට යත්.

කොකුමක් නම් මේ මෙන්ම අතිවාහය ("Women on Top" - Appa party) 19වෙනි ගොඩාරම් මෙය මෙය මෙය මෙය මෙය මෙය මෙය මෙය මෙය මෙය මෙය. මෙය මෙය මෙය මෙය මෙය මෙය මෙය මෙය මෙය මෙය මෙය මෙය මෙය මෙය. මෙය මෙය මෙය මෙය මෙය මෙය මෙය මෙය මෙය මෙය මෙය.
Peace Expo and Colombo Food Fest 2017, launched by UN Sustainable Development Goals Action Campaign, was held on the 9th and 10th December 2017, on Premakeerthi De Alwis Mawatha, from 10am to 10pm.

The annual event provided NGOs, NPOs, CSRs, and other humanitarian projects an opportunity to connect with the public and raise awareness on a wide range of issues, such as peace, human rights, and environmental responsibility.

The event consisted of a food festival, which featured organic food from various vendors, a media zone, which offered a platform for various social media to converge and find solutions to global issues, and finally, White Night Walk, a walk to celebrate Human Rights Day on the 10th of December.

EQUAL GROUND was honoured to be a part of the event and showcase our campaign for, 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence “Break the silence against LGBT violence”. The campaign focused on forced marriages of lesbians, abuse lesbian couples face in social contexts, sexual abuse of gay men by law enforcement and peers, sexual violence faced by Transmen, and sexual abuse and street harassment faced by Transwomen. Leaflets about our campaign and the services we offer were distributed, and we were able to raise awareness on the issues of gender-based violence and present them to a diverse group of people.
தலாசா கலங்காளி மற்றும் ஆன்மை கலாச்சார இறைவி

தலாசா கலங்காளி மற்றும் ஆன்மை கலாச்சார இறைவி 2017, புதுச்சேரி நகரசுரங்கம் செய்திப்பு. இச்செயலாக்கம் ஒன்றின் பகுதியாக, இராணுவ மற்றும் செயற்கையான கோலாலம் மற்றும் பாதுகாப்புக்கான கலாச்சாரம் நூறு வருடமும் காணக்கூடும். 9 மக்கள் 10 மக்களும் வேறு பெரும் வேலைவாடுகளுக்கும் மற்றும் முயற்சியாகமும் உரை விழுக்காட்டுகள் மற்றும் கூர்களை காணக்கூடும்.

இந்த விளையாட்டிற்காக கலங்காளியில் NGOS, NPOs, CSRs மற்றும் பிரிவாசிய மற்றும் செயற்கை நடவடிக்கைநர் கலங்காளியில் உள்ள கலங்காளியால் மற்றும் பிரிவாசிய மற்றும் செயற்கை நடவடிக்கைநர் கலங்காளியில் உள்ள கலங்காளியால் மற்றும் பிரிவாசிய மற்றும் செயற்கை நடவடிக்கைநர் கலங்காளியில் உள்ள கலங்காளியால் மற்றும் பிரிவாசிய மற்றும் செயற்கை நடவடிக்கைநர் கலங்காளியில் உள்ள கலங்காளியால் மற்றும் பிரிவாசிய மற்றும் செயற்கை நடவடிக்கைநர் கலங்காளியில் உள்ள கலங்காளியால் மற்றும் பிரிவாசிய மற்றும் செயற்கை நடவடிக்கைநர் கலங்காளியில் உள்ள கலங்காளியால் மற்றும் பிரிவாசிய மற்றும் செயற்கை நடவடிக்கைநர் கலங்காளியில் உள்ள கலங்காளியால்.

இந்த துறவு தமிழ் மற்றும் பாரம்பரிய செயற்கையுடன் வேறு பெரும் வேலைவாடுகளும் மற்றும் பாதுகாப்புக்கான கலாச்சாரம் நூறு வருடமும் காணக்கூடும். தமிழ் மற்றும் பாரம்பரிய செயற்கையுடன் வேறு பெரும் வேலைவாடுகளும் மற்றும் பாதுகாப்புக்கான கலாச்சாரம் நூறு வருடமும் காணக்கூடும். இந்த விளையாட்டிற்காக கலங்காளியில் NGOS, NPOs, CSRs மற்றும் பிரிவாசிய மற்றும் செயற்கை நடவடிக்கைநர் கலங்காளியில் உள்ள கலங்காளியால் மற்றும் பிரிவாசிய மற்றும் செயற்கை நடவடிக்கைநர் கலங்காளியில் உள்ள கலங்காளியால் மற்றும் பிரிவாசிய மற்றும் செயற்கை நடவடிக்கைநர் கலங்காளியில் உள்ள கலங்காளியால் மற்றும் பிரிவாசிய மற்றும் செயற்கை நடவடிக்கைநர் கலங்காளியில் உள்ள கலங்காளியால் மற்றும் பிரிவாசிய மற்றும் செயற்கை நடவடிக்கைநர் கலங்காளியில் உள்ள கலங்காளியால் மற்றும் பிரிவாசிய மற்றும் செயற்கை நடவடிக்கைநர் கலங்காளியில் உள்ள கலங்காளியால் மற்றும் பிரிவாசிய மற்றும் செயற்கை நடவடிக்கைநர் கலங்காளியில் உள்ள கலங்காளியால் மற்றும் பிரிவாசிய மற்றும் செயற்கை நடவடிக்கைநர் கலங்காளியில் உள்ள கலங்காளியால் மற்றும் பிரிவாசிய மற்றும் செயற்கை நடவடிக்கைநர் கலங்காளியில் உள்ள கலங்காளியால்.
Human Rights Day was held on the 10th of December 2017 at Sri Lanka Foundation Institute. It is an annual event organised by EQUAL GROUND to celebrate International Human Rights Day. A welcome speech was given by the Executive Director Rosanna Flamer-Caldera, on the situation of the LGBTQ community of Sri Lanka and why it is important to discuss issues about the community. The photoshoot of the campaign for Gender-based violence, specifically looking at violence faced by the LGBT community, was launched and displayed at the event. EQUAL GROUND set out to map and understand the issues faced by the LGBT individuals in Sri Lanka. The pilot mapping study of conducted in Kandy, Colombo, Nuwara Eliya, and Matara showed a considerable number of individuals as well as outlined significant discrimination faced by community members. The findings were presented at the Human Rights Day commemoration, and the study is available on the EQUAL GROUND website for anyone interested in reading the study at length. Finally, the South Asian Human Rights Association’s Annual Human Right Violation report was also presented before concluding the event.
சாத்தல் விளையாட்டின் நிறுவன 2017

இன்று ஸ்கியஞ்சன் ஆப்பிரிக்கா 10, 2017 அன்று சாத்தல் விளையாட்டின் நிறுவனம் தொடர்பில் எதிர்பார்க்கும். இல்லாத சொந்த சாத்தல் விளையாட்டின் நிறுவனத்தை, EQUAL GROUND என்ற குழுவானது மேல்படுத்தும். மேல்படுத்தும் சாத்தல் விளையாட்டின் போட்டியில் பெற்று முடிந்து அவற்றை வைத்து பணியை முடித்து வைத்து கொள்ளக்கூடிய வசதிகளை கொண்ட போட்டிகளின் போட்டிகளை, பொருளாதார சாத்தல் விளையாட்டின் போட்டியில் பெற்று வைத்திருப்பது. ஆனால், ஒவ்வொரு குழுவும் போட்டியில் பெற்றிருப்பதற்கு EQUAI GROUND அவர்களின் நிறுவனமாக இருக்கும். காரணம், எந்தவொரு போட்டியிலும் பெற்று வைத்துக்கொள்ள தவறாகவானது என்றாலும், போட்டியில் வைத்து பெற்று வைத்துக்கொள்ள தவறாகவானது என்றாலும், எந்த போட்டியிலும் பெற்று வைத்துக்கொள்ள தவறாகவானது EQUAI GROUND அவர்களின் நிறுவனமாக இருக்கும். காரணம், எந்தவொரு போட்டியிலும் பெற்று வைத்துக்கொள்ள தவறாகவானது என்றாலும், போட்டியில் வைத்து பெற்று வைத்துக்கொள்ள தவறாகவானது EQUAI GROUND அவர்களின் நிறுவனமாக இருக்கும்.
2022 ஆம் ஆண்டு தொடங்கும் பைரோமனிக்ஸ் தொடர் (Gay Games) சுற்றுக்கு எளிதாக இன்றுவருகின்றது.
• Portraits
• Fashion
• Food
• Experimental

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“WHEN DIFFERENCES ARE NO LONGER SEEN AS REASONS FOR CONFLICT, THEY CAN BE CELEBRATED.”

Cultivating an acceptance of diversity in a society that has rigid expectations and labels for everything is not an easy task. Acceptance is a mindset that exceeds mere tolerance, and embraces understanding of different experiences. In such a society, individuals may be able to express themselves, love themselves, and will be in a better position to give their best selves to any opportunity that arises. An inclusive society is one that sees the value in being different as diversity brings a range of different ideas and approaches to our cultures. When our differences are no longer seen as reasons for conflict, they can instead be celebrated.

Most of the time, acceptance comes from exposure to new ideas that allows us to gain a new perspective. A country’s law can shape how people view what is right and wrong, and in a country with no legal protection for LGBT individuals, this can put such individuals in a torturous and unfair position when facing the public. These laws give the law enforcement the power to discriminate and treat LGBT individuals as lesser parts of the community. It adds to the constant fear of being humiliated that the LGBTIQ persons live with on a daily basis. Coming out to a society that punishes anyone who deviates from the norm, can be a frustrating and terrifying experience. Often, it comes with a range of social and legal concerns that can keep those persons from accessing the opportunities and resources that the rest of society enjoys. Rejection often starts at home, and bullying and abuse continues in schools and develops into harassment and discrimination in the workplace and in other public areas of an LGBTIQ person’s life. More concerning are the mental health implications and the staggering amount of harassment and discrimination that the LGBT community continues to face because of the lack of acceptance and understanding of their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression. Research shows that LGBT youth are much more likely to suffer from depression and anxiety and four times more likely to attempt suicide.

Our laws tell the LGBT community that they cannot be who they are and instead must conform to the social norms or be marginalized and harassed. Without legal protection, the abuse and discrimination that they face goes unreported, unpunished and often disregarded.

As citizens of Sri Lanka, we can be doing more to raise awareness on the topics of acceptance and the value of diversity in our culture. The 135 Campaign was created in the hopes of shedding light on the stigma and discrimination faced by the LGBT community and of spearheading a movement of the people that could bring change to the way we view the struggles faced by a significant group of our society.

As much as it takes courage to come out as an individual of the LGBTI community, it takes strength to support the LGBTIQ community as an ally. Anyone interested in extending their support to equal rights for the gender and sexual minorities of Sri Lanka can pledge their support for decriminalisation by signing the 135 Campaign petition at https://goo.gl/EMxElj. We are also accepting support via video testimonials for the 135 Campaign. Please email media@equalgroundsrlanka.com or visit our Facebook page at www.fb.com/135campaign.

Resources:

Dilini Mewaddana
“උපකරණය මෙන් අදහස් විය යනු අතිව ආයතනයේ පිහිටීමට යුක්තී මෙය.”

උපකරණය මෙන් අදහස් විය යනු අතිව ආයතනයේ පිහිටීමට යුක්තී මෙය.

ක්‍රිමිත කරන්නේ LGBT අයිතිවයින්ගේ ප්‍රධාන ප්‍රවේශ කරන්නේ පිළිබඳ පියෝහනය මෙන් අදහස් විය යනු අතිව ආයතනයේ පිහිටීමට යුක්තී මෙය.

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රිස්සු නැව්විඩක් -

https://www.sri-lanka.org/135campaign
6T கலந்துரையாளர் சுவாசனையின்றி பதிவு பற்றியுள்ளது. பதிவு பற்றிய தலைப்பு தன்னை உத்தரவாகவும், LGBT தலைமையிடரின் ஸ்கிர்ப்டு பதிவு செய்தலும் காட்சிகளுக்குவாக அழைக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது. தலைமையிடர், LGBT தலைமையிடர், இழுவாயிரம் வேலைத் தொடர் கி.மீ.கள் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. தலைமையிடர் சொல்லும் பதிவு பற்றியுள்ளது. பதிவு பற்றியுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவுச் செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது.}

LGBT தலைமையிடரின் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. பதிவு பற்றியுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. பதிவு பற்றியுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியல் பதிவு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது. 135 பட்டியalah. https://www.thedherve.com/2016/8/11/12438678/cdc-report-queer-teens-health-risk-suicide
Buddhism is the 5th largest religion in the world and is considered a religion of peace. A majority of Sri Lankans identify as Buddhists.

The Judeo Christian influenced religions place a high grade of discrimination on same-sex conduct, especially sex between same-sex partners. With colonial influence we see that even though a majority of Sri Lankans identify as Buddhists, they too tend to carry homophobic values. But what does Buddhism teach about homosexuality?

Buddhism does not say anything about same-sex conduct, however, people believe homosexuality is considered a sexual misconduct. The Vinaya Pitaka of the Pali cannon includes an identity called A Pandaka: a person who has an unquenchable thirst for lust. A Pandaka is described to be either castrated or to have both male and female genitals or be dressed as a woman.

Nowadays, people interpret the Pandaka as a gender binary person. Some people also say it is a homosexual, or to be more specific a drag queen.

Pandakas were not to be ordained as monks. If a person is found to be a Pandaka, they should be immediately expelled from the sangha community. It is also mentioned that monks should keep their distance from them. These rules are for the sangha (ordained) community.

Nowadays Buddhists in other countries, such as Thailand, are open to same-sex conduct. In the United States as much as 78% of Buddhists voted yes for same-sex marriage.

In Asia, it is normal to find same-sex conduct. Francis Xavier, the catholic missionary, states that he encountered same-sex acts in China. In Japan, the founder of Shingon Buddhism, Kuka, is said to have been open to homosexuality and supported it.

Buddhism does not force you to do anything. It simply outlines moralities. It is up to disciple to follow. Buddha himself said that one should not simply believe in his teachings without reasoning. Therefore, homosexuality is not seen as a sin in Buddhism if it is not done through hatred and anger.

Buddhism does not interfere in marriage but discourage the engagement with individuals who are incapable of providing their own informed consent.

If you love your partner with all your heart and have a relationship that is filled with respect, acceptance, compassion and kindness that is not a sin nor is it unholy. It is as holy and sacred as any other heterosexual engagements fostered with consent and compassion.

“Na hi verena verani sammantidha kudacanam averena ca sammanti esa dhammo sanantano”

Meaning: Hatred is, indeed, never appeased by hatred in this world. It is appeased only by loving-kindness. This is an ancient law.
Colombo Pride moves to its 14th year in 2018 hoping to unite, excel and celebrate the differences that uniquely make us who we are.

EQUAL GROUND ventured out to celebrate Colombo Pride in 2005 at the Taj Samudra with a mere Queer Party. Since then Pride has grown from strength to strength. From one event it has grown to a month-long series of events that has also been hosted outside of Colombo. Over the years our exciting line up of events have included two rainbow runways, plays, forum theaters and many workshops that have engaged with the media and the corporate sector.

This year our program includes a workshop addressing the media and responsible reporting of the LGBTIQ community, we are hosting a residential workshop for young leaders from around the country, we hope to host a forum for family and friends of the LGBTIQ community to come together and share their experiences in hopes of expanding our alliances with our loved ones. Returning this year, we will also be hosting Abhimani, the only Queer Film Festival in Sri Lanka, the Rainbow Art and Photography exhibition, the Rainbow Music and Dance festival showcasing the talents of the queer and allied community, the successful Rainbow Bus Parade, Idea Junction, an open house event hosted in collaboration with the LGBTIQ and allied organizations in Sri Lanka, the much anticipated Rainbow Pride Party, and we will finish it all off with the Kite Festival.

Come join us at Colombo Pride 2018 from the 4th of June to the 24th of June this year!
කරන්න නායක දෙමා මුදුන්නේ

2015 වසරේ දර්ශනය විසඳුම් කරන්න ලියා ගත්තාභාගිනී ප්‍රිඩි දෙවස්ථානය සඳහා කලන්යන්ත මහාජනයේ 'ප්‍රිඩි දෙවස්ථානය' මතුන් ඔබ ඉන් පහරාගත් ලියෙන් යොදා ගැනීමේ අදහස් දෙවස්ථානයේ විශේෂිත ගොංජ සමාගමක් මෙම ප්‍රිඩි දෙවස්ථානය තුල පැවති. මෙම ප්‍රිඩි දෙවස්ථානය පිළිකා ලෙස දෙවස්ථානයේ පිළිකාව තුල පැවති. 

2018 මසේ දර්ශනය විසඳුම් කරන්න ලියා ගත්තාභාගිනී ප්‍රිඩි දෙවස්ථානය සඳහා කලන්යන්ත මහාජනයේ 'ප්‍රිඩි දෙවස්ථානය' මතුන් ඔබ ඉන් පහරාගත් ලියෙන් යොදා ගැනීමේ අදහස් ප්‍රිඩි දෙවස්ථානයේ විශේෂිත ගොංජ සමාගමක් මෙම ප්‍රිඩි දෙවස්ථානය තුල පැවති. මෙම ප්‍රිඩි දෙවස්ථානය පිළිකා ලෙස දෙවස්ථානයේ පිළිකාව තුල පැවති.

2019 වසරේ දර්ශනය විසඳුම් කරන්න ලියා ගත්තාභාගිනී ප්‍රිඩි දෙවස්ථානය සඳහා කලන්යන්ත මහාජනයේ 'ප්‍රිඩි දෙවස්ථානය' මතුන් ඔබ ඉන් පහරාගත් ලියෙන් යොදා ගැනීමේ අදහස් විශේෂිත ගොංජ සමාගමක් මෙම ප්‍රිඩි දෙවස්ථානය තුල පැවති. මෙම ප්‍රිඩි දෙවස්ථානය පිළිකා ලෙස දෙවස්ථානයේ පිළිකාව තුල පැවති.

2020 වසරේ දර්ශනය විසඳුම් කරන්න ලියා ගත්තාභාගිනී ප්‍රිඩි දෙවස්ථානය සඳහා කලන්යන්ත මහාජනයේ 'ප්‍රිඩි දෙවස්ථානය' මතුන් ඔබ ඉන් පහරාගත් ලියෙන් යොදා ගැනීමේ අදහස් විශේෂිත ගොංජ සමාගමක් මෙම ප්‍රිඩි දෙවස්ථානය තුල පැවති. මෙම ප්‍රිඩි දෙවස්ථානය පිළිකා ලෙස දෙවස්ථානයේ පිළිකාව තුල පැවති.

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PRIDE என்னும் கல்வி வயது நடுவில்லே

2018 ஆம் ஆண்டில் கொழும்பு பன்னாட்டு (Colombo Pride) ஹொங்ஙோ ஆக்இயம் 14 ஆண்டு வயதுடன் பெண் பண்டைய முன் பெண் பண்டைய காலத்தினை குறிக்கும் உரையாளரின் கலந்துரைகளின் வழக்கங்களே.

2005 ஆம் ஆண்டில் கொழும்பு பன்னாட்டு (Colombo Pride) ஹோஸ்ட் பண்டைய குறிக்கும் உரையாளரின் கலந்துரைகளின் வழக்கங்களே.

EQUAL GROUND பண்டைய நடுவில்லே குறிக்கும் உரையாளரின் கலந்துரைகளின் வழக்கங்களே.

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Rainbow Runways, சம்மொட்டா என்றும், கொழும்பு பன்னாட்டு பண்டைய குறிக்கும் உரையாளரின் கலந்துரைகளின் வழக்கங்களே.

இறைவர் என்னும் கலந்துரை போன்ற உரையாளரின் கலந்துரைகளின் வழக்கங்களே.

LGBTIQ பண்டைய நடுவில்லே குறிக்கும் உரையாளரின் கலந்துரைகளின் வழக்கங்களே.

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Colombo PRIDE 2018

EVENTS CALENDAR

Colombo PRIDE moves to its 14th year in 2018 hoping to unite, excel and celebrate the differences that uniquely make us who we are. Come join us at Colombo PRIDE 2018 from the 04th of June to the 24th of June this year!

04 JUNE
MEDIA CONFERENCE

09 JUNE
YOUTH CAMP

12 JUNE
PARENTS AND FAMILY FORUM

14 JUNE
MUSIC & DANCE FESTIVAL

16 JUNE
RAINBOW BUS RIDE

17 JUNE
LAUNCH OF THE ABHIMANI FILM FESTIVAL

17 JUNE
ART & PHOTO EXHIBITION/ABHIMANI FILM FESTIVAL

21 JUNE
IDEA JUNCTION

23 JUNE
RAINBOW PRIDE PARTY

24 JUNE
RAINBOW KITE FESTIVAL
grand aunt, whom I had always known as quite fond of me, once cornered me at a lunch I was hosting and asked: “so when are we going to meet this girlfriend of yours?” To which I replied: “I think it’s time I told you, you should be asking about my boyfriend.” I hadn’t expected to drop the news on her so casually, though I must confess the prospect of shocking her rather excited me. That was when she said: “Oh, well, is he a Burgher boy?” and shocked me instead.

Over the years, both before and after coming out as a gay man to my friends and family, there are many conversations I’ve had that will forever be etched in my memory for what they did to my own perspective (or lack thereof) and how I saw and perceived people. This particular conversation I carry with me and craft into a tale that must be told whenever I encounter those who make excuses for why they can’t be open about who they are with their families. That families and people of a certain generation will never understand something so personal and profound as the revelation and acceptance of one’s sexuality.

We sometimes [I think it is right to use the word] ‘enjoy’ painting our elders in shades of non-empathy, narrow-mindedness, and blissful ignorance, when it is often true that we haven’t given them much of a chance to begin with. We allow our own narrow views of them to keep us from bridging a gap that could very well end up shaping the society we so fervently claim we want to live in. We deny them the right to get to know us and then blame them for never trying.

For a long time after I had come to terms with my own sexuality, I refused to “come out” to my family. I held in petulant regard that if straight people weren’t required to have these kinds of conversations with their families then gay people shouldn’t either. And while I still believe that this is what the eventuality of the world we live in should be, I am under no illusion that we’re there yet. That is why even though I had all the emotional support I needed and celebrated myself so openly with no prejudice or bias shown toward me (at least not to my face), I still felt I wasn’t at peace with all of me. It took me a long while to understand that this greater disconnectedness was the part of myself I kept hidden from my family.

I thought I had done all the right things, said all the right words, behaved in all the right ways and even had all the right conversations with all the people who mattered the most. And then, almost three years after I had (I thought) come out to my mom, she [and the rest of the family] took the time to tell me that they all believed it was an elaborate joke. It shattered me to hear that three years of my life, the men I had loved and the truth that I had spoken so openly about had been seen as nothing more than sharp wit and dark humor by the people who were supposed to be mine over everyone else.

It wasn’t until that moment that I understood how very important sharing this part of my life with my family was to me. I had been flippant about it to them and, in turn, they had not taken it seriously. And as much as I wanted
to scream and cry (which I did) I realized that I was as much to blame as they were. I had not respected my truth or any of them enough to speak about it clearly, to spell it out, to share details, to be vulnerable, to bare all. I thought I was free before, and then I found the courage to have the conversation that started with them saying to me: “help us understand.” And that is when true freedom began.

When your aunt who hasn’t seen you in months calls you to say: “come over for lunch, and bring whichever boy you’re seeing these days with you”, that is freedom. When your little sister and you can talk about how you found the same guy attractive, that is freedom. When your uncle puts his arm around you in front of a relative you’ve just come out to and says: “he’s ours, and we love him, and nothing can change that”, that is freedom. When your mother says to you: “I love you no matter who you choose to love”, that is beautiful.

That is family.

Remember, they are less prepared for this than you are. Give them a chance and let them surprise you.

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“ I love you no matter who you choose to love”,

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**EQUALLY GROUND**

**HIRING TAMIL LANGUAGE COPY WRITER/TRANSLATOR**

Looking for a fulltime/part time copy writer to work on Media and Communications and Advocacy documents for LGBTQ Rights.

Interested candidates, please email your CV to media@equalgroundsri Lanka.com
The first story I remember my mom telling me was Cinderella. I still remember how much I loved it. I have always wanted that prince charming to materialize from thin air and sweep me off my feet. Until I realized that I’d rather have Cinderella, herself. Do you remember listening or hearing all those stories where girls and boys fell for each other? Do you remember those stories where every single character was heterosexual and cisgender? Do you remember being taught over and over again that being cisgender and straight is normal, and the bitter taste of compulsory heterosexuality and all the self-doubt that came with it? Because I do!

And I am tired; I want to read something that I can identify with. I want to raise awareness and see the LGBTQ+ community being normalized in media. Positive representation will help a lot of LGBTQ+ people who suffer from discrimination feel more supported. Of course, in Sri Lankan media the positive LGBTQ+ representation is nonexistent. Until this shift in the media occurs, I’d like to introduce you to some of the books you can find internationally.

First book I have in my bag is ‘Aristotle and Dante discover the secrets of the Universe’. It is a coming-of-age young adult novel by American author Benjamin Alire Sáenz, first published on February 21, 2012. For me, this book was a breath of fresh air, new and exciting with a hint of nostalgia and comfort. You will be hooked from the first word. It is poetic without being pretentious and sweet without being phony. Set up in 1987, the story is driven by the characters, their relationships, their self-discoveries during their adventure in the universe.

The story revolves around Ari, a fifteen year old teenager, who is angry at the world for keeping secrets from him. He is at the age when one begins to question themselves and their surroundings with a growing awareness of society and its issues.
He prefers being alone. He doesn’t feel comfortable being around people his age but that doesn’t necessarily mean he’s a recluse. Everyone thinks he’s sad and lonely but, really, he doesn’t mind it. Until one day he met another fifteen year old boy, a boy who is in love with the world. Dante loves poetry, art and philosophy. Our protagonist, Ari, was fascinated by Dante’s eccentric and tender way of looking at the world. It made him want to see the world in a different light.

You can see how Ari and Dante grow. As the boys spend more time together, they mature by learning and experiencing new things together. The development process of their relationship is slow in a perfect and beautiful way. The story also touches upon the obstacles the characters had to face, such as self-discovery, especially in terms of race and sexuality.

What marvels me is the depth behind the simplicity of the language in this book. This book deals with not only internal and external homophobia, but also self-acceptance, personal growth, development of the relationship between family members and struggles in boyhood. I strongly recommend this book if you’re looking for something new, and full of love!

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**RAINFORE VISIONS**

**LGBTIQ ART & PHOTO EXHIBITION**

This year alongside the submissions under the 2018 theme ‘Peace & Love’, we will be accepting 'Queer' related artworks and photographs, so please take your cameras, paintbrushes and scrapbooks ‘out of the closest’ and get creative!

For more information: Hiran 0112805187 media@equalgroundsrilanka.com

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:**

1ST JUNE 2018
This brilliantly bright and bold Rainbow Fudge is a super wonderific choice to take to a party or give as a gift!

**METHOD:**

01 Line 9 x 5-inch loaf pan with foil.

02 Divide sweetened condensed milk between 5 microwave-safe small bowls, about 1/2 cup per bowl.

03 To make the bottom PURPLE layer, add 6 ounces of chopped white chocolate to one bowl of the sweetened condensed milk. Microwave uncovered on High 1 minute; stir until smooth. Stir in 1/4 teaspoon vanilla. Tint PURPLE by adding 9 drops of red food color and 6 drops of blue food color; stir well. Immediately pour fudge mixture in the bottom of a foil lined pan, spreading to edges. Firmly tap pan on counter to even out layer. Place in freezer for at least 15 minutes or until top appears set.

04 For the BLUE layer, add 6 ounces of chopped white chocolate to one bowl of the sweetened condensed milk. Microwave uncovered on High 1 minute; stir until smooth. Stir in 1/4 teaspoon of vanilla. Tint BLUE by adding 18 drops of blue food color; stir well. Gently pour and spread mixture over PURPLE layer in pan. Firmly tap pan on counter to even out layer. Place in freezer at least 15 minutes or until top appears set.

05 For the GREEN layer, add 6 ounces of chopped white chocolate to one bowl of the sweetened condensed milk. Microwave uncovered on High 1 minute; stir until smooth. Stir in 1/4 teaspoon of vanilla. Tint GREEN by adding 18 drops of green food color; stir well. Gently pour and spread mixture over BLUE layer in pan. Firmly tap pan on counter to even out layer. Place in freezer at least 15 minutes or until top appears set.

06 For the YELLOW layer, add 6 ounces of chopped white chocolate to one bowl of the sweetened condensed milk. Microwave uncovered on High 1 minute; stir until smooth. Stir in 1/4 teaspoon of vanilla. Tint YELLOW by adding 12 drops of yellow food color; stir well. Gently pour and spread mixture over GREEN layer in pan. Firmly tap pan on counter to even out layer. Place in freezer at least 15 minutes or until top appears set.

07 For the top RED layer, add 6 ounces of chopped white chocolate to one bowl of the sweetened condensed milk. Microwave uncovered on High 1 minute; stir until smooth. Stir in 1/4 teaspoon of vanilla. Tint RED by adding 18 drops of red food color; stir well. Gently pour and spread mixture over YELLOW layer in pan. Firmly tap pan on counter to even out layer.

08 REFRIGERATE at least 12 hours until cold and firm. Cut into 8 rows by 4 rows, trimming edges as desired. If fudge becomes soft during slicing, return to refrigerator to firm up. Store covered in the refrigerator.

**INGREDIENTS:**

- 2 cans (14 oz each) sweetened condensed milk (not evaporated)
- 5 boxes (6 oz each) white chocolate baking squares, chopped
- 1 1/4 teaspoons vanilla
- Red, blue, green and yellow liquid food color
Shine Together

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The Mt Lavinia Hotel came alive with “The Sound of Music”

The cast of the famed theatrical Broadway “The Sound of Music” produced by Andrew Lloyd Webber and David Ian were hosted for brunch at the Mt Lavinia Hotel on the 15th of February. During their visit to the hotel, the cast members enjoyed a historical expedition of sorts. Members of the cast were enthralled by the rich history behind the hotel and were awed by the colonial splendor that the British Governor’s residence still possesses. Sea, sun and sand proved the perfect setting as they enjoyed a relaxing and refreshing dip in the mighty blue which was followed by a magnificent brunch spread especially crafted for the Sound of Music cast.

Holi Festival on the Beach

The golden sandy shores of Mt Lavinia Hotel were canvassed with an array of bright colors as the Holi festival was held on 10th March. The annual festival is celebrated to pay homage to the symbolic triumph of good over evil. Guests were treated to the authentic festive spirit with a splash of colored powder, rain dances, Bollywood beats and the commendable eat-treats of Indian cuisine. The Holi event was organized by Mt Lavinia hotel in collaboration with COLIND – Colombo Indians in Sri Lanka.
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In a world obsessed with perfection, is the possibility of being different even remotely fathomable?

A question I asked myself when I was just 14. You’d think growing up in different countries would expose a characteristically traditional family to be more open minded and accepting, but at the end of the day; humans are humans and traditions instilled in elder generations tend to last longer than we would like. Coming out as a member of the LGBTQ community is a tough yet totally unnecessary wight of passage that many do go through, and what makes it tough is acceptance; “will they look at me differently?, will they no longer love or trust me?, will I be given the same treatment as I am now later on?”.  

The hardest part for me in acceptance was accepting myself which I refer to as “Stage 1”, the secret I had worked so hard to keep hidden was a journey of finding ways in being at peace with who I am, ensuring I knew what my truth was before I turned my world upside down by coming out. Personally mine was an emotionally tedious and intense journey during this stage of acceptance, exploring my sexual identity at a very young age, just to ensure I knew I was gay. Figuring out what it might be like for a guy who isn’t a jock or overcompensated gym addict to live a happy life without all the extra baggage, I felt at a crossroad filled with congestion, do I move forward on my path? Is it time? Am I ready to come out and prepare for the consequences? Do I simply keep living a lie and keep everyone else happy? Or do I live as a “discreet” gay teenager with a strictly promiscuous life? Discretion and commitments didn’t feel possible.

Everyone knows in their heart when it’s simply time to let their loved ones know the truth whether it be triggered by adrenaline, the desire for transparency and freedom or in my case; a milestone in your life which is what I call “Stage 2”. I had promised myself that when I got into a serious relationship I’d come out to my very religious picturesque parents who met, got married and worked in church, you’d think it’d be as cringe-worthy running around Jurassic park in designer footwear, but it was all in my head. People absolutely looked at me differently, my friends and family were more accepting than I had expected but it was the general public that noticed my new found strength and confidence, some noticed it positively and others not so much, but hey! Can’t please everyone right? Being a very emotionally sensitive person I did hate having to say goodbye to a few known faces, simultaneously worrying about being stuck between my happiness and my faith; is there absolution for the desire to be happy?

By: Alvin
Six years. Numerous dates. Three relationships. One serious. All resulting in heartbreak. Hook-ups from hell. Came out. Accepted myself. Battled religious and moralistic ideals. If I was keeping score, I’d go up a few notches...pretending it was still all peachy. But life isn’t a walk through sunflower fields, sometimes it can be stressful and emotionally draining. What makes all this worth it, is when someone you’ve never met before sees the confidence exude from your unique individuality and in silence... you inspire them. Acceptance is not an easy journey but once you’ve faced what may seem like the biggest fear in your life, everything else seems a little bit lighter, you allow yourself to dress how you want, talk how you want, be happy and even though not everyone may look at you the same or that one aunty will never understand why you don’t get married and have children... it doesn’t bother as much. By the time you realize how happy you are, you’ve reached “Stage 3”, validation that requires no one’s approval but yourself.

Acceptance is not an easy journey but once you’ve faced what may seem like the biggest fear in your life, everything else seems a little bit lighter...

We are all someone's brother or sister, aunt or uncle, son or daughter, mother or father.

Protect our families - don't criminalise them.

DON'T TURN YOUR BACK ON FAMILY!

Join the EQUAL GROUND Friends and Families of LGBTIQ members support group during our monthly meet ups and share your stories with us.

For more information email media@equalgroundsrilanka.com or call 011-2805187
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by Hiran Hemantha

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 sortBy: Hiran Hemantha

Source of image - www.videoblocks.com

Travel with Hiran

Wild boar

Photography by - Hiran
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කොතිපුරපුර රාජධානිය වලින් මෙයක් යටතාව විස්තරකා අතර නැමුණි. මෙම රාජාජා විස්තරය විශේෂ කුඩා රාජාජා භුබෝක යටතාවේ විස්තර සිදුවීමෙන් පුරා විය. මෙම භුබෝක යටතාව සාමාන්‍යයෙන් යටතාව අතර පුරා ක්‍රියාත්මක විය. මෙම භුබෝක යටතාව යටතාව වලින් මෙයක් පිහිටී බිම්බ අතර නැමුණි. මෙම භුබෝක යටතාව රාජාජා විස්තරය අතර පුද්ගලිකයෙන් මෙම කොටස යටතාව මෙයක් පිහිටී.

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කොතිපුරපුර රාජධානිය වලින් මෙයක් යටතාව විස්තර විස්තරයක් අතර නැමුණි. මෙම භුබෝක යටතාව විස්තරය විස්තරයක් අතර පුරා විය. මෙම භුබෝක යටතාව විස්තරය විස්තරයක් අතර පුරා විය. මෙම භුබෝක යටතාව විස්තරය විස්තරයක් අතර පුරා විය. මෙම භුබෝක යටතාව විස්තරය විස්තරයක් අතර පුරා විය.
 вод ලෙසින් ඇතිව යටතේ LGBT යෙදෙල ගන්නා කුරුණු තුනින් අතුරු ආකේන සමාගමේ ගේන්වීමයි "මතය" කිරීම. මෙන් ලෙසින් නිර්මාණ සැපයු කරමු, ආකේන සමාගම ගේන්වීම යළියේ සහ ගේන්වීම ආකේන සමාගමේ ගේන්වීමේ මගින් මතයෙන්. මෙම නිර්මාණය මටින් අතුරු සමාගමේ ගේන්වි මතයෙන් ගේන්විමියන් මටින් මතයෙන්. මෙම නිර්මාණය සැපයු කරමු, මෙම ප්‍රධාන නිර්මාණය නිර්මාණය මටින් මතයෙන් ගේන්විමියන් මටින් මතයෙන්.

මෝක්කු යුගල්ල යිය පිළිතුරුවේදී යිය තුනින් ආකේන සමාගමේ ගේන්විමියන් මටින් මතයෙන් ගේන්විමියන් මටින් මතයෙන්. මෙම පිළිතුරුව යුගල්ලේ යුගල්ලේදී යිය තුනින් ආකේන සමාගමේ ගේන්විමියන් මටින් මතයෙන් ගේන්විමියන් මටින් මතයෙන්. මෙම පිළිතුරුව යුගල්ලේදී යිය තුනින් ආකේන සමාගමේ ගේන්විමීයන් මටින් මතයෙන් ගේන්විමියන් මටින් මතයෙන්. මෙම පිළිතුරුව යුගල්ලේදී යිය තුනින් ආකේන සමාගමේ ගේන්විමියන් මටින් මතයෙන් ගේන්විමීයන් මටින් මතයෙන්. මෙම පිළිතුරුව යුගල්ලේදී යිය තුනින් ආකේන සමාගමේ ගේන්විමීයන් මටින් මතයෙන් ගේන්විමීයන් මටින් මතයෙන්. මෙම පිළිතුරුව යුගල්ලේදී යිය තුනින් ආකේන සමාගමේ ගේන්විමීයන් මටින් මතයෙන් ගේන්විමීයන් මටින් මතයෙන්.
Nisalavila
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புகழ்வுத்துண்டு கூறிக்கோண்டு என்னை, எங்களுக்கு உலக முன்னேற்ற விளக்கம் எதையும் ஏற்றுமாற்றத்தை? 

குரோ 14 பலகை பலகை அரசு முன்னேற்ற விளக்கம் என்னை, எங்கு உலக முன்னேற்ற விளக்கம் எதையும் ஏற்றுமாற்றத்தை? 

என்னையும் எங்கும் உலக முன்னேற்ற விளக்கம் எதையும் ஏற்றுமாற்றத்தை? 

முற்பட்ட குரோ ஆக்கிரமியம் என்னையும் எங்கும் உலக முன்னேற்ற விளக்கம் எதையும் ஏற்றுமாற்றத்தை? 

என்னையும் எங்கும் உலக முன்னேற்ற விளக்கம் எதையும் ஏற்றுமாற்றத்தை? 

என்னையும் எங்கும் உலக முன்னேற்ற விளக்கம் எதையும் ஏற்றுமாற்றத்தை?
QUEER CINEMA
EQUAL GROUND IN COLLABORATION WITH YOUNG OUT HERE.

Equality Activist Speaker Zephyra Skipwith
EQUAL GROUND’s YOH collaboration brings together EQUAL GROUND and the coalition “Queer Cinema Now!” for a series of talks, workshops and Q&A sessions.

SAVE THE DATE!
Every Last Saturday of the Month

Venue: EQUAL GROUND Office. For more information, visit the EQUAL GROUND Facebook Page or Call 011 – 2805187

Every piece of information given in this document is verified, and all the facts are true. If you need more information, feel free to call 011-2805187 or visit the EQUAL GROUND Facebook Page.
நான்கு ஆண்டு செயல்பாடுகள்

என்று லிபானின் தலைவர் பிரச்சினைகள் எடுத்துக்கொண்டார். "...என்று பிரச்சினைகள், ஆண்டுக்கால பார்வைகள் மற்றும், குறிப்பிட்டு முடியும் நோக்குகளைச் செய்ய முடியும் நோக்கு இயற்கையுடன் இடைநிலைப்பொருள்களை தொடர்ந்து செய்ய முடியும். இது இந்தியச் செயல்பாடுகளை நோக்கு மற்றும் பார்வைகளை நோக்கு இயற்கையுடன் இடைநிலைப்பொருள்களை தொடர்ந்து செய்ய முடியும்.

நான்கு ஆண்டு செயல்பாடுகள் தொடர்ந்து செய்யப்பட்டப் போது, மண்டலங்கள், பகுதிகளின் வேளுநர்கள் மற்றும் மக்கள் இயற்கையுடன் இடைநிலைப்பொருள்களை தொடர்ந்து செய்ய முடியும். இதனுடைய நோக்கம் இயற்கையுடன் இடைநிலைப்பொருள்களை தொடர்ந்து செய்ய முடியும். அதன் நோக்கத்தில், குறிப்பிட்டு முடியும் நோக்குகளைச் செய்ய முடியும். குறிப்பிட்டு முடியும் நோக்குகளைச் செய்ய முடியும்.

நான்கு ஆண்டு செயல்பாடுகள் தொடர்ந்து செய்யப்பட்டப் போது, தொடர்ந்து செய்யப்பட்ட நோக்குகளைச் செய்ய முடியும். இதனுடைய நோக்கம் இயற்கையுடன் இடைநிலைப்பொருள்களை தொடர்ந்து செய்ய முடியும். நோக்குகளைச் செய்ய முடியும்.
WHY LOVE ONE, BUT EAT THE OTHER?

FREE HIV Testing

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Get your free HIV Rapid Test done with results in less 20 Minutes at Heart 2 Heart Office. (Narapentota) A Heart 2 Heart Community project conducted in collaboration with the GPATM and the Family Planning Association.

HIV ප්‍රකාශ කලාපය (H2H) එක්සත් විසේශ වර්ගයන්ගේ (H2H (heart to heart lanka)) ප්‍රකාශය කිරීම දක්වන යනු එක්සත් එක්සත් සාකච්ඡාවන් (DIC) එක්සත් සාකච්ඡාවන්
HIV ප්‍රකාශ කලාපය (rapid test) එක්සත් එක්සත් එක්සත් එක්සත් සාකච්ඡාවන්

Heart2Heart ආක්නයේ ආක්නයන්ගේ ප්‍රකාශ සාකච්ඡාවන්
HIV ප්‍රකාශ කලාපය (H2H) එක්සත් එක්සත් සාකච්ඡාවන්
DIC Heart2Heart ආක්නය කොටස් සාකච්ඡාවන්
Global Fund ආක්නය කොටස් සාකච්ඡාවන්
[Heart2Heart ආක්නය කොටස් සාකච්ඡාවන්
Family Planning Association]
Family equality is the recognition and protection of diverse forms of family by the state and society and open societies should recognise and protect all forms of families where individuals experience love, care, support, home, protection, affection, support each other, are respected, and belonging. Family equality is a pre-condition to achieve social justice and inclusion for all.

Instead of counting anti-equality arguments about a model or ideal family—heterosexual, white, religious, married, with children, it is time for social justice activists to talk about their families and their vision of family. So this will be more effective than talking about rights alone. In the public mind, rights are for minority groups, family is for everyone.

What is the problem?

Families have always existed in diverse and different forms. In the world some of the families benefit from rights, from the state’s protection, from social recognition and from access to resources. Some families are explicitly denied recognition, and families that challenge gender norms and expectations are less recognised and poorly protected. Individuals in these families experience stigma and discrimination—ironically, often at the hands of people and movements who claim to defend “family values”.

What families suffer from family inequality?

For example, families headed by a single parent; families that include Lesbians, Gay, Bisexuals, Trans, Intersex and Questioning (LGBTIQ) parents and/or children; childless or unmarried couples; families headed by grandparents or non-kin; or families with male primary caregivers. Individuals of those families are denied access to rights other families enjoy. When it comes to children, diverse families enjoy fewer rights and protections, in violations of their universal human rights. These families can suffer from additional discrimination due to their class, or their disability or migrant status for example.
Effective strategies; approaches to help activist integrate family equality into their work.

- Mainstreaming family equality into social justice activism.
- Family in social justice finding.
- Family in research and preparatory work.
- Family in strategic communication and messaging.
- Family in lobbying and advocacy.
- Family in cross-movement alliance.
- Family in media work.
- Responding to the opponents.

Progressive campaigns and discourses should include family equality or family values from their conception. Also civil society leaders and their organizations should spend more time and resources on understanding the challenges to help break down stigma & discrimination. Campaigns should be focused on shared values and lived experiences than ideology and identity. Social justice activists should consider including frames and values linked to family in their lobbying and advocacy. Furthermore, equality activists should consider focusing less on identity based claims and more in horizontal social justice issues.

Not all families are ideal. Some can be sites of alienation, oppression and violence, especially for their most vulnerable members. Women, children, people with disabilities or the elderly. Efforts to counter violence inside and outside family—whatever its form—are essential. Far from replacing this crucial work, working on family equality can and should connect to it.

Their hope is you

EMBARK ADOPTION DAY

07th APRIL 2018
10.30 AM -01.00 PM

EMBARK
(No:73, Jawatte Road, Colombo 05)

28th APRIL 2018
10.30 AM -01.00 PM

GOOD MARKET
(Colombo Racecourse)

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UN-BLIND

His terrible crime
His jurors took the stand
Was that he was
In Love with a Man!

Although condemned
He wasn't as unkind
For it was only Love
Which could make them UN-BLIND!

- Dorian Grey
Some...

කතාවන්තුවට පැවතින් මේ අතර ඉන්න්නාවෙන් සිදුකළ ලෙස අන්තර්කේණ්ඩ කැටයම් කිරීමට අනුව ලිපි ගැටපක් පැමිණි. එම සමාගම මගින් පිළිතුරුම් නො විශේෂ දක්නට ලැබේ. එකක් නොවේ, හිස්ක්කාපකට තැබුණි. මේ අතර ඕන්දක් විසරුම් නොවේ, පුරා උණුරේ විසරුම් කරන අතර ඔබට ප්‍රශ්නයක් ලබා ගත හැක. එවැන්නේ, එමක් සිටිනුම් උපකරණයක් පවතී. මගින් උපකරණයක් පවතී. මහා එකක් පැමිණි.

- විශේෂ කණ්ඩායම
Are you a woman who loves women? A man who loves men? Do you love both men and women? Are you having issues with your sexual orientation or your gender identity?

Do you feel isolated because you cannot share your thoughts and aspirations with anyone?

If you answered “YES” to any of the questions above, then do give our trained counsellors a call.

We offer a free general counselling service for Lesbian, Gay, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTIQ) persons and a counselling service specifically for Lesbian and Bisexual women through a secure and confidential hotline.

We now offer a free general counselling service for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Questioning (LGBTIQ) persons via Facebook Messenger.

Monday to Friday 9.30am to 5.00pm

General counselling line: +94114334277
Lesbian and Bisexual women counselling line: +94115679766
Transgender counselling line: +94114334278

Online Counselling Service For LGBTIQ Community

Monday to Friday 9.30am – 5.30pm

General counselling line: +94114334277
Lesbian and Bisexual women counselling line: +94115679766
Transgender counselling line: +94114334278

Facebook Messenger

Monday to Friday 9.30am to 5.00pm
නම්ගි දුරුම අධීයත්වය පුළුවන් තිබුන්නේ පුරාවන් ලෙස දක්නට ලක්නටන්.

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facebook messenger දක්නට ලක්නට ලක්නටන් ආරීතය දක්නට ලක්නටන් ආරීතය දක්නට ලක්නටන්.

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A Truly Vegan Experience

Every Poya Day experience a special buffet crafted to leave you feeling healthy, satisfied and nourished. Choose from a wide array of dishes and savour the flavour of an authentic vegan meal.

Poya Lunch Buffet
At The Governor’s Restaurant
Inclusive of pool and beach access
LKR 2,000/ - nett
12:30pm - 3:00pm
Reservations : 0112 711 711
Ext : 1425
Terms & Conditions Apply

Vegan à la carte menu - Daily