

FREEDOM AND ROAM UGANDA

BISEXUAL VISIBILITY DAY FARUG STATEMENT 2023

For immediate release 23rd-September-2023

Freedom and Roam Uganda is a Lesbian, Bisexual and Queer womxn organization that advocates for the rights of lesbians, Bisexual and Queer womxn while addressing the unique issues that affect them. The B in the LBQ stands for Bisexual and as part of Our advocacy we endeavor to commemorate days that are significant to the LBQ communities, days that create awareness for LBQ Womxn existence.

Understanding the context in which we are working because of the Anti-Homosexuality law, we have to continue reminding ourselves that we are still here doing the work as a community and not giving up.

From 16th September to 23rd, Freedom and roam together with the rest of the LBQ community local and international recognized the Bisexual awareness week,

.... Bisexual+ Awareness Week seeks to accelerate the acceptance of the Bi+ (bisexual, pansexual, fluid, no label, queer, etc.) community.

#BiWeek draws attention to the experiences, while also celebrating the resiliency of, the bisexual+ community. Throughout #BiWeek, allies and bi+ people learn about the history, culture, community, and current policy priorities of Bi+ communities.... GLAD

With this statement it is important to acknowledge the disparities of the Bi community, to intentionally discover the real root of the issues, is it society or systems of governance, these range from just the negative stereotypes towards the Bi community the myth and



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misconceptions like bisexuals are confused, they are cheats, the bring STIs, they don't know love ... these send Bisexual womxn back to the closet, this is done from within and outside the LGBTIQ community; Most Bisexual womxn struggle with self-acceptance and acceptance by outsiders that is why they often don't open up about their sexuality because of the fear of being discriminated against.

The prevalence of these issues greatly lead to mental health problem like anxiety, depression, when society doesn't accept you, you feel alone and loneliness is a dark place to be. The Bi+ community continue to experience these problems, and now with various laws and policies coming up because of ignorance, lack of authentic information all, seem to be working towards violation of human rights. This is classic homophobia at play.

This has limited access to affordable, quality and non-discriminative health services, for bisexual individuals because they cannot freely express and live their full authentic selves as well seek health services due to fear of being judged and shamed.

As we mark the end of the Bisexual Awareness week, on this Bisexual Visibility Day, we call for change, acceptance in all aspects in which the Bi community is treated. We also draw our appreciation to the allies and partnerships that have continued standing in solidarity with the Bi community.

Let us come together to reduce the issues that come with being ourselves.

Let today be a reflection and a reminder to be open and embrace the different sexual identities without judgement and violence

#BisexualAwarenessWeek2023 #BisexualVisibilityDay2023 #EndBiphobia

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