

THE INTERSEX PRECONFERENCE REPORT 2021

BACKGROUND

The pre-conference that happened at the PAI 5th Regional Conference brought together a number of African activists where discussions focused on defining a future for the African Intersex community through the AIM while examining challenges that the African intersex community is facing ranging from insufficient funding, mental health and the COVID 19 pandemic.

QUALITY OF THE PROGRAM

LEARNINGS FROM THE CONFERENCE

- 1 The intersex community is still mainly funded by the same donors who are over stretched and not focused on the distinct needs of the Intersex community
- 2 The still prevailing lack of awareness about intersex people and lives has only worsened the effects of the pandemic on Intersex persons including their mental health
- 3 Focus on intersectionality in LGBTIQ rights advocacy work has also contributed to the invisibility of intersex people
- 4 Next step as AIM is to establish a secretariat for better coordination, visibility and representation

DEMANDS

- 1 To put an end to infanticide and killings of intersex people led by traditional and religious beliefs
- 2 To put an end to mutilating and 'normalising' practices such as genital surgeries, psychological and other medical treatments through legislative and other means (such as education, policy and treatment protocol change). Intersex people must be empowered to make their own decisions affecting their own bodily integrity, physical autonomy and self-determination
- 3 To include intersex education in antenatal counselling and support
- 4 To put an end to non-consensual sterilisation of intersex people
- 5 To depathologise variations in sex characteristics in medical practices, guidelines, protocols and classifications, such as the World Health Organization's International Classification of Diseases

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Funders to engage with intersex organizations and support them in the struggle for visibility, increase their capacity and seriously consider mental health as a funding criteria
- 2 National governments to address the concerns raised by the Intersex Movement and draw adequate solutions in direct collaboration with intersex representatives and organizations
- 3 Human rights organizations to contribute to building bridges with intersex organizations and build a basis for mutual support and meaningful engagement
- 4 Community leaders should engage in intersex education to dispel misconceptions and stigma surrounding intersex people and their families

REFERENCES

- 2017 Public Statement by the African Intersex Movement
- 2012 Covid 19. A report on the situation of intersex people in Africa. Obioma Chukwuike

Our past is painful to reclaim, but as intersex persons we will definitely define our future. This report calls on stakeholders to support the intersex activists in the movement to create a world that recognizes, respects and protects the rights, autonomy and agency of intersex persons.

