



NO.003

LEGABIBO

MARCH 2026

WELCOME TO

Gata Le LEGABIBO Newsletter

Quarter In Review

Over the past quarter, our work has remained focused, visible, and community-driven. We conducted **health and human rights outreach** across Railpark, Kazungula/Kasane, Old Naledi, Block 7, and Gaborone West - expanding access to information, services, and safe spaces.

Our **legal advocacy outreach** in Lobatse, Gaborone, and Kasane continued to strengthen awareness and access to justice. We also invested in systems change through media practitioner training on inclusive reporting and healthcare provider trainings for both current and future practitioners, promoting inclusive and affirming service delivery.

We hosted a **Wikidata training** in collaboration with the Wikimedia Community Botswana, delivered a **webinar** on filing complaints with the office of the Ombudsman, and developed a **human rights violation reporting system, Mokgosi**, which is now in beta testing stage.

We began the year with a **two-day staff retreat** at Botswana Craft, reflecting on our 2025 work and setting clear priorities to guide implementation in 2026.

Through these efforts, we reached **200+** people through outreach activities, trained **over 50 healthcare providers**, and engaged **10+ media practitioners**.



Regional Engagement

This quarter, we strengthened our regional presence through key human rights platforms. In collaboration with Pan Africa ILGA, we submitted a shadow report and participated in the **85th Ordinary Session** of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (**ACHPR**) in The Gambia.

We also engaged in regional **knowledge exchange** through the **Young Queer Alliance** convening in Mauritius, where both our submitted abstracts were accepted and presented, contributing to the publication "Equality, Dignity and Wellbeing: LGBTQIA+ Perspectives." Additionally, we participated in the **7th Regional Conference of PAI**.

More recently, we participated in the **Voice & Choice Summit by Gender Links** in Johannesburg, where two of our representatives presented under Youth Leadership and Change Strategies categories, with our Change Strategies presentation receiving a **Runner-Up award**.

These engagements continue to position our work within broader African movements, strengthening collaboration and advancing shared advocacy priorities.



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The Same-Sex Marriage Case: A Historic Moment

At the heart of the ongoing same-sex marriage case is a fundamental question: how does the law define marriage and who is included? The current legal framework on marriage in Botswana remains exclusive of same-sex couples, limiting recognition, protection, and the ability to form legally recognised unions.

This case challenges that exclusion, asking whether the Constitution's guarantees of equality, dignity, and non-discrimination can support a more inclusive understanding of marriage - one that reflects the lived realities of LGBTIQ+ people.



Why This Case Matters Now?

Following the 2019 decriminalisation of same-sex relations, this case represents a natural progression in the realisation of rights. Botswana's courts have, over time, demonstrated a progressive and broad interpretation of constitutional protections, as reflected in key decisions such as legal registration of LEGABIBO, the landmark rulings on legal gender recognition in 2017 and the historical ruling decriminalising same sex relations in 2019 and upheld by the Court of Appeal in 2021.

In this context, the recognition of same-sex marriage is not a departure - but a continuation of Botswana's constitutional journey toward inclusion.

What Will A Win Mean?

A favourable outcome in this case would mean that same-sex couples are able to access the same legal protections and responsibilities afforded to other couples under Botswana law. This includes the ability to build shared economic security through joint property ownership and investment, to access spousal benefits such as medical aid and insurance, and to be recognised as next-of-kin in moments that matter - including making medical decisions when a partner is incapacitated.

At its core, such a decision would ensure that constitutional principles of equality and dignity are reflected not only in law, but in the everyday realities of people's lives.

[Read our statement on the case](#)

[Read our CEO's article on same-sex marriage case.](#)

Community Impact: HIV Prevention, Testing & Treatment Outcomes

Between November 2025 and March 2026, our community outreach initiatives and Clinic Thursdays delivered significant impact in HIV prevention and care, reaching over 1,200 individuals through testing, with 89 testing positive and nearly all successfully linked to treatment—demonstrating strong trust and effective referral systems. The high uptake of PrEP (191 initiations) and distribution of 241 self-test kits reflect growing awareness and proactive health-seeking within the community, particularly among men who are often underserved. These results highlight the effectiveness of combining mobilization, public education, and GBV sensitization to reduce barriers, increase access, and strengthen community-led responses to HIV.





A Note from the LEGABIBO Team

We're excited to continue our work in 2026, advancing equality, inclusion, and justice for all. Thank you for reading and for your support



What To Look Out For?

The next chapter is already unfolding

- Townhall Engagements in Kasane, Maun, Lobatse and Gaborone
- Healthcare Provider Trainings
- Legal Trainings
- Gata le LEGABIBO Podcast Launch
- Launch of Mokgosi - Human Rights Violations Reporting System
- 10 - Year Anniversary Celebration

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