

**Gata Le LEGABIBO: Pride Edition****From Pride to Purpose: Celebrating Visibility, Confronting Hate**

## We are here. We are proud.

LEGABIBO celebrated pride in July, a season that reminded us that Pride is not just a celebration, but a continued act of resilience, visibility, and love.

LEGABIBO, brought together the queer community, allies, partners, parents and friends of the queer community, and stakeholders to celebrate our diversity, resilience, and shared commitment to equality. Both our Pride walk and Pride picnic were more than moments of joy, they were powerful affirmations that the LGBTIQ+ community in Botswana continues to stand strong, visible, and united.

Alongside the celebrations, LEGABIBO intensified efforts to address the ongoing challenges through our Hate Speech and Hate Crimes Interventions, creating safer spaces for dialogue, awareness and healing. To deepen our understanding of the lived realities of the queer persons in Botswana, we also conducted an anonymous national survey across Maun, Kasane and online, amplifying community voices that often go unheard.

The Pride edition captures the energy, emotion, and endurance of past months celebrating our collective joy while reflecting on the work that lies ahead to ensure that every person in Botswana can truly live free and live well.

*Pride*

# Pride Highlights

Pride came alive in bold colour and unapologetic joy. The Pride Walk brought together community members, allies, and partners who filled the streets with messages of love, inclusion, and visibility. Every banner carried, every flag waved affirmed the queer community that indeed they belong.

The pride Picnic offered moments of laughter, music, and connection, safe spaces where people could simply be, without judgement or fear. These gatherings reminded us that visibility is not only political, but deeply human. It's about reclaiming the right to joy.

Pride was not just seen this year. It was felt. It was in the dance circles, the shared food, the affirmations, and the powerful sense of community that continues to sustain our movement.



## Beyond Celebration: Standing Up Against Hate

While Pride celebrates how far we've come, it also highlights how much work remains. In July and August, LEGABIBO led Hate Crimes and Hate Speech interventions that opened space for honest dialogue about safety, stigma, and inclusion.

Through workshops, storytelling, and community conversations, participants unpacked what hate looks like in our society — and how silence and stigma can fuel harm. These sessions encouraged empathy, accountability, and practical solutions to build safer communities for all.

In July, LEGABIBO also hosted an online regional webinar on Hate Crimes and Hate Speech, attracting activists, advocates, and human rights defenders from across Africa. The session served as a continental dialogue on the shared challenges and strategies to counter hate-driven violence, amplifying voices and solidarity beyond borders.

Together, these interventions reinforced that combating hate requires both grassroots courage and regional collaboration, because equality anywhere is strengthened by solidarity everywhere.





## Listening To Our Realities

To complement these interventions, LEGABIBO conducted an anonymous national survey in Maun, Kasane, and online — giving community members a safe way to share their experiences and insights.

The survey gathered vital data on the prevalence of hate speech and hate crimes, barriers to reporting, and the emotional and social impacts faced by queer persons in Botswana. Early findings show that while many continue to face discrimination and harassment, there is growing awareness, solidarity, and a willingness to speak out.

This data will help inform future advocacy, programming, and policy recommendations, ensuring that our community's lived realities continue to guide our work.

## Regional Advocacy and Policy Influence

LEGABIBO continues to ensure that Botswana's LGBTIQ+ experiences and aspirations are represented on regional platforms. In collaboration with Pan Africa ILGA (PAI), LEGABIBO recently submitted a Shadow Report during the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) session held in The Gambia.

The submission highlighted ongoing human rights concerns — including hate crimes, legal gender recognition, and the need for full equality before the law — positioning Botswana as a country making progress, but still striving toward complete inclusion.

By contributing to regional advocacy, LEGABIBO reinforces that local voices matter in shaping continental human rights dialogues and ensuring no community is left behind.



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# Pride Beyond July

As the rainbow flags are folded and the music fades, our commitment continues. Pride is not a day or a month — it's a lifelong journey toward dignity, equality, and belonging.

The past few months have shown us that when communities unite — across cities, towns, and borders — we create change that is both visible and lasting. LEGABIBO remains committed to amplifying voices, protecting rights, and ensuring that all LGBTIQ+ persons in Botswana can live free, live well, and live proud.

## Thank you!

Every march, every conversation, and every act of courage brings us closer to a Botswana where equality is not debated — it's lived. We thank all our partners, allies, and community members for walking this journey with us. Together, we continue to live free and live well."

*LEGABIBO Team*

