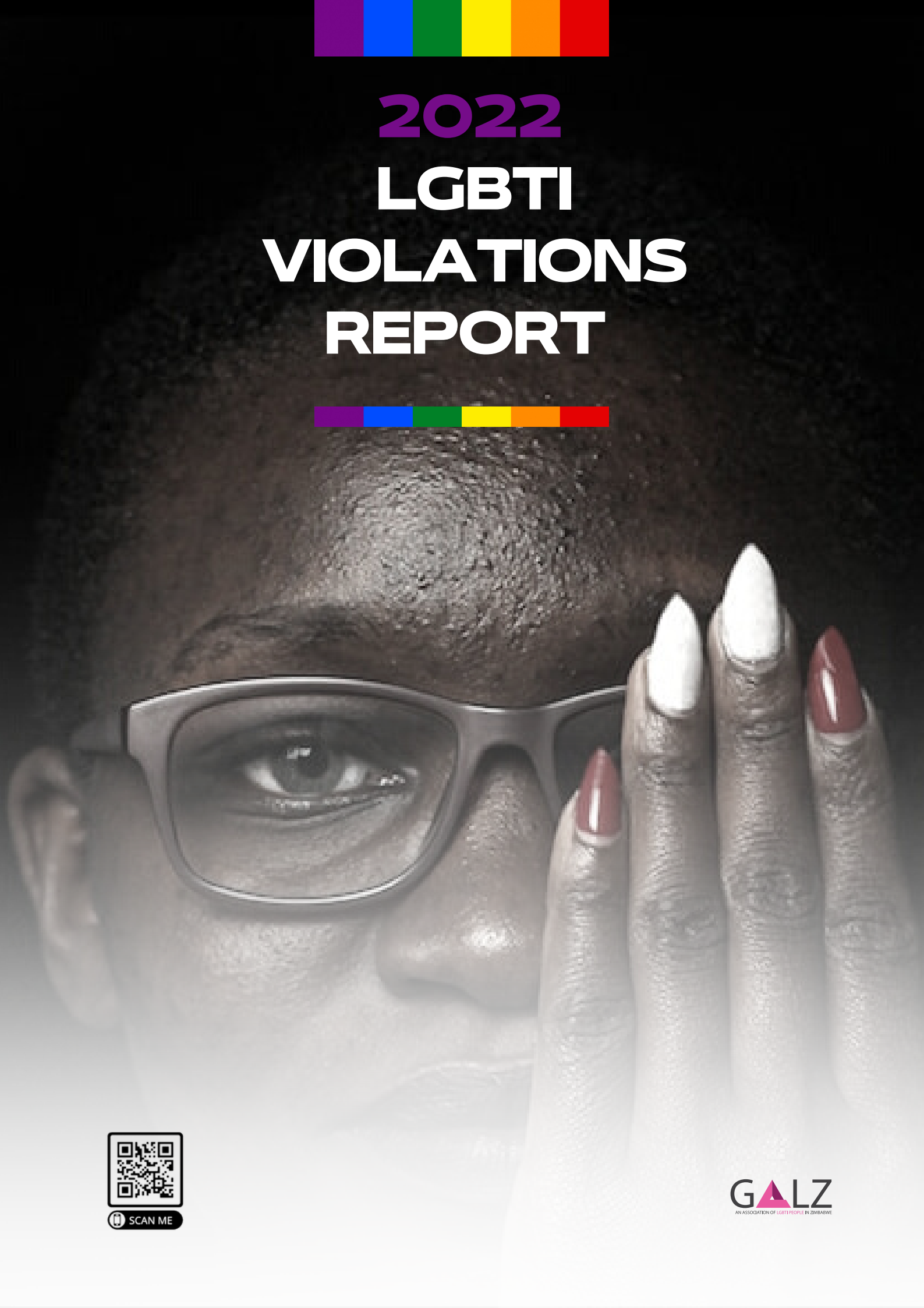




# 2022 LGBTI VIOLATIONS REPORT



SCAN ME

**GALZ**  
AN ASSOCIATION OF LGTBPEOPLE IN ZIMBABWE

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# Executive Summary

## An overview of Violation cases in 2022

The year 2022 had a decline in violation cases reported to GALZ from 41 cases in 2021 to 27 cases in 2022. Several factors are attributable to the reduction. These include reduced community interface through activities related to safety, security, and human rights, improved resilience among the community members to deter perpetrators from violating their rights, as well as an increase in the number of organisations supporting LGBTIQ persons resulting in more options for victims of violations to report their cases. An inverse explanation to the reduction though it's not fully substantiated could be the fear of the violated community members to report in light of the lack of protective mechanisms for the LGBTIQ persons if they report their cases.

The report provides narratives of the 27 recorded cases for 2022 without any identifying information of the individuals in the interest of maintaining the safety and security of the individuals involved. The documentation of the cases in the sections to follow in this report also shows that the response mechanisms for the violations reported were addressed on a case-by-case using both the traditional response strategy for GALZ as well as circumstantial discretion based on guidance from stakeholders such as lawyers, contacts in the police department and political wisdom from allies.

Three Key Observations can be noted for the 2022 report as fully illustrated by the detailed case descriptions provided in the sections below. Firstly, there are forms of violations that have remained relatively high from 2021 to 2022. These are assaults (primarily sexual and physical), threats and outings as well as extortion and blackmail. The second observation is that 70% of these cases are not random. There is a relatively high degree of familiarity between the perpetrator and the victim in the cases reported. The third observation is that there are repetitive trends in how some of the violations are orchestrated by the perpetrators, particularly for those involving the use of privileged information about the lives of the survivors to make them more vulnerable.

As shown by the case descriptions, the work of GALZ is made possible through the existence of both internal and external support systems. Cases internally were broadly addressed through the counselors or/and the legal officer while externally the relations created with other stakeholders in the legal and health sectors made it easier for referrals. The reduction in cases reported is a positive proxy indicator that there are now fewer incidences among LGBTIQ persons in Zimbabwe. GALZ interprets this as a potentially good sign of progress being made in relation to enhancing the protection and promotion of the human rights of LGBTIQ persons in Zimbabwe.

# Introduction

A continuous and active GALZ process of monitoring and documenting LGBTI human rights violations is necessary to track public acceptance and tolerance while also bringing attention to the discrimination, stigma, and human rights violations experienced by the LGBTI population in Zimbabwe. It is commonly known that LGBTI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex) individuals experience systematic violence and discrimination based on their real or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or sex characteristics (SOGIE). Examples of these abuses include disownments, extortion, threats of violence, murders, physical assaults, torture, sexual assault, arbitrary arrest and imprisonment, and discrimination in a variety of contexts, such as the job market and health care facilities.

To give advocacy and policy-oriented work legitimacy, it is essential to compile data and keep track of evidence of human rights violations against LGBTI persons. However, as a data indicator, it is neither sufficient nor straightforward. Data gathering and reporting must first be translated into action for change at different levels (national, regional, and worldwide) and in different domains (legislation, policies, and societal attitudes and behaviours), where different challenges still exist. Second, neither the analysis nor the solutions are simple or uniform.

In fact, discrimination based on other characteristics, such as sex, gender, nationality, race, ethnicity, indignity, language, age, religion, belief, political or other opinions, disability, health (including HIV status), economic or social status, migration status, family status, or being a human rights defender, is frequently exacerbated by discrimination based on real or perceived SOGIE characteristics. As a result, it is frequently crucial to adopt an intersectional approach to SOGIE advocacy, taking into consideration and addressing the reality that bias occasionally arises as a result of multiple grounds of identity being combined.

# Objectives

The report aims to provide an overview of abuse and discrimination in Zimbabwe based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The importance of keeping track of crimes against LGBTI persons resides in fostering a culture where abuses are reported as soon as they occur. This report does not include every violation experienced by the LGBTI community in Zimbabwe; instead, GALZ primarily gathers cases from community members who come forward and report them to GALZ officers. However, other organisations which have been established during the year as well as those who are strengthening their response mechanisms are also receiving other cases of violations from LGBTIQ persons in Zimbabwe.

It was also shown that many cases of violations go unreported because victims do not trust the police, are frightened of retaliation, is unwilling to identify as LGBTI, or are generally unaware of their rights as victims. This report takes a multi-pronged approach to raising awareness on critical issues affecting this community by documenting the lived realities of LGBTI persons in terms of their experiences of human rights violations done against them while attempting to persuade policymakers and human rights organisations to take action by enacting laws that advance the interests and rights of LGBT people as equal citizens. Gender equality is one of the key founding objectives and concepts of the Zimbabwean Constitution (Section 3). Section 56 of the Constitution, in particular, promotes the values of equality and non-discrimination, emphasising that (1) all persons are equal before the law and have the right to equal protection and benefit of the law. (2) Everyone has the right not to be treated unfairly because of their nationality, race, color, tribe, place of birth, ethnic or social origin, language, class, religious belief, political affiliation, opinion, custom, culture, sex, gender, marital status, age, pregnancy, disability, or economic or social status. As a result, no infraction should go unnoticed in a society that values human dignity.

The report is also designed to make the LGBTI community aware of the types of infractions to which they are vulnerable, their rights, and the steps that can be taken when those rights are violated.

# About GALZ

Established in 1990, GALZ is one of the oldest established LGBTI rights organizations in Southern Africa. GALZ has managed to continue to exist and even grow over the past thirty years, despite operating under challenging political and socio-economic conditions. It has maintained its position with the shift in political dispensation and subsequent election and results. Initially GALZ was known as an acronym representing the Gays and Lesbians Association of Zimbabwe, but with the evolution of its work with a more holistic Human Rights-based service ethos, GALZ has now remodeled to be known as an Association of LGBTI People in Zimbabwe. This shift affirms its commitment to serving all its members and championing rights for all.

GALZ's work focuses on the following key strategic pillars:

- 1. Membership and Community Development**
- 2. Knowledge, Documentation and Ideas**
- 3. Policy, Law, Human Rights and Access to Justice**
- 4. Governance, Institutional Innovation, Systems Adaptation & Resources**

Attaining social justice is a key objective of GALZ to ensure that there is fair and equal distribution of wealth, opportunities and privileges within society. GALZ's theory of change is anchored on obtaining social justice. We believe that the work to realise equality, build capacities to lobby and advocate for greater tolerance, acceptance and inclusivity of LGBTI people in the broader community is a continuous process. As such, we believe in enhancing social justice through empowering our communities to demand and lobby for social justice.

# Definition of Key Terms

## **ARBITRARY DETENTION**

Arrest without reasonable suspicion that an offense has been committed, and an individual being kept in custody for a period exceeding 48 hours without charge

## **DISOWNMENT**

Denial of relationship and condition of forcibly renouncing or no longer accepting an individual as one's kin or member of the family.

## **THREAT**

Threat refers to a declaration of intent to cause harm or inflict punishment. In this report, Threat refers to situations where some form of action is promised, e.g threats of assault, detention, being outed etc.

## **BLACKMAIL**

An act of coercion or extortion, where unjustified threats are made to gain or cause loss to another unless a specified demand is met.

## **EXTORTION**

the practice of obtaining something, especially money, through force or threats.

## **OUTING**

An act of disclosing a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) person's sexual orientation or gender identity without that person's consent

## **ASSAULT**

Assault in this report refers to either physical or verbal attacks.

# Violation Handling Procedures

GALZ is strategic in dealing with human rights violation cases that occur based on sexual orientation and gender identity and expression. GALZ strives to operate within the confines of the law and constitution so that violation cases are resolved amicably and legally. The first step for all human rights violations cases that can be backed by the constitution such as sexual and physical assault, is reportage of the matter to the nearest Zimbabwe republic police station to where the violation would have occurred. Upon receiving the violation, a case will be opened and entailed in a docket, a legal document for the crime reported with a number issued for means of investigation. The survivor of the violation is then directed to the nearest health facility whereby, they will be provided with medical attention if bodily harm is done. In some instances, a survivor may be directed to a medical facility for a forensic report used to gather evidence or a violation having been committed to them. GALZ also works with human rights defenders such as Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) who assist in the acceleration of cases or offer legal representation to survivors in the court of law. The survivor is also provided with psychosocial support to help deal with the aftermath of the violation. Psychosocial support is essential for maintaining good physical and mental health and provides an important coping mechanism for LGBTI people who would have experienced post-traumatic stress. The process is long-term and the survivor may continue to receive counseling regularly to assess the speed of recovery. All cases of violations are compiled and archived by GALZ in a systematic and comprehensive way



# Methodology Overview

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# Disownment



**Date** 7 September 2022

Cory (pseudo-name), a 17-year-old gay young man from Gweru contacted GALZ via hotline reporting that he had been sacked out of the house on the 6th of September 2022 by his parents upon discovering that their son was gay. He reported having slept at a friend's place. Unfortunately, the parents of Mike's friend would return on the 7th of September meaning that Mike had to find another shelter to stay. He reported that all his friends had also abandoned him leaving him in dire need of refuge. The child being a minor, GALZ referred him to the Police and contacted Child Line for further assistance.

**Date** 13 October 2022

Tim (pseudo-name), a Harare Gay man reported via the GALZ WhatsApp counseling line that his sexual orientation had been uncovered by his parents and evicted, his clothes were also tossed out of the house as a result. He was left stranded and turned to GALZ for assistance. In response, the GALZ counsellor sympathised with Blessing and contacted Community Unit for comprehensive support.

**Date** 04 July 2022

Tamil (pseudo-name) was invited to a party on a Thursday night by a friend, Liberty. They partied up till late such that when it was time to return home, Tamil could not find transport. He decided to spend the night at Liberty's house. Upon returning home, early morning the next day, his mother demanded to see his cell phone to trace what her son had been doing. She discovered his sexuality in the process and forced him out of the house. According to Tamil, she highlighted that she gave birth to a son, not 'ngochani' (a gay) and she could not live with him. Tafadzwa sought solace at another friend's house and reported the incident to GALZ. In response, Tamil received counseling and was booked into a lodge while GALZ mediated with some of his other relatives to take him in. They managed to reach an understanding with his grandmother who finally took him in.

**Date 01 August 2022**

Born in a religious family is Lorraine (pseudo-name), who identifies as a lesbian. During her industrial attachment, her family discovered her sexuality through related education materials they found among her possessions. The family organised intervention meetings to discuss her alternatives. Her father dictated that she was to go through a spiritual conversion to restore her 'normalcy' or vacate the house if she did not agree. All financial benefits that were being rendered to her were effectively withdrawn. She reported feeling depressed and considering suicide. Since she was on industrial attachment she noted that she could meet basic needs on her own but would not be able to sustain her livelihood for long. The member received counseling sessions to avoid suicidal ideation. Mediation was also attempted by GALZ counselors for her to return home.

**Date 22 August 2022**

Forden (pseudo-name) is a 28-year-old gay man from Harare, who works as an accountant for PSMAS. He stayed with his mother, Tsitsi in Tynwald. Forden reported to GALZ that his mother had browsed through his phone without his knowledge and discovered his sexuality. He described that there was tension between his mother and him due to that and he planned on moving out. Fortune received counseling sessions to help cope with the new reality. GALZ also negotiated with his mother for safe cohabitation.

**Date 14 March 2022**

A 38-year-old gay man from Kuwadzana reached out to the Ordaa Coordination Facilitator and narrated his ordeal. Seeing that he had no wife at such a lengthy age and was unemployed, his family forcefully arranged a marriage for him. Not willing to adopt this new living arrangement, he fled his home and sought refuge with his friend. He narrated failing dismally to sustain his livelihood, as he had no job and found it hard to survive without the financial assistance that his family cushioned him with. He weighed his options and found it a lesser burden to wed the new bride his family had found for him. He expressed that even though he was willing to live under the arrangement, he did not know how to be intimate with a woman. He had a child a year later with the arranged wife and indicated that he was planning on moving to Harare with his child and taking his chances at finding both a job and the love of his life.

# Threats and Outing



**Date** 26 October 2022

Mitch (pseudo-name), a gay man from Bulawayo moved to Harare in 2019 in search of greener pastures. Not having a job to afford rentals, he began living with Tyrone, a supposed friend. Although the two were not in a romantic relationship, Milton claimed, Tyrone continuously made advances at him. Mitch decided against reporting in order to safeguard a roof over his head. Eventually, he secured a job in Southerton and it motivated him to move out. Since he moved out, he reported Tyrone having issued threats of bodily harm unless he moves back with him. In fear for his safety, Mitch reported the threat to GALZ. In response, GALZ's legal officer advised him to report Tyrone to the police and also referred him to the psycho-social support lead for counseling. The Officer also facilitated the acquisition of a peace order against Tyrone.

**Date** 30 November 2022

Ronnie (pseudo-name) is a 38-year-old gay man living in Mazoe and works part-time jobs nearby. Ronnie alleged that he met Perrence (pseudo-name), a 24 years old gay man from Kuwadzana 1 in a WhatsApp group chat. Perrence visited him on the 27 of November 2022 at his home in Mazowe and had sexual encounters. Ronnie noted that Perrence, without consent, secretly browsed through his phone and discovered that he had a similar arrangement with two other gay men. Perrence was reported to have been heartbroken at the fact and threatened to expose his sexuality, he also pledged to not leave his house. Ronnie contacted GALZ seeking a resolution to the dispute. GALZ negotiated with Perrence and the two reached a consensus. Ronnie (pseud-name) was also taken through safety and security induction.

**Date** 15 August 2022

Tambudzai (pseudo-name) is a gay man from Harare who was in a relationship with Charles. He narrates that one day when he was at the bar with three of his relatives, a woman who claimed to have been Charles' girlfriend approached him accusing him of having an affair with his boyfriend. Tambudzai alleges that the woman harassed him while his relatives looked on. He claims he had only known and been with Charles for two weeks. Charles and his girlfriend are reported to have also gone to his house to attempt to beat him up. Luckily, Tambudzai had gone to church during the day. He reached out to GALZ shortly after, seeking assistance with securing a peace order against Charles and his family. The Legal Officer in response recommended he proceed to the magistrate's court and apply for the Peace Order directly.

**Date** 29 July 2022

Randy (pseudo-names) and his partner were a gay couple who had been cohabiting together. Randy narrated how his partner was both physically and verbally abusive toward him. Fearing for his life, Randy disclosed the unsettling abuse to his uncle who in response offered him solace and a place to stay away from his partner. Randy reported having received intimidation from his partner, threatening him to come back home. He reached out to GALZ seeking assistance to dissolve the abusive relationship. The case was referred to the Community Unit Team for further verification and problem-solving.

**Date** 27 July 2022

Leonard (pseudo-name) is a 21 year-old gay man from Harare. He is in a Facebook group for gay men in Zimbabwe. He reported that his mother's boyfriend unearthed the fact that he was part of the group although he remained doubtful that he was gay. To confirm his suspicions, his mother's boyfriend decided to initiate a conversation with Leon using an unfamiliar contact number. Somehow, Leonard managed to detect the plot and blocked the number. Regardless, the boyfriend proceeded to inform his mother of his suspicions which Leonard strongly dismissed when his mother confronted her. Leonard alleged that his mother assured him that she would kick him out if ever the rumours were true. However, Leonard still lives in fear of coming out, based on his mother's reaction. Leon was referred for counseling and informed of legal remedies to take if ever threatened by his mother's boyfriend.

**Date** 27 July 2022

Kumbi (pseudo-name) a 21-year-old gay man from Marondera reported a case of a forced outing carried out on his partner. He outlined that his partners' phone was seized by his siblings and browsed through. They uncovered his sexuality and led to the suppression of other freedoms. Kumbi alleged that in the aftermath, he was now being required to keep his phone accessible at all times and remove all security features. He was also not allowed to leave the house with the exception of church on Sundays. He also underwent forced conversion therapy at church. The increased surveillance on his conversations and whereabouts gravely affected his relationship with Kuda. GALZ liaised with an Ordaa Coordinator to pay visits to check on his psychological well-being. He also received resilience-oriented counseling.

**Date** 25 October 2022

Tafara (pseudo-name) reached out to GALZ Mutare and presented a case of his grandmother he is staying with in Dangamvura who conspired with his mother to have him on a talk show interview to talk about his sexuality they had just uncovered. He stated that his mother forced her to be on this talk show with the intention to embarrass him in hope that he may convert. As planned, the Diamond FM crew visited the home and he was put under the spotlight. Shortly after the public outing, Tafara fled from home to stay with a friend also residing in Dangamvura. GALZ acknowledged the violations and offered counseling to the survivor. The legal Officer also filed a complaint against Diamond FM for exposure to the risk of harm.

**Date** 19 July 2022

Takunda (pseudo-name), a gay man working as a teacher in Domboshava in 2018 accidentally posted an explicit video of two gay men kissing on his Facebook page. He could not take the video down as he had forgotten his account's login credentials. His fears were met when some of his workmates and friends stumbled upon the content. They ridiculed and embarrassed him and currently, he lives in fear that he may lose his job, if the school authorities found out. He given the Importance of social media safety security & its impact on the self & the public and was also referred to the community unit for assessment, verification & assistance.

# Sexual Assault

**Date** 10 October 2022

Roman (pseudo-name), a CeShhar Peer Educator reported to GALZ a case of a minor (5) years who was said to have been sexually assaulted twice (the original source who reported the case, refused to be identified). The minor (name not known) is said to have been verbally and sexually assaulted by a gay man from the area. The minor was reported to be staying with his grandmother who upon leaving early for the market, the men would trespass and abuse the child. The minor was also reported to have been physically abused by his grandmother which encouraged gross negligence. There was heightened concern that the minor's anal region had been badly bruised and could not retract from passing stool. The minor's mother was reported to have been severely ill and admitted to the hospital during the period that the events occurred. In response, the team verified the case and reported it to the police's victim-friendly unit. Pamuhacha was also seconded to assist or refer the case to the Chinhoyi Childline as GALZ has no capacity to work with minors.

# Arbitrary Detention

**Date** 30 May 2022

Daviro (pseudo-) was involved in a consensual sexual relationship with Thaba (pseudo-name), a gay man for the past three months. On one Thursday unbeknown to Dav, Thabani summoned the police and a couple of suspected Zanu PF members to Daviro's place of residence. The policeman & the ZANU PF members proceeded to accuse Daviro of sexually abusing Thaba. Thereafter, the policeman arrested Daviro and went with him to Nembudziya Police Station, Gokwe. Pursuant to his arrest and detention on the charge of aggravated indecent assault, David then alerted GALZ of the arrest. In response, The Legal Officer referred a legal practitioner in Gokwe, to mediate on his behalf and negotiate for the release of Daviro. David was later released from police custody on the 3rd of December 2022 at around 17:00 hrs.

# Physical Assault

**Date** 17 July 2022

A group of LBQ women was in a workshop in Bulawayo where it is alleged that a group of supposedly ZANU-PF-affiliated men attacked the group. The true intentions or reasons for the attack were unknown. One of the survivors, Alexa, was reached out to, and she confirmed the incident and also highlighted she felt unsafe and expressed unwillingness to return home. In response, GALZ housed her at Motsamai lodge for three days while they assessed the gravity and the likelihood of a repeated attack. A Bulawayo GALZ counselor visited Alexa thrice at Motsamai lodge to offer emotional and psychological support. Arrangements are being made to train members on safety and security.

**Date** 30 October 2022

Rami (pseudo-name), a gay man (community member) sent out a distress call to the Legal Officer to the effect that he was being assaulted by his partner Abel (pseudo-name) at their shared residence in Harare. The Legal Officer, Mwarianesu proceeded to the client's residence where he found Rami in bed weeping and pleading to be taken to the hospital. As reported by Rami, Abel had battered him for 'disobedience'. Abraham also confirmed that indeed he had injured Rami to the same effect. He was taken to Parirenyatwa Hospital for medical attention and Abraham was reported to the Police Post located at Parirenyatwa Hospital. He was apprehended and placed in police custody.

**Date** 02 June 2022

Ronald (pseudo-name) and Vinsel (pseudo-name) were a gay couple that had been dating for a while before they decided to part ways. Upon the breakup, Ronald who owed Vincent a sum of \$2 indicated his intention to pay it back. So he gave Ronald his word to pass by his house and hand over the money. However, Ronald did not show up as he had promised, noting that he had overslept on the day. They agreed on a later date to meet and make the transaction. When the day approached (Sunday) they met as planned but



however had an altercation over their ended relationship (details were not explicit). It is reported that the two fought aggressively resulting in injuries, Ronald's right arm was severely bitten. Onlookers managed to stop the fight and the two returned to their respective homes. Vinsel reached out to Ronald in the aftermath to offer his apologies but Ronald indicated that he had no desire to settle the conflict. According to his report, the incident traumatized him and he still felt acute pain in the bitten arm. He received counseling sessions from GALZ to deal with PTSD.

**Date** 04 December 2022

Love (pseudo-name), a 24 year old gay man living with his mother, reported to GALZ his experience with physical assault supposedly carried out by his mother and her friends based on his sexuality. According to him, his mother had a habit of seizing his cell phone and going through his conversations. The alleged assault was a homophobic lash-back in reaction to some of the content she discovered through browsing. Love also added that he was kicked out of the house and sought refuge at a friend's house in the CBD. He also reported feeling backaches resulting from the beatings. Upon verification of the case, GALZ counselors were informed that the beatings were a result of theft stating that he had stolen a smartphone from one of her friends. They also uncovered that the client had apparently absconded from work and left home at his own accord. Counselors conducted integrative therapy, involving the client and family to strengthen ties.

**Date** 11 October 2022

Taru (pseudo-name) a gay man from Harare, reported to GALZ that on the noon of the 8th of October, he was followed home from a bar by two thugs whom he had identified earlier in the bar. Taru alleged that the two thugs had targeted him for a long time, sending threats to batter him up. The two thugs allegedly kept true to their word and inflicted wounds on the complainant. He reported suffering a swollen eye, two shaking teeth, and a deep lip cut. He filed a report to the Warren Park Police following the incident. He was booked in with a dentist at Parirenyatwa and GALZ also made follow-ups on the case with the Police.

# Extortion and Blackmail



**Date** 30 May 2022

Sisiba (pseudo-name), a gay man from Bulawayo was involved in a relationship with his unemployed partner, Mike (pseudo-name). Seeing that he had no source of income, Sisiba lent Mike capital to start a cell phone hoarding and selling business and also reported aiding Mike with other financial needs such as bus fares and medical fees. They arranged a payment plan for reimbursement of the money for when the business would have breakeven. However, as time lapsed, Mike refused to pay back the owing sum, noting that Sisiba could air his grievances to the police if he so wished. Sisiba expressed no will to report to the police for fear of homophobic backlash if they ever unmasked the true nature of the relationship between the two. He continued to contest for his money until eventually, Mike disclosed his sexual orientation to his sister and further lodged a complaint of harassment against Mike to the police. Upon presenting at the police station and supplying details pertaining to the case, Sisiba was advised by the police that the case was a civil matter and would be best resolved by a small claims court. Sisiba dropped the matter for fear of it leaking to the press, he continued to pursue his money outside of law enforcement. Gang rape and physical assault are some of the other accusations against Mike. In response, the team referred Milton for counseling and also submitted case notes to the Legal Officer for further legal remedies.

**Date** 10 November 2022

Roland (pseudo-name), a client narrated that on the mid-morning of 29th of October 2022 he was contacted through WhatsApp by Lethu, who had initially introduced himself as Mike, to arrange a sexual liaison. On the evening of the 29th of October, the client met Lethu at an arranged pick-up point, after which they drove to the client's home in Khumalo and had a sexual encounter as arranged. Early the next morning, Roland dropped off Lethu in town and proceeded with his daily undertakings. Upon returning home that night, he found his house ransacked and identified that a laptop, pair of shoes and a car remote were missing. Additionally, a set of spare keys to one of the

main doors was also missing. Lethu admitted to have looted the items and demanded ransom to return the items. As such, Roman agreed to pay a sum of \$100 for the return of his property. However, he could not find Lethu as promised. Accompanied by a friend, Terrence, they proceeded to report the matter to the police who went on a manhunt looking for Lethu. Sargent Stapura the charging officer, apprehended Lethu at a bar that he frequented. All the looted items were recovered. As an offer of gratitude, Terrance demanded a sum of \$225 noting that some of it were to thank the police for their efficiency. Terrance also claimed that he had in his possession recorded sex tapes of Roland and Lethu from the night they encountered, claimed to have been recorded by Lethu. There were also threats to leak the video to the media if he stopped paying. Roland summoned GALZ to resolve the dilemma. The case was referred to the Legal Intern and Roland was advised to cut ties with Terrence.

**Date** 25 July 2022

Takunda (pseudo-name) is a gay man in a cross-sex marriage living in Murehwa. He presented that he was in need of a gardener to help maintain his homestead. He hired a gay man Idris (pseudo-name), whom he would proceed to have sexual encounters with even though he was married. It so happens that one day the gardener gave a notice of absence giving reason that he had to attend a funeral in Harare. Takunda realised Idris had overstretched his pardoned leave and warned him to return back to work. Idris disregarded the warning and stressed that he was to return when he saw fit. Threatening to hire another gardener, Takunda was threatened that his wife would be informed of his extramarital affairs. Idris allegedly threatened to report being "sodomized" to the police and demanded \$300 as compensation. Takunda would proceed to lose more money at the expense of extortion. He reached out to GALZ to halt the blackmail. He was given a direct line to the Legal Officer who handled his case further.

# Denied Access to Health



**Date** 11 February 2022

Jonah (pseudo-name), a 36 year old gay man working as a sex worker from Kadoma, claimed that he had contracted an STI following an encounter with a client. He reached out to GALZ who then referred him to a CESSHAR clinic in Kadoma. He alleged that upon inquiry, he was turned away by the nurses commenting that they “don’t treat gay man”. He was then treated at a local clinic and has since then recovered.

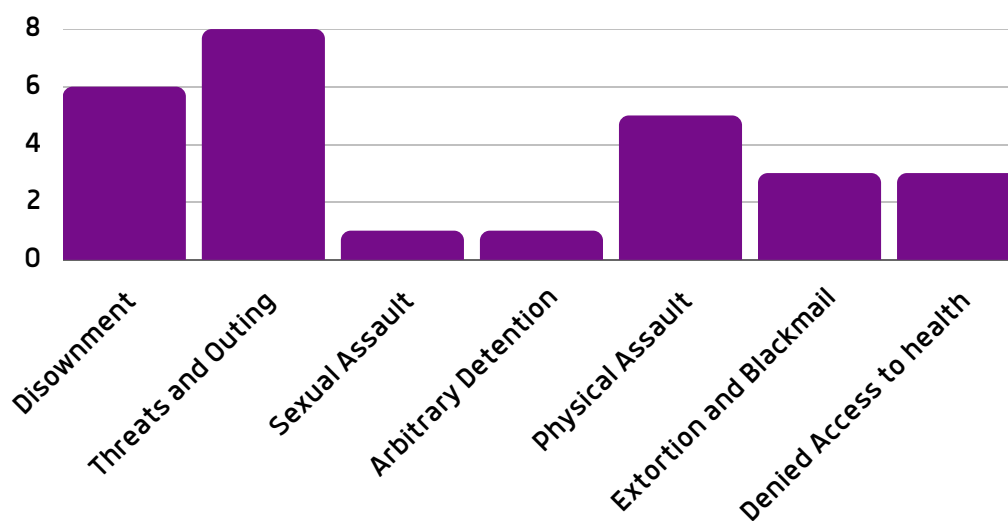
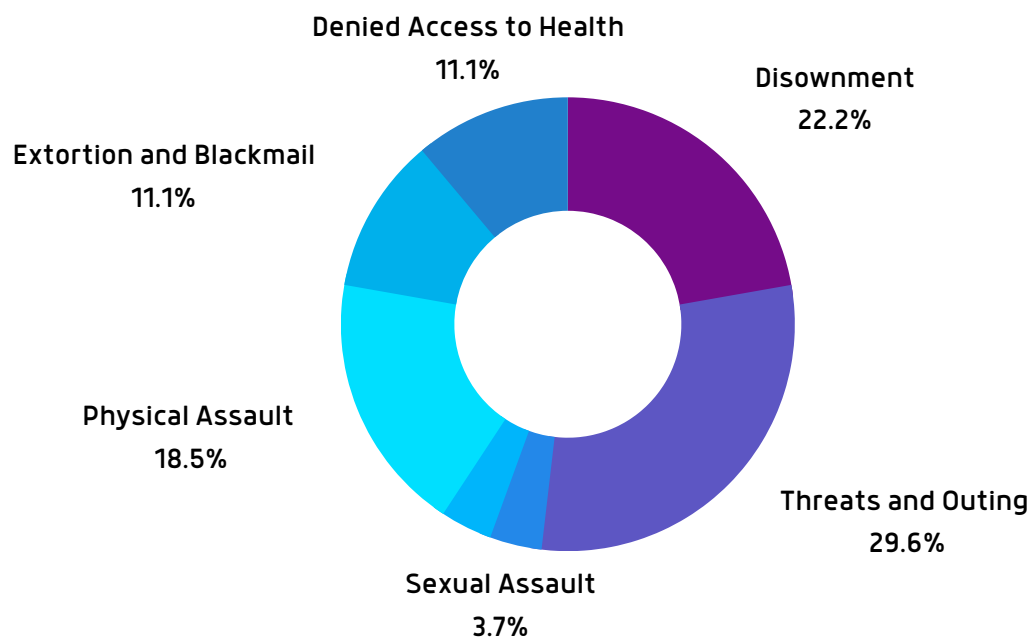
**Date** 25 August 2022

Millicent (pseudo-name) a bisexual woman, reported that she had just discovered that she was pregnant even though she was in a same-sex relationship. She struggled to disclose her sexuality for fear of the relationship ending. She resorted to carrying out an abortion which resulted in medical complications. Although she was advised to check- in at a medical facility, she was unwilling due to abortion being illegal in Zimbabwe. She also presented that post-abortion care was exorbitant in Zimbabwe. GALZ offered peer support and risk reduction counseling on positive behavior change. Counselors made daily follow ups to monitor her recovery.

**Date** 25 August 2022

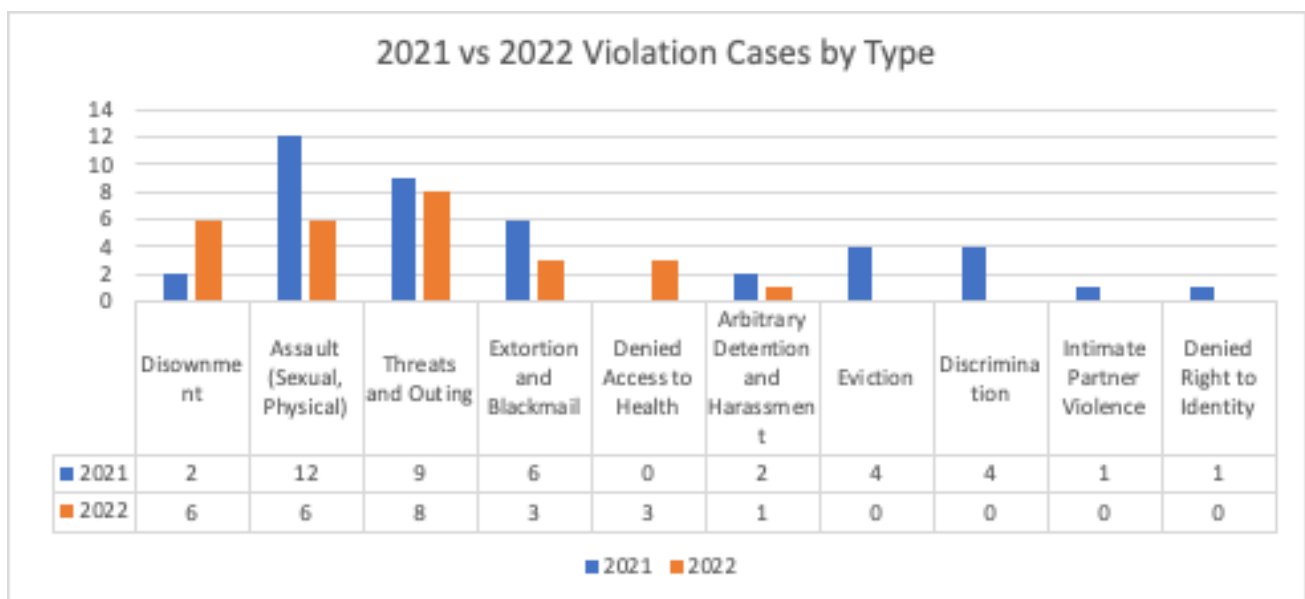
John (pseudo-name), a 25 year old gay man, claimed that he had a severe infection of anal warts. He reported feeling extreme discomfort from the pain and smell. To help heal he ingested traditional herbs which did not have any effect. His reason for not seeking conventional treatment was the cost in the procedures to remove the warts. In addition to that the nearest clinic was also remote and had difficulties walking there. He also lost his job after reporting being absent for a prolonged time seeking treatment. He has contemplated travelling to South Africa for treatment and at one time considered committing suicide. In response GALZ offered treatment for warts and counseling. He was also educated on negotiating for safe sex.

# Disaggregation of Violations



# Data Analysis

The report provides narratives of the 27 recorded cases for 2022 without any identifying information about the individuals in the interest of maintaining the safety and security of the individuals involved. The documentation of the cases in the sections to follow in this report also shows that the response mechanisms for the violations reported were addressed on a case-by-case using both the traditional response strategy for GALZ as well as circumstantial discretion based on guidance from stakeholders such as lawyers, contacts in the police department and political wisdom from allies. The data analysis was mostly qualitative given that the cases are reported through verbal or written narrations. Limited quantitative data analysis was conducted mostly in comparative terms with the previous year as illustrated by the table graph below



Three Key Observations can be noted for the 2022 report as fully illustrated by the detailed case descriptions provided in the sections below. Firstly, there are forms of violations that have remained relatively high from 2021 to 2022. These are assaults (primarily sexual and physical), threats and outings as well as extortion and blackmail.

The second observation is that 70% of these cases are not random. There is a relatively high degree of familiarity between the perpetrator and the victim in the cases reported. The third observation is that there are repetitive trends in how some of the violations are orchestrated by the perpetrators, particularly for those involving the use of privileged information about the lives of the survivors to make them more vulnerable. These three aforementioned observations are consistent with the observations made in the 2021 report.

A qualitative analysis of the data shows that there are themes that seem to be dominant and these seem to have a bearing on the occurrence, concealment, or perpetuation of violations against LGBTIQ persons within the communities. These themes include family, culture, friendship, power, relationships, intimacy, and law. The intersection of these themes is the existence of a community and system that is not interested in protecting others but themselves because they feel they have the power or means to make others feel weak hence the violation. The data analysis of the cases reported in 2022 has contributed to the development of the recommendations provided in the next section

## Recommendations

Recommendations for the year 2023 are grounded in both historical analyses of violations and the risk profiling for the year ahead in light of the impending harmonised elections. GALZ together with other LGBTIQ organisations and allies will adopt more proactive instead of reactionary approaches in order to deter, mitigate and swiftly address any cases of violations that could be experienced during the year 2023. Below are key recommendations for deterring, identifying, and addressing violations of LGBTIQ persons in 2023.

### a. Empowering Communities through Training and Continuous Support

Evidence from the case narrations shows that a significant proportion of the LGBTIQ persons who experience human rights violations find themselves in positions of vulnerability due to their limited capacity to adopt risk avoidance techniques. Through the legal officer at GALZ, the community members will be sensitised on how they should heighten their personal safety and security by not putting themselves at risk. While some of the approaches can then be specific and not generic, as a baseline, GALZ will provide the basic information on how the community members can keep themselves safe, particularly from avoidable sources of vulnerability such as social media, physical interactive spaces, and others.

**b.Strengthen the GALZ Rapid response mechanism**

GALZ already has a Rapid response mechanism which is always utilised to assist community members who experience violations. In 2023, the intention is to strengthen this mechanism, particularly in the preparation for the election period which could be unpredictable for the safety and security of LGBTIQ persons. This process will include even the basic steps of ensuring that airtime is always available, social media handles have cue-to-action buttons for reporting cases and staff members are on high alert to respond to any communication from the community members. The response rate to the cases reported in 2023 should improve to prepare both the organisation and its members in case the election period is characterised by violence against LGBTIQ.

**c.Strengthen the GALZ Referral Network**

Since time immemorial, GALZ has relied on the support of its allies and stakeholders in dealing with cases of human rights violations. These include the Rainbow Lawyers, Members of the police force, medical facilities, politicians, traditional leaders, religious leaders, and any other gatekeepers. In 2023, the organisation will strengthen its referral network by staying in constant touch with the current stakeholders while creating new ones. Activities such as sensitisations, courtesy visits, awareness sessions will be conducted to ensure that the stakeholders which GALZ works with to address violations are eager and swift in their response.

# Conclusion

The year has recorded a decrease in the overall number of human rights violations. While that can be interpreted as a good sign in demonstrating fewer incidences, the reverse can also be true that there are fewer LGBTIQ persons now willing to come out and report their issues. As noted in this report, it is imperative that GALZ in the following years also strives to work closely with other organisations such that human rights violations if not deterred can be reported using as many avenues as possible to encourage the confidence to report and stimulate interest among the stakeholders to address all cases brought forward. Above all, the community members remain at the center of these reports and ultimately this report hence the need to focus on their knowledge, skills, and agency in an environment where the likelihood of violation still remains high.



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