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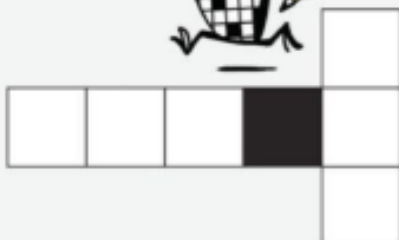


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Daksh Bhalla ("Are They Safe Here?"
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perspectives in front of societal norms.
Comparing Laws, and Events.

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Jay Caspian Kang writes that, of his past hundred tennis matches, he has lost roughly ninety.



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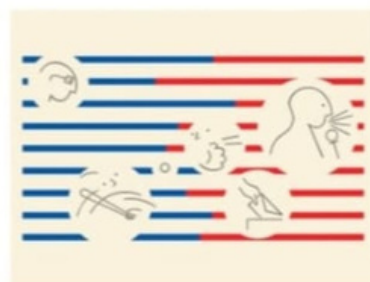
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GOINGS ON ARE THEY SAFE HERE?

Putting Africa's perspective in front of love's societal norms

BY DAKSH BHALLA



Sitting in the back of English class, studying the HBO documentary film "The Legend Of The Underground," listening to the men speak, "There's more than 3 million Nigerians who will be jailed, who will be killed, who will be imprisoned for who they are, for who they love" "I've lived the last 10 years of my life underground, just because I want to be free, just because I want to speak the truth." Leaving this subtle unsettling feeling while living in a country that has permitted LGBTQ+ individuals to be normally accepted for over 20 years, when there are countries that penalize them members of this community with arrest or death.

In December of 2020, 19 young men were arrested while they were reportedly convicted of attending a gay wedding.

In February of 2020, 57 men were put in the trunk of the Nigerian police trucks as they were allegedly part of a small "Homosexual Club" that was just a birthday party.

In January of 2014, 10 men were detained as they were under suspicion of "Being Gay".



"What is the definition of a gay? It is when you are caught having sex, intercourse, with a guy. They didn't caught me," James Brown observed. I come across the phrase in the HBO film and wonder at how "being gay" is an identity marker. 86 males were jailed for supposedly "being gay," despite the fact that none of them were found to be doing illegal actions.

Nigeria, a country famed for its diverse cultural heritage and lively customs, has long struggled with LGBTQIA+ rights. The country's distinct religious and cultural landscapes, with a largely Muslim North and a Christian-majority South, have resulted in different legal and societal viewpoints on LGBTQ individuals.

"Pride is for Everyone"



"Born this Way"

"We're here, We're Queer"

Nigeria's geographical disparities provide an important context for understanding the country's diverse views on LGBTQ rights. Northern Muslim states follow Islamic Sharia law, which often strongly prohibits same-sex unions. Homosexuality is seen as a taboo subject and is punished by Death in the North side.

Verse 15, 16, the Quran "And those two of you who commit it (the shameful act), torture them both." Turning LGBTQIA+ into threats for their culture/religion. Thinking back to my religion there are various strict rules that must be followed that are frequently allowed in other.

Some Southern states continue to hold conservative views on homosexuality, others have seen increased acceptance, campaigning for LGBTQ rights and acknowledging the necessity for laws that protect against discrimination.

Deeply rooted cultural and religious traditions influence Nigerian attitudes toward the LGBTQ individuals. Conservative interpretations of religion teachings impact public opinion in the North, where Islamic values predominate. Many say that these interpretations do not reflect Islam's greater teachings, which advocate compassion and respect for all people. However, these ideas prevail, resulting in the prejudice and exclusion of LGBTQ group. "Sentenced to Death." And I think this is just for loving the same sex?

Christianity has a similar impact in the southern regions, albeit interpretations differ greatly. Some Christian churches, along with conservative ideas, consider homosexuality to be a sin. Other denominations, as well as secular NGOs and human rights organizations, push for LGBTQ rights and inclusion. "11 years to lifetime sentence."



Despite the obstacles, Nigeria's LGBTQ activists continue to advocate for change. A small LGBTQ rights movement has formed in recent years, demanding acknowledgment, legalization, and protection against discrimination. The Initiative for Equal Rights (TIERS) and The Nigerian Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transsexual Rights Commission (NLGBTRC) work diligently to raise awareness, provide support, and campaign for legal reform.

However, the road to change is not without challenges. Laws criminalizing same-sex partnerships, which were passed down from the colonial era in Nigeria, are still in existence, perpetuating discrimination and impeding progress. Furthermore, cultural bias and deep-seated homophobia frequently create unfriendly situations for LGBTQ people, resulting to social exclusion and violence.

”A marriage contract or civil union entered into between persons of the same sex: (a) is prohibited in Nigeria; and (b) shall not be recognised as entitled to the benefits of a valid marriage.” Article One, Subsection One. Nigeria’s laws are established by the religion surrounding an area. Despite ongoing protests and calls for the lifting of this prohibition, it remains firmly entrenched due to its religious foundation in the northern part of Nigeria. The influence of religious leaders and the strong adherence to religious principles make it challenging to amend or repeal such laws. The religious establishment plays a significant role in shaping public opinion and exerting the rule. Nigeria, with its diverse population, encompasses different religious practices and traditions, hence the two various laws, North being punished by Death, and South with 11 year to a lifetime sentence in jail; while similar not the same.
