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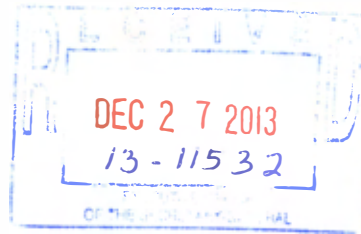
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UNESCO NYO

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20 December 2013



Your Excellency:

Please Oppose Nigeria's Anti-Homosexuality Bill

I write from Australia in the spirit of respect for common humanity and universal human rights.

I note and commend your words at a press conference during December 2013 in which you stated your hope that world leaders would follow the moral and political example of Nelson Mandela by working to protect people.

In this noble spirit; and in honour of human rights, universal equality and accountable governance, I express my opposition to the Anti-Homosexuality Bill which has reportedly just been passed in Nigeria.

The world community must lead a swift and immediate condemnation of this legislation.

Ongoing discrimination against gay people in Nigeria threatens the basic human rights of millions of citizens and allows for imprisonment because of an innate characteristic, ie, sexuality, which is equivalent to imprisoning people because of their skin colour. Furthermore, this discrimination violates human rights which are guaranteed within the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to which Nigeria is a signatory party. It violates similar provisions in the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Constitution of Nigeria.

This discrimination also threatens to deny people access to vital and accurate safe sex information, and the opportunity to make empowered and safe sexual health choices.

I respectfully ask the UN General Assembly, the Commonwealth, the African Union, the World Trade Organization, UNESCO, OUNHCHR, and other responsible world agencies, to take decisive action to distance themselves from this retrograde legislation and to call for its immediate abolition.

There are many difficulties facing Nigeria, and I appeal to you to assist them in moving forward on human rights. I await your kind reply to hearing of what steps you have taken to call upon the Parliament of Nigeria to respect and uphold the equal human rights of all their citizens.

Thank you for your action.

Yours most respectfully,

Geoff Allshorn BA, DipEd, GDCE.



HRJ/03/002
EXR/11/001

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