

MSM COMMUNITIES AND FAMILY CENTRED CARE IN MALAWI

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OVERVIEW OF MSM ISSUES IN MALAWI

- The lives of MSM community is characterized by rejection and violence and these ranges from verbal abuse to physical, stigma and discrimination which takes place in homes, schools, on the street, work place and even in health delivery institutions.
- In Malawi Sex between men is socially, culturally, legally and religiously prohibited.
- The sexual activities of people in same sex relationship are criminalized according to Sections 153 and 156 of the Malawi penal Code, which prohibit “unnatural offences” and “public indecency.” These offences which include sodomy and other sexual acts are considered “unnatural ” and attracts a prison sentence of 14 years
- **Two gay men were arrested in December 2009 and their case is in court.**

OVERVIEW OF MSM ISSUES

- Research has revealed an HIV prevalence of 21.4 % (43/201), with 95.3% unaware of their HIV status (41/43).
- 76% - age range of 18- 25 were HIV positive
- Half of the HIV positive were bisexuals

FAMILY CENTRED CARE FOR CHILDREN :ARE THEY AVAILABLE?

- Due to legal context gay people can't marry and adopt children.
- Stigma- gay people recruit children can't be good fathers.
- This has been a barrier to the development and implementation of appropriate programs for young MSM.
- Many MSM in Malawi support their children in education and even looking after children living with HIV without disclosing their sexual orientation.

FAMILY CENTRED SERVICES TO REDUCE HIV INFECTION AMONG MSM AND THEIR WIVES

Men's Sexual health workshops as the entry point

FAMILY CENTRED SERVICES CONTIN.....

- Discussions HIV/AIDS and other sexual health issues
- Fatherhood and MSM
- Social issues affecting MSM families.

Development of family centered services (Way forward)

- Research on MSM communities and family centre care.
- Develop life skills program for MSM groups particularly on their roles as fathersfamily centered care.
- Organizing MSM community support groups as focal points to talk about family centered services for their children.

THANK YOU