

Pride Month Appeal: Stand With LGBTQ Communities in Uganda

Fem Alliance Uganda (FEMA) is a lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LBTQ) organization established in 2012 by a group of Trans individuals and lesbians. It was founded to address the unique needs of the growing LBTQ community in Uganda. FEMA was created in response to the constant harassment, insults, and discrimination faced by LBTQ individuals, both from a largely ignorant society and from within the broader LGBTQ+ and sexual rights movements, where transphobia still exists.

Key Programs and Services:

Over the past decade, FEMA has been actively engaged in supporting and serving the LBTQ community in Uganda. Our initiatives aim to address discrimination, insecurity, unemployment, homelessness, lack of access to health services, and other challenges that LBTQ persons face due to the legalized environment of oppression, creating a more inclusive society where all people, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, are treated with dignity and respect, and have equal access to services and opportunities.

Some of our key programs include:

- **Psychosocial Support:**
FEMA operates a psychosocial support centre that addresses mental health issues within the LBTQ community.
- **HIV Services and Health Care:**
Fem Alliance Uganda (FEMA) operates a Drop-in centre dedicated to providing comprehensive HIV-related services and healthcare support specifically tailored for LBTQ individuals. Our services include HIV testing, counselling, prevention, and access to treatment, outreach services, PREP & PEP and referrals to facilities ensuring that our community members receive the essential care they need in a safe and inclusive environment without discrimination.
- **Shelter Support:**
FEMA operates a shelter for our members who are homeless, offering basic needs and livelihood support for those in the community who face homelessness or insecurity.
- **Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Services:**
We advocate for and provide SRHR services to LBTQ persons, ensuring they have access to safe, inclusive healthcare.
- **Advocacy and Legal Support:**
FEMA provides legal support and referrals for individuals facing criminalization, discrimination, and violence based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.
- **Economic Empowerment:**
FEMA has implemented several economic empowerment programs to build the capacity of LBTQ persons, providing skills training and resources to improve their livelihoods.
- **Research and Documentation:**
FEMA conducts research to generate data on the lived experiences of LBTQ individuals in Uganda. This research informs our advocacy, programming, and partnership-building efforts. Additionally, we document cases of rights violations,

social injustices, and discrimination against LGBTQ persons to support evidence-based interventions and policy recommendations.

All this we are doing it in a very homophobic, Transphobic environment in Uganda. Remember Uganda is one of the most homophobic countries in the world with the Anti Homosexuality Law in place.

This Pride Month, we invite you to stand with lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer persons and gender-diverse people in Uganda.

For many members of our community, living authentically comes at a tremendous cost. Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Act has intensified fear, discrimination, family rejection, job loss, homelessness, violence, and barriers to accessing essential services. Every day, members of our community face challenge simply because of who they are.

At Fem Alliance Uganda (FEMA), we work to ensure that no one faces these challenges alone. Our shelter provides a safe home for community members who have been displaced, abandoned by their families, or left without income and support. Our Drop-in Centre offers stigma-free health services, including HIV prevention and treatment support, creating a safe space where people can seek care without fear of discrimination. Through our psychosocial support program, individuals receive counselling and mental health services to help them recover from trauma and rebuild their lives.

We also believe in long-term empowerment. Through skills training and economic empowerment programs such as baking, soap making, poultry farming, and other income-generating activities, we help community members create sustainable livelihoods and regain their independence.

Behind every service we provide is a real person whose life has been transformed.

Earlier this year, a young transgender man arrived at our shelter after experiencing a horrific attack. He had been violently assaulted, beaten, and sexually abused. When FEMA learned about his situation, we immediately intervened. Through our Drop-in Centre, he received Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) and other urgent healthcare services. He was also connected to psychosocial support to help him begin healing from the trauma he had endured. Today, he lives safely at our shelter and is learning income-generating skills that will help him establish a business and rebuild his future with dignity and hope.

Another case involves a lesbian couple whose neighbours discovered their relationship and reported them to local authorities. They were arrested, detained, and subjected to harsh treatment while in custody. During this period, one of the women sustained serious injuries that continue to affect her health. When they were eventually released, they had nowhere safe to go and urgently needed medical care and support. FEMA provided shelter, healthcare, counselling, and ongoing support as they work toward recovery. Their journey is far from over, and continued support is critical to helping them regain stability and independence.

These are only two stories among many.

Every week, individuals come to FEMA seeking safety, healthcare, counselling, food, shelter, and a chance to rebuild their lives. The demand for our services continues to grow, but our resources remain limited.

Every donation makes a difference.

Your contribution can provide emergency shelter for someone who has been displaced, healthcare for someone recovering from violence, counselling for someone living with trauma, or skills training that helps someone build a sustainable future.

This Pride Month, we ask you to stand in solidarity with Uganda's LGBTQ community.

By supporting Fem Alliance Uganda, you are helping vulnerable individuals access safety, dignity, healthcare, hope, and opportunity.

Together, we can ensure that no one is left behind.

Donate today. Share our story. Stand with Fem Alliance Uganda.

Thank You.