

## Information LGBT Activists from Kenya and Jamaica

George Gachara, Jim Chuchu, Njoki Ngumi and Maurice Tomlinson have been invited to the Movies That Matter Festival in The Hague to attend screenings of 'Stories of Our Lives' and 'The Abominable Crime' and participate in discussions with the Dutch audience, stakeholders and politicians.

George, Jim and Njoki work at The Nest in Nairobi. The Nest is a multidisciplinary collective that work within the fields of film, visual arts, music and fashion to stir up dialogue and discussions. They have produced 'Stories of Our Lives', a film portraying the situation of the LGBT community in Kenya. The script was based upon true stories. The Kenya Film Classification Board has placed a restriction on the exhibition, sale and distribution of the film in Kenya and the producer was arrested for shooting the film without a license.

Maurice Tomlinson – one of the world's most prominent LGBT activists – has been invited to The Hague to attend screenings of 'The Abominable Crime'. The film exposes the roots of homophobia in Jamaican society, reveal the deep psychological and social impacts of discrimination on the lives of gays and lesbians and challenges of seeking asylum abroad. It also captures the story of Maurice Tomlinson. Above visits are supported by Hivos, Movies that Matter and Amnesty International.



George Gachara (1986) is a youth worker, author, designer of learning programs and a speaker. He is the Programs Director at the Nest and was the executive producer of Stories of Our Lives. George was arrested for shooting the film without a license but the case was dropped on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2015.



Jim Chuchu (1982) is a visual artist, filmmaker and musician living in Nairobi. He is also co-founder and Creative Director at the Nest. He has directed Stories of Our Lives.



Njoki Ngumi (1985) is currently the Head of Outreach at the Nest, involved in live theatre and played a small role in Stories of Our Lives. She was trained as a medical doctor but does no longer actively practices medicine.



Maurice Tomlinson (1971) is one of the most well-known LGBT & HIV activists in the world. He is a Jamaican lawyer, lecturer of law and received the David Kato Vision and Voice Award 2012. The award recognizes individuals who defend LGBT rights around the world. He sought refuge in Canada after receiving death threats following news of his marriage to another man.