

The Global Interfaith Network

For People of All Sexes, Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities and Expressions

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Dear Madam/Sir,

Re: Application for position in the Board of GIN.

I am interested in the position in the GIN Board as per to your advertisement. I am confident that I meet the qualifications you are looking for and hope to be considered for this position.

My background includes over 10years' experience working with the sexual and gender minorities both in the coastal region Kenya as a country and globally and also identify as a Human Rights Defender.

For over 7 years I have gained skills in governance and leadership, programming and counselling and conflict resolution from working in different positions at PEMA Kenya including chairperson to the board and Legal and advocacy officer.

I have vast understanding and skills in developing strategic plans and other documents including policies relevant for the day to day running of an organization which over the years I have put in practice at PEMA Kenya. With sober mind I have been able to mitigate conflicts between organizations and individuals. I am open about my sexuality as a gay man and have helped mobilize and participate in interviews and documentaries, for example with the Human Rights Watch, which informed the compilation of the Human Right Watch report on The Issues of Violence at the Kenyan Coast.

Previously, I worked also as the Community advisory board for the Kenya Medical Research Institute on Sexual and Gender Minorities to fill the gap between the researchers and the community and to advice the researchers on LGBTI cultures and beliefs and its effects on their various research. In these positions, I demonstrated the ability to help in mobilizing as well as resolve a variety of issues and complaints (such as conflict resolutions, articulate the needs of the community, as well as give the feedback to the researchers). I consistently was able to create a

level of understanding and also common ground for discussing contentious issues. I also played a big role on creating stakeholders networks and partnerships. In addition to this experience, I gained considerable research and Leadership trainings and the understanding of different religious/ spiritual beliefs and ethnicity and other skills necessary to effect working with the community. I am a trained dialogue partner and a facilitator on Faith, culture and sexuality, which I have used to sensitize and create awareness on Sexual and gender minorities to religious leaders and other stakeholders.

Together and with the support of the House of Rainbow, I have been able to facilitate and train in three African countries on Faith and Sexuality.

Currently, I work at PEMA Kenya as the Executive Director. A position that has helped me interact not only with the members of PEMA Kenya but other organization under GALCK and partners. I also sit on the boards of the National Key population Consortium an organization that provides coordination nationally for the sex workers, People who inject with drugs and men who have sex with other men, Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Kenya an organization that coordinate the LGBTIQ+ in Kenya and Nkoko Iju, an organization that works with male and female sex workers.

Due to the trust that the LGBTI community have in me, I was nominated to the Human Rights Defenders of the year Award organized by the National Human Rights Defenders Kenya (NHRD-K), David Kato Vision Award and The Inner Circle in South Africa Best Community Mobilizer Award which saw me being awarded for the same last year 2016

I am confident that I bring to GIN sober advice and decisions for the benefit of the Sexual and Gender Minorities in the movement and the queer persons of Faith. I have the ability to represent the Sub-Saharan Africa Queer community in this space.

Thank you in advance as I look forward to learning more about this opportunity!

Sincerely,

Ishmael Omumbwa.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ishmael Omumbwa', written in a cursive style.