

“LOVE WILL WIN” THE LGBTQ REFUGEE EXPERIENCE



“It all started when I was invited as a representative of my church to attend a leadership training seminar at Makerere Community Church (in Uganda) and heard American pastor Rick Warren, author of ‘The Purpose-Driven Life.’”

-David, Gay Ugandan Refugee now living in Ohio

Facilitator’s Guide

OUR GOALS

1. Galvanize faith communities, social activist groups, friends, and families to come together around the lived experiences of people who are severely and directly impacted by U.S. Christian Right messaging.
2. Listen and learn to Global South connected activists to understand what responsibility and solidarity mean for those most affected.
3. Take away real strategies and tactics for responding to U.S. culture warrior agendas.
4. Build an international community of like-minded activists who can work together to address these challenges.

PREPARATION

SETUP

Register your group for the webinar. Contact Stonewall Columbus for the link.

Notify your group with the time and location for the webinar. Organize a viewing party with snacks and materials if that helps your team.

PREPARE YOUR FOLKS

- Let them know they will hear directly from Ugandan LGBTQI activists living in Ohio.
- The audience can submit questions during the webinar.
- There will be visuals to accompany the speakers.
- Explain how your group will debrief the webinar and discuss suggestion options for taking action.
- There is also spiritual preparation that's needed: the stories are honest, hard, and revealing about the realities of interpersonal and systemic violence.
- Stonewall Columbus (www.stonewallcolumbus.org) and the speakers, David Senabulya and Keith "Roscoe" Ssekabira, is working with Know Your Neighbors (www.kynship.org), a project of Soulforce, (www.soulforce.org) to expand this important message across the country.

APPRECIATION

Thank you for gathering today to bear witness to the stories of David and Roscoe, just two of many LGBTQI people around the world living in exile because of the U.S. Christian Right's expansion into the Global South.

NOTES for the FACILITATOR

1. We suggest opening with a prayer, song, or "icebreaker" that helps people align their spirit, feelings, and bodies in the room. You may need a break between watching the webinar and having a discuss to listen to music, stretch, have snacks, or journal.
2. This information may land at different places for folks. Some engage difficult content more emotionally and some more intellectually. It's good to check in with people before you begin to assess where your folks are at. Today, being pro-active might feel healing because it gives our feelings a place to go, but it's also possible that a "solutions conversation" feels too premature.
3. Remember that the notion of "taking responsibility for U.S. bad actors" is a complex one that also lands different folks because of diverse religious, cultural, racial, ethnic, and class identifications. We don't all have the same relationship to this land and its notions citizenship and therefore might approach the topic of "implication" or "responsibility" differently.
4. You don't have to explore all the questions. What follows are suggestions, and you are welcome to riff on them to meet your group's needs.
5. We suggest thinking about the closing out process carefully. When can you have your next conversation? How can this discussion move out beyond your immediate group? What further learning can you pursue?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

GENERAL CHECK-IN

1. How are you feeling? Where's your heart? Your mind? Your body?
2. Was there new information for you presented during the webinar?
3. What was it like watching a webinar about such personal stories?
4. What questions do you wish we had been able to cover with the speakers?

SELF-REFLECTION on SOLIDARITY

1. Have you purchased A Purpose-Driven Life? What is your relationship to Pastor Rick Warren, if any?
2. If I were to say to you that Warren works closely with Costco and Starbucks as their ambassador into African economies, what does that make you think about the notion of "responsibility" in this exportation of U.S. culture wars?
3. Whose role do you think it is, if anyone's, to challenge Warren's expansion into Africa?
4. If you feel called to do something to support LGBTQI people in the Global South, do you approach it from a "charity model" or a "solidarity model"?

WHAT'S NEXT

1. What else would you like to learn, read about, or explore? What information are you missing and what's your plan for getting it?
2. Do you *want* to do something about what you learned today?
3. Are there people beyond the folks you watched with today with whom you want to share this information?
4. Do you have any ideas for what you can do locally to support David and Roscoe's community, or folks in a similar situation?
5. What's your plan or infrastructure that will keep you honest to following through on your ideas?

How KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS Can Support You

WHAT IS KYN?

Know Your Neighbors (www.kynship.org) is a collaboratively led project by Political Research Associates (www.politicalresearch.org) and Soulforce (www.soulforce.org). Our purpose is to hold U.S. Christian Right Wing actors accountable for exporting U.S. culture wars that harm LGBTQI People, Women, and People of Color.

MEMBERSHIP

Become a member of KYN today at www.kynship.org. It's free, simple, and quick. It's also your entrypoint into action kits, generative community, and research. When you join in, you get access to tools, timelines, and infrastructure that can amplify the impact of your local efforts. We have specific campaigns for a variety of targets, including Rick Warren.

GET STARTED: IDEAS for ACTION

1. Distribute the Rick Warren bookmark in his best-selling books to tell the truth about his agenda here in the U.S. and in the Global South. Contact info@kynship.org for instructions and the bookmark graphic.
2. Contact your local refugee assistance organizations to ask about their policies and practices regarding LGBTQI refugees. If useful, you can share what you have learned and offer safe meeting space to LGBTQI refugees, if it's appropriate.
3. Let us know if you would like to join additional strategy sessions with Ugandan and other Global South-based activists to continue learning about effective responses. Email us at info@kynship.org.
4. Design your own local initiative and drop us a line at info@kynship.org. We can help you scale up and invite other teams across the country into collaboration with you.



© Know Your Neighbors 2016

Made possible by a grant from the Global Faith and Equality Fund of Horizons Foundation.