

PRESS NOTICE

SEROvie Foundation

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Position of SEROvie Foundation on violence perpetrated on Haitian LGBT

Since two months ago, there is a finding of the increase and systemization of discriminatory and violent attitudes towards LGBT Haitians. This situation started with some unmindful, non-evaluated statements made during the commemoration of IDAHO May 17, 2013 by an individual claiming to be the first association for the defense of rights of Haitian homosexuals. The anti-gay march on July 19, 2013 was organized by ill-intentioned individuals claiming to be a Christian group who already have the immediate effect of 2 deaths under their activity. Calls of violence in the media since the end of June are plunging the Haitian people into pain and mourning. July 15th, 4 days before the march, in the locality of “Brise Trou” around Péguy-city/Petion Ville, a homosexual engaged in a fight with one of his neighbors who assaulted him, which went badly wrong and forced the man to flee.

The SEROvie Foundation condemns with the utmost rigor these unusual attitudes among some sections of the Haitian population. SEROvie appealed to State authorities to assume their responsibility in this abnormal situation because Haitian homosexuals, like all citizens, meet their civic duty by paying taxes, voting, and in accordance with established laws. Therefore they should enjoy the fundamental rights guaranteed by the constitution of 1987, beginning with the right to life, physical integrity, freedom of expression to name but a few.

Indeed SEROvie Foundation has been intervening for thirteen years in Haiti for the promotion and respect of human rights; it has registered cases of violence related to sexual orientation. It has always worked to maintain a permanent dialogue with civil society leaders, public officials and officials of the Haitian State which ensures a progressive evolution of the situation of Haitian sexual minorities. This is why the SEROvie Foundation undertakes and urgently maintains contacts with certain leaders of the Haitian National Police to intervene in the event of any violence against LGBT.

Today, some countries like France and the United States of America, who manage to legalize same-sex marriage, organized groups for human rights and put pressure since the end of the 1940s to achieve equality for all without distinction to race, class, sex gender and sexual orientation or religious affiliation. In Haiti, it was only in 1986 that the Haitian people were liberated of a dictatorial regime where freedom of association and opinion were previously forbidden. The first discussions on the situation of Haitian homosexuals began at the end of the 1990s with the creation of the Foundation SEROvie. This comparison allows understanding of how man is hostile to change and why it is necessary to treat communication as a way of achieving expected results in the long term.

Having well analyzed and understood that this strategy of certain leaders of foreign institutions claiming themselves to be LGBT activists, wanting to be spoon fed their reality to the population through strong means, SEROvie Foundation continues to keep its distance. Since the foundation of this State, homosexuality has always existed but experienced differently in all levels of Haitian society. Never has so much violence been expressed against homosexuals. The rate at which things are moving, one must condemn this practice of foreign leaders using "free elections" having no meaning of Haitian sociocultural

reality to establish their point of view. This must stop because the LGBT movements in developed countries are funded by wealthy economies and knowledge while in Haiti, it is the poorest and least educated LGBT who pay the cost of this growing violence.

After the January 12 earthquake, there has been an increase of violence against homosexuals in IDP camps, but that always came from the same conformist, fundamental religion sector which stirs up violence in Haitian society. Nevertheless, this remains a transient situation regularized by SEROvie Foundation with the concerned bodies. We reiterate that any changes must be done through dialogue.