

Davis Mac-Iyalla (EN)

I am a Christian. I was raised in a Christian home; my parents are Anglicans. I was taught to love the Lord and to serve Him. This I have done all my life. My relationship with God has never been stronger and I am more thankful than ever for the redemption that I have through Jesus Christ and His work of redemption on my behalf on the cross. I know what repentance is and I know what forgiveness is.

I am also a gay man. There was never a conflict between my faith and my sexuality. I believe my sexuality is a gift from God which I am very gleeful for. The difficult part of my journey is the discrimination, condemnation and humiliation I faced from my church once my sexuality becomes public. Despite all these challenges, my God has been faithful to me and continues to assure me each day of my journey that he loves me unconditionally.

In West Africa, homosexuality is seen by many as taboo due to conservative religious and traditional influence and interpretation of scriptures. My witness is to constantly remind the church that We cannot use the Bible as a weapon to propagate our own political or social views.

While we accept the Bible as God's written word for us, we also accept Jesus as God's incarnate Word for us. Jesus never said anything about homosexuality. He did however admonish us to love one another. Adherence to that admonition is absent in your attitude towards the LGBT community.

What the Church and religious leaders are doing and saying is doing great harm to homosexual people like me, but I am just trying to do my best with the gifts God has given me. I don't need my Fellow-Christians tripping me up by condemning me and marginalizing me for something that is natural for me.

In August, we celebrated 6 years anniversary of IDNOWA. A network I founded in 2016, Interfaith Diversity Network of West Africa is a regional network of activists, faith-based individuals, LGBTQI persons, advocates and individuals working for the inclusion of diverse persons to create a world governed by respect and dignity. We seek a day where all persons irrespective of religious beliefs become great allies in the quest for a safe and free society for all humans. We strongly believe that humans are born free and equal and should enjoy their full human rights and achieve their full potential in a safe and loving society irrespective of background and belief. I hereby invite you to help connect and contribute to building this beautiful world we envision for all.

Your Brother in Christ

Davis