

## **LEGALIZATION OF 'LGBT' IN THE NATIONS: GHANA IS AT THE CROSSROADS OF CHOICE**

### **ABSTRACT**

*LGBT is the acronym of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender—the umbrella of diverse sexual promiscuities. The rapid spread and forceful legalization of LGBT communities across the globe calls for immediate attention of Ghana with the compass of biblical truth to combat this wave of promiscuous sexual practices. This research has discovered that a little over twenty (20) nations have legalized LGBT practices. Practitioners continuously mount piercing pressure on governments across the globe to legalize these sexual promiscuities. Another finding is that some countries and international organizations are persistently pressurizing other countries especially those in Africa to give legal backing to LGBT groups in their respective countries. Again, this article has discovered the undeniable fact that LGBT is practiced in Ghana, and further unveils the situation in which Ghana finds herself within the global context of the LGBT legalization debate. At the crossroads of choice about LGBT dispute in Ghana, this research concludes with pragmatic recommendations as well as cautions to the government and the people of Ghana to repudiate myriads of constraints from USA, UK and some international organizations as well as domestic tensions being mounted on the nation to succumb and legalize LGBT activities.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Following the ruling by the Supreme Court of the United States of America on June 25, 2015, religious leaders, heads of educational institutions and other organizations and the majority of the people in Ghana are actively involved in the longstanding debate about legalization of LGBT activities in the Ghana. Though facets of LGBT practices like gay and lesbian are on the ascendancy, greater proportion of Ghanaians classify all LGBT practices as abnormal, detestable, and irrational.

Currently LGBT is illegal in Ghana; the Criminal Code of Ghana Section 104 criminalizes the act of homosexuality [LGBT] states in (1) (a) “Whoever has unnatural carnal knowledge of any person of age 16 or over without his consent shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not less than five years

and not more than twenty-five years. (b) Whoever has unnatural carnal knowledge of a person of age 16 or over with his consent is guilty of misdemeanor.”<sup>1</sup>

But the sporadic rate of LGBT phenomenon in Ghana is beyond human mind to comprehend. Intimidating pressures from the western world especially USA and UK, as well as some international organizations are persistently mounted upon Ghana and its sister countries in the African sub-region.

Aids, donations, and loans from LGBT legalized nations pose constant threats on Ghana to succumb and legalize LGBT practices in Ghana or forfeit further assistance especially in the area of finance. Internal aggression by advocates and activists of LGBT to legitimize their practices also add more weight upon Ghana to choose between either maintaining its stand of illegalization, or compromise their bizarre pressure of legalizing their dreadful demand.

In view of this prevailing situation the researchers took time to investigate the phenomenon among few senior high school students in Kumasi. Because of the sensitive nature of LGBT practices in Ghana, a snow-ball method was used to find few students who are engaged in the practice.

The main points in this research are: (a) the meaning of LGBT, (b) the biblical history of LGBT, (C) the history and development of LGBT, (d) “Don’t ask don’t tell” alternative, (e) Diverse mythical philosophies about LGBT, (f) LGBT legalized nations, (g) the reality of LGBT in Ghana, (h) the current position of Ghana in LGBT global debate, and (i) pragmatic recommendation.

## **WHAT IS LGBT?**

The term “LGBT” is shorthand for “Lesbian”, “Gay”, “Bisexual”, and “Transgender.” According to American Psychological Association, the “LGB” in this term refers to sexual orientation. Sexual orientation is defined as an often-enduring pattern of emotional, romantic and/or sexual attractions of men to women or women to men (heterosexual), of women to women or men to men (homosexual), or by men or women to both sexes (bisexual). The “T” in

---

<sup>1</sup><http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Gays-can-be-prosecuted-210533> (accessed on December 17, 2015).

LGBT stands for transgender or gender non-conforming, and is an umbrella term for people whose gender identity or gender expression does not conform to that typically associated with the sex to which they were assigned at birth.”<sup>2</sup> Peter Morgan defines “LGB” as; “Lesbianism” “the sexual partnership between two females;”<sup>3</sup> “Gay,” “homosexual relationship between two males;”<sup>4</sup> and “Bisexualism” “refers to people who experience sexual attraction to members of either sex”<sup>5</sup>

## **BIBLICAL HISTORY OF LGBT ACTIVITIES**

The first hint of LGBT practice is the story of Sodom;

The two angels arrived at Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city. When he saw them, he got up to meet them and bowed down with his face to the ground. My lords, he said, please turn aside to your servant’s house. You can wash your feet and spend the night and then go on your way early in the morning. No, they answered, we will spend the night in the square. But he insisted so strongly that they did go with him and entered his house. He prepared a meal for them, baking bread without yeast, and they ate. Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom—both young and old surrounded—surrounded the house. They called to Lot, “Where are the men who came to you tonight?” Bring them out so we can have sex with them. ”Lot went outside to meet them and shut the door behind him and said, “No, my friends. Don’t do this wicked thing. Look, I have two daughters who have never slept with a man. Let me bring them out to you, and you can do what you like to them. But don’t do anything to those men, for they have come under my roof. “Get out of your way,” they replied. And they said, “This fellow came here as an alien, and now he wants to play the judge. We’ll treat you worse than them. They kept bringing pressure on Lot and moved forward to break down the door. But the men inside reached out and pulled Lot back into the house and shut the door. (Gen. 19:1-10, NIV).

It was because of this story that homosexuality gained the terminology “Sodomy.” Another biblical account says; “...While they were enjoying themselves, some of the wicked men of the city surrounded the house. Pounding at the door they

---

<sup>2</sup>American Psychological Association <http://www.apa.org/topics/lgbt/> (accessed on Nov. 28, 2016)

<sup>3</sup>Peter Morgan, *The Canadian Medical Association: Home Medical Encyclopedia.*: Westmouth: The Reader’s Digest Association, Canada Ltd., 1992. 635.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., 544.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid., 902.

shouted to the old man who owned the house, "Bring out the man who came to your house so we can have sex with him, The owner of the house went outside and said to them, "No, my friends, don't be so vile. Since this man is my guest, don't do this disgraceful thing...But the men would not listen to him. So he took his concubine and sent her outside to them, and they raped her and abused her throughout the night, and at dawn they let her go." (Judges 19: 20-25, NIV).

## **HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF LGBT IN USA AND SOME COUNTRIES**

American Psychological Association unfolds a concise history of LGBT;

In the United States, few attempts were made to create advocacy groups supporting gay and lesbian relationships until after World War II, although prewar gay life flourished in urban centers such as Greenwich Village and Harlem during the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s. The disruptions of World War II allowed formerly isolated gay men and women to meet as soldiers, war workers, and other volunteers uprooted from small towns and posted worldwide. The primary organization acknowledging gay men as an oppressed cultural minority was the Mattachine Society, founded in 1950 by Harry Hay and Chuck Rowland. Other important homophile organizations on the West Coast included One, Inc., founded in 1952, and the first lesbian support network, Daughters of Bilitis, founded in 1955 by Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin. But it would not be until 1973 that the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality as an "illness" classification in its diagnostic manuals. Throughout the 1950s and 60s, gay men and lesbians continued to be at risk for psychiatric lockup and jail and for losing jobs or child custody when courts and clinics defined gay love as sick, criminal, or immoral.<sup>6</sup>

Equally pertinent are few extracts from an article captioned "Brief History of the Gay and Lesbian Rights Movement in the US" (1) The homophile years span from 1940 – 60's during WWII, Cold War, and McCarthyism. This event triggered growth in the urban subculture of gay men and lesbians. (2) The Gay Rights Movement took off in the 1970's. This, they sought recognition and inclusion in American society. (3) Lesbian feminism surfaced in the 1970's.

---

<sup>6</sup><http://www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/resources/history.aspx> (accessed on November 29, 2016).

Thus, they formed their own autonomous lesbian groups, developing a separate lesbian-feminist movement where lesbians with experience in women's liberation and women with experience in gay liberation converged."<sup>7</sup>

### **“DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL” ALTERNATIVE—LGBT IN DISGUISE**

A different wing of the political rights movement called for an end to military expulsion of gay and lesbian soldiers, with the high-profile case of Col. Margarethe Cammermeyer publicized through a made-for-television movie, "Serving in Silence." The patriotism and service of gay men and lesbians in uniform eventually resulted in the uncomfortable compromise "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" as an alternative to decades of military witch hunts and dishonorable discharges. Finally, in the last decade of the 20th century, millions of Americans watched as actress Ellen DeGeneres came out on national television in April 1997, heralding a new era of gay celebrity power and media visibility. Celebrity performers, both gay and heterosexual, have been among the most vocal activists, calling for tolerance and equal rights. As a result of hard work by countless organizations and individuals, helped by Internet and direct-mail campaign networking, the 21st century heralded new legal gains for gay and lesbian couples. Same-sex civil unions were recognized under Vermont law in 2000, and Massachusetts became the first state to perform same-sex marriages in 2003. With the end of state sodomy laws (*Lawrence v. Texas*, 2003), gay Americans were finally free from criminal classification.<sup>8</sup>

### **DIVERSE MYTHICAL PHILOSOPHIES ABOUT LGBT OCCURENCES**

#### *Disease Model*

Writing in 1905 on "Sexuality", Sigmund Freud submitted that all human beings are born bisexuals, that is, humans are attracted to both members of the same sex and that of the opposite sex at birth. The child experiences sexual development from the first four (4) to six (6) years after birth. He or she goes through the oral stage where the libido is directed towards the mother's breast, the anal and phallic stages in which the libido is now towards his or her own body

---

<sup>7</sup>[http://www.uky.edu/~lbarr2/gws250spring11\\_files/Page1186.htm](http://www.uky.edu/~lbarr2/gws250spring11_files/Page1186.htm) (accessed 8th Sept. 2016)

<sup>8</sup><http://www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/resources/history.aspx> (accessed on November 29, 2016).

and then to the latency period until puberty. During puberty, a boy resolves his Oedipal Complex by giving up his sexual desire for his mother and redirects it towards females in his age group. According to Freud, a boy's failure to resolve his Oedipal Complex leads him to misdirect his libido towards members of the same sex. This Freudian theory is termed as the "Disease Model."<sup>9</sup>

### Genetic Concept

In 1993, a team of researchers led by Dean Hamer suggested that there was a linkage of the Xq28 gene to homosexuality. Their research showed that male siblings having homosexual orientation shared similar genes from their maternal lineage. This finding sought to conclude that homosexuality is a genetic factor and that people are born homosexuals. But in this same research no genetic linkage was found in lesbians.

After this finding in the United States of America, there was an attempt to replicate this in Canada but it failed. The failed attempt has raised questions about the methodology that was used to reach the earlier result. Since this research has provided no answers to its critics it has been rejected as having no basis for scientific conclusion. Stanton L. Jones and Mark A. Yarhouse have concluded that "it is quite clear that these studies did not find a chromosome which causes homosexual orientation: the Xq28 region was neither necessary nor sufficient for a homosexual orientation."<sup>10</sup>

### Brain Structure Concept

There is also an attempt by some researchers led by LeVay to find out whether there is a linkage between the brain structure of people and sexual orientation. Findings so far suggest differences in the brain structure of male homosexuals and that of male heterosexuals. The research asserts that the brain structure of male homosexuals looks similar to that of female heterosexuals.

Again, this finding has not been replicated anywhere. Moreover, brain experts posit that the size and nature of different brain structures are rather influenced by

---

<sup>9</sup>Boss, Judith: "Analyzing Moral Issues" (Mayfield Publishing Company) 1999:491

<sup>10</sup>Stanton L. Jones and Mark A. Yarhouse; "The Use, Misuse, and Abuse of Science in the Ecclesiastical Homosexuality Debates" ed. David L. Balch, "Homosexuality, Science, and the Plain Sense of Scripture (William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan/Cambridge, 2000: 90-95

behavior. In other words, when a male behaves like a female both are likely to have similar brain structures; the reason for the similarity between that of the male homosexual and the female heterosexual.

### *Prenatal Hormonal Concept*

Another research seems to suggest that homosexuality could be attributed to prenatal hormonal factors. According to this research, sexual orientation is a development that occurs between the second and fifth months of pregnancy. But this happens when the fetus is exposed to sex hormones. It explains that pregnant women who unknowingly take synthetic estrogen drugs expose their babies to elevated intrauterine levels of estrogen. Children born through this experience more often turn out to be bisexuals when they become adults. Others also rely on the gender inappropriateness in early childhood as evidence to support this prenatal hormonal concept. Proponents say boys who are effeminate grow to become gays more than their masculine peers. Critics contest these submissions because according to them the homosexual community does not exhibit elevated rates of the physical abnormalities which usually characterize the prenatal hormonal aberrations. Further, not all effeminate children grow to become gays neither do many homosexuals report gender inappropriateness in early childhood. Rather some studies point to psychological causes. One report says that “significantly fewer male role models were found in the family backgrounds of the severely gender-disturbed boys”, and that there were more emotional problems in the families of the most disturbed boys.<sup>11</sup>

### *Psychological Concept*

Another study also links homosexuality to maternal stress during pregnancy. Studies have shown that many German women who were pregnant during the Second World War gave birth to a significant number of children who became homosexuals. In addition to this, a study of birth order has shown that gays are usually born later in a family of overabundance of males relative to females. The mothers who experience such birth orders must have been stressed which often results in a higher incidence of male births. As a result of the stress, there is

---

<sup>11</sup>G. Rekers et al, “Family Correlates of Male Childhood Gender Disturbance”, *Journal of Genetic Psychology* 1983:31-42

insufficiency of androgen which in turn produces incomplete masculinization of the male fetus finally producing homosexuality in adulthood.<sup>12</sup>

Rae explains in three ways how homosexuality may arise in a person. Firstly, homosexuality he says, may be the result of “a combination of an angry or absent father and a close-bonding and/or domineering mother. He says this usually plays a major role if the mother uses the boy as an ‘emotional substitute husband.’” Secondly, the boy child does not enter the ‘boy becoming man’ social processes with pleasure. He either does not participate, or if he does, he does not enjoy it, and for that reason is derided by his peers.” The final factor according to Rae has to do with the introductory stage of the boy’s sexuality. He believes that the person with whom the boy first has his sexual experience and how the boy interprets the experience can result in homosexuality. For example when a boy has sexual intercourse for the first time in his life with a male, this can lead to a homosexual orientation.<sup>13</sup>

## **LGBT LEGALIZED NATIONS**

Table-1 is a list of the nations who have legalized LGBT activities.<sup>14</sup>

## **REALITY OF LGBT ACTIVITIES IN GHANA**

A group that was formed in 2012 in Ghana known as Solace Brothers Foundation is leading the crusade to protect the rights of the LGBT community. On February 12, 2016 Solace Brothers Foundation reported that it has trained twenty (20) paralegals in legal rights, counselling advice and security support. The founder of the group, Abu, says “We are not making it about LGBT rights, we want it to be human rights ... These are our rights, and as every other human being in Ghana we also have our rights”<sup>15</sup> The prisons in Ghana have been experiencing the presence of homosexuality for quite some time. This was admitted by a former director of the Nsawam Prisons in 2008 when he said “Although some of the men and women in our prisons of the same sex at a point identify themselves as man

---

<sup>12</sup>Stanton and Yarhouse; (ed David L. Balch, 2000):99-102

<sup>13</sup>Scott B. Rae; “Moral Choices: An introduction to Ethics” (Zondervan, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49530) 3rd Ed 2009:281

<sup>14</sup><http://www.time.com/3937766/us-supreme-court-countries-same-sex-gay-marriage-legal> (accessed on October 29, 2016)

<sup>15</sup><http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2016/feb/11/these-are-our-rights-paralegals-empowering-lgbt-ghana>. (accessed November 29, 2016)

and wife, it is not allowed and those caught in such games are severely punished to serve as deterrent for others.”<sup>16</sup>

S/N	COUNTRY	DATE
1	The Netherlands	April 1, 2001
2	Belgium	June 1, 2003
3	Canada	July 20, 2005
4	South Africa	November 30, 2006
5	Norway	January 1, 2009
6	Sweden	May 1, 2009
7	Portugal	June 5, 2010
8	Iceland	June 27, 2010
9	Argentina	July 22, 2010
10	Denmark	June 15, 2012
11	Brazil	May 14, 2013
12	French Guiana <sup>17</sup>	May 17, 2013
13	France	May 29, 2013
14	Uruguay	August 5, 2013
15	New Zealand	August 19, 2013
16	Scotland	March 12, 2014
17	England and Wales (UK)	March 13, 2014
18	Luxembourg	June 18, 2014
19	Finland	November 28, 2014 effective 2017
20	Ireland	May 23, 2015
21	U.S.A.	June 25, 2015
22	Greenland <sup>18</sup>	October 1, 2015

**Note:** Mexico is the 23<sup>rd</sup> country but not included in the list because the practice is legalized in some parts of the country. These are Chihuahua, Coahuila, Quintana Roo and the Federal District

***TABLE 1. LIST OF NATIONS WHERE LGBT IS LEGAL***

<sup>16</sup><http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Sodomy-cases-rise-in-prisons>. (accessed on December 17, 2015\_

<sup>17</sup><http://www.equal/dex.com/region/french-guiana> (accessed on October 29, 2016)

<sup>18</sup><http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2015/05/27/parliament-in-greenland-unanimously-approves-same-sex-marriage> (accessed on October 29, 2016)

On September 14, 2015, a young man by name Orlando Wilson granted an interview to Anita Erskine on Viasat1 and confessed that he was a gay.<sup>19</sup> On January 20, 2016 it was reported that Opoku Ware Senior High School in Kumasi had indefinitely suspended three final year students who were suspected to be homosexuals.<sup>20</sup> In the same year, a student of Kumasi Girls Senior High School was dismissed from the school for her involvement in a lesbian pornographic video which leaked and went viral on social media. Again, on Sunday November 27, 2016 it was reported in the evening news on TV3 (a television station in Ghana) that Konongo Odumasi Senior High School was closed down indefinitely and the cause was linked to LGBT practices in the school.

These stories have been cited to emphasize the fact that LGBT phenomenon is real in Ghana.

An investigation conducted by the researchers in 2016 to authenticate evidential facts about LGBT practices among senior high school students in Kumasi reveals an intriguing situation in Ghana. A snow-ball method was used to find senior high school students who are involved in the practice. In a period of three months, thirteen (13) practicing homosexuals (six gays and seven lesbians) from four different senior high schools in the Kumasi (the second largest city in Ghana) were identified and interviewed. In addition to them, four former gays shared their experiences. It was a very difficult exercise as the students involved needed the full assurance of trust and confidentiality on the part of the researchers. All the seventeen people interviewed claim to be Christians who play diverse roles in their churches. On the issue of how they started such sexual promiscuity, the response from nine of them indicated that they were introduced to it when they were between the ages of six and ten.

They were either lured or forced by some senior colleagues or they had illicit sexual practices with their peers voluntarily. The rest had their first time experience at the adolescent age. One striking revelation was that the place where they were introduced was either their homes or close to home by either a close relative like an aunt, uncle, a cousin, sibling or a neighbor. Four of them started with their school mates.

---

<sup>19</sup><https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8M0EdEC6ib4>. (accessed on December 17, 2015)

<sup>20</sup>Daily Graphic, Wednesday, January 20, 2016. 58

One of the boys said when he was below age ten a neighbor called him into his room, and whilst playing with him pulled his penis out and asked him (interviewee) to hold it. Following this, the neighbor placed the penis into the boy's mouth and asked him to suck it. According to the boy this act was repeated several times when no one was at home with them. Later, this boy started practicing the act with his cousin and it became part of him as he grew up. One of the former gays interviewed is still battling with anal warts. He confesses that because of his inability to meet the cost of treatment the infection has taken long to heal.

Still another boy revealed that it was his uncle who led him into homosexual activities when he was a little boy. This uncle visited their house one day and slept over in the boy's room. Deep in the night the uncle lied on top of him and made movements as if having sex. Later, this uncle would group about six boys in a room and ask them to act as if they were having sex with each other. He continued this practice until one day he allowed a friend to penetrate his anus. He has since been a homosexual.

Another interviewee said he started having illicit sexual activities with his friend in their neighborhood. Whenever they were alone they had anal sex. He has not been able to stop the practice since that time. One of the lesbians interviewed said after her graduation from junior high school she visited her aunt and right there in her aunt's house she (her aunt) started fondling her till she yielded to it. The two repeated the act several times till her aunt travelled out of the country. She has since not been able to resist the desire for members of the same sex—lesbianism.

Another girl's first experience was with her elder sister. According to this girl her elder sister first approached her but she did not give in until her sister started buying her gifts. She then gave in to her sister's demand and the two had carnal sex. After her first experience they repeated it and from that time she has not been able to resist this abhorring practice.

Furthermore, one of the female commercial sex workers (prostitute) in Kumasi confessed that she and some of her friends do have promiscuous sexual activities with some "Big Women" (elites in the metropolis.) Some married men and women are engaged in LGBT practices outside their marriages. In addition to these, there are illicit sexual practitioners in some tertiary educational

institutions, both public and private where activists are being seduced with money and are finally recruited by LGBT gurus.

It was estimated in 2014 by the Integrated Biological and Behavioural Surveillance (IBBS) survey commissioned by the Ghana AIDS Commission that male homosexuals in Ghana were more than thirty thousand.<sup>21</sup> It must be stressed that this survey takes account of only reported cases. This figure may be more than the recorded figure.

## THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GHANA

Ghana has come under pressure in recent times to accept, recognize and legalize LGBT community. In 2006 there was an attempt to host LGBT international conference in Ghana but the president of that time, Mr. John Agyekum Kuffour, disallowed it. In a statement issued by the then Minister of Information, Kwamena Bartels, to ban the conference says; “Ghanaians are unique people whose culture, morality and heritage totally abhor homosexual and lesbian [LGBT] practices and indeed any other form of unnatural sexual acts.”<sup>22</sup> Late president John Evans Atta Mills who succeeded president Kuffour maintained that the government of Ghana would not make any legislation in favor of homosexual practices in so far as the Ghanaian society frowned on such activities. He said “Democracy means government of the people by the people and for the people. And if the people do not want it, no responsible leader will go against the wishes of the people.”<sup>23</sup> In a direct response to David Cameron, former Prime Minister of Britain, late President Mills said “I as president of this nation will never initiate or support any attempt to legalize homosexuality in Ghana.”<sup>24</sup> Likewise, the former Information Minister, Mahama Ayariga, declared President Mahama’s stance on the issue in 2013 when he stated that “The President is to execute the laws of Ghana. And the laws of Ghana are very clear on homosexuality. The laws of Ghana criminalize homosexuality, there is no dispute about that. Homosexual conduct which is unnatural carnal knowledge of one person or another is criminal and punishable by the laws of Ghana.”<sup>25</sup>

---

<sup>21</sup><http://www.myjoyonline.com/news/2016/October-27th/imf-loan-opens-door-for-homosexuals.php>. (accessed on October 29, 2016).

<sup>22</sup><http://www.news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/6445337.stm>. (accessed on November 29, 2016)

<sup>23</sup><http://www.edition.myjoyonline.com/pages/news/2012/8083.php>. (accessed on November 29, 2016)

<sup>24</sup>[edition.myjoyonline.com/pages/news/201111/75813.php](http://edition.myjoyonline.com/pages/news/201111/75813.php).

<sup>25</sup><http://www.233times.com/2013/02/president-mahama-declares-stance-homosexuality-is-criminal>. (accessed on November 29, 2016)

These declarations have been occasioned by the external pressure upon the government and the people of Ghana to legalize LGBT groups in the country. The USA, Britain, United Nations, IMF and World Bank are all part of the powers mounting pressure on African nations including Ghana to validate such abhorrent practices. Under the guise of advocating human rights, the UN Secretary-General addressed African leaders at the 18th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU) held at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and said that discriminations based on people's sexual orientation have existed for a long time and needed to be addressed. He was quoted as saying "Confronting these discriminations is a challenge, but we must not give up on the ideas of the universal declaration of human right."<sup>26</sup> Still another pressure comes from the Bretton wood institutions who are now championing LGBT rights in developing countries. This is being done under the guise of researching into linkage between discrimination against minority groups including the LGBT community and economic growth.<sup>27</sup>

## **RECCOMENDATIONS**

Though the external and internal gravity upon Ghana to legalize LGBT is very enormous and might crush the zeal and passion of Ghana to maintain its wise choice of illegalizing LGBT, few implementable recommendations will help cement the divine choice of persistent objection to legalizing LGBT practices in Ghana.

### **The President of Ghana**

The brave and prudent stand of the three former presidents of Ghana (Mr. John A. Kuffour, late Prof. John Atta-Mills, and the out-going president Mr. John Mahama) must be held in high esteem and replicated by all successive presidents of the republic of Ghana.

### **The Church**

---

<sup>26</sup>[edition.myjoyonline.com/pages/news/2012/8083.php](http://edition.myjoyonline.com/pages/news/2012/8083.php).

<sup>27</sup>[brettonwoods.org/in\\_the\\_news/at-the-world-bank-turning-finance-ministers-into-gay-rights-advocates](http://brettonwoods.org/in_the_news/at-the-world-bank-turning-finance-ministers-into-gay-rights-advocates) (accessed on October 29, 2016).

The Church is entrusted with the ministry of reconciliation (II Cor. 5:18), with the mandate to demonstrate the love of God through His Son Jesus Christ (John 3:16, Rom. 5:8) to all humanity including those who are webbed in the detestable practices of LGBT (Matt. 28:19, Acts 1:8, I Pet. 2:9-10). The paramount responsibility in the ministry of reconciliation is to go to the kingdom of Satan [offensive], bind all powers and authorities, loose his captives from the kingdom of death including homosexuals (Lk. 11:21-22 paraphrased), [open the eyes of LGBT captives (2 Cor. 4:4,)] and bring them into the Kingdom of God [light and life]<sup>28</sup>

The Church must undoubtedly replicate the heartbeat of Jesus Christ;

Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of a short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your home." So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner." Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." (Luke 19:1-10, NKJV).

The research has shown that homosexuals have an intra-personal struggle which they find difficult to address. Many of them say they do not like being members of LGBT but they are obsessed with fear of mockery and mockery to share with friends, relatives, and even their pastors. Hence, they have no other option than to fight for legalization of LGBT by the Ghana government.

The Church cannot claim they are fulfilling the mission or heartbeat of God without reaching out to LGBT practitioners. After all LGBT is sin as "adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions,

---

<sup>28</sup>D. Okai and S. Arhin; "Homosexual Partnerships and its Socio-economic Implication on the Kingdom of God, (*E--Journal of Religious and Theological Studies Vol. 1. No 2. 2016*), 99

jealousies, outburst of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like” (Gal. 5:19-21a, NKJV). The Church must open its tentacles to evangelize and disciple LGBT activists to fulfill the divine assignment which is entrusted to it by Jesus Christ (Matt.28:19-20).

### Parental care and guidance

Parents, especially fathers, must establish a very caring and loving relationship with their children. On the premise of intimacy, children will not feel intimidated to share their groaning and temptations with their parents for biblical counseling to impede the unbiblical sexual lusts that aggressively drifts humanity to belong to any facets of LGBT. Caring and loving relationships between parents and their offspring will make them open up and share the devil’s enticing lust to change their divine destinies of heterosexual relationship for appropriate sexual intercourse, procreation. God’s expectation of fathers is vivid in the Christian Holy Bible. “For I have known (chosen, acknowledged) him [as My own], so that he may teach and command his children and the sons of his house after him to keep the way of the Lord and to do what is just and righteous, so that the Lord may bring Abraham what He has promised him.” (Gen. 18:19, AB). “Fathers, do not exasperate your children, instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.” (Eph. 6:4, NIV). Intimate parent-children relationships will certainly minimize the number of casualties in this doom-trapped lust.

### Ghana Education Service

The Ghana Education Service Code of Discipline for students which says that a student found guilty of sexual misconduct be summarily dismissed<sup>29</sup> should be reviewed. Instead, measures aimed at reforming the offender should be adopted. Also, special training must be given to school counsellors to equip them to handle LGBT issues. Research through interaction and interviews reveal that some of the practitioners are desperate to exit such practices. Therefore school counsellors must be genuinely willing to welcome activists to voice their situation for help.

---

<sup>29</sup>Prempeh College School Rules, 2014 pg. 5

## Others

Other institutions like the security, health, chieftaincy, media, metropolitan, district, and local assemblies other stakeholders as well as individuals, must play active role in educating the public on issues relating to LGBT. The more the general public is educated on these issues the better they become informed and help bring victims of diverse sexual promiscuities out of their death-trapped situations. The sporadic wave of debate on legalizing LGBT practices in Ghana will not have strong roots to emerge winner if the aforementioned is adhered and practiced.

## **CONCLUSION**

As a caution to all Ghanaians, World Congress of Families spokesman Don Feder, during a discussion on Kenya's Crosstalk program about the LGBT agenda in Africa and the United States, said that civil society cannot allow homosexuals [LGBT activity] "to be the role model" because it is "dangerous" and, he added, "if Africans [and for this matter Ghanaians] look seriously" at how homosexuality [LGBT practices] is affecting the United States, "they should be horrified." What's happening with transgender bathroom policy "is absolutely insane," he said. "The problem is this is a way people are living and they're demanding that it be respected," said Feder in reference to LGBT persons in America."<sup>30</sup>

Finally, it is very incumbent to state that discussions on LGBT issues will not suffice without recourse to the moral attributes of the Creator God and sound biblical reflection on sexual attractions. "God designed that sex should be enjoyed in the context and confines of a monogamous heterosexual partnership to perpetuate procreation among other mutual satisfactions from both parties (husband and wife). As King of His Kingdom the Word of God (the Christian Holy Bible) is the final [and poignant] authority for life and living. Hence every rational being must obey God and His Word by putting the content into perpetual practice to avert divine judgment upon those who choose to violate the statutes imprinted in the Christian Holy Bible."<sup>31</sup>

---

<sup>30</sup>[https://www.yahoo.com/news/m/4e87d6cf-0ffb-3e9d-ad2c-4efeefcfda68/ss\\_world-congress-of-families-in.html](https://www.yahoo.com/news/m/4e87d6cf-0ffb-3e9d-ad2c-4efeefcfda68/ss_world-congress-of-families-in.html) (accessed on Sept. 4, 2016).

<sup>31</sup>Okai and Arhin; "Homosexual Partnerships" 100.

Therefore, “on the crossroads of choice” about the debate on LGBT practices the research unfolds the following biblical precautions to all Ghanaians;

1. Ghana must be obsessed with pride to combat with the Creator God and His plan for humanity (Gen. 1:27-31).
2. Ghana must not stoop too low and succumb to international gravity in exchange of financial aid and loans (Matt. 16:26).
3. Ghana must be extra circumspect (Prov. 3:1-8) to firmly maintain the choice of illegalizing the destructible, detestable and dreadful LGBT practices (Rev. 21:8).
4. The words of Moses is re-echoed to the government and the people of Ghana; “This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curse. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live.” (Deut. 30:19, NIV).

## REFERENCES

- Barcalow, Emmett. *Moral Philosophy: Theory and Issues*. Belmont: Wadsworth Publishing Company, Belmont: A Division of Wadsworth Inc., 1994.
- Boss, Judith A. *Analysing Moral Issues: Maintain view*, California, Mayfield Publishing Company 1999.
- Daily Graphic, Wednesday, January 20, 2016.
- Jones, Stanton L. and Yarhouse Mark A., *The Use, Misuse, and Abuse of Science in the Ecclesiastical Homosexuality Debates* Edited by Balch, David L. *Homosexuality, Science, and the Plain Sense of Scripture*: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan/Cambridge, UK 2000
- Laryea, Philip. "Homosexuality: A Discussion on the Position of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana (PCG)." *Journal of African Christian Thought*, Vol. 16, No. 2 (2013):15-16.
- Morgan, Peter; *The Canadian Medical Association: Home Medical Encyclopedia (Westmouth: The Reader's Digest Association Canada Ltd, 1992.*
- Okai, David K., and Arhin, Solomon; "Homosexual Partnerships and the Socio-economic Implications on the Kingdom of God," *E-Journal of Religion and Theological Studies*, Vol. 1. No 2. (2016):88-102
- Prempeh College School Rules, Kumasi. 2014
- Rae, Scott B. *Moral Choices: An introduction to Ethics (3rd ed)*. Zondervan, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49530, 2009.
- Rekers, G. et al, "Family Correlates of Male Childhood Gender Disturbance", *Journal of Genetic Psychology* (1983): 31-42

## Internet sources

- Ford, Milt. "A Brief History of Homosexuality in America,"  
<http://www.gvsu.edu/allies/a-brief-history-of-homosexuality-in-america-30.htm> Accessed on December 17, 2015
- <http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Gays-can-be-prosecuted-210533>. Accessed on December 17, 2015
- <http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Sodomy-cases-rise-in-prisons>. Accessed on December 17, 2015

[www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/features/Is-homosexuality-alien-or-not-to-Africa-369821](http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/features/Is-homosexuality-alien-or-not-to-Africa-369821). Accessed December 17, 2015

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8M0EdEC6ib4>. Accessed on December 17, 2015

[https://www.yahoo.com/news/m/4e87d6cf-0ffb-3e9d-ad2c-4efeefcfda68/ss\\_world-congress-of-families-in.html](https://www.yahoo.com/news/m/4e87d6cf-0ffb-3e9d-ad2c-4efeefcfda68/ss_world-congress-of-families-in.html). Accessed on September 4, 2016

[http://www.uky.edu/~lbarr2/gws250spring11\\_files/Page1186.htm](http://www.uky.edu/~lbarr2/gws250spring11_files/Page1186.htm). Accessed on September 8, 2016

<http://www.myjoyonline.com/news/2016/October-27th/imf-loan-opens-door-for-homosexuals.php>. Accessed on October 29, 2016

<http://www.time.com/3937766/us-supreme-court-countries-same-sex-gay-marriage-legal>. Accessed on October 29, 2016

<http://www.equaldex.com/region/french-guiana>. Accessed on October 29, 2016

<http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2015/05/27/parliament-in-greenland-unanimously-approves-same-sex-marriage>. Accessed on October 29, 2016

American Psychological Association <http://www.apa.org/topics/lgbt/> Accessed on November 28, 2016

<http://www.news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/6445337.stm>. Accessed on November 29, 2016

<http://www.edition.myjoyonline.com/pages/news/2012/8083.php>. Accessed on November 29, 2016

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2016/feb/11/these-are-our-rights-paralegals-empowering-lgbt-ghana>. Accessed November 29, 2016

<http://www.edition.myjoyonline.com/pages/news/201111/75813.php>.

<http://www.233times.com/2013/02/president-mahama-declares-stance-homosexuality-is-criminal>. Accessed on November 29, 2016

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-26378230>. Accessed on November 29, 2016.

<http://www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/resources/history.aspx>. Accessed on November 29, 2016).