

***International Day of Prayer for LGBT People in Nigeria
Sunday, 2 July***

The Metropolitan Community Church of North London has called for an International Day of Prayer for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered people of Nigeria on Sunday, 2 July. They have condemned moves by the Nigerian Government outlawing same sex marriage.

As well as outlawing same sex marriage, same sex couples taking part in a ceremony, or found to be in a relationship, or clergy officiating at a commitment service could face up to five years in prison.

All homosexual relationships, individuals engaging in homosexual relations, and any gay rights groups or gatherings advocating against injustice for sexual minorities or promoting equality will be banned.

Rev. Rowland Jide Macaulay, a Nigerian gay rights advocate and Staff Clergy at MCC North London, criticized the law reform as undisguised homophobia:

“The Nigerian Government should not be using time and energy to attack and deny the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. We are children of God who have been created to enjoy and affirm our God-given sexual nature. The statements made by the Federal Government of Nigeria are homophobic and are prepared to use any means to silent the voices of innocent and vulnerable citizens.”

The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) has been at the forefront of anti-gay prejudice in Nigeria, something which saddened Rev. Macaulay as a Nigerian Christian:

“The Church should commit itself to mission and evangelism and the Good News of Jesus Christ in the life of all her members. The Church should protect the safety of all minorities and people who are subject to prejudice, including lesbian and gay people.”

Sunday 2nd July 2006, has been set aside to pray for LGBT people of Nigeria and to show support and solidarity in the face of adversity. The Church is calling on all religious and non religious ministries and supporters to pray for Nigerian LGBT people living in Nigeria or Abroad and also to pray for the Federal Republic of Nigeria and its legislators.