



CAINE YOUNGMAN

Born: Francistown, Botswana

Organisation: LEGABIBO (The Lesbians, Gays & Bisexuals of Botswana)

Caine Youngman is a human rights activist campaigning for LGBTIQ+ rights in Botswana.

Youngman knew he was gay from a very early age. In 2005, he joined LEGABIBO and together with others they started the registration process of the organisation. He later became its Policy and Legal Advocacy Manager, and since then has been involved in several strategic liberation efforts to improve the lives of LGBTIQ+ Botswana.

“We’d been gathering as a group of like-minded people in secret and one of the contentious issues was whether we should continue doing this in secret or come out in public - the formation of the organisation. But knowing that there were people suffering made me decide that it had to be public.” ([Exit.co.za](https://www.exit.co.za), May 2021)

In 2014, Youngman was involved in a court case forcing the Botswana government to register LEGABIBO. Then, in 2019, he was involved in the Botswana High Court case that decriminalised same-sex relations. This was a landmark movement for LGBTIQ+ Botswana, with relevance for many other African countries.

Youngman is a huge advocate for local LGBTIQ+ activism, believing that it must not be overshadowed by foreign donors from Western countries. He believes that the advocacy for the LGBTIQ+ community must always be decided by the community itself and not any other body. The community must be present where decisions about them are made.

In his activism, he uses Setswana expressions for things like sexual orientation, and he works with religious leaders and tribal chiefs across Botswana.

He has previously served on the board of the Pan-Africa ILGA, his regional chapter of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association, and as a peer reviewer for The Other Foundation, with whom he is also a Trustee. Youngman has served in multiple committee and working groups both in Botswana and the African region.

In 2019, he married his now husband, Felix, outside of Botswana. He dreams for a day when his country will recognise his marriage.

“We don’t advocate for gay rights, we advocate for human rights.” ([Sunday Standard](https://www.sundaystandard.com), November 2014)

Image

@Uncle_Caine on Twitter, May 2022

https://twitter.com/Uncle_Caine/status/1525108072175308802