



THE INITIATIVE FOR  
EQUAL RIGHTS

# 2024 Annual Report



*Embrace Diversity, Stop Discrimination*

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# Letter from the Board Chair

## Chude Jideonwo

In 2024, TIERS' clinic was certified by the Health Facility Monitoring and Accreditation Agency (HEFAMAA), a government agency responsible for standardization and regulation of public and private health facility in Lagos state; while also solidifying an institutional partnership with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) that spans research and advocacy.

TIERS has always been a pioneer in its

ability to be subversive in the interest of saving lives and advancing rights, while at the same time navigating the complex power structures that underpin injustice, negotiating and contending with the power at the same time with a view to making it easy for other queer rights organisations and queer people in Nigeria to exist, to survive and to thrive.

It has been doing this for the past 19 years, growing from an advocacy network founded by three brave, visionary young people to becoming the first point of contact for queer people, queer organisations and the global rights movement in Nigeria.

This is no small thing. It's work is important. It's focus is inspired. It's existence and growth, powered by a team of some of the bravest and most dedicated employees, partners, advisors, supporters and volunteers. This proves that a small band of rebels can always change the world.

In 2025, we step into 20 years with our heads held high as the Executive Director, Afolabi Aiyela and his band of rebels carry on the proud legacy bequeathed by Olumide Makanjuola, Sewedo Akoro, Bisi Alimi, Azeenarh Mohammed, Omolara Oriye and Remi Makinde.

There is so much work left to be done in a country where it is still illegal to be different. But we have made so much progress – changing narratives, changing laws, changing hearts and changing lives. So we are fired up for the next 20 years – no one can stop us now.





# Letter from the Executive Director

**Afolabi Aiyela**

In reviewing 2024, I wish to express my deep appreciation for the unwavering commitment of our funders, staff, Board members, and volunteers. Their contributions have been instrumental in moving TIERS closer to our goal of ensuring human rights for all in Nigeria, irrespective of SOGIESC.

This year's progress has been driven by robust partnerships and a dedication to serving marginalized communities.

We strengthened our financial foundation

through partnerships with both existing and new funders. These collaborations have enabled us to enhance operations, improve human rights documentation, expand access to HIV services, and advocate for non-discriminatory healthcare. We expanded our fundraising capacity through GlobalGiving and Paystack to secure international and local donations for organizational sustainability and essential community programs.

Our Health and Wellness Team achieved



a remarkable 100% viral load suppression rate, and our One-Stop Shop Clinic received the Health Facility Monitoring and Accreditation Agency (HEFAMAA) certification. We strengthened our internal capacity through strategic recruitment and prioritized staff wellbeing through enhanced benefits and access to mental health support, particularly during periods of online harassment.

Community engagement thrived through monthly Open House events at the TIERS Wellness Center, fostering dialogue and providing access to vital services. We amplified marginalized voices through impactful storytelling projects, including the “Q Convos” podcast, the “Rights Under Arrest” report, and the “She, He, They” web series. Our legal aid services provided critical support in numerous cases, including the Kito-9 case (involving a criminal gang

targeting vulnerable individuals), wrongful accusations, police misconduct, and housing disputes.


In partnership with the NHRC, we hosted the 10th Annual Human Rights, Sexuality, and the Law Symposium in Abuja, addressing critical human rights violations and launching our 11th Human Rights Violations report and Social Perception Survey, in collaboration with other civil society partner organisations.

These accomplishments are a testament to the dedication and collaboration of our team, partners, and funders. We invite you to delve into the details of our work and learn more about our ongoing efforts to advance equality for all. We deeply value your continued support as we work towards a more equitable and just future for all Nigerians.




# 2024 in Restrospect


Our strategy for 2024 followed our thematic areas which are Human Rights & Advocacy, Research & Knowledge Management, and Health & Wellbeing. Below are the goals that we achieved in 2024

 Promoted Human Rights Advocacy: Successfully advanced the promotion of human rights for marginalized groups using an intersectional approach, advocating for inclusive policies and laws that protect and uphold the rights of all individuals in Nigeria.

 Strengthened Leadership Capacity: Enhanced leadership within marginalized communities in Nigeria and the Anglophone sub-region, equipping individuals with tools and knowledge to drive social change and advocacy efforts.

 Enhanced Research and Knowledge Sharing: Fostered a culture of research and evidence-based decision-making by providing essential tools and resources to support advocacy and policy development.

 Improved Mental Health and Well-Being: Prioritized and improved mental health and well-being for marginalized groups and other key populations, offering essential resources and support.

 Expanded Health Services: Provided comprehensive health services to key populations in Southwest Nigeria, focusing on accessibility, education, and holistic care.

All this was made possible by our funders, partners, allies and volunteers who supported us in various capacities throughout the year.



# OUR 2024 INITIATIVES

## \$500k+

### funding received in 2024

In 2024, with the help of funders and donors, TIERs launched several transformative initiatives that reinforced our commitment to advancing human rights, sexual health, and capacity building for marginalized communities. Through strategic partnerships, research-driven advocacy, and grassroots engagement, we addressed critical issues affecting the human rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals and other vulnerable groups across Nigeria. These initiatives focused on empowering individuals, amplifying voices, and creating sustainable change. The next pages highlight some of the key projects and milestones that defined our work in 2024, driving progress toward equality, justice, and dignity for all.





# TIERs Quickcare App Upgrade

TIERs held a consultative meeting with community members to discuss the upgrade of the TIERs Quickcare App, a digital healthcare application. This meeting was aimed to gather valuable feedback and insights from the community to ensure that the app meets their needs effectively.

During the session, community members shared their experiences, preferences, and suggestions for enhancing the app's features and usability. Their input played a crucial role in shaping the development process and ensuring that the upgraded app aligns with the community's expectations and requirements.



*Invited community members at the consultation meeting for the Quickcare app upgrade*

## Value Clarification and Attitude Transformation (VCAT) training for Healthcare Providers

As part of our ongoing efforts to enhance the quality of healthcare services for marginalized and most at-risk populations, the TIERs Sexual Health and Wellness Department organized a two-day Value Clarification and Attitude Transformation (VCAT) training for healthcare providers. There were 30 participants/healthcare providers who were carefully selected to ensure a broad representation from various healthcare facilities across Lagos.

The training took place in Lagos and was aimed at improving the attitudes and understanding





of healthcare professionals towards sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for diverse populations, including queer individuals. The primary objectives of the VCAT training were to challenge and transform the personal values and attitudes of healthcare providers that might negatively impact the delivery of SRHR services, enhance the knowledge and skills of healthcare providers in offering non-discriminatory and inclusive SRHR services, and to foster a supportive environment where healthcare providers can discuss and address their biases and misconceptions about marginalized groups.



*Attendees and TIERs staff at the VCAT training*



## Increasing Sexual and Reproductive Autonomy amongst Women and Girls in Nigeria

TIERs carried out a series of community entry meetings catering to women of sexual minority groups. The meetings were held across different parts of Lagos. The primary objectives of the community entry meetings were to increase awareness about sexual health and wellness among these women, foster community engagement, build supportive networks and provide educational resources on sexual health and rights, and available services. The department also explored these activities as an avenue to gather feedback from community members on their experiences and challenges in accessing healthcare thereby strengthen advocacy efforts to improve healthcare access and policies for women of marginalised groups.



# Capacity Building of SRHR Champions

TIERs conducted a 2-day residential workshop aimed at developing a comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) manual toolkit. The workshop brought together 15 selected community members who demonstrated a strong commitment to advocating for SRHR issues within their communities.

The primary objective of the workshop was to create a practical and user-friendly toolkit that empowers champions to educate their peers and community members about sexual health rights and responsibilities.

The toolkit features educational materials on various SRHR topics, including HIV/AIDS prevention, gender equality, consent, and reproductive rights. The material was designed to be informative, accessible, and culturally sensitive, catering to the diverse needs and backgrounds of community members. The Human Rights and Advocacy team supervised the SRHR champions whose capacities we had built as they conducted community dialogues in their neighbourhoods to discuss their sexual and reproductive health rights using the co-produced manual. Eight of these dialogues were held in different parts of Lagos such as Alimosho, Yaba, Ajah, Surulere, each with 20 people in attendance.



*SRHR Champions conducting community dialogues in their different neighbourhoods*





# Community Mobilizer and Counselor Tester Training

TIERs organized a highly successful 5-day residential Community Mobilization/Counselor Tester training, equipping participants with the knowledge and skills needed to support their communities in accessing sexual health services. This training brought together 20 enthusiastic community members, alongside expert facilitators from the Lagos State AIDS Control Agency (LSACA), fostering collaboration between grassroots advocates and government health agencies.

The program focused on community mobilization strategies, HIV/AIDS prevention, testing, and counseling techniques, ensuring that participants could confidently serve as first responders and peer educators within their networks. Through interactive sessions, role-playing exercises, and practical demonstrations, trainees learned how to provide nonjudgmental, confidential, and affirming sexual health services to marginalized individuals, especially those who face barriers to healthcare access.



*Trainees and representatives from the Lagos State AIDS Control Agency (LSACA) as Facilitators.*



# Sensitization Meetings with Family and Friends of Sexual Minority Groups

TIERs implemented 5 meetings with 85 participants consisting of members of sexual minority groups and their heterosexual family members or friends to advocate for the acceptance and protection of these marginalised groups. The target of this engagement was family members and friends whose major hindrance to supporting their queer family member/friend was based on lack of access to affirming information. These meetings emphasized the humanity of their loved ones and built their knowledge of SOGIESC, human rights and acceptance.

“ When I found out that my friend was a trans woman, I felt like she was crazy because that was not what I expected. All my hope was that she was a woman. Then she told me that she was not what I thought she was. But, she made me understand more about her. Then we became friends up to the extent that I could stand up for her. But after today, I will be more free in this community because I feel like I understand more about the community. ”

- Participant

“ I found out in 2007/2008. I saw a picture of her with a girl. I did not see it coming but I accepted then and up till now, I still accept. Coming here, I have become more comfortable with queer people. When I see gay men who act feminine, I [used to] feel uncomfortable but now, after the workshop, I would be comfortable making friends with gay men. ”

- Participant



# PARTNERSHIPS

At TIERs, collaboration is the foundation of our success. We recognize that meaningful change is not achieved in isolation, but through collective action with dedicated allies, organizations, and advocates, like Free To Be Me Nigeria Community of Action, Project Alert and other civil society organization, who share our vision for a more just and inclusive society. Our strategic partnerships—both locally and internationally—enable us to amplify our impact, extend our reach, and create sustainable solutions that address systemic inequalities.

By working closely with human rights organizations, advocacy groups, research institutions, and grassroots movements, we have been able to share knowledge, pool resources, and implement programs that drive real change. These partnerships have strengthened our ability to provide legal aid, document human rights violations, engage in policy advocacy, and create public education initiatives that challenge discrimination and misconceptions.

Over the past year, our collaborations have played a crucial role in advancing our mission. From co-hosting symposiums and capacity-building workshops to working with global allies to amplify our advocacy efforts, our network of partners has





## TIERS and NHRC

Our partnership with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) focuses on advancing the protection and promotion of human rights for marginalized groups in Nigeria. We met with representatives from 24 human rights violations documentation partners and the National Human Rights Commission to build their capacity to make chapter contributions to the national report on human rights violations, and to review and standardize our case reporting template.



*Executive Director Afolabi Aiyela and TIERS representatives meet with Tony Ojukwu, Executive Secretary of The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and staff to discuss further partnership on inclusivity and sensitization projects*

## TIERS and Lagos State AIDS Control Agency (LSACA)

TIERS also strengthened its partnership with the Lagos State AIDS Control Agency (LSACA), fostering collaboration through joint initiatives, capacity-building workshops, and strategic alliances. These efforts were strategically aimed at enhancing sexual health outcomes and health service delivery for marginalised communities in Lagos and its environment.





## TIERS and NED

In 2024, NED's support enabled TIERS to document violations, engage policymakers, and drive systemic change through narrative content and storytelling. Through the National LGBTI Helpline, we improved emergency response and legal interventions, strengthening communication between our organization and affected communities. Our Human Rights Violations Report continued to document cases of discrimination, providing essential data for advocacy and public education. We deepened our engagement with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), advocating against unlawful arrests and forced physical examinations, leading to NHRC's support in legal challenges. Through public education efforts, including the launch of the She, He, They web series, we challenged misconceptions and promoted social acceptance. Our Q-Convos podcast expanded conversations on queer issues, while monthly human rights education sessions empowered individuals with legal knowledge.



*L-R: Afolabi Aiyela, Executive Director, TIERS; Dr. Jude Mutah, Program Officer, Africa, NED; Godwin Kalu, Director of Programs, TIERS; Chinenye Monde-Anumihe, Senior Grants Officer, Africa, NED.*



# TIERS and Centre for Population Health Initiatives (CPHI)

In 2024, the longstanding MoU between TIERS and CPHI translated into TIERS receiving immense support from CPHI that saw to the strengthening of TIERS' one-stop clinic in the provision of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services for key populations. Through the support of CPHI, TIERS' clinical psychologist participated in the national review of mental health screening tool for HIV care in Nigeria.



L-R: Mauton Akoro, Senior Programs Officer, TIERS; Elizabeth Shoyemi, Executive Director, CPHI; Afolabi Aiyela, Executive Director, TIERS; and Mr Kanayo Okeke, CPHI

# TIERS and Outright International

In collaboration with Outright International, TIERS has continued to make strides in supporting the socio-economic empowerment of young individuals of marginalised communities, aged 18-29. Through this partnership, we provided crucial resources, training, and opportunities that equipped young people with the skills and confidence needed to thrive in an often hostile environment. Additionally, our joint efforts have focused on strengthening the resilience of organizations within the community, ensuring they are better equipped to advocate for the rights and well-being of sexual minorities in Nigeria. This partnership has been pivotal in advancing both individual and collective empowerment.





## TIERS and GiveOut

TIERS partnered with GiveOut to launch a campaign that stressed the need for continued support in our region for the human rights of minority groups. Through GiveOut, Afolabi Aiyela, the Executive Director at TIERS, spoke at the Pride in London at Leicester where he highlighted the need for the fight for equality to continue with the marginalised communities in other regions providing support for the Nigerian community. GiveOut has been a longtime partner of TIERS providing support in all ways and have contributed to TIERS' significant work.



*Afolabi Aiyela, Executive Director, TIERS with Rupert Abbott, Executive Director (CEO), GiveOut, members of GiveOut's Board of Trustees - Aisha Shaibu-Lenoir, Daniel Gerring, Baroness Liz Barker; and other GiveOut staff*

## TIERS and the Department of Disease Control (DOD)

TIERS is dedicated to fostering a strong and collaborative relationship with the Department of Disease Control (DOD). Through regular communication, partnership meetings, we were able to enhance data collection, management, and resource mobilization efforts in the field of sexual health. Our ongoing efforts to build and maintain this relationship underscore our commitment to advancing shared goals and promoting the health and well-being of our community members. Together with DOD, we strive to improve service delivery, expand access



to healthcare, and strengthen our impact in the fight against sexually transmitted infections and other public health challenges.



*Members of the Department of Defence and other attendees at a training attended by TIERS' lab scientist, Linda Udom*

## TIERS and Elton John AIDS Foundation (EJAF)

With support from the Elton John AIDS Foundation (EJAF), TIERS continues to provide comprehensive HIV prevention, treatment, and care for sexual minorities. This support is crucial in ensuring accessible, stigma-free healthcare, especially for marginalized communities facing discrimination and systemic barriers. Through this partnership, TIERS Clinic delivered HIV testing and counseling (HTS), PrEP, PEP, ART, and other sexual and reproductive health services, alongside psychosocial support and mental health counseling. This collaboration also led to the establishment of the Nigeria Health Consortium, a national initiative focused on reducing HIV prevalence and advancing equity for sexual minority individuals.



*(Third from the left) Columbus Ndeloa, Portfolio Lead, LGBTQ+ at EJAF, (Third from the right) Anna Macdonald, LGBTQ+ Grants Manager, EJAF flanked by TIERS staff during an advocacy visit to TIERS' office*



# STORYTELLING & PUBLICATIONS

We recognize the power of storytelling as a transformative tool for advocacy and social change. Stories have the ability to shift perspectives, dismantle harmful stereotypes, and foster a deeper understanding of the lived experiences of marginalized communities. Through documentaries, publications, and creative media, we have leveraged storytelling to amplify voices that are often silenced, ensuring that the realities of discrimination, resilience, and activism are brought to the forefront.

Over the past year, we have produced impactful content that not only documents human rights violations but also highlights stories of courage, community, and resistance.

In addition to film, our research reports and publications have served as critical resources for advocacy, offering evidence-based insights that inform policy discussions and legal frameworks. By documenting real-life experiences and analyzing trends in discrimination and social attitudes, we have contributed to shaping a more informed and just society.



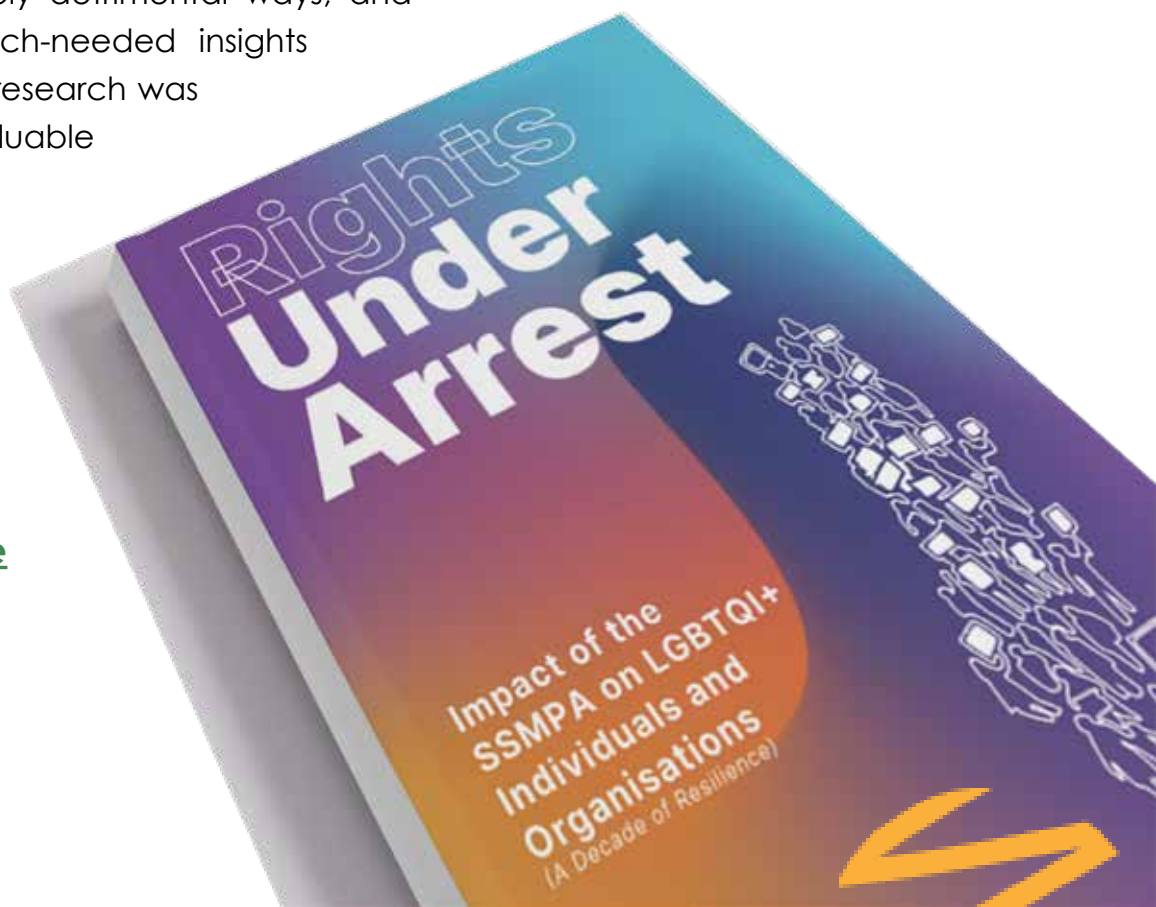


# Rights Under Arrest

## Impact of the SSMPA on [Sexual Minorities] and Organizations

In collaboration with CHEVS, The Initiative for Equal Rights (TIERs) embarked on a critical research project in 2024 titled “Rights under Arrest: Impacts of the SSMPA on LGBTQI+ Individuals and Organizations (A Decade’s Reflection).” This project sought to evaluate the profound effects of the Same-Sex Marriage Prohibition Act (SSMPA) enacted in 2014 on the socio-economic status, psychological well-being, and institutional capacities of sexual minorities and organizations in Nigeria. A decade after its implementation, the SSMPA continues to shape the lives of many, often in deeply detrimental ways, and this study provides much-needed insights into these impacts. This research was conducted with the invaluable support of CHEVS and was jointly funded by TIERs and CHEVS.

[Download here](#)





# SOGIESC 101

## A Quick Guide to Understanding SOGIESC for Family and Friends of Sexual Minorities

[Download here](#)

This pamphlet was designed to help families and friends of sexual minorities better understand and support their loved ones. It includes definitions of key terms, debunks common myths, emphasizes universal sexual and reproductive health rights, and offers practical tips for providing support. The pamphlet was developed in response to requests from family members during TIERS' sensitization meetings, who expressed the need for a resource they could reference after the sessions.

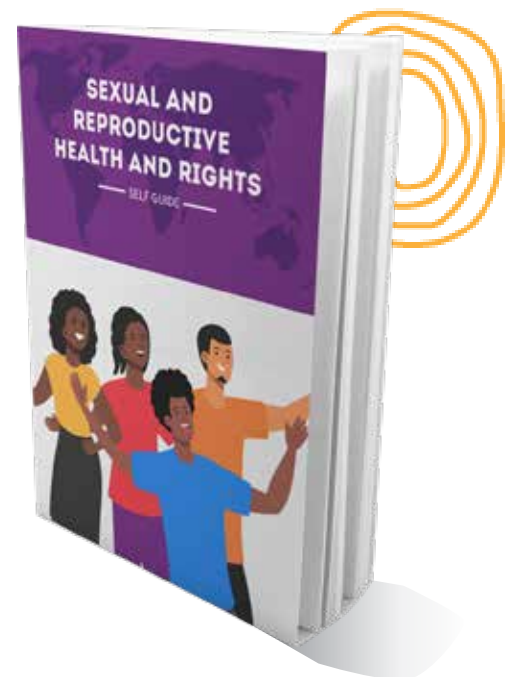


# Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

## A Self Guide

[Download here](#)

The SRHR toolkit was developed to enhance peer-to-peer engagement and provide education on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) among queer rights holders. Created through collaborative input from queer SRHR advocates, the toolkit serves as a comprehensive resource covering key SRHR topics within diverse contexts. It includes practical tools and strategies for addressing stigma, navigating healthcare access, and promoting informed decision-making.



# 2024 Social Perception Survey

[Download here](#)

In 2024, The Initiative for Equal Rights (TIERs) commissioned NOI Polls to conduct a nationwide Social Perception Survey on LGBTQI+ individuals in Nigeria. The survey assessed public attitudes, acceptance levels, and perceptions of LGBTQI+ rights across demographics, geopolitical zones, and age groups. Findings reveal a gradual shift in attitudes, with support for criminalization dropping from 92% in 2013 to 66% in 2024, though resistance remains high. Notably, 42% of respondents acknowledged a change in acceptance over the past five years. This data provides critical insights for advocacy efforts, policy engagement, and public education on human rights and social inclusion.



# 2024 Human Rights Violations Report

## Based on real or perceived SOGIESC in Nigeria

This is our 11th report launched that details the human rights violations based on real or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity/expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC). With the help of our 24 reporting partners all round Nigeria made up of civil society organizations and advocacy groups, we have been able to collate and create this report that shows the extent of the situation on human rights violations by both state actors and non-state actors. Click the link below to download a copy.

[Download here](#)



# Q Convos Podcast

## Telling our Stories

TIERs released the second season of the much-loved and thought-provoking podcast series titled “Q-Convos.” This second season featured new hosts and video content. It delved into critical issues facing the queer community in Nigeria, offering a platform for open dialogue, education, and advocacy. The podcast shed light on the intersectionality of issues affecting the queer community and gave a voice to those whose stories often go unheard. With the release of “Q-Convos,” TIERs reaffirms its commitment to supporting the human rights of queer persons in Nigeria by amplifying the diverse experiences and challenges they face.

Q-Convos explored a range of topics that deeply affect queer individuals in Nigeria, from cultural

narratives around queerness and the more urgent concerns such as intimate partner violence, workplace discrimination, and the rise of the Kito experience in Nigeria. Each episode features in-depth discussions and personal stories the hosts share, providing listeners with a comprehensive understanding of these issues and practical guidance on navigating them.



### [Watch here](#)



*Behind-the-scenes images of the podcast shoot*



*Q Convos podcast Spotify cover art*





# SabiSRH Podcast

SabiSRH, created by TIERS, was designed to provide accessible, culturally sensitive, and evidence-based information on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) to the community. Funded by ISDAO, SabiSRH aimed to reach diverse audiences through digital content, addressing key SRH issues, dispelling myths, and promoting informed health decisions. By offering inclusive and affirming content, the platform ensures that marginalized groups—who often face barriers to healthcare access—receive accurate and relevant information tailored to their needs.

Through interactive discussions, expert-led sessions, and relatable storytelling, the initiative has helped break the stigma surrounding SRH topics while encouraging open conversations about bodily autonomy, consent, and healthcare rights.



## Watch here



*Pictures of guests and Feifei, the host of the SabiSRH podcast. Guests included Linda Udom, Medical Lab Scientist at TIERS, Dr Dilinna Orji, Medical Doctor at TIERS and Precious Harry, LGBTQIA+ Activist*



# She, He, They Web Series

## A Queer Narrative

With over 3 years in the making, the groundbreaking web series, She He, They has finally launched on the 20th of April 2024. The series was directed by Uyaiedu Ikpe Etim & Ayo Lawson. With TIERs as the Executive Producer and a production team led by Modupe Fakorede, this project was conceived as a way to strengthen public education and information on queer persons in Nigeria. It highlights the daily lives of queer persons, showing viewers that they are just as human as everyone else. The series also hopes to build visibility for the queer community in Nigeria and spark conversations about the issues they face.

This series is groundbreaking as it is the first series in Nigeria that is solely centred around queer characters and their struggles for human rights. It is purposefully provocative

and authentic in showing what it is to be queer in Lagos, Nigeria. It highlights issues like transphobia, homophobia, workplace discrimination and the dangers around dating as a queer person in Nigeria.

The She, He, They is a series made not just for the public to understand marginalised communities in Nigeria but also for these persons have a series that they can relate to.



### [Watch here](#)



*Shots from the runtime showing Funmbi Toye as Reni, Amaka Nnanna as Imani, late Fola Francis as Ijemma, Abayomi Aka as Victor and Emike Aliu as Amaka.*





## She, He, They Web Series Launch at EbonyLife Cinemas



The Executive Director of TIERS, Afolabi Aiyela, giving his welcome speech



Emike Aliu who played Amaka in the series



L-R: Alexandra Maduagwu, Program Officer at TIERS with Uyaiedu Ikpe Etim



Fron L-R: Modupe Fakorede (Producer), ED of TIERS, Afolabi Aiyela, Uyaiedu Ikpe Etim & Ayo Lawson, the series directors



Amaka Nnanna who played Imani in the series



Chimdimma Ike, Director of Programs at TIERS



# IMPACT & ACHIEVEMENTS in 2024

**630+**

clients served in the  
TIERs Sexual Health and  
Wellness Clinic

**1500+**

rights holders reached

**100%**

viral load achieved as  
at December 2024



# HEFAMMA Registration

## TIERs Wellness Clinic

TIERs successfully registered as a clinic under the Health Facility Monitoring and Accreditation Agency (HEFAMMA) and obtained certification. This accomplishment marked a crucial moment in our journey towards enhancing resource mobilization efforts. HEFAMMA registration and certification validate our commitment to providing quality healthcare services to our beneficiaries. It underscores our compliance with regulatory standards and reinforces our credibility as a trusted healthcare provider in our community.

This achievement holds great significance in our resource mobilization endeavors. With HEFAMMA certification, we are better positioned to access funding opportunities, forge strategic partnerships, and attract support from donors and stakeholders. It strengthens our ability to secure resources essential for sustaining and expanding our programs and initiatives.



*HEFAMMA signage mounted at TIERs Sexual Health and Wellbeing Clinic, Lekki, Lagos*



*TIERs Doctor, Dr Dilinna Orji, at a training about Gender-Based Violence and safe family planning methods*



# My journey to strength

## Omobolaji Muhammed

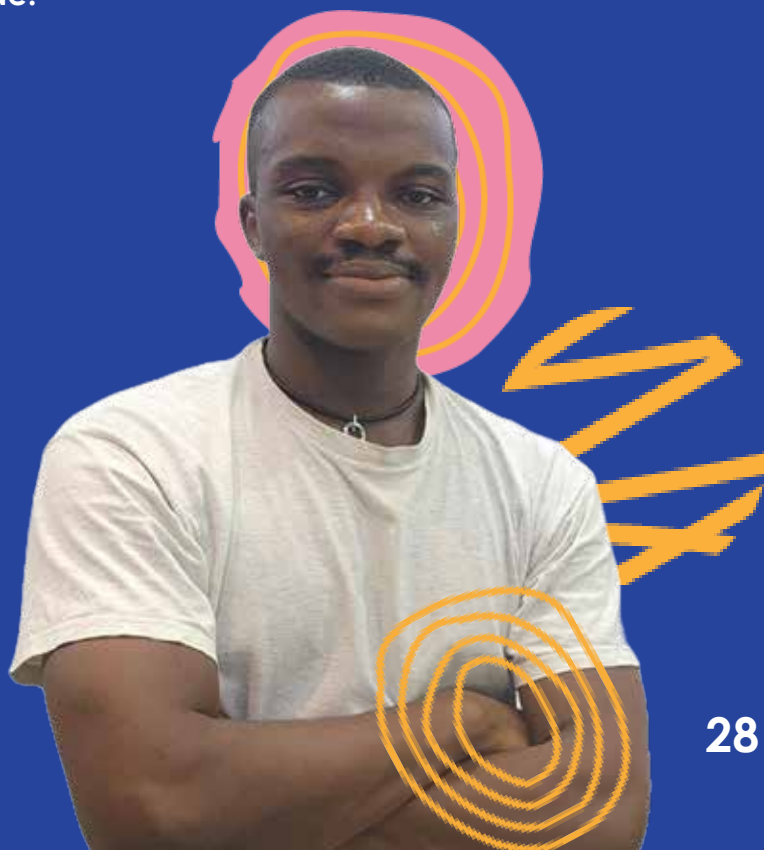
In 2022, I received life-changing news. I was diagnosed with HIV. Before that, I had always been cautious about knowing my status because staying healthy was a top priority for me. In September 2022, after my diagnosis, I was immediately put on a treatment plan. From that moment until now, the journey has been filled with challenges, but it has also been marked by incredible support and resilience.

One of the biggest hurdles I faced was accessing my medication, especially when I wasn't in Lagos. But TIERs always came through for me when I needed help the most, and for that, I am deeply grateful. Their support made a significant difference in my journey.

In January 2024, I received the amazing news from the doctor at TIERs clinic that I was virally suppressed. Hearing those words was truly overwhelming—it felt like a huge victory. I couldn't be more thankful for the guidance and encouragement I received along the way.

Staying adherent to my medication has been something I take very seriously. It's not just about taking pills—it's about commitment. I've also prioritized good nutrition, regular exercise, and maintaining a balanced lifestyle. My support system has been a crucial part of this journey. Telling my mom and sister was difficult at first, but they gradually grew to understand and support me. Their love and acceptance have been invaluable, and I'm beyond grateful to have them by my side.

Today, I stand proud of how far I've come. I've learned the power of perseverance, community, and self-care. This journey hasn't been easy, but it's made me stronger, and I'm grateful for every step.





# EVENTS

Throughout 2024, TIERs actively participated in and hosted several impactful events aimed at fostering community, raising awareness, and driving advocacy efforts.

In April, we launched the She, He, They web series with a premiere event at EbonyLife Cinemas, creating visibility for authentic queer narratives. In June, we celebrated Pride 2024 with a cultural-themed festival and a webinar, bringing together the community in solidarity. Since February, our monthly Open House sessions have provided a safe space for queer individuals to connect, socialize, and access vital information on sexual health and human rights.

Beyond our own initiatives, we engaged globally, co-hosting a side event at the ILGA World Conference in South Africa, furthering international dialogue on human rights. We closed the year with the TIERs Symposium 2024 in Abuja, a crucial gathering that examined key human rights challenges and fostered accountability among stakeholders.





## TIERs Open House

TIERs held an Open House event every month in 2024 from February that brings together members of the queer community and marginalised groups to encourage dialogue, networking, consuming and critiquing queer art, unwinding and knowledge-sharing among members of the community. This event established TIERs Wellness Clinic as a community centre where people can also access services ranging from healthcare to reporting human rights violations.



*TIERs staff and guests at TIERs OPen House in March and August 2024*

## TIERs at The Equal Rights Coalition Conference

TIERs, along side high level officials and 45 member states and civil society, was present at 2024 The Equal Rights Coalition Conference held on December 17 and 18 in Berlin, Germany. The co-chairs of the Coalition, Germany and Mexico and their civil society counterparts LSVD+ and Fundación Arcoiris, hosted this event at the German Federal Foreign Office in collaboration with the 45 Member States of this Coalition and delegates from its Civil Society Network. Member State representatives gathered with civil society, under the theme “Countering the Push-Back,” to examine the current context of LGBTQI+ rights and freedoms, engaged in constructive dialogue, and forge strategic partnerships to tackle the most pressing challenges impacting people of diverse SOGIESC globally.





*Chimdimma Ike, Director of Programs, TIERs at The Equal Rights Coalition Conference in Berlin, Germany.*

## TIERs at ILGA World Conference

TIERs attended the ILGA World Conference in South Africa. It was another opportunity to connect with global leaders and advocates fighting for equal rights. We discussed shared challenges and celebrated our collective achievements. We also strategised ways to make the world a better more inclusive place for all, beginning from where we come from.



*L-R: Godwin Kalu, Director of Programs, TIERs; Chimdimma Ike, Director of Programs, TIERs; Afolabi Aiyela, Executive Director, TIERs*



# TIERs x Intersex Nigeria

## ILGA World Conference Side Event

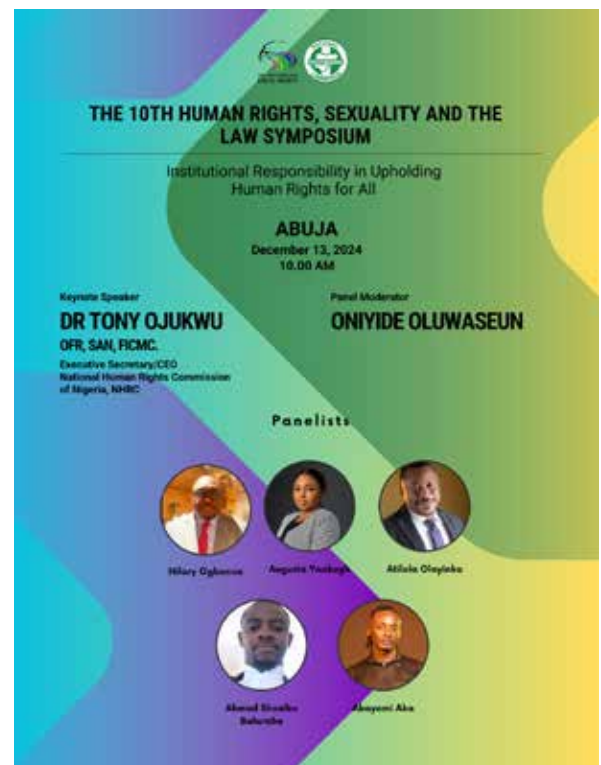
At the ILGA World Conference in Cape Town, TIERs organized a side event in collaboration with Intersex Nigeria titled “Nigeria in Vivid Colours: Queer and Intersex Narratives” where we presented an overview of the journey of the fight for human rights of marginalised communities. A panel session was held based off the same topic. Funders, partner organisations and members of the sexual minority groups were in attendance.



## TIERs x NHRC

### The 10th Annual Human Rights, Sexuality, and the Law Symposium

On the 13th of December 2024, The Initiative for Equal Rights (TIERs), in collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), successfully hosted the 10th Annual Human Rights, Sexuality, and the Law Symposium in Abuja at the NHRC headquarters. This landmark event, held in commemoration of International Human Rights Day, provided a crucial platform to address the realities of human rights violations experienced by marginalised groups and vulnerable key populations across Nigeria. The activities included a panel discussion where panelists talked about challenges and opportunities for Nigerian Institutions in upholding human rights. We also launched the 11th Human Rights Violations report and the Social Perception Survey to our audience made up of civil society organizations, representatives from foreign embassies and human rights activists.



[Watch the recap here](#)



## Pictures from the The 10th Annual Human Rights, Sexuality, and the Law Symposium



Launch of the 2024 Human Rights Violations report with some of our report partners



Mr Hilary Ogbonna - Senior Human Rights Advisor, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)



Members of Civil Society Organizations and some Human Rights Activists in attendance



(L-R) - Alexandra Maduagwu, Chimdimma Ike, Zseliaki Oeodiago of Brot für die Welt, Anneleos Hoff of the Netherlands embassy in Nigeria, Paulo Santos of the Embassy of Portugal, Xenia Stoll of the European Union, Lilian Seffer of Giz Nigeria and ECOWAS, Afolabi Aiyela, Bolaji Oyindamola



Panelists during our panel discussion. (L-R) Mr Hilary Ogbonna, Professor Olayinka Atilola, Ahmad Shuaibu Balarabe, Augusta Aondoaver Yaakugh, and the moderator, Oniyide Oluwaseun





## Emergency response and helpline

TIERs has continued to run its emergency response hotline. The helpline is open 24/7 taking calls from community members who need various help from counselling, safe house, legal support or financial support. This year TIERs provided emergency logistics and safe housing support to several individuals and two organisations who needed urgent relocation as a result of the Samoa misinformation.

TIERs' national helpline receives calls from victims of human right violations that are based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics and links victims to medical, psychosocial and legal services, safe housing and emergency funding (based on eligibility).

**Call these numbers below if you need assistance**

**+234 813 435 7704**

**+234 908 893 9562**



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If you would like to support our work, we would be grateful for a donation. Your contributions allow us to keep providing vital healthcare, and legal support, and responding to human rights violations.

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