The Country we Want to Live in: Hate Crimes and Homophobia in the Lives of Black Lesbian South Africans


Throughout the book there are references to the critical literature, news reports, articles and statements made by participants of the round-table conference that align the issues to ongoing discussions. They address the activism surrounding the campaign to end violence against lesbians and offer recommendations that are recognised to be important for ongoing policy and advocacy development.

This book provides a reflection of a 2006 round-table discussion that addressed policy and identified possible strategies towards eliminating violence against lesbians. Furthermore, it offers an insight into the socio-political context of South Africa and the language used to speak about these issues and reflects views expressed by some of the people featured in this historic conversation. Participants recognised the toll taken on people's lives by the struggle against hate crimes suffered by black lesbians. Everyone acknowledged the fact that activists experience a very wide range of emotional and physical challenges and that psychological assault or trauma is part and parcel of fighting for a world in which people are not victims of hate. However, since the round-table of 2006, murders of black lesbians have increased, in spite of visible media coverage and advocacy responding to the crimes.

The Country we Want to Live in: Hate Crimes and Homophobia in the Lives of Black Lesbian South Africans does not offer a detailed analysis of the state of affairs concerning lesbian lives in South Africa, nor does it speak on behalf of lesbians. However, it relates to issues as they are interpreted through the lens of the round-table discussion.

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