Although sexual minorities in Africa continue to face harsh penalties for same-sex relationships, strong antihomophobic resistance exists across the continent. This book systematically charts the emergence and effects of politicized homophobia in Malawi and shows how it has been used as a strategy by political elites to consolidate their moral and political authority, through punishing LGBT people and dividing social movements. Here, Ashley Currier pays particular attention to the impact of politicized homophobia on different social movements, specifically HIV/AIDS, human rights, LGBT rights, and women’s rights movements. Her timely account intervenes in Afro-pessimist portrayals of the African continent as a hotbed of homophobia and unravels the tensions and contradictions underlying Western perceptions of Malawi. It shows that, in reality, many lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people happily call Malawi home, in spite of heightened antigay vitriol that has generated unwanted visibility for them.

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Politicizing Sex in Contemporary Africa

Homophobia in Malawi

ASHLEY CURRIER
University of Cincinnati
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Acknowledgments

Many people and institutions allowed me to complete the research for this book. First, Kim Yi Dionne, and Tara McKay introduced me to Malawi, an introduction I will always cherish. A collaborative grant that Kim Yi Dionne and I received from Texas A&M University allowed me to conduct my first round of fieldwork in 2012 in Malawi with Tara McKay. While Tara led a survey research team into Malawi towns and villages, I conducted interviews with more than fifty HIV/AIDS, human rights, LGBT rights, and women’s rights activists; I had the opportunity to participate in my first round of survey research in Malawi. I am grateful to have had the chance to learn from these experienced activists. Funding from the University of Cincinnati’s University Research Council and Charles Phelps Taft Research Center and an American Association for University Women Postdoctoral Research Leave Fellowship supported my 2014 fieldwork in Malawi. A Taft Center Fellowship gave me the time and space to complete most of the book and enabled me to bring Ebenezer Obadare to the University of Cincinnati as an expert reader on this manuscript.

Staff at Invest in Knowledge Initiative provided valuable research support during my 2012 and 2014 fieldwork trips in Malawi. In particular, Augustine Harawa, Davie Chitenje, Richard Kusse, and James Mkandawire offered expert advice. Augustine’s counsel and generosity buoyed my spirits while I was doing research. Charles Sisya drove me around Malawi in 2012 and 2014, and he worked as a driver and interviewer in 2014. Wezi Mzembe also worked as an interviewer in 2014. Both Charles and Wezi helped me interview lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) Malawians; they conducted interviews in Chichewa and English. I learned a lot from Charles and Wezi during our time traveling throughout Malawi together.

This project would not have been possible without the staff, volunteers, and members of the Centre for the Development of People (CEDEP) welcoming me into their space and routines. Gift Trapence,
CEDEP’s brilliant leader, graciously granted me access to CEDEP office space throughout the country and gave me permission to recruit CEDEP staff, volunteers, and members for interviews. Thanks to hard-working CEDEP staff and volunteers who communicated with gender and sexual minorities about the research project, research assistants and I were sometimes able to interview several people in one day during my 2014 trip. I cannot thank CEDEP staff and volunteers and staff at other nongovernmental organizations in Malawi enough for sharing their experiences and expertise.

Colleagues at the University of Cincinnati and beyond as well as members of my writing groups read and provided helpful feedback on multiple chapters. I would like to thank Michelle McGowan, Deb Meem, Tara McKay, Thérèse Migraine-George, Ghassan Moussawi, Furaha Norton, Carolette Norwood, Ebenezer Obadare, Michal Raucher, Sunnie Rucker-Chang, and Valerie Weinstein for reading and commenting on chapter drafts. I am very grateful to Valerie Weinstein for talking through and reading multiple versions of chapter drafts; I am very fortunate to call her a colleague and friend. Conversations with Nada Mustafa Ali, Gabeba Baderoon, Crystal Biruk, Alicia Decker, Kim Yi Dionne, Harri Englund, Amy Lind, Selina Makana, Anna-Maria Marshall, Sarudzayi Matambanadzo, Tara McKay, Liz McMahon, Deb Meem, Thérèse Migraine-George, Ghassan Moussawi, Alan Msosa, Chantal Nadeau, and Ebenezer Obadare greatly improved this book. I presented selections from this book at American University, Tulane University, University of Illinois–Urbana/ Champaign, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and University of Virginia. I also presented work from the book at the 2013 African Studies Association annual meeting, the 2013 National Women’s Studies Association annual meeting, the 2014 African Studies Association in Germany Conference at Bayreuth University, the 2014 Causes Sexuelles: Sexualités et Mobilisations Collectives conference at the University of Lausanne, the 2014 American Sociological Association annual meeting, the 2016 International Feminist Journal of Politics conference at the University of Cincinnati, and at the 2016 African Feminist Initiative conference at Pennsylvania State University. I am incredibly grateful for Sarah Watkins’ keen editorial eye, the guidance offered by Maria Marsh and Abigail Walkington at Cambridge University Press, and the scholars who reviewed an earlier draft of the manuscript.
Acknowledgments

The friendship and support offered by Furaha Norton, Bennett Kottler, and Valerie Weinstein nourished me as I completed this book. Dean Gerber provided loving companionship and occasional cheerleading along the way; I’m a better person for having him in my life.

Part of Chapter 3 originally appeared in a different form as Ashley Currier, “Arrested Solidarity: Obstacles to Intermovement Support for LGBT Rights in Malawi” in WSQ: Women’s Studies Quarterly 42, Nos. 3/4 (Fall/Winter 2014): 142–159. Copyright © 2014 by the Feminist Press at The City University of New York. Used with permission of The Permissions Company, Inc., on behalf of the publishers, www.feministpress.org. All rights reserved.
Abbreviations

AHB Anti-Homosexuality Bill (Uganda)
AI Amnesty International
BBC British Broadcasting Corporation
BGR barometer for gay rights
CABS Common Approach to Budgetary Support
CARER Malawi Centre for Advice, Research, and Education on Rights
CEDEP Centre for the Development of People
CHRR Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation
CILIC Civil Liberties Committee
COMESA Common Market for Southern and Eastern Africa
CONGOMA Council for Non-Governmental Organisations
CSO civil society organization
DPP Democratic People’s Party
GALZ Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe
GBV gender-based violence
GTZ German Technical Cooperation
HRCC Human Rights Consultative Committee
ICCPR International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
IDAHOT International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia
IGLHRC International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission
IPI Institute for Policy Interaction
KAP knowledge, attitudes, and practices

x
Abbreviations

LEGABIBO Lesbians, Gays, and Bisexuals of Botswana
LEGATRA Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Association
LGB lesbian, gay, and bisexual
LGBT lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender
LGMM Lesbian and Gay Movement of Malawi
MAM Muslim Association of Malawi
MANERELA+ Malawi Network of Religious Leaders Living or Personally Affected by HIV and AIDS
MANET+ Malawi Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS
MBC Malawi Broadcasting Corporation
MCC Malawi Council of Churches
MCP Malawi Congress Party
MHRC Malawi Human Rights Commission
MHRRRC Malawi Human Rights and Resource Centre
MIDEA Malawi Institute for Democratic and Economic Affairs
MLC Malawi Law Commission
MLS Malawi Law Society
MODEGAL Movement for the Defense of Gay and Lesbian Rights in Liberia
MSM men who have sex with men
NAC National AIDS Commission
NCM New Citizens Movement
NGO nongovernmental organization
PETRA People’s Transformation Party
PP People’s Party
SMO social movement organization
STI sexually transmitted infection
STEKA Step Kids Awareness
TRP The Rainbow Project
UDF United Democratic Front
UK United Kingdom
UN United Nations
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviations</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>United Nations Development Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VOA</td>
<td>Voice of America</td>
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<tr>
<td>WSW</td>
<td>women who have sex with women</td>
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