



## *Politicizing Sex in Contemporary Africa*

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.

ASHLEY CURRIER is Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Cincinnati. Her first book, *Out in Africa: LGBT Organizing in Namibia and South Africa* (2012), was a finalist for a 2013 Lambda Literary Book Award. Her research on gender and sexual diversity organizing in Africa has been published in *Critical African Studies*, *Feminist Formations*, *Gender & Society*, *GLQ*, *Mobilization*, *Politique Africaine*, *Signs*, and *Women's Studies Quarterly*.

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# Politicizing Sex in Contemporary Africa

Homophobia in Malawi

ASHLEY CARRIER  
*University of Cincinnati*



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## *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

*Abbreviations*

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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
MHRRC	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

UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
VOA	Voice of America
WSW	women who have sex with women