

THE AMCHAM POST

A joint initiative of the American Chamber of Commerce in Madagascar and L'Express

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4 pages every Saturday

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HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Messages to youth on Human Rights Day 2019

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights holds the Guinness World Record as the most translated document. What is written in this milestone document was adopted in 1948. The United Nations observes Human Rights Day every year on 10 December. This year's celebration follows the culmination of the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child last November 20. The UN's plan is to highlight the leadership role of youth as constructive agents of change and protection of rights.

This year, the UN is making a call to action "Stand Up for Human Rights", a campaign led by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The campaign will showcase how youth manages to stand up for rights and against racism, hate speech, bullying, discrimination, and climate change, to name a few.

Why Youth? "Empowering youth to better know and claim their rights will generate benefits globally."

Know Your Rights! Even if the UDHR is the most translated document, yet, far too many young people are still unaware of their basic rights as human beings.

Michelle Bachelet: "I am inspired by the courage, clarity and principle of the women, men and young people who are rising up peacefully, to create greater freedom and justice."



ELEANOR ROOSEVELT of the United States holding a poster of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
Lake Success, NY, November 1949. UN Photo

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AMCHAM

Holidays Get Together
by AmCham, on Friday,
December 13, at Dzama
Cocktail Café Ivandry



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EDITORIAL

By Timothy Fallon

LBGTQ Rights



In the United States, certain rights are "*unalienable*," or mandatory for all citizens. These rights, as listed in our Constitution, include: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. In addition to these basic ideas, an American citizen should have the right to their own sexual orientation. LBGTQ is the acronym used for the community of lesbian, bisexual, gay, transsexual, and queer individuals within society. This is a community of people who throughout history have been ostracized, discriminated against, and attacked both verbally and physically. Legislation has been passed on multiple occasions that has attempted to stifle the rights of the community. But it is a resilient people, and they have fought back time and time again against prejudices to become an entity that defines strength and inclusiveness. To offer an abbreviated timeline of rights and stigmas associated with the acronym:

- * April, 1952 : The American Psychiatric Association diagnoses homosexuality as a sociopathic personality disturbance.
- * April 27, 1953: United States President Dwight D. Eisenhower bans homosexuals from working in the government.
- * July 1961: Illinois becomes the first state to decriminalize homosexuality.
- * January 9, 1978: Harvey Milk is the first openly gay man to win political office in California.
- * March 2, 1982: Wisconsin becomes first state to outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation.
- * November 30, 1993: President Bill Clinton signs a military policy to prohibit openly gay men and women from serving in the military; but also prohibits harassment of "closeted" homosexuals, known as 'Don't ask, Don't tell.'
- * April 26, 2000: Vermont becomes first state to legalize civil unions between same sex couples.
- * September 20, 2011: 'Don't ask, don't tell' is repealed.
- * June 26, 2015: U.S. Supreme Court legalizes same sex marriage in all 50 states.

In 2019 gay men and women still receive ridicule and must fight for their rights. In 32 states across America, conversion therapy is still legal. This is a practice in which one attempts to change an individual's sexual orientation from homo or bisexual to heterosexual using psychological intervention. In the same country where gay men and women can stand tall and walk proudly, many states don't take strides to protect the LBGTQ community. In a positive sense, 18 states and Washington D.C. have passed legislation for banning this miscarriage of science (conversion therapy). This is all just to say that while times may look brighter, lesbian women and gay men still fight a tumultuous battle with societies demands.

Today, in many major cities throughout the world, "*pride parades*" are hosted. These are events for LBGTQ individuals to express themselves and be celebrated for the people that they are. Members, allies, friends, and family of the community gather to march in the streets, proud to be in their own skin. We are now getting closer to a nation wide acceptance level, however there is always room to improve. Much like the history of racism in America, the history of homophobia is an ongoing narrative. We as people can only try to be decent to one another, regardless of background. Humans are humans, and we should all battle through this life together.

SOURCES: edition.CNN.com, LGBTQmap.org

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Messages to youth on Human Rights Day 2019

Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December — the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Here is what the UN

Secretary-General, António Guterres's message :

"This year, on Human Rights Day, we celebrate the role of young people in bringing human rights to life.

Globally, young people are marching, organizing, and speaking out:

For the right to a healthy environment...

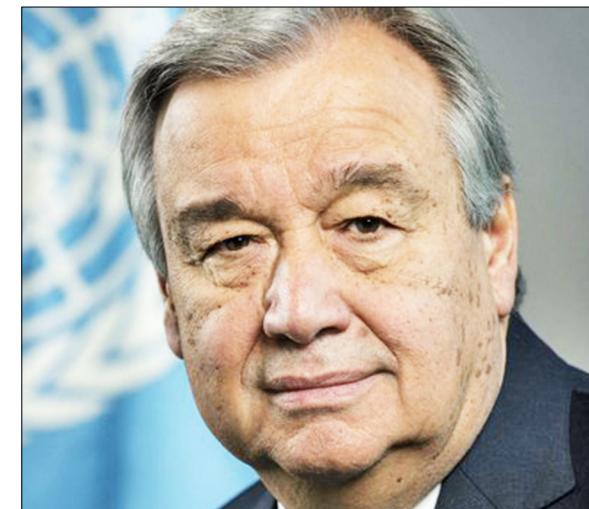
For the equal rights of women and girls...

To participate in decision-making...

And to express their opinions freely...

They are marching for their right to a future of peace, justice and equal opportunities. Every single person is entitled to all rights: civil, political, economic, social and cultural. Regardless of where they live. Regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, social origin, gender, sexual orientation, political or other opinion, disability or income, or any other status.

On this International Day, I call on everyone to support and protect young people who are standing up for human rights."



UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet's message :

"Raising our voices is essential to the creation of a future of peace, justice and sustainable development. And this has been a year of tremendous activism – notably by young people.

In every region, people are working for hope. From the accelerating climate crisis to the fight against inequality and repressive institutions. From the right to make informed decisions about our own bodies to the right to participate in defining policies for our countries.

I am inspired by the courage, clarity and principle of the women, men and young people who are rising up peacefully, to create greater freedom and justice. Their voices are the living expression of human rights – a movement that is fundamentally about building dignity and equality for everyone.

Policy-makers everywhere need to listen to these calls. And in response, they need to shape more effective, more principled policies. We have a right to live free from discrimination on any grounds.

We have a right to access education, health-care, economic opportunities and a decent standard of living.

This is about our future, our livelihoods, our freedoms, our security and our environment. We need to mobilise across the world—peacefully and powerfully – to advance a world of rights, dignity and choice for everyone. With renewed determination, we all need to stand up for human rights."

Source: United Nations



AmCham
American Chamber of Commerce in Madagascar

About the American Chamber of Commerce in Madagascar :
AMCHAM in Madagascar is a non-profit association of American, International, Local businesses and business people, and is affiliated with the US Chamber of Commerce, the largest business organization representing the interests of more than 3 million businesses of all sizes, sectors and regions.
For further information about the benefits of membership, please don't hesitate to contact us either via email or phone.
Email: es@amcham-madagascar.org
Phone: +261 20 26 410 34

Our Charter and Sponsoring Member: 

Our Sponsoring Member: 

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HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Mbolatiana Raveloarimisa sends a heartfelt message to the President

Mr. President,

A gentleman was holding her firmly by the arm at Addis Ababa airport. We could see from her walk that she was struggling to move forward. Putting one foot in front of the other seemed like an ordeal. In her eyes, it was total emptiness that says a lot about the path she had to take to get there. The passenger assistant installed her on the plane bound for Antananarivo. I am one of those who believe that there is no chance, there are only dates. This young woman was at the seat right next to me.

Her name is Doria and she was born in 1991. When it came time to fill out the landing form, she had one of those looks as if she was calling for help. Couldn't she take the pen to write? Couldn't she take the pen because she couldn't write? Couldn't she take the pen to write because she didn't know what was written on that form? Dozens of questions have been jostling in my head. I hesitated to help her because I didn't know if I had the right to do so. But her tearful and insistent eyes overwhelmed me. In spite of myself, I had to go through the necessary information to try to trace this young woman's journey in order to fill out the form as well as possible.



Doria had her passport in 2017 with the title of occupation: "farmer". In the picture of her passport she was a young woman full of life with a sparkling look, ready to go conquer the world. A second, more recent photo is stapled to the cover of his passport. She was in nikab. Between these two images of her and what remains of the person in front of me, the violence had passed through there.

Doria left Madagascar in 2017 to go to the Comoros. Then she goes back and forth between this country and Kuwait. She renewed her visa in Kuwait three times in two years and that is the end of her whole dream. The young woman, barely 28 years old, has lost

all her strength and all her being. She barely spoke, and had real trouble moving even her hands. When it came time to eat, we had to ask the hostesses for a special spoon. Each bite hurt her to the point where we had to stop after a few spoonfuls when she seemed hungry. Throughout this story and the few hours of flight, she was holding her passport and an envelope that visibly contained all that she had left. But what exactly does he have left?

She has nothing left. Mr. President, in two years, this young woman has lost her motor skills, her language, her health and above all her human dignity. Mr. President, like you, I have heard cases about these women who leave and no longer return

or who return like the undead. But the moment Doria couldn't eat, I cried. When she arrived at the airport, she could not get up from her seat. Mr. President, she is only 28 years old. We told her that someone will come and get her to help her. I felt the fear invade him again.

At the border a police-woman was scanning each woman's passport to find out who came from where. She was looking for four women from Kuwait. Why? A group of five women obviously got scared and did everything they could to avoid it. For me, I simply told her that someone stayed on the plane and she urgently needs care because she is in trouble.

Mr. President, this is 2019. Human trafficking continues despite all the efforts that have been made so far. Sir, what I saw was just horrible. One of our own has been abused and there are several hundred of them like her. We are talking about sixteen days of activism against violence against women, it would be important to take stronger measures not against women but against those who are at the heart of this trafficking. There is a network in many spheres for a woman named Doria to return home "*very fanahy mbola velona*".

FOCUS ON U.S. CITIES

Provincetown, Massachusetts: a safe-haven for the LGBTQ community



Provincetown is one of the world's most popular resort destinations among gay and lesbian travelers

The city of Provincetown, Massachusetts is a long known safe-haven for the LBGTQ community. This small coastal town located in northern New England is a very common vacation spot for all walks of society. It is often referred to as "PTown" for short. While it is only home to 3,000 residents in the off season, nearly 60,000 short term renters roll in at the first signs of summer. Cape Cod (which is the larger region that PTown is located in) is known for its beautiful New England beaches and nautical architecture. PTown offers a unique experience full of artists, free spirits, and both LGBTQ members and their allies.

In the beginning, Provincetown was home to a fishing industry, much like every other port town in the area. In the 1890's, this industry was damaged by a very devastating storm and the town was left desolate and abandoned. Luckily, some very innovative artists and writers took over the ruins left behind and transformed them for their own benefit. By the early 20th century, Provincetown became well known for art, literature, and theatrical productions; specifically the group called the Provincetown Players. The town grew in popularity over the years and by the 1960s a new group of residents started to move in. Since a beach town is not much fun in a snowy New England winter, property was cheap which in turn attracted "hippies". This loving and accepting community opened cafes and shops on the Main Street which you can still find to this day. By the 1970's Provincetown had a very large gay population and a long lasting tradition of gay tourism. Members of the LBGTQ community visit every year for the beautiful beaches and to be apart of an "alternate" lifestyle.

When visiting PTown there are a few activities that cannot be missed. If you're lucky enough to visit during the Pride Parade, (a parade put on to celebrate the LGBTQ community) it is an event to remember. Dress in all colors of the rainbow to show your involvement or support for the community. If you are a history buff then check out the Pilgrim Monument, the tallest standing all granite monument in the country, and brush up on you Mayflower facts. In an homage to the artists who made Provincetown what it is today, check out the the Provincetown Art Association and its rotating galleries. Lobster is famous in New England and the "Lobster Pot" located in downtown PTown offers one of the best lobster rolls around. And if you find yourself their between April - October sign up for a whale watching tour in the hopes to find a breaching humpback.

Whether you visit Provincetown to experience the fun and eclectic vibe it offers or to enjoy a beach vacation, you will be sure to have a fun afternoon or week. It is home to a group of very progressive individuals who were willing to push the boundary when the doors weren't so easy to open. Provincetown is a place of acceptance, so come one and come all! The water won't be too cold!

SOURCES: visitprovincetown.com, newenglandhistoricalsociety.com, getawaymavens.com, gaystarnews.com

Written by: Fiona Fitzgerald



**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2019
AT 6.30 PM
AT DZAMA COCKTAIL CAFE
IVANDRY**

AMCHAM

HOLIDAYS GET TOGETHER

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Saturday, December 6, 2019

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ANNOUNCEMENT**AmCham Business Trainings I Call for Trainers**

Backed by a strong expertise and solid experience generally focused on business market access, business advocacy and promotion of English speaking, the American Chamber of Commerce in Madagascar now more than ever understands the role of the private sector in the Malagasy economy; thus is willing to reinforce its strength.

In 2020, the Chamber will open trainings to a larger public of individuals and/or businesses, members and/or non-members, to inhouse businesses or to exporters.

With this in mind, the Chamber calls for Trainers applications in the following fields:

- Finance and Investments
- Business Management
- Project Management
- Leadership and Entrepreneurship
- Personal Development

Applicants should submit their resume, motivation letter, and module proposals at elodie@amcham-madagascar.org

For further information, contact AmCham at 020 26 410 34.

ANNOUNCEMENT**AMCHAM YOUTH**

As a reminder, the American Chamber of Commerce is non-profit organization based in Madagascar and dedicated to both US and Madagascan businesses. AmCham started working in November 2008 and was officially recognized by the Government of Madagascar in February 2010.

AmCham's missions are to:

- Strengthen trade relations between United States and Madagascar
- Support the establishment of high-quality standards of commercial practice
- Support the expansion of an English-speaking, Anglophone business community in Madagascar

The American Chamber of Commerce in Madagascar is pleased to welcome in 2019 YOUTH INITIATIVES among its members.

As an AmCham Youth member, your organization will have the opportunity to:

- Develop a high level network
- Reinforce your credibility as an organization
- Upgrade your international visibility
- Receive technical support from the AmCham team

Ready to apply? Please verify that your organization:

- Supports at least one SDG goal
- Is led by (a) young person/people aged between 18 and 35 years old
- For startups, is less than 5 years of fiscal activities.

The membership fee is **100 000 Ariary per year**

No individual application allowed

For further information, contact AmCham at info@amcham-madagascar.org or at 020 26 410 34.

MANAGEMENT CORNER

Simple Ways to Show Appreciation for Your Colleagues

We often use the words "recognition" and "appreciation" interchangeably, but there's a big difference between them. The former is about giving positive feedback based on results or performance. The latter is about acknowledging a person's inherent value. If you focus solely on recognition, or praising positive outcomes, you miss out on opportunities to connect with and support your team members. Here are a few simple ways to show appreciation for those around you. First, listen. One of the best things you can do for the people you work with is to put down your phone, turn away from your computer, and genuinely listen to them. Also, tell people what you value about them. Doing this proactively — not because someone did something great or because you want something from them — is an incredibly powerful gift. It can positively affect how your colleagues feel about themselves, your relationship with them, and the culture of the team. Lastly, check in with people. Show them that you care by asking how they're doing (and meaning it).

This tip is adapted from "Why Employees Need Both Recognition and Appreciation," by Mike Robbins

Source: Harvard Business Review

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Executive Director:

Scott A. Reid

Executive Secretary:

Lalaina Rakotoarison

Publication Manager:

AMCHAM

Editors:

AMCHAM

Kenny Raharison

Elodie Rabenivo

Advertising:

publicite@lexpressmada.com

info@amcham-madagascar.org

Phone:

+261 20 26 410 34

WEBSITE:

www.amcham-madagascar.org

L'Express
QUOTIDIEN D'INFORMATION ET D'ANALYSE
DE MADAGASCAR

Editorial Director:

Sylvain Ranjalahy

Editor in Chief:

Sylvain Ranjalahy

Advertising Manager:

Haingo Ramahatra

Production Manager:

Christian Rija Rafidison

WEBSITE:

www.lexpressmada.com

Ankorondrano

BP3893 - 101 Antananarivo

Phone: +261 20 22 219 34

Fax: +261 20 22 628 94

Telex: +261 20 22 222 87

E-mail: lexpress@malagasy.com