

Call for participation in the development of storytelling projects

Introduction

The Global Alliance for LGBT Education (GALE, www.lgbt-education.info) is a worldwide network of activist and professional educators and trainers who combat homophobia and transphobia. GALE wants to function as a platform to exchange experiences and develop educational expertise. At this time, the network focuses on storytelling and working with schools. We are also looking at developing projects to train the police and health professionals on HIV and on transgender issues.

Storytelling

In many countries, formal training about LGBT issues is difficult or impossible because same sex relationships are illegal or completely taboo. In such circumstances, collecting and telling stories about LGBT life can be a first and simple step to educate same sex attracted people or/and make LGBT life a little bit more visible. The "Bareed Mista3jil" by Meem is a good example.

Storytelling projects, in our view, can take 3 shapes:

1. anonymous story collection and publication
2. storytelling for small safe LGBTIQ audiences
3. storytelling to combat heterosexism in sessions with straight people

Which project formula is chosen, depends on the local situation.

GALE links partner organizations and funds to develop such storytelling projects. GALE also facilitates exchange of experiences and training and develops a toolkit with a range of tools which support the organizations of storytelling projects and telling the stories themselves in a effective way. The development of the toolkit will be an on-going strategy. We are working now on toolkit 1.0, but since our aim is to continually raise the quality of our work, we and our partner organizations will keep on redeveloping the toolkit in order to enhance the impact of storytelling in a continuous learning process.

Call for projects

GALE has acquired some small funds to experiment with storytelling projects. The goal is to experiment with storytelling for visibility and education about heteronormativity.

What we offer:

- GALE can pay up to 5.000 euro for the project
- GALE can provide 20 hours support and coaching
- GALE can provide good practices and contacts with storytellers and educators with experience
- GALE offers participation in the international GALE summer school for storytellers in Marseille, France, 17-25 July 2010 (travel, housing and meals paid by GALE). In this summer school we do exchange, training and we discuss the international storytelling toolkit we are developing

What we ask:

- The project workers become members of GALE (if necessary, this can be anonymous or with a nickname) and share their experiences with other members (no copyright)
- One of the project workers takes part in the summer school
- The project has some kind of visible product (short film, photo's, text, comic book, exhibition). In the publication, our donors should be given credit.
- The organization makes a short methodology description, so the project can be repeated by other organizations
- The project should be finished before 31 December 2010

Interested? Contact Peter Dankmeijer, director GALE, info@lgbt-education.info