

**Raedani v M and others 2016 case no 1/2016 Thohoyandou Magistrates Court  
(Equality Court)**

The CGE received this complaint on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2016. The complaint relates to an interview conducted at University of Venda Radio Station on the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016 wherein the first respondent said *"I talked to one boy who is gay, I told him to change his thinking (being gay) because the backdoor (anus) is not meant for sex, but it is meant for waste removal" (going to toilet) .... a lot of them are HIV Positive..... a person has a chance to change and repent from deeds that are not good, a man will tell himself(realise) that he is a man and not a woman, and a woman also realise that she is woman and not a man and live(enter) a good life"*. The respondent allegedly stated further that *"in the programmes that I run at the NGO, I am allowed to employ/hire gays, lesbians sex workers and people think I like it (i.e employing gays, lesbians& sex workers) but that is not the case, it is my way of getting an opportunity/chance to talk to them and convince them to change....many have changed (from their Gays/Lesbians ways)..... When you want to change them you do not go around chasing after them, you must just get close to them...if you want to catch a chicken, you throw a mealie-meal so as the chicken can come next to you, that is when you catch it"*.

The above remarks amount to hate speech and are thus discriminatory and further perpetuates violence towards the LGBTI persons. The complainant in this matter sought damages of R50 000,00 and an apology.

The CGE was admitted as amicus curiae in this matter. The matter is still pending before the Thohoyandou Magistrates Court.