

18 January, 2012

Dear Pastors,

The peace of God be with you!

We are reaching out to request your participation in unified memorial services commemorating David Kato, the Ugandan activist murdered on January 26th, 2011.

We anticipate that affirming Churches and Synagogues across the country will have a **moment of remembrance during worship services from January 27-29, 2012.**

The following provides a liturgy for this memorial

- Statement of purpose:

David Kato was murdered in Uganda after being targeted in a local paper that published his name, picture and address next to a noose and the words, “Hang Them!”

Outrage over the loss of his life is deeply felt by the Ugandan LGBT community and its supporters around the world. His death comes in the wake of

- an ongoing struggle against a bill sponsored by David Bahati in Uganda that called for the death penalty for gay people.
- a tidal wave of homophobia sweeping much of Africa



The Bahati bill was seeded by American evangelicals and so-called “ex-gay” activists who went to Uganda to spread egregious misinformation and fear about LGBT people, and it was trumpeted by conservative Pastor Martin Ssempe on the ground in Uganda.



American conservatives have partnered with the ruling elite in Uganda in the interest of owning the country's social agenda, which is the gateway to exploiting the country's wealth. Uganda has become a laboratory for conservatives on the use of religion to dominate all of Africa.

As we celebrate David's life and commemorate his legacy, the question for our community is – **what will we do before January 26th, 2013 to further the cause of freedom and dignity for LGBT people around the world?**

- Ritual:

Lighting of a candle to honor David's life

- Prayer:

Leader: O God, we light this candle {today/this evening} in memory of our brother, David Kato. You know, O God, he was faithful to your vision of a world at peace with its own diversity. You know, too, the price he paid for that faithfulness. Help us, who are now charged with carrying on that vision, to have the courage of conviction and stamina and grace it takes to live each and every day in a way that brings a little more justice, a little more kindness, a little more acceptance to this earth and its peoples. Help us now, as we pray, to rededicate ourselves to that singular call. For the sake of LGBT children and adults everywhere,

Congregation: WE PROMISE TO STRIVE TO ACT JUSTLY WITH EVERY WORD WE SPEAK, EVERY THOUGHT WE THINK, AND EVERY DEED WE DO.

Leader: For the sake of our oppressors and those who harm us,

Congregation: WE PROMISE TO STRIVE TO LOVE TENDERLY AND SET A CHRIST-LIKE EXAMPLE FOR ALL TO FOLLOW.

Leader: For all our sakes, and for the coming of peace to this earth



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Congregation: WE PROMISE TO SEEK TO WALK HUMBLY WITH YOU, O
GOD, ALL THE DAYS OF OUR LIVES.

Leader: May God bless us to be faithful to the longings of our hearts this
day. In Jesus' name. Amen

Please be in touch with us to confirm your participation and to review any questions or
thoughts that you have. Also, you can visit GayByGod.net to access more detailed
information.

Blessings,

Pastor Pat Bumgardner

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Sr. Pastor

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Pastor Joseph W. Tolton

Director, Africa Affairs The Global Justice Institute
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