

## About IAM

IAM was founded in 1995 in Cape Town and has gained national and international recognition for its work in the fight against discrimination of gay and lesbian people.

IAM is the only organisation in Southern Africa that officially targets the religious leaders of the mainline church communities - especially those that still adhere to patriarchal and fundamentalist values.

We also partner with organisations and churches in the rest of Africa in creating dialogue.

Our successes as organisation lie in the multitude of stories of LGBTI individuals and their parents who found new life and liberation through IAM's work. It is also to be found in the stories of clergy and fellow believers who were touched by the life stories of gay and lesbian individuals; or in publications and through DVDs.

In the first few years of the organisation's pioneer phase, activities were directed towards getting the sexual orientation matter on the table of most mainline faith communities: creating a network of open-minded clergy; addressing more than hundred congregations and forming study groups focusing on the authority of scripture and homosexuality; making way into the ad hoc committee on homosexuality of the Dutch Reformed Church and the Anglican Theological Committee; hosting conferences; giving counselling and writing articles and brochures.

When Judith Kotzé was appointed in 2001, she brought with her the skill to use dialogue as the preferred change agent of the organisation. Internally, it was decided to no longer participate in the battlefield of debate with faith communities, but to rather lead in creating awareness through using dialogue as the modus operandi of IAM.

Changing attitudes and belief systems is a very slow and difficult process. Also, it is challenging to translate IAM's achievements and successes into statistics.