

South Africa

South Africa is among the countries with the most comprehensive protections for LGBTQ people, with a constitutional clause banning discrimination based on sexual orientation. At the same time, 72 percent of the general population still considers same-sex sexual activity morally wrong.

Victory Institute partnered with Triangle Project to help breach the gap identified by local activists, supporting and training a new wave of LGBTQ leaders who are politically active and engaged with their communities. These leaders will serve as ambassadors in their communities to change people's hearts and minds and create a true shift in social attitudes towards LGBTQ equality.



Our Partner: Triangle Project

Triangle Project is a non-profit human rights organization offering professional services to ensure the full realization of constitutional and human rights for LGBTQ persons, their partners and families. Based in Cape Town, Triangle is one of the oldest LGBTQ organizations on the African continent.

The program with Victory Institute has garnered much public attention because historically, there has been such little engagement with politics. Even the major parties have no clue if they have LGBTQ people within party structures or not, so there's a lot of opportunities for growth. Also, working with Victory Institute has opened opportunities for new funding and networks for Triangle.

Matthew Clayton / Triangle Project



Participant Profile: Mpho Buntse

Mpho attended our LGBTQ Political Leadership Learning Institute in Cape Town, which helped him acquire skills to advocate for an institutionalized structure to secure LGBTQ participation and representation within the country's main party, the African National Congress (ANC). Mpho is a human rights activist, founder of the Simon Nkoli Memorial Lecture, and active member of the ANC.

"The LGBTQ Political Leadership Learning Institute was an incredible platform that shaped my political career and motivated me to start a national political movement driven by LGBTQ activists."

—Mpho Buntse

Mpho Buntse works to institutionalize LGBTQ structures within the country's main party, the African National Congress (ANC).





Participants work on group presentations during the LGBTQ Political Leadership Academy in Cape Town, South Africa.

Participant Profile:

Thozama Njobe

Thozama attended our LGBTQ Political Leadership Learning Institute in Cape Town, during which she developed the leadership abilities to gain the position of National Radio Monitoring Coordinator in the Democratic Alliance (DA) political party. Thozama has previous experience with Statistics South Africa, the national statistical service of South Africa's government, and is passionate about using equal representation and participation as a tool to advance human rights.

"This program has provided substantive content for organizing in the LGBTQ+ space. Not only did I find ways to truly break barriers within the political landscape of South Africa, I found a network of people who have relentless commitment to drive the political agenda in South Africa to benefit marginalized queer bodies."

—Thozama Njobe



Thozama Njobe gained the position of National Radio Monitoring Coordinator with the political party, Democratic Alliance (DA).



Mosiuoa Lekota, leader of the political party Congress of the People (COPE), meets training participants.

Our Impact in South Africa

- Hosted the first class of the LGBTQ Political Leadership Academy;
- Organized the first high-level civil society forum with political parties and LGBTQ leaders;
- A trainee led the historic effort to increase institutionalized LGBTQ representation in South Africa's main political party, the African National Congress (ANC); and
- A trainee obtained a position within the Democratic Alliance (DA) party to monitor equal representation of marginalized communities in their media releases.