

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

OUR CONTEXT

The challenges we face

Rising Authoritarianism

Shrinking civic space, and coordinated anti-rights mobilisation, often backed by transnational conservative networks, are intensifying criminalisation, moral panic, and state control over bodies, identities, and dissent.

Economic Exclusion

Extractive economic systems, which disproportionately exclude LBQ/TGNC women, and gender-diverse youth from livelihoods, safety nets, and institutional protection.

Digital double-edged

Digital spaces enable organising, visibility, and cross-border solidarity, yet they also expose queer and feminist actors to surveillance, online harassment, data extraction, and other forms of tech-facilitated gender-based violence.

Across Africa LGBTQI+, feminist, and youth-led movements operate in increasingly hostile and precarious environments. **YET** queer and feminist movements continue to demonstrate resilience, creativity, and leadership. Youth-led organising, cross-movement solidarity, and emerging feminist funding models offer real opportunities for transformation.

OUR BELIEFS

What we believe & assume

1 Patriarchal and heteronormative systems drive the exclusion,

discrimination, and violence experienced by women and LGBTQI+ people; dismantling them requires sustained feminist organising and leadership.

2 Feminist alternatives that reimagine systems.

transformative change centers care, justice, and collective well-being.



3 Youth mobilization drives change.

Transforming oppressive and authoritarian systems requires youth leadership.

4 Rising authoritarianism and anti-rights politics across Africa increases risks for feminist and LGBTQI+ organizing,

making solidarity and coordinated advocacy essential



OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

If diverse young feminist and LGBTQI+ movements across Africa are connected, resourced, and supported to build collective power, shape narratives, and influence policy and digital ecosystems...

...then they can more effectively challenge anti-rights agendas, resist repression, and expand democratic space.

CHEVS plays a catalytic role in enabling this by bridging country-level movements, regional advocacy spaces, and global platforms.

OUR MISSION

We mobilise and strengthen young feminist and LGBTQI+ communities for collective action - through movement building, advocacy, and narrative change.



OUR THEMATIC AREAS

Where we work

Tech Justice

Securing digital freedoms, accountability, and safety for LGBTQI+ communities and feminist movements.



Gender & Economic Justice

All our activities focused on preventing violence and advancing economic access for LBQTI women and gender diverse people through inclusive, feminist, and survivor-led approaches.

Rights, Democracy and Civic Freedom

Advancing human rights and inclusive democracy by countering anti-rights agendas, expanding civic participation.

OUR STRATEGIC APPROACH

How we achieve progress

Movement Building

We strengthen the collective power, leadership, infrastructure, and resilience of queer and feminist movements. We cultivating leadership, building trust, and embedding care and healing justice as political practice.

Narrative Change

We shift dominant stories that legitimise exclusion, violence, and anti-rights agendas. We produce and amplify counter-narratives, cultural and media interventions, and storytelling that reframe queer, feminist, and democratic futures as legitimate, desirable, and necessary.

Knowledge, Learning & Imagination

We generate, synthesise, and circulate analysis, evidence, and alternative futures that inform movement strategy and public discourse. Research, documentation, political education keep our work adaptive and future-oriented.

Advocacy

We translate movement power into institutional influence by supporting policy engagement, laws, institutional practices, and decision-making processes at national, regional, and transnational levels to drive concrete institutional and policy shifts.

OUTCOMES

Changes we hope to contribute to by 2030

Movement Power

Young feminist and LGBTQI+ movements are more connected, better resourced, and more resilient in responding to repression, violence, and co-optation across the region.

Safety and Autonomy

LBQTI and gender non-conforming women experience increased safety, bodily autonomy, and freedom from violence across social, institutional, and digital environments.

Challenging Anti-Rights Power

Negative narratives, laws, policies, and institutional practices that legitimise criminalisation and anti-rights agendas are increasingly contested and transformed through organised feminist and LGBTQI+ advocacy.

Feminist Futures

Feminist and LGBTQI+ movements advance alternative visions of democracy, technology, and economic systems grounded in care, justice, and collective well-being.



OUR VISION

An Africa where everyone can live in safety, dignity and freedom; experiencing true liberation and abundance