

3 May 2021

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To: **Mr Patel,**
Non-Executive Chair

Cc: **Mr du Preez,**
Independent Non-Executive Director

AND

Cc: **Mr Mawela,**
Chief Executive Officer

Attention: The Board of Directors of the MultiChoice Group

Dear Mr Patel,

Complaint regarding the Multichoice Group and DSTV's broadcasting of televangelist Pastor TB Joshua's multiple video clips ostensibly depicting a violent 'conversion therapy' and hate speech against LGBT persons amounting to human rights abuses

DSTV Channel 309 titled "Emmanuel TV" has recently broadcast clips showing Pastor TB Joshua engaging in violent exorcism to "cure" gay and lesbian congregants of their sexual orientation by casting out "the demon of homosexuality".

One of the videos, shows Joshua slapping and pushing a woman at least 16 times, and telling her: "*There is a spirit disturbing you. She has transplanted herself into you. It is the spirit of woman.*" The said video was also uploaded on YouTube but has since been removed as YouTube proactively shut down the channel, which had more than 1.8 million subscribers, after a U.K.-based human rights group, [openDemocracy](http://www.opendemocracy.org), notified the platform about possible abuse and hate speech. We understand that this video first appeared on Emmanuel TV, a television station owned by Joshua's Lagos

megachurch, The Synagogue, Church of All Nations. We further understand that the television station is broadcast by DSTV throughout Africa and is owned by the MultiChoice Group.

By broadcasting Joshua's channel, which openly advocates hatred against, and causes harm to, LGBTI persons, Multichoice Group's actions are inconsistent with human rights law and standards, the South African Constitution and domestic legislation, which all proscribe discrimination based on sexual orientation. For example, the broadcast contravenes the values of human dignity and equality underpinned by the South African Constitution. Under section 16(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, the right to freedom of expression does not extend to "advocacy of hatred that is based on race, ethnicity, gender or religion, and that constitutes incitement to cause harm".

We therefore urge Multichoice to urgently take the following steps to remedy this situation:

1. Immediately suspend Emmanuel TV on any of the DSTV platforms including Channel 309.
2. Immediately remove the offending video clips and provide an undertaking not to air them or similar offensive materials again.
3. Offer an apology from Multichoice Group to the LGBT persons.
4. Undertake an updating of the MultiChoice Group's internal policies to bring them in line with human rights standards, the South African Constitution, and local laws on non-discrimination.

We look forward to your early reply to the urgent concerns raised in this letter.

Your sincerely,



Kaajal Ramjathan-Keogh

ICJ Africa Director

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