

THE QUEST FOR THE BUILDING OF MULTICULTURAL SOCIETIES: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE SPREAD OF HOMOSEXUALITY AS A NEW SUBCULTURE

Faustinus Uzoma Ogulew*

Abstract

This paper examines the global quest for the building of multicultural societies as the main driver for the spread of homosexual culture. The paper identifies the problem of the increasing interest that homosexual or gay culture is drawing all over the world. The homosexual movement is unrelenting in their quest to gain legal and even religious recognition all over the world with the attendant obstacles in the cultures that consider it highly unacceptable. The paper aims to show that the present loud struggle of the homosexual movement for greater recognition is only fuelled by the world's genuine quest for multicultural societies. A quest originally anchored on the protection of rights of minorities in different societies. From a positional perspective, the paper concludes that the homosexual culture have strongly keyed into the minorities rights movement and in so far as the world longs for the creation of multicultural societies, there will be no way to isolate the homosexual culture in asking for respect for cultural diversity, inclusiveness, respect for difference, and integration. The world cannot be asking for recognition and protection for minority groups and at the same discriminating against groups that have identified themselves as part of the minorities relying on the principles of individual rights as promoted by the liberal democracy of the West.

Introduction

Since the beginnings of human socio-political organisation, minorities have often faced discrimination, marginalization, and persecution based on factors such as ethnicity, race, religion, language, gender, and other characteristics. Healey (2018) writes that many ethnic and racial minorities experienced colonization and enslavement, leading to the forced migration, exploitation, and loss of cultural identity. In various societies, minorities have been subjected to institutionalized segregation and discrimination, as seen in the apartheid system in South Africa and racial segregation in the United States and even in the marginalization of certain regions of the Nigerian society. Again, throughout history, religious minorities have faced discrimination and persecution. Examples include the persecution of Jews in Europe, religious minorities in the Ottoman Empire, and Christians in some regions of the world (Bala, 2017). Some religious minorities have faced pressure to convert to the majority religion, leading to the suppression of their religious practices.

Governments and dominant cultures have at times suppressed the languages and cultural practices of minority groups, leading to the erosion of linguistic and cultural diversity. Cultural assimilation policies have sought to erase the distinct identity of minority groups by enforcing the adoption of the majority culture. Indigenous populations have often experienced displacement, forced assimilation, and loss of ancestral lands due to colonization. In many places, policies aimed at erasing indigenous cultures, languages, and traditions have contributed to cultural genocide in some regions. Minority groups face discrimination in nation-states where a dominant ethnic or political group seeks to establish a homogenous identity, leading to conflicts and displacement.

This was the plight of many minority groups in different places of the world until the world rose to challenge these evils. The global effort to challenge these evils led to quest for the building of multicultural societies. The world began to seek for the building and transforming of societies into multicultural societies. That is, societies in which people from various cultural

backgrounds, ethnicities, religions, and linguistic groups coexist, contributing to the cultural diversity of the community or nation. These societies are characterized by the interaction, exchange, and blending of different cultural elements.

This was the state of affairs when the homosexual culture emerged with the development of the homosexual or gay rights movement. The gay rights movements keyed into this global quest for inclusive societies to gain legal recognition in some societies of the world. And activists in that movement are still working and struggling to gain greater global recognition, in spite of the fact that it has proven highly unacceptable in different places around the world. This paper is an attempt to explore the relationship between the global quest for multicultural societies and the rise of the homosexual or gay culture.

Homosexuality

Homosexuality refers to romantic or sexual attraction, or behavior, between members of the same sex. People who experience such attractions and engage in same-sex relationships are referred to as homosexuals. According to Shiraev and Levy (2016), homosexuality has been considered as a natural variation of human sexuality and is not considered a mental disorder. Societal attitudes and legal recognition of homosexuality vary widely around the world. In many places, there has been progress in recognizing and protecting the rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer or Questioning, with the plus sign (+) (LGBTQ+) individuals, including legalizing same-sex marriage and providing anti-discrimination protections. However, there are still regions where homosexuality is stigmatized, and individuals may face discrimination or persecution based on their sexual orientation.

In the past, homosexuality was pathologized, and attempts were made to change an individual's sexual orientation through various forms of conversion therapy (Shiraev and Levy, 2016). However, these practices have been widely discredited, and leading health organizations now condemn them because they are not only ineffective but also potentially harmful. Major medical and mental health organizations, including the American Psychiatric Association, the World Health Organization, and others, have stated that homosexuality is not a mental disorder. This perspective is supported by extensive research and scientific evidence. Promoting homosexuality as a natural and normal variation of human sexuality is part of efforts to promote inclusivity, understanding, and respect for diversity in sexual orientation.

Homosexuality as an Emerging Subculture

Sexual orientation as we understand it today, including categories like homosexuality, heterosexuality, and bisexuality, is a relatively modern construct. Frankowski (2004) writes that in many historical and cultural contexts, the understanding of sexual orientation was different from contemporary perspectives. In most societies, there was less emphasis on fixed sexual orientations, and individuals' behaviors were often more central than their perceived sexual identity. Additionally, the understanding of same-sex relationships and behaviors varied widely across cultures and historical periods.

According to Hope (2009), in many societies and traditionally, heterosexualism was the only acceptable sexual orientation. Heterosexuality is a sexual orientation characterized by romantic or sexual attraction, emotional attachment, or behavior between individuals of the opposite sex. In simpler terms, heterosexual individuals are attracted to people of the opposite gender. It is one of the three main sexual orientations, along with homosexuality (attraction to the same gender) and bisexuality (attraction to both genders). Throughout history and across various cultures, heterosexuality has often been considered the norm or the default mode of sexual

orientation. Many societies have traditionally upheld heterosexual relationships as the ideal or socially sanctioned form of romantic and sexual union. This perspective has been influenced by cultural, religious, and social norms that prescribe specific roles and expectations for individuals based on their gender.

In traditional settings, expectations for heterosexual relationships were often tied to procreation, family structures, and social order. These norms varied widely across different cultures and historical periods, but heterosexual unions were typically seen as integral to the continuation of family lines and the societal structure. Religious teachings and cultural beliefs have played a significant role in shaping attitudes toward sexuality, and in many traditional contexts, heterosexuality has been endorsed and sometimes enforced as the accepted norm. Frankowski (2004) maintains that in some cases, deviations from this norm were stigmatized, and individuals who engaged in same-sex relationships or expressed non-heteronormative identities could face discrimination or persecution. However, in the context of changing social attitudes and increased awareness of LGBTQ+ rights, there has been a shift in many societies toward more inclusive and accepting perspectives that recognize the validity of various sexual orientations, including heterosexuality.

Homosexuality is emerging as a major subculture. Homosexuality has existed throughout history, and it is not accurate to characterize it as an "emerging" subculture. The experiences of LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and other related identities) individuals have been present across various societies and cultures for centuries. While the social acceptance and visibility of LGBTQ+ individuals have evolved over time, especially in recent decades, it's important to recognize that homosexuality is not a new phenomenon or subculture. LGBTQ+ people have always existed, even if their visibility and acceptance have varied across different cultures and historical periods. The modern LGBTQ+ rights movement, often associated with the Stonewall riots in 1969, played a significant role in challenging societal norms, advocating for equal rights, and fostering greater visibility for the LGBTQ+ community. This movement has contributed to positive changes in legal, social, and cultural attitudes toward homosexuality in many parts of the world (Frankowski, 2004).

Homosexuality is a culture that drives the gay movement. generally embracing the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ+) rights movement, which advocates for the rights, acceptance, and equal treatment of individuals regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. The movement has evolved over time and has made significant progress in many parts of the world. The homosexual or gay movement set out to pursue gay rights.

Elements of Gay Rights

Gay rights refer to the legal and social rights of individuals who identify as gay or lesbian, which are part of the broader LGBTQ+ rights movement. Garretson (2018) identified some of these rights to include the pursuit of equal treatment, non-discrimination, and recognition of the rights of individuals regardless of their sexual orientation. These rights include among other things:

- i. Decriminalization: Advocacy for the removal of laws that criminalize consensual same-sex relationships. In many parts of the world, individuals have faced legal consequences solely based on their sexual orientation.
- ii. Anti-Discrimination Laws: Efforts to enact and strengthen laws that protect gay individuals from discrimination in various aspects of life, such as employment, housing, education, and public services.

- iii. Recognition for Same-Sex Relationships: The fight for legal recognition of same-sex relationships, including the right to marry and enjoy the same legal benefits and responsibilities as heterosexual couples.
- iv. Healthcare Equality: Addressing disparities in healthcare, including access to services, without discrimination based on sexual orientation.
- v. Parental rights: Advocacy for equal parental rights for LGBTQ+ individuals, ensuring they have the same legal rights and protections as heterosexual parents.
- vi. Education and Awareness: Promoting education and awareness to reduce stigma, challenge stereotypes, and foster understanding about gay individuals and the LGBTQ+ community as a whole.
- vii. Military Service: Advocating for the right of gay individuals to serve openly in the military without facing discrimination or discharge based on their sexual orientation.
- viii. Asylum and Refugee Rights: Recognition of the persecution faced by LGBTQ+ individuals in some countries and advocacy for their right to seek asylum and refuge in countries where they can live free from discrimination and violence.
- ix. HIV/AIDS Awareness and Prevention: Given historical associations and stigmas, the gay rights movement has often been involved in raising awareness about HIV/AIDS, advocating for prevention, and supporting those affected.

It is not out of place to state here that significant progress has been made in many places, although challenges and disparities still exist globally. Different countries and regions have varying levels of legal recognition and protection for gay rights. Activists and organizations continue to work toward the goal of achieving full equality, acceptance, and human rights for individuals of all sexual orientations. The promotion of this homosexual culture has made a few milestones.

Milestones of the Homosexual Movement

The homosexual or gay rights movement is diverse, encompassing various identities and issues within the LGBTQ+ spectrum. While progress has been made, challenges and discrimination still persist in many parts of the world. The movement continues to advocate for equal rights, social acceptance, and the dismantling of discriminatory practices. Bernstein (2002) have identified some of the milestones achieved to include:

- i. Many countries have decriminalized homosexuality over the years, removing legal penalties for same-sex relationships.
- ii. Advancement in anti-discrimination laws as various countries and regions have implemented anti-discrimination laws to protect LGBTQ+ individuals in areas such as employment, housing, and public services.
- iii. Same-sex marriage is being legalised in many places around the world. The fight for marriage equality has been a significant focus of the movement. Many countries and regions have legalized same-sex marriage, granting LGBTQ+ couples the same legal rights and recognition as heterosexual couples.
- iv. Before now, it was the greatest cause of depression and suicide to come out as homosexual or gay. There has been a push for increased visibility and positive representation of LGBTQ+ individuals in media, politics, and other areas of public life to challenge stereotypes and promote understanding.
- v. HIV/AIDS activism has gained momentum and achieved a lot in terms of homosexual or gay patients getting medical attention. The LGBTQ+ community has played a crucial role in raising awareness about HIV/AIDS and advocating for research, treatment, and support for affected individuals.

- vi. The quest for the recognition of transgender rights have succeeded in many places. In addition to the broader LGBTQ+ movement, there has been a specific focus on transgender rights, including legal recognition of gender identity, access to healthcare, and protection against discrimination.

Activists and organizations are still working globally to address LGBTQ+ rights, though progress varies widely from country to country. The next question is what the implication of this is in a multicultural society.

The Multicultural Society

The multicultural society is one in which various cultural groups coexist, interact, and contribute to the overall social fabric. In such societies, people from diverse backgrounds, ethnicities, religions, languages, and traditions live together. Gasimova (2022) states that the concept of multiculturalism recognizes and values the differences among these groups, promoting inclusivity, understanding, and respect for cultural diversity. The multicultural society must recognize the diversity of cultures. Recognising and embracing cultural diversity is essential for fostering tolerance, understanding, and inclusivity within societies. It can lead to increased creativity, innovation, and a broader perspective on global issues. However, challenges such as cultural clashes, stereotyping, and discrimination may arise, requiring efforts to promote cultural sensitivity, education, and dialogue to build a more harmonious and inclusive world.

The multicultural society must promote inclusivity. This is essential for creating a positive and supportive atmosphere in various settings, including workplaces, educational institutions, communities, and societies at large. By embracing inclusivity, organizations and communities can benefit from the diverse perspectives, talents, and experiences of their members, leading to increased creativity, innovation, and overall well-being for everyone involved. The multicultural society is one that is characterised by a number of features and these are subsequently briefly discussed.

Cultural Diversity

Cultural diversity refers to the presence of various cultural groups with distinct practices, beliefs, customs, languages, and traditions within a society, organization, or community. This diversity can manifest at various levels, including national, regional, and local scales. Cultural diversity is a dynamic and complex concept that reflects the unique identities of different communities and individuals. It involves a wide range of cultures, traditions, and belief systems coexist within the same geographic or social space. Gasimova (2022) observes that cultural diversity often includes differences in ethnicity and race, encompassing the unique histories, traditions, and experiences of various racial and ethnic groups. Different religious beliefs and practices contribute to cultural diversity. Various faiths coexist within a society, each shaping the world-view and values of its followers. Linguistic diversity is a significant aspect of cultural diversity. Multiple languages may be spoken within a community, leading to a rich tapestry of communication. Cultural diversity is expressed through a wide range of traditions, customs, rituals, and ceremonies that distinguish one cultural group from another.

Diverse forms of art, music, dance, literature, and other cultural expressions contribute to the richness of cultural diversity. Different culinary traditions and food practices showcase cultural diversity. Food often becomes a tangible and enjoyable way to experience and appreciate diverse cultures. Varied cultural backgrounds bring different sets of values, social norms, and ethical principles, influencing how individuals within a community perceive and interact with

the world. Cultural diversity is shaped by unique historical experiences, including migration patterns, colonization, and interactions between different cultural groups over time. The diversity in clothing styles, traditional attire, and fashion choices reflects cultural identities and practices. Cultural diversity contributes to a multitude of world-views, shaping how individuals perceive reality, relationships, and their roles in society

Inclusivity

Inclusivity refers to the practice or policy of providing equal access, opportunities, and treatment to all individuals, regardless of their differences or characteristics. It involves creating an environment that respects and values diversity, where everyone feels welcomed, respected, and able to fully participate. Wayland (1997) states that inclusivity goes beyond mere tolerance; it actively seeks to embrace and celebrate differences, fostering a sense of belonging for all members of a community or organization. All individuals, regardless of their cultural background, are encouraged to participate fully in the social, economic, and political aspects of the society. Inclusive environments ensure that all individuals have equal access to opportunities, resources, and benefits, irrespective of their background, identity, or abilities. Inclusivity acknowledges and appreciates the diversity of individuals, including differences in race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, physical abilities, religion, and other characteristics.

Gasimova (2022) maintains that an inclusive culture promotes mutual respect and treats every individual with dignity, recognizing the inherent worth of each person. Inclusive practices involve making physical spaces, information, technology, and communication accessible to everyone, considering the diverse needs of individuals. Inclusive environments strive to represent the diversity of their community or organization in leadership, decision-making processes, and other influential roles. Inclusivity encourages cultural competence, where individuals and institutions actively seek to understand and appreciate different cultural perspectives, customs, and practices. Efforts are made to use inclusive language that respects and reflects the diversity of individuals, avoiding language that may marginalize or exclude certain groups.

Inclusive societies have policies in place to prevent discrimination and harassment, providing a mechanism for reporting and addressing such incidents. Inclusivity involves ongoing education and awareness initiatives to promote understanding, empathy, and open dialogue about diversity-related issues. Inclusive environments encourage collaboration and active participation from all individuals, valuing the unique contributions each person brings to the collective effort.

Respect for Difference

Respect for difference is a fundamental principle that underscores the value of acknowledging, appreciating, and honoring the diversity that exists among individuals and groups. Gasimova (2022) observes that this concept is closely related to the broader ideas of tolerance, acceptance, and inclusivity. Respecting differences involves recognizing that people have unique characteristics, backgrounds, perspectives, and identities, and it emphasizes the importance of treating all individuals with dignity and understanding, regardless of these distinctions. People in a multicultural society appreciate and respect the unique characteristics, values, and practices of various cultural groups. Respect for difference starts with acknowledging and recognizing the diverse range of identities and backgrounds that exist within a community, organization, or society. Being open-minded means being receptive to different viewpoints, ideas, and ways of

life. It involves a willingness to listen, learn, and adapt one's perspective based on a broader understanding of diverse experiences.

Respecting differences includes being culturally sensitive, understanding and appreciating the customs, traditions, and values of various cultural groups, and avoiding stereotypes or biases. Empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of others. It plays a crucial role in fostering respect for difference by promoting compassion and a deeper connection with people who have different life experiences. Beyond mere acknowledgement, respecting differences involves placing positive value on diversity and recognizing it as a source of strength, enrichment, and innovation within a community or organization. Respect for difference requires actively working against discrimination and bias. This involves promoting fairness, equal opportunities, and challenging any form of prejudice or stereotyping.

Inclusivity is closely tied to respect for difference. It involves creating environments where everyone feels welcome, valued, and included, regardless of their background or identity. When conflicts arise due to differences, a respectful approach involves seeking understanding, promoting open communication, and finding constructive solutions that respect the dignity and rights of all parties involved. Respecting differences goes beyond tolerance; it involves celebrating and embracing the unique qualities, perspectives, and contributions of each individual or group. Promoting education and awareness about different cultures, perspectives, and identities is crucial for cultivating a culture of respect for difference.

Equal Opportunities

Multicultural societies strive to provide equal opportunities for all individuals, irrespective of their cultural background, ensuring that no group faces discrimination or exclusion. Equal opportunities refer to the principle of providing individuals with the same chances, rights, and access to resources and opportunities, regardless of their background, characteristics, or circumstances. Wayland (1997) writes that this principle is rooted in the idea of fairness, justice, and the belief that everyone should have an equal chance to succeed and fulfill their potential. Equal opportunities are a fundamental aspect of creating inclusive and just societies, organizations, and communities. Equal opportunities require the absence of discrimination based on factors such as race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, disability, religion, or any other protected characteristic. Opportunities should be based on merit and individual abilities rather than on irrelevant personal characteristics. Meritocracy ensures that individuals are recognized and rewarded based on their skills, qualifications, and performance.

Equal opportunities involve ensuring that resources, facilities, education, and employment are accessible to everyone, including those with disabilities or other challenges. Ensuring that individuals receive the same compensation for the same work or contribution, regardless of their gender, race, or other factors, is a crucial aspect of equal opportunities. Providing equal access to quality education and training opportunities is essential for fostering equal opportunities throughout one's life. Equal opportunities involve actively promoting and embracing diversity in various settings, including workplaces, educational institutions, and public spaces. Societies should establish fair and unbiased processes for recruiting and selecting individuals based on their qualifications and abilities, rather than personal characteristics. Providing flexibility in work arrangements helps accommodate different needs and circumstances, promoting equal opportunities for individuals with varying responsibilities and constraints. Multicultural societies implement inclusive policies that actively work against discrimination and create an environment where everyone has an equal chance to thrive.

Cultural Exchange

There is an ongoing exchange of ideas, customs, and traditions among different cultural groups, leading to a rich tapestry of shared experiences. Cultural exchange in a multicultural society involves the interaction, sharing, and mutual influence of different cultural groups within the same community. This exchange contributes to a richer and more interconnected social fabric, fostering understanding, appreciation, and respect for diverse cultural perspectives. Cultural exchange encourages individuals from different cultural backgrounds to interact, communicate, and engage with one another. This can occur through social events, community programs, and everyday encounters. Hosting and participating in cultural festivals and events provide opportunities for various communities to showcase their traditions, music, dance, food, and other cultural elements. These events allow people to learn about and appreciate different customs.

According to Gasimova (2022), multicultural societies often involve the exchange of languages. People may learn and use phrases from other languages, leading to a more linguistically diverse and inclusive environment. Sharing and experiencing diverse cuisines is a significant aspect of cultural exchange. Food can serve as a bridge between cultures, promoting understanding and appreciation for different culinary traditions. Cultural exchange in a multicultural society often involves the sharing of artistic expressions, including visual arts, music, literature, and performing arts. Artists from different backgrounds may collaborate or draw inspiration from one another. Cultural exchange programs in educational institutions promote understanding among students from various cultural backgrounds. This can include exchange programs, multicultural curricula, and awareness campaigns.

In a multicultural society, cultural exchange can occur through diversity training, mentor-ship programs, and initiatives that encourage employees to share aspects of their cultural backgrounds. Media plays a crucial role in cultural exchange by reflecting and shaping societal attitudes. In a multicultural society, diverse voices and perspectives should be represented in media to foster understanding. Cultural exchange may extend to religious practices and beliefs through interfaith dialogues, allowing individuals from different religious backgrounds to share their perspectives and promote tolerance. Cultural exchange contributes to the overall sense of community by breaking down stereotypes, fostering empathy, and building relationships among people with different cultural backgrounds.

Tolerance and Acceptance

Tolerance and acceptance are promoted, fostering an environment where people can coexist peacefully despite their cultural differences. Tolerance and acceptance are fundamental principles that play a crucial role in fostering harmony and coexistence in a multicultural society. These concepts involve respecting and valuing the diversity of individuals and groups, even when there are differences in beliefs, practices, or backgrounds. Tolerance speaks of the ability to recognize, respect, and accept the existence of different opinions, beliefs, practices, or cultures without necessarily endorsing or agreeing with them. Wayland (1997) maintains that tolerance requires an open-minded approach that allows for diverse perspectives, recognizing that people may have different ways of thinking and living. Tolerance is crucial in resolving conflicts arising from cultural, religious, or ideological differences. It promotes peaceful coexistence by encouraging dialogue over confrontation.

Acceptance on the other hand, goes beyond tolerance, emphasizing a positive embrace of diversity. It involves recognizing and welcoming differences as integral parts of a multicultural society. Acceptance promotes inclusivity, ensuring that individuals from various cultural

backgrounds feel valued and included rather than merely tolerated. Acceptance fosters meaningful connections and relationships between people of different cultures. It encourages a sense of belonging and community. Multicultural societies Promote awareness and understanding of different cultures through educational programs helps dispel stereotypes and prejudices, fostering tolerance and acceptance. In a multicultural society, both tolerance and acceptance are essential for creating an environment where people can coexist peacefully and contribute to the richness of a diverse community. By embracing these principles, societies can move beyond mere coexistence to build a foundation of mutual respect, understanding, and shared values.

Language Diversity

According to Mylonas (2012), in multicultural societies, multiple languages may be spoken, and efforts are made to accommodate linguistic diversity. Language diversity in a multicultural society refers to the coexistence and use of multiple languages within a given community or geographic region. It is a reflection of the linguistic variety that arises from the presence of different cultural, ethnic, and linguistic groups. Language diversity is a key aspect of cultural richness, and it contributes to the overall tapestry of a multicultural society. Many individuals in multicultural societies are proficient in more than one language, allowing them to communicate across different cultural and linguistic boundaries. Code-switching, or the ability to switch between languages in conversation, is common in multilingual communities.

In some multicultural societies, there may be official recognition of multiple languages at the national or regional level, reflecting the linguistic diversity of the population. Governments may implement language policies that aim to protect and promote the use of various languages, ensuring linguistic rights for all citizens. Language is often intertwined with cultural identity. Different linguistic groups may use their languages as a means of expressing and preserving their cultural heritage. Multicultural societies may implement bilingual or multilingual education programs to accommodate students from diverse linguistic backgrounds. Efforts may be made to preserve and teach endangered or minority languages within the education system.

Integration

While preserving individual cultural identities, efforts are made to promote integration, encouraging interaction and collaboration among different cultural groups. Integration in a multicultural society refers to the process by which individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds come together, interact, and contribute to a shared community while maintaining their cultural identities. Successful integration fosters a sense of belonging, social cohesion, and mutual understanding among people from different cultural, ethnic, and linguistic. Multicultural societies put in place, legal frameworks that prohibit discrimination based on race, ethnicity, religion, or other factors promote equal opportunities for all individuals. They make policies that ensure equal access to education, employment, healthcare, and other essential services contribute to the integration of diverse communities.

Mylonas (2012) maintains that integration in multicultural societies involves creating educational programs that promote cultural competence help individuals understand and respect diverse cultural perspectives. Including diverse cultural content in educational curricula fosters awareness and appreciation among students. Encouraging participation in community events, activities, and initiatives helps build social bonds and connections among people from different backgrounds. Involvement in civic and community organizations provides opportunities for individuals to actively contribute to the well-being of the society.

Successful integration in a multicultural society requires a comprehensive approach that addresses various aspects of community life. It involves creating an inclusive environment where individuals feel valued, respected, and able to participate fully in the social, economic, and cultural aspects of the society.

Quest for a Multicultural Society and Spread of Homosexuality

Globally now, there is increasing quest for multicultural societies. This quest is looking to build societies anchored on the identified features of a multicultural society. Societies that embrace and celebrate cultural diversity, respecting and valuing the presence of various ethnicities, languages, religions, and traditions within a community or nation. The quest for a multicultural society involves promoting inclusivity, understanding, and respect for differences (Mylonas, 2012). It aims to create an environment where individuals from diverse backgrounds can coexist harmoniously and contribute to the overall richness of the community. Societies that have achieved strategies for fostering a multicultural society include implementing inclusive policies, promoting cultural awareness and education, encouraging cultural exchange, and addressing issues related to discrimination or bias.

The quest for multicultural societies was first and foremost driven by the need to protect minority rights. Minority rights refer to the legal and ethical protections granted to individuals and groups that are considered minorities within a particular society. Mylonas (2012) maintains that these rights are essential for ensuring equal treatment, preventing discrimination, and safeguarding the well-being of minority populations. The concept of minority rights is rooted in principles of equality, non-discrimination, and respect for diversity. Given that many countries of the world are made up numerous ethnic, religious, and linguistic minorities, there was the need to accommodate them in the sphere of national politics. Minority rights include the protection of cultural, linguistic, and religious identities. Individuals belonging to minority groups should be able to freely express, preserve, and practice their distinct cultural characteristics.

According to Johnson (2018), minority rights advocate for equal treatment under the law, ensuring that individuals from minority communities have the same legal rights and opportunities as the majority population. The principle of non-discrimination is fundamental to minority rights. Laws and policies should prevent discrimination based on factors such as race, ethnicity, religion, language, or any other characteristic associated with minority status. Minority rights include the right to participate fully in political processes. This involves representation in government bodies, protection against political marginalization, and the ability to exercise the right to vote. Minority communities have the right to education in their own language and to learn about their cultural heritage. Language rights may include the use of minority languages in education and official documents. Protection of religious freedom is crucial for minority rights. Individuals should have the right to practice their religion without fear of persecution or discrimination.

Minority rights extend to social and economic spheres, ensuring access to healthcare, employment, housing, and other essential services without discrimination. Minority groups should have the right to participate in cultural, social, and public life (Johnson, 2018). This includes the ability to engage in cultural practices, celebrate traditions, and contribute to the broader cultural landscape. Minority rights include protection against violence, harassment, and hate crimes. Legal measures should be in place to address and prevent discrimination-driven violence against minority individuals and communities.

Homosexual and gay culture emerged to align itself with these minority rights. Driven by the liberal democracy of the West where, previously individual choices, most times very unpopular choices have become rights in the light of the individual rights of secular western liberal democracy. Homosexuality as a culture anchored on this quest for the recognition of individual rights to pursue their course. If societies are committed to promoting inclusivity and acceptance of minorities, then, they also have to promote inclusivity and acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community. The societies have to focus on recognizing and respecting the rights and dignity of individuals regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. This explains the reason behind the growing recognition of the homosexual or gay culture.

Conclusion

The quest for inclusive societies is indeed a significant driving force behind the spread of the homosexual or gay culture. The movement for the building of multicultural societies advocates for equal rights, non-discrimination, and social acceptance of individuals regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Inclusive societies reject discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Thus, homosexual or gay rights movement tap into the legal frameworks and societal norms that protect LGBTQ+ individuals from discrimination in various aspects of life. The quest for inclusivity involves recognizing the existence and rights of minorities and the homosexual culture has emerged as sub culture and part of that minority.

Multicultural societies work to eradicate stigmas and prejudices associated with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. The gay rights movement have also keyed into this project and reaping the benefits with increasing recognitions in many countries of the world. In the light of the foregoing, it is not out of place to conclude that the quest for multicultural societies is a driving force behind the gay movement, as it aligns with broader efforts to create environments that recognize, respect, and embrace the diversity of human identities and experiences, including those related to sexual orientation and gender identity. One cannot be asking for recognition and protection for minorities groups and at the same discriminating against groups that have identified themselves as part of the minorities relying on the principles of individual rights as promoted by the liberal democracy of the West.

***Faustinus Uzoma Ogulew**

Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts
Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka
Email: fu.ogulewe@unizik.edu.ng

References

- Bala, M. T. (2017). "Contemporary Minority Rights Issues in Nigeria: An Appraisal of the Extant Legal Regime" *Benue State University Law Journal*. 2017/2018 | 209
- Bernstein, M. (2002). "Identities and Politics: Toward a Historical Understanding of the Lesbian and Gay Movement." *Social Science History*. 26 (3): 531–581.
- Frankowski B. L. (2004). "Sexual Orientation and Adolescents". *Pediatrics*. 113 (6): 1827–32.
- Garretson, J (2018). "A Transformed Society: LGBT Rights in the United States" *The Path to Gay Rights: How Activism and Coming Out Changed Public Opinion*. New York: New York University Press

- Gasimova, N. (2022). "Multiculturalism as the Main Philosophical Concept in the Social Development of Modern Society" *Metafizika (in Azerbaijani)*. 5 (4): 77–87.
- Healey, J. F. (2018). *Race, Ethnicity, Gender, & Class: The Sociology of Group Conflict and Change*. (Eighth ed.). Thousand Oaks, California: Stepnick & O'Brien
- Hope, D. A. (Ed.) (2009). *Contemporary Perspectives on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Identities*. Nebraska Symposium on Motivation. Vol. 54.
- Johnson, K. (2018). "The Struggle for Civil Rights: The Need for, and Impediments to, Political Coalitions among and within Minority Groups". *Louisiana Law Review*. 63: 759
- Mylonas, H. (2012). *The Politics of Nation-Building: Making Co-Nationals, Refugees, and Minorities*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Shiraev, E. B. and Levy, D. A. (2016). *Cross-Cultural Psychology: Critical Thinking and Contemporary Applications*, Sixth Edition. New York: Taylor & Francis. p. 216.
- Wayland, S. (1997). "Immigration, Multiculturalism and National Identity in Canada." *International Journal of Group Rights*. 5 (1): 33–58.