

# Dolopo's Story

"I knew about my sexuality when I was 8 years old, she claimed with enthusiasm. The older I got the more my feelings toward women grew deeper and deeper. At age 15 years old I tried my best to fit in as heterosexual when I tried having a boyfriend, but I was not 100% okay with the idea. I am always comfortable around women my age.

Today, I am a happy and well-balanced lesbian; I thank God for creating me because God knows me better than anybody. "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you and before you were born I consecrated you, I appointed you a prophet to the nations" Jeremiah 1:5.

I was born in London, raised in Nigeria. I am living in London at this moment. I got married to my ex husband in the year 1989 here in London thinking that I would have the opportunity to bury my feelings toward women. In that marriage, we had a daughter who I cherish but I was not in love with my ex husband. Don't misunderstand me, Dolapo said, I don't hate men. I love to speak with men but I don't want their intimacy.

Later in our marriage, I told my husband I am a gay woman, his response was surprising, he said God bless you. I see him as a very handsome man and I know he is heterosexual, as he has always been known to attract different girlfriends.

I have many gay female friends worldwide who are comfortable with their sexuality. Their parents accept them as their children. Being a gay person does not change your attitude, the only difference is that you are gay. Matthew 10:30 "And even the hairs of your head are all counted" this is how much God knows us.

Sometimes people can be homophobic which means they hate gay people. I always like people to be honest with me, so I was honest with my ex husband and myself and I also believe that I was honest to God. "These are the things that you shall do, speak the truth to one another, render in your gates judgements that are true and make for peace, do not devise evil in your hearts against one another and love no false oath, for all these are things that I hate, says the Lord". Zechariah 8:16-17.

My family knew me as an honest person but my mother in Nigeria does not know about my sexuality. The reason why my mother did not know about my sexuality is that I travelled to Nigeria five years ago and my mother was telling me about a Nigerian cross dresser who attended a certain establishment and my mother said "It is a fantasy" but I told my mother that some people are like that and she said again "It is a fantasy". So I kept quiet because I knew she was not ready for me, she already had prejudice about other people that are different, I was not sure she is ready to handle a daughter who is a lesbian. Also it was not time for me to tell her about my sexuality.

I thank God in many ways because God has blessed me in so many ways. "For surely I know the plan I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you". Jeremiah 29:11-12.

You cannot deny your colour, race and should not deny your sexuality. I am now very proud of who I am, you have to believe in yourself, love yourself, be with people who love you, who will build your confidence and who do not hate you, but those that hate you are the worst enemy of all. "You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin, you shall not reprove your neighbour or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbour as yourself; I am the Lord" Leviticus 19:17-18 even if your neighbour is a homosexual.

As a gay woman I will always love my gay friends all over the world because we do not hate anyone. It does not mean because you are gay your daughter or son will be gay. In my understanding of love, it means putting others, first and being unselfish. Love is action showing others we care, not just saying it. To show love we must give sacrificially of our time and money to meet the needs of others.

Christ commands us to love others as evidence that we are truly saved. God is the creator of love. God cares that God's children love each other. I am a member of the Black Lesbian and Gay Christian Fellowship and Metropolitan Community Church both based in London, UK."

Talking about sexuality and relationship with God, and also in the light of prejudice from the Nigerian government, Dolapo (who is a very private individual) broke her silence. Dolapo, now in her 40's, expressed her deep concerns with Rev Rowland Jide Macaulay.