Also Inside:
- Of the Abortion Debate.
- The Hidden Agenda Behind The USA-Africa Leaders’ Summit
- Social Media; a Cancer in the Legal Fraternity

Introducing:
Human Rights Without Frontiers Int’l

What's Wrong with Gay?
Questioning Kenyan Law and Morality
I've see the hills and they've turned to no mountains, but I've seen mere skills and they've turned to great

talents. Day by day we are gaining our grip on our 1st Anniversary and I must say it has been a great year, if not more.

Welcoming you to the 11th issue of Kenyan Legal Magazine, we introduce to you our newest partner, Human Rights Without Frontiers International under the new column "The Human Rights Dialogue". Based in Brussels, Belgium.

Also main feature in this issue, Duncan Ombo explores the issue of same Sex matrimonial unions in Kenya, and the world at large, as well looking into its legal and social history; Maybe its a simple denial we're living in; Find out in this issue.

This being the last blush before we celebrate our 1st Anniversary, believe me that progress doesn't have to be a slow process. Real Issues, Real Kenya. Welcome

REGARDS,

Michael

Michael Opondo O.

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Managing Editor,

KENYAN LEGAL

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Autonomy of Mind and Thought; Still in the Bonds of Mental Slavery

By Geoffrey Mbui,
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In my usual visit to the Critical Societies online library where I have been a regular visitor for the last three years this quote drew my drone and got me thinking:

“The independent habit of thought, if usual in society, will pervade its entire mores, because it is a way of taking up the problems of life. Men educated in it cannot be stampeded by stump orators... they are slow to believe. They can hold things as possible or probable in all degrees, without certainty and without pain.” William Graham Sumner, 1906.

An independent society values critical thinking and appreciate its practice. Its most unique feature is its emphasis on thinking as the key to the emancipation of the mind, to the creation of just practices, to the preservation and development of the species. The state of mind of such society permits the provision of an opinion without being affected by influences that compromise the intelligence of judgment. Unfortunately such societies are few in the world. In Kenya the idea is non existence and represents an ideal not yet actualized. There is no culture in Kenya where critical thought is characteristic of everyday personal and social life.

I imagine a world in which issues are resolved through critical thinking and reasoning rather foreign ideologies and manipulated research findings. Imagine a world which protects, promotes and appreciates maximum freedoms and liberties, a world free from hunger and homelessness, a world in which people try to understand the viewpoints of others without discrimination, especially those with whom they disagree. Imagine a world in which people are encouraged to think for themselves, rather than mindlessly conform. In speaking of human freedom, in his classic essay entitled On Liberty, John Stuart Mill says: [The appropriate region of human liberty] comprises, first, the inward domain of consciousness; demanding liberty of conscience in the most comprehensive sense; liberty of thought and feeling;

Mental slavery affects how people see their own reality. This manipulation has been
through mainstream media, religion, and education. It is expressed through creation, among other things, dependency and an inferiority-complex. It infects every concept from notions of beauty, values, and even the preference of "renting" over the prospect of "buying." Many Africans globally, especially in areas heavily influenced by European domination, continue to wear their wealth on the outside (shoes, clothing, and cars) on the other parts of the world especially Asia people wear their wealth from inside (education).

Mental slavery, also impacts African discernment. Because failure to know oneself also means failure to identify self-interest it is often in this confused state the offense of oppression cannot be located in the minds of the mental slaves. Mental slavery is the only thing between us and liberation. Steve Biko knew this better when he said No longer was reference made to African culture, it became barbarism. Africa was the 'dark continent'. Religious practices and customs were referred to as superstition. The history of African society was reduced to tribal battles and internecine wars.

Our society has been influenced to worship and appreciate anything foreign while at the same time regarding ours has inferior. Last week I come across a post by one of my friends which categorically stated that the most intelligent and civilized people are the native Britons and the dumbest are Africans especially those living in sub-Saharan region. I do not hold the view that we are dump but mentally enslaved to think within the domain limits of others studies, researches and opinions.

Fallen reggae icon Bob marley, in his highly acclaimed redemption song, exhorted the world mainly black South Americans and Africans "Emancipate yourselves from mental slavery, none but ourselves can free our minds." The gateway to mental freedom is through conscious upgrading of your mind. Every historical breakthrough ranging from American Revolution, French revolution to the birth of communism resulted from a breakthrough in thinking.

Geoffrey Mbui is a Fourth year law student at Kenyatta university school of law) 2015