



## Friends New Underground Railroad

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**Maureen Nankya's story – “What I didn't know is that it is not the police or the government which was witch-hunting the gays and lesbians instead it was the public, the common people ...”** A Friends New Underground Railroad Story

Date: 30th Oct 14

This is just part of my story.

If somebody out there asked me if the Anti-gay Law (which was later over turned) hasn't caused a lot of damage to destroy lives, I could simply ask the person to go Uganda and have a firsthand information and experience. Am a lesbian, who lived a secret life since my teenager days. Even when everybody was talking about gay issues in Uganda, I always showed less interest not to blow my cover. But in August 2014 when the Ugandan High Court over turned the Anti-gay Law on technical grounds, I couldn't hide my joy, I publicly celebrated thinking that freedom has come to Uganda and we can now leave freely. **What I didn't know is that it is not the police or the government which was witch-hunting the gays and lesbians instead it was the public, the common people, families and “friends.”** My celebration didn't only attract the haters but people who wanted me dead.

But in July I had heard about the FNUR who were working with local frontline activities. I contacted one of the contact persons, I was assessed along side other 26 fellow lesbians. All the facts about our case were gathered and within 2 days we were on a bus to a neighboring country.

My intention was to end up in Europe, but the politics, the expenses and the red tape, made me change my mind and instead I applied for an open working visa in UAE. It's a strict world here but at least am working and rebuilding my life, in future when I save enough I might apply for other more free countries like US or Denmark.

I want to thank all the QUAKERS who unite themselves under FNUR for saving my life, without them I could be dead. Thanks FNUR, you are my heroes.

Lots of love  
Maureen Nankya

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**Please make a donation to support the work of Friends New Underground Railroad so that we can help other people like Maureen.**

<http://friendsnewundergroundrailroad.org/donate/>

*Thanks!*