

Forming the Akollo Foundation

Stella Shyanguya has spent her life caring for others and supporting social work. After working in both UK and Kenyan prisons, supporting inmates to learn through their sentences, Stella realised that inmates and ex-offenders get very little help and encouragement once they're out of jail. It can become very easy to slip back into a crime cycle and spend time in jail over and over again – unless there is support and guidance to influence change.

“Akollo stands for care” writes Stella. “A few years ago I went through a life changing ordeal: I was imprisoned. I was wrongly accused. On release, I was rejected by family and friends. Many doubted me and I did not understand. Before this, I had assumed all prisoners were guilty. My experience in prison taught me that for all those years, I was wrong. Perhaps there was some injustice in some of these cases too? Back on the outside again, I started from scratch. I decided to help many of those I met on the inside, who were infected with HIV or exposed to high risks through ignorance, denial or forming same sex relationships that made them particularly vulnerable to HIV/AIDs. What I want to do through The Akollo Foundation is to offer ongoing care, support and guidance for these people, their families and their communities.”

After spending 6 years volunteering as a support and friend for a number of inmates in the UK, Stella founded the Akollo Foundation as a way to drive more commitment and support for reformed offenders and influence positive changes on local communities. In many places around the globe, a criminal record can prohibit a reformed offender by resulting in limited financial freedom, discriminatory attitudes and social exclusion.

At the Akollo Foundation, we believe that most people deserve a second chance.

- We are a new independently owned charity
- We do not receive government or lottery funding for our work
- Charity number:
- Company registration number:
- Chairperson and Founder; Stella Shyanguya

What does Akollo do?

We engage in activities that assist former inmates and provide ongoing support to the prison service.

- Run befriending schemes to support offenders in development of reformation
- Offers information sources, referrals, mentoring, guidance and organisations to reformed offenders who need our support
- Train volunteers in supporting, mentoring and coaching
- Run fundraising events
- Run campaigns that encourage law changes in regard to discrimination and civil rights
- Work with organisations to rebuild local communities and social networks
- Act as a voice for reformed offenders to raise issues and influence attitudes

What are Akollo's objectives?

- Rehabilitate offenders, resettle them and get support for HIV/AIDS inmates

- Make them active members of the society and be accepted back into the community
- Give training to enable reformed offenders to get equipped to regain employment and re-enter the job market
- Be a contact point between employers and ex-offenders, assisting in references, interview and CV support
- Provide anti-retroviral treatment to HIV/aids infected offenders and continue this support after release