

# URGENT ACTION

## REPEAL AHA 2023 AND ENSURE ACCOUNTABILITY

On May 26, the Ugandan President assented to the Anti-Homosexuality Bill 2023. The Act criminalizes same-sex conduct between consenting adults and has retained the death penalty in cases of “aggravated homosexuality”. Since the passing of the Act, increasing cases of violence and human violations against the LGBTI people in Uganda have been documented. The Government of Uganda must repeal the Anti-Homosexuality Act 2023 and ensure accountability for the attacks against the LGBTI community.

### TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter in your own words or using the sample below as a guide to one or both government officials listed. You can also email, fax, call or Tweet them.
- [Click here](#) to let us know the actions you took on **Second Urgent Action 48.23**. It's important to report because we share the total number with the officials we are trying to persuade and the people we are trying to help.

**President Yoweri Museveni**  
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**Uganda Ambassador to the United States**  
**Her Excellency Robie Kakonge**  
5911 16th Street, NW, Washington DC 20011  
Phone: (202) 726-7100  
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Dear President,

I am writing to express grave concern about the **2023 Anti-Homosexuality Act** which has criminalized consensual same-sex conduct in Uganda and is in violation of numerous human rights of LGBTI individuals and those defending their rights in Uganda, including the rights to dignity, equality before the law, equal protection by the law, non-discrimination, and freedom of expression and association.

The 2023 Anti-Homosexuality Act has had a devastating impact on LGBTI individuals in Uganda. It has fueled violence and discrimination against them, and reinforced stigma and stereotypes related to homosexuality. It has had a chilling effect on freedom of expression and association, as individuals who support LGBTI rights also risk persecution and imprisonment.

Furthermore, the Act has intensified fear within the LGBTI community who now report that it has emboldened aggression from some members of the public, police authorities, local council authorities, and the courts against individuals based on real or presumed sexual orientation and gender identity.

I urge you and the Parliament of Uganda to immediately repeal the 2023 Anti-Homosexuality Act. I also urge you to promptly and impartially investigate and prosecute all hate-based attacks against LGBTI individuals and organizations. Furthermore, I urge the Ugandan authorities to stop prosecuting people based on their real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

Yours sincerely,

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The Anti-Homosexuality Act 2023 (AHA 2023) is not the first time the Ugandan government has attempted to criminalize homosexuality. Since the striking-down of Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Act in 2014, there have been repeated efforts to proscribe homosexuality including in 2021 with the Sexual Offenses Bill which criminalized any "sexual act between persons of the same gender," as well as anal sex between people of any gender, with a penalty of up to 10 years in prison. AHA 2023 is one of the most extreme anti-LGBTI laws in the world as it broadens penalties and appears to be the first to outlaw anyone identifying as LGBTI.

Since the passing of the Act in May, there has been an increase in hatred, discrimination, and violence against individuals because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

**The Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (HRAPF)** based in Uganda has recorded a total of 149 cases in June and July 2023<sup>1</sup>. The cases involve sexuality related cases<sup>2</sup>, evictions from homes, villages and rented homes, and actual or threatened violence. To date, at least five people have been charged with different offences under the Act. Two of the five were charged in August with "aggravated homosexuality", which carries the death penalty.

The Anti-Homosexuality Act is in violation of Uganda's obligations under both national and international law, including Chapter 4 of the Constitution of Uganda which protects the rights to equality and non-discrimination, protection of personal liberty, protection from cruel or degrading treatment, and privacy. The Act further violates provisions of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights (the African Charter), prohibiting discrimination, cruel or degrading treatment, and prohibition of arbitrary arrests. The Act also violates various provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The UDHR protects everyone's right to express themselves freely, and the right to equality and non-discrimination. Like the African Charter, the UDHR prohibits torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, arbitrary arrest, detention, or exile, arbitrary interference with a person's privacy, family, home, or correspondence. The ICCPR has similar provisions in its articles 2, 7, 9 and 17.

**PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET:** English.

You can also write in your own language.

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL:** November 27, 2023

**LINK TO PREVIOUS UA:** <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr59/6752/2023/en/>

<sup>1</sup>Violation Reports – Human Rights Uganda (hrapf.org)

<sup>2</sup>Cases to do with the real or presumed sexual orientation and gender identity of individuals under the AHA 2023 i.e. reporting someone to the authorities because they are a woman but act in a manly way leading to the assumption that they are a lesbian or transgender