



Press Statement

Uganda: The Anti-Homosexuality Bill, 2023 is regressive and does not meet human rights standards

Sexual orientation and gender identity of consenting adults is a private matter beyond the realm of criminal legislation

(Kampala, Uganda / 13 March 2023) – Ten years after the court nullification of the anti-homosexuality law, the Ugandan legislature has retabled and commenced the process to re-enact the Anti-Homosexuality Bill, 2023. The law does not meet constitutional and international human rights standards for the protection of fundamental rights and freedom, particularly the rights of vulnerable, minority and marginalized individuals.

The Bill, in its current form, seeks to prohibit and criminalises any form of consenting same sex relations and self-identification of any sort. It also outlaws what it terms ‘promotion of homosexuality.’ The definition of what constitutes promotion is a catch all provision that includes criminalising provision of services and housing to homosexual individuals.

‘Gender identity and sexual orientation of consenting adults is a private matter, beyond the realms of legislation. Any attempt to proscribe it is a forlorn attempt and an infringement of constitutionally guaranteed rights to privacy and the right to dignity,’ said Nicholas Opiyo. ‘The Ugandan legislature should not target consenting adults because of whom they love or how they identify.’

We condemn all forms of sexual violence against children and adults, no matter the sexual orientation or gender identity of the perpetrator. If the Parliament is intent on protecting children against sexual abuse and exploitation, a human rights compliant approach should be adopted and implemented.

‘No law or Act of Parliament can legislate away law abiding LGBTIQ+ citizens,’ said Clare Byarugaba.

Chapter Four Uganda will engage in the legal process of debating the bill if it is subjected to good-faith and constructive legislative process. We will raise the human rights issues we have around the draft law, over and above the anti-gay rhetoric and euphoria surrounding it.

Chapter Four Uganda stands on the principles provided for under our bill of rights in the Constitution of Uganda and the spirit of these rights in protection of human dignity of all citizens. We urge legislators to debate and pass laws that center the inherent human rights of all Ugandans and not target and ostracize a section of the population.

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