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REPORT ON VIOLENCE AND VIOLATIONS BASED ON REAL OR PRESUMED SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2025

12th February 2025

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1. Introduction

This is the 20th monthly report on violence and other forms of human rights violations on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity/expression since the Anti-Homosexuality Act (AHA) came into force on 30th May 2023. The report discusses cases in which known or suspected LGBTIQ persons were targeted for violence and violations primarily on the basis of their SOGIE as reported in the month of January 2025. This report builds on the reports produced earlier in this series and therefore seeks to build on the data available about the enforcement of the AHA 2023 from 30th May 2023 to date.

2. Methodology

This report provides an overview of cases of violence and human rights violations on the basis of SOGIE that were reported to the HRAPF legal aid clinic during the month of January 2025. The data for this report was collected using both qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection, and it was independently verified and analysed to ensure its accuracy.

Quantitative data was obtained from a review of case files, which method yielded data on the number of cases handled and the number of cases in which acts of violence or other human rights violations were identified. This data was then subjected to a further in-depth qualitative analysis to ascertain the circumstances under which the incidents occurred, in order to ascertain that only cases in which such acts were perpetrated purely or primarily on the basis of real or presumed SOGIE are included in the report.

The data presented in this report is limited by the fact that it covers only cases reported through the HRAPF legal aid network. The report presents a fair picture of the situation for LGBTIQ persons across the country as reported to HRAPF's countrywide network of community paralegals, regional legal aid centres, specialized legal aid desks and the main legal aid clinic, but it may not be representative of all LGBTIQ persons' lived realities during the month, as we acknowledge the possibility that not all cases that occurred in January 2025 were reported to HRAPF's network.

3. Nature and number of cases reported

HRAPF handled a total of 61 cases in the month of January 2025, an increase from the 45 cases handled in December 2024. Out of the 61 cases handled, 21 cases involved actions that directly targeted people for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE, representing 34.4% of all the cases handled during the month of January 2025. The number of victims affected by these violations increased from 23 persons in December 2025 to 28 persons in January 2025.

Out of the 21 cases in which LGBTIQ people were specifically targeted for violent treatment during the month of January 2025, 8 cases involved violence and threats of violence, 6 were arrests on sexuality related charges, 6 were eviction cases and one was a case of discrimination in employment. The incidents affected 28 individuals.

This section of the report provides detailed data on these cases.

3.1. Cases involving actual violence and threats of violence

Cases involving violence and threats of violence against individuals on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE were the highest in January, at 8 cases affecting 10 people, as compared to 3 cases affecting 3 persons in December 2024. 7 of the cases involved actual violence while 1 case involved threats of violence based on the victims presumed SOGIE.

i. Cases of actual violence

There were 7 incidents of actual violence against persons on the basis of their presumed SOGIE, affecting 8 individuals. 5 of these incidents were perpetrated by unknown persons, 1 by members of the general community and 1 by neighbours of the victims. 6 of the incidents involved physical assaults while in 1 case, the victim reported sexual assault in the form of a gang rape. 6 of the cases were registered from Isingiro district and 1 case was registered from Kampala district. It should be noted that Isingiro hosts Nakivale Refugee Settlement where violence against suspected LGBTIQ persons is rising.

The table below discusses these cases in detail:

No.	Case code	Date of reporting	District	Nature of violence	Perpetrator	Brief facts	No. of victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/777/2025	24 /01/25	Isingiro	Sexual assault	Unknown Persons	The client, a transgender woman, was raped by three men who were unknown to her. They forced themselves on her while hurling homophobic slurs at her and accusing her of promoting homosexuality in the area. They also told her they intended to hurt her so that she would stop wanting to have sex with 'fellow men'. She reported the matter at Nakivale police Station. Investigations were still on going and no person had been arrested.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA/778/2025	24 /01/25	Isingiro	Physical assault	Unknown persons	The client was assaulted while heading to the market. The people who assaulted him	1

						accused him of being a homosexual, and also said that it was probably him and his friends who were partly to blame for the unrest in their home country (DRC). The client has for some time been harassed by his neighbours in the camp, who often come and recite prayers to 'cure' homosexuality in front of his door.	
3.	HRAPF/PA/779/2025	24/01/25	Isingiro	Physical assault	Unknown persons	The client who works with an LGBT support organisation was walking home from office when he met 4 men, who surrounded him and blocked his path. They assaulted him while saying that he should leave the camp because he teaches young boys to be homosexuals.	1
4.	HRAPF/PA/780/25	16/01/25	Kampala	Physical assault	Neighbours	The client was attacked by the attendant at a shop near hers in town. She had gone to work as usual and said hello to her neighbour, who did not respond but simply started shouting that she did not want to be greeted by homosexuals, and started throwing things at her. The client was surprised as they had previously had a cordial relationship and, although she reported the matter to the police, the perpetrator has not been arrested.	1
5.	HRAPF/PA/765/25	24 01/25	Isingiro	Physical assault	Unknown persons	The clients were attacked by unknown persons while they were going to a nearby shop to pick some groceries. The attackers beat them severely, accusing them of being homosexuals and causing the area to be cursed. They also threatened to kill them if they did not leave the village. When the	2

						landlord heard about this attack and the reasons for it, he reacted by demanding that the two leave his premises immediately.	
6.	HRAPF/PA/768/25	24/01/25	Isingiro	Physical Assault	General Community	The client had a dispute with their partner, who then went to the client's landlord and outed her as a lesbian, showing the landlord photos and videos of the two of them together. She also did this with the family of the client. Shortly after this, the landlord came home to find the client sitting in the compound having a conversation with two of his daughters, and immediately accused her of trying to teach them 'lesbianism'. He then set upon the client and started beating her while shouting loudly, and this attracted the other neighbours who also joined in the beating. The client was able to escape but was evicted summarily and when she tried to go home, she found that the family did not want her either.	1
7.	HRAPF/PA/769/25	24/01/25	Isingiro	Physical assault	Unknown persons	The client was attacked by a group of men he found in the market while he was looking for food in the evening. They started by mocking him for walking like a woman before they started beating him. He reported to the police but was not assisted, and when the landlord heard about the attack, he evicted the client to 'avoid further issues'.	1

ii. *Cases of threats of violence on the basis of sexual orientation/ gender identity*

In the month of January 2025, HRAPF recorded one case involving a threat of violence perpetrated against 2 persons. The threat was perpetrated by a mob of unknown persons, and was reported from Isingiro district. It was a threat of physical violence/ lynching.

No.	Case code	Date of reporting	District	Nature of threat	Perpetrator	Brief Facts	No. of Victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/781/25	24/01/25	Isingiro	Threats of physical violence	Unknown persons	The client and his partner were attacked by a mob who came to their house and started throwing stones on the roof while shouting for the homosexuals in the house to come out. The clients were able to call the area local council chairperson, who came to the scene with the local area defence secretary, causing the crowd to disperse.	2

3.2. Evictions

Cases of evictions reduced to 6 cases in January 2025 from 7 cases in December 2024, although the number of victims reduced by 1 from 8 individuals in December 2024 to 7 individuals in January 2025. Of these, 4 cases were reported in Wakiso, 1 case was reported in Mbale, while one case was reported from Mukono district. 3 of the evictions were orchestrated by the victims' landlords, 2 by family members and 1 by the local area leadership working with the landlord.

No.	Case code	Date of reporting	District	Perpetrator	Brief facts	No. of Victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/761/25	15/01/25	Mukono	Family	The client's elder brother eavesdropped on a conversation he was having with his partner, following which he reported the matter to their father. The father reacted evicting the client from the family home, and all efforts at reconciliation have been futile.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA/762	26/01/25	Wakiso	Landlord	The client in this case is an LGBT support organisation	1

	/2025				providing health services. The organisation received an eviction notice from their landlord requiring them to move out within the month, and when they reached out to discuss the matter, the landlord informed them that several people had reported that the organisation was bringing homosexuals into the area, and that he could no longer avoid evicting them.	
3.	HRAPF/PA/763 /25	7/01/25	Wakiso	Landlord	The client returned home late one night and found the gate locked. He knocked several times but when no one opened for him, he climbed over the fence. He found his landlord waiting for him on the other side of the fence, and the landlord immediately started castigating him for jumping over the fence, and told him that he no longer wanted homosexuals staying at his premises, an indication that even locking him out in the first place had been deliberate. The landlord ended the tirade by demanding that the client leave the very next morning or risk being arrested.	1
4.	HRAPF/PA/764 /25	22/01/25	Wakiso	Family	The client in this case was forced to temporarily move back home after being forced to move from the house he shared with his partner by threats of lynching from his neighbours. However, two days after he returned home, his father accused him of being a homosexual, and always associating with homosexuals. He told him to go back and stay with his fellow homosexuals, which has left the client homeless.	1
5.	HRAPF/PA/767 /2025	16/01/25	Wakiso	Landlord	The client was arrested, held for a few days at a police station without charge and extensively questioned about his sexuality and his relationships before he was released. However, following his release, officers from that station	1

					went to his home and asked the landlord to evict him because he was engaging in 'homosexual activities', which the landlord promptly did.	
6.	HRAP/PA/770/25	22/01/25	Mbale	Landlord/ Local leadership	The client I this case was warned by the landlord to stop hosting his queer friends at the premises and when the landlord found out that he had merely reduced on his friends' visits instead of ending them entirely, he was furious. He reported the matter to the LC 1 Chairperson, and together they issued a notice evicting the client from his home and from the premises.	1

3.3. Arrests

There was a decrease in the number of arrests on sexuality related charges from 8 cases affecting 12 persons in December 2024, to 6 cases affecting 11 persons in January 2025. In 3 of these cases, the victims were charged with homosexuality under the Anti-Homosexuality Act while in the other three cases, clients were charged with being a common nuisance, 'computer misuse' and human trafficking and 'sodomy' in one case. In five of the cases, the victims were released on police bond while in 1 of the cases, the victim was arraigned before the Chief Magistrates Court of Kiruhura on charges of homosexuality, and he is currently on remand at Kiruhuru Main Prison. 3 of the arrests were registered in Kampala and 1 arrest each registered in Wakiso, Kisoro and Kiruhura districts.

In a disturbing trend, there has been an increase in the number of incidents of individuals being entrapped through the use of gay dating apps, both by police officers and civilians. In the month of January, 3 of the arrests were effected after the victims were trapped into meetings by people with whom they had connected with via gay dating apps.

This table provides a detailed breakdown of the arrests

No.	Case code	Date of reporting	District	Charges preferred	Brief facts	No. of Victims
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1.	HRAPF/PA/771/25	3/01/25	Kampala	Homosexuality	The client met a man on a gay dating app who lured him to a meeting near Lukuli Police Station, where he was attacked and beaten by someone he suspects is the same man he met on the app. The attacker robbed him of his phone and wallet, and then dragged him to Lukuli Police Station, where he was held on charges of homosexuality.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA/772/2025	9/01/25	Wakiso	Common Nuisance	The clients were at home when police officers forcefully barged into their house, accusing them of causing insecurity in the area because they lived together (5 young men) in the same house. They then searched the premises, finding some condoms and lubricants in a bedside drawer. They arrested all 5 of them, accusing them of being homosexuals, and detained them for 3 days at Wakiso Police Station on allegations of homosexuality. Upon their release, however, the bond forms indicated that they had been charged with being a common nuisance.	5
3.	HRAPF/PA/773/25	7/01/25	Kampala	Homosexuality	The client was tricked into a meeting near Lukuli Police Station by a person he met on a gay dating app. The person took him to Lukuli Police Station, where he was held on charges of homosexuality. He was forced to give his phone and password to the 'complainant', who then called several of his contacts to inform them that the client was arrested because he is a homosexual. Upon his release, he found that he had been evicted by his auntie, with whom he used to live, and fired from work because of his sexuality.	1
4.	HRAPF/PA/774/25	25/01/25	Kisoro	Human trafficking and	The clients in this case were arrested on 21 st January 2025 and held at Kisoro CPS until the 31 st of January,	2

				sodomy	2025, when they were released on court order. The arrest was based on allegations by a friend of theirs, who reported to police that one of them had been trying to persuade him to have sex with him, and that the two were trying to extort him.	
5.	HRAPF/PA/775/25	14/01/25	Kiruhura	Homosexuality	The client was arrested, detained at Rwakobo Police Station for 4 days before being produced in court on charges of homosexuality and remanded to Kiruhura Main Prisons. This happened after he was attacked by some men he found in a bar where he had gone to drink. The men beat him until he was unconscious, then dragged him to the police station and told officers that he was a homosexual.	1
6.	HRAPF/PA/776/2025	17/01/25	Kampala	Computer misuse	The client was, in a growing trend, tricked into meeting someone he met on a gay dating app near Lukuli Police Station. The person forcibly dragged him to the station, where he was held for 2 days. Although he was formally charged with 'computer misuse', the police officers continuously told him that they had been reliably informed that he is a homosexual and that is why they had tracked him down and arrested him.	1

3.4. Other violations

There was one case of loss of employment during the month.

1.	HRAPF/PA/766/2025	17/01/25	Mbale	Employer	The client was employed as a chef at a restaurant that also gave him accommodation. He often had his partner visit him at his home, and the manager started to raise concerns that the visitor looked like a homosexual, and	1
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					asked the client to stop inviting homosexuals to the premises. When the client did not heed this warning, the manager publicly called him a homosexual in a staff meeting, telling his colleagues that he had started bringing his fellow homosexuals to the restaurant. The Manager later summarily terminated his employment contract and demanded that he leave the premises, including his room, that very day.	
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4. Comparison with December 2024

There was an increase in the overall number of cases reported in January 2025, from 45 cases in December 2024, to 61 cases in January 2025. The number of cases involving actions that deliberately targeted persons for negative treatment on basis of their real or presumed SOGIE also increased from 18 cases in December 2024, to 21 cases in January 2025, and the number of victims affected by these violations also increased from 23 persons in December 2024 to 28 persons in January 2025.

Cases of violence and threats of violence were the highest number of cases registered during the month of January 2025, at 8 cases affecting 10 individuals, compared to 3 incidents affecting 3 individuals reported in December 2024. The number of evictions slightly reduced to 6 incidents, and the number of victims affected by these evictions reduced from 8 in December 2024 to 6 in January 2025. Cases of arrest reduced from 8 cases affecting 12 people in December 2024 to 6 cases affecting 11 persons in January 2025. A case of discrimination in employment was recorded.

5. Comparison with January 2024

In comparison with January of 2024, there has been a dramatic reduction in the number of cases handled. The total number of cases reduced from 121 in January 2024 to 61 in January 2025, a 49.6% reduction. The number of cases in which individuals were specifically targeted for detrimental treatment on the basis of their sexuality also reduced from 59 cases in January 2024 to 21 cases in January 2025, a 64.4% reduction. In January 2024, the highest number of incidents were cases of eviction, at 30 cases, followed by cases of violence and threats of violence at 25 cases. There were only 4 arrests of individuals for sexuality-related reasons in January 2024.

In contrast, out of the 21 cases in which individuals were directly targeted for negative treatment in January 2025, the highest number of cases was incidents of violence and threats of violence, with 8 cases recorded, followed by evictions at 6 incidents. Arrests

for sexuality-related reasons were 6 cases, although it is worth noting that arrests have increased in the intervening year, with many of them being orchestrated by entrapment through the use of gay dating apps.

The number of evictions continues to decline in a more or less steady trend since April 2024, as noted in previous reports in the series, although there is a general reduction in violence and violations against real and presumed LGBT persons between January 2024 and January 2025. The number of persons affected has also reduced significantly from 73 persons in January 2024 to 28 individuals in January 2025.

6. Comparison with January 2023 (before the AHA)

In January 2023, a total of 35 cases were handled involving LGBTIQ persons, of which 8 cases involved actions that directly targeted persons on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE, and they included 4 cases of evictions and 3 cases of real or threatened violence. There was only 1 arrest. It is thus clear that, although there is a general reduction in cases of violence and violations against LGBTQ persons between January 2024 and January 2025, the number still remain much higher than they were prior to the enactment of the AHA, with cases in which individuals were deliberately targeted for negative treatment on basis of their SOGIE increasing by 162.5% from 8 cases in January 2023 to 21 cases in January 2025.

7. The first 20 months of the AHA 2023 in Uganda

In the first 20 months of the AHA 2023, a total of 1,546 cases involving LGBTIQ persons have been handled across the HRAFP legal aid network, of which 781 (50.5%) targeted LGBTIQ people on the basis of their sexuality, affecting a total of 995 persons.

The breakdown of cases so far is as follows:

Nature of violation	June to December 2023	Jan to June 2024	July 2024	Aug 2024	Sept 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Total number of cases
Evictions	164	132	10	9	2	4	6	7	6	340
Violence	137	121	14	10	9	9	14	3	8	325
Arrests	38	34	11	1	5	3	3	8	6	109
Other forms of discrimination	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7
Total	345	287	35	20	16	16	23	18	21	781

The victims in these cases are:

Nature of violation	June to Dec 2023	Jan to June 2024	July 2024	Aug 2024	Sept 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Total number of victims
Evictions	204	162	11	10	4	4	7	8	6	416
Violence	171	142	15	12	14	10	16	3	10	393
Arrests	59	63	14	2	9	4	5	12	11	179
Other forms of discrimination	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7
Total	440	367	40	24	27	18	28	23	28	995

8. Conclusion

The continued enforcement of the Anti- Homosexuality Act 2023, exacerbates the violations being committed against the LGBTI persons in Uganda both by law enforcement officers and people in their private capacities. It is therefore important that more efforts are concentrated towards the annulment of the AHA. The concentrated cases of violence in Nakivale Refugee settlement are worrying.