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REPORT ON VIOLENCE AND VIOLATIONS BASED ON REAL OR PRESUMED SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH 2024

12th April 2024

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1. Introduction

On 3rd April 2024, 10 months after the Anti-Homosexuality Act 2023 (AHA) first came into force, the Constitutional Court of Uganda delivered judgment in the Consolidated Petitions No. 14, 15, 16 and 85 of 2023 (Hon. Fox Odoi Oywelowo and 21 others v Attorney General and 4 others). In this judgment, the Court reaffirmed the legitimacy of the AHA 2023, apart from a few sections, and essentially upheld the offences of homosexuality, aggravated homosexuality, child grooming, same sex marriage and promotion of homosexuality. It is thus clear that the LGBTQ+ community is going to have to take steps to adjust to the AHA 2023 as it appears that the legislation will remain on Uganda's law books for now.

This 10th monthly report on violence and other human rights violations on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity/ expression since the AHA came into force discusses cases in which known or suspected LGBTIQ persons were targeted for violence and violations purely on the basis of their SOGIE as reported in the month of March 2024, which marks the 10th month of the AHA's enforcement. 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 reported cases of violence and human rights violations on the basis of SOGIE that were reported to the HRAPF legal aid clinic in March 2024. 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 veracity.

Quantitative data was obtained from a review of case files to ascertain the number of cases handled and the cases in which the particular incidents of violence and violations reported herein occurred. This data was then subjected to a further in-depth qualitative analysis to ascertain the circumstances under which the incidents occurred. Only cases in which there is reason to believe that the actions in the incidents deliberately targeted persons primarily or wholly on the basis of their real or presumed sexuality are included in the report.

As with previous reports in this series, this report is limited by the fact that it covers only data reported through the HRAPF legal aid network, that is, our countrywide network of community paralegals, regional legal aid centres, specialised legal aid desks and the central legal aid clinic. The report presents a fair picture of the situation for LGBTIQ persons across the country as reported to HRAPF but 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 March 2024 were reported to HRAPF's network.

3. Nature and number of cases reported

HRAPF handled a total of 111 cases in the month of March 2024, which marks a significant decrease from the 149 cases handled in February 2024. Out of the 111 cases handled, 52 cases involved actions that directly targeted people for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE, representing 46.8% of all the cases handled during the month of March 2024. There was only a very slight reduction in the number of cases in which individuals were targeted for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE, from 59 cases in February 2024 to 52 cases in March, although the number of victims of these incidents reduced significantly from 82 persons in February to 66 persons in March.

Out of the 52 cases in which LGBTIQ people were specifically targeted for detrimental treatment during the month of March 2024, 23 were cases of evictions from rented properties, 20 were cases of violence and threats of violence while 9 were arrests for sexuality-related reasons. These actions affected a total of 66 individuals. This section of the report provides detailed data on these cases.

3.1 Evictions from rented property

Evictions from rented premises remained the highest category of violations recorded. In March 2024, there were 23 cases of evictions from rented property that were reported to HRAPF's legal aid clinic, affecting 26 individuals. This was a reduction from the 32 cases recorded in February 2024, affecting 47 individuals. The cases were reported from the districts of Wakiso (10); Mbale (2); Mbarara (1); Masaka (1); Manafwa (1); Kampala (1); Kabale (1); Kiboga (1); Kyotera (1); Gulu (1); Kitgum (1); Omoro (1) and Sironko (1). The evictions were perpetrated primarily by the property owners/ landlords (17); followed by family members (4) and local council authorities working with property owners (2). In many of these cases, the neighbors expressed suspicion and discomfort about the victims' sexuality, prompting the landlords to evict the victims.

The table below discusses these cases in detail:

No.	Case code	Date of reporting	District	Perpetrator	Brief facts	Number of victims
1.	HRAPF/PA /449/2024	3/3/24	Kampala	Landlord	The client's landlord informed him that he had heard from some people in the neighbourhood that the client was a homosexual, and accordingly evicted her from the house she was renting. She believes the rumours were spread a by a friend with whom she had had a falling out and who had threatened to make her life miserable.	1

2.	HRAPF/PA /450/2024	4/3/24	Wakiso	Landlord	The client was blackmailed by a friend. The client had offered shelter to his friend, who then refused to leave and started demanding money from the client. When the client refused to pay up, the friend made a scene, loudly screaming for the neighbours to come and help him and claiming that the two had transactional sex but the client had refused to pay. This was immediately reported to the landlord, who asked the client to leave the premises.	1
3.	HRAPF/PA /451/2024	11/03/24	Wakiso	Family	The client was evicted from the home where she was living by her uncle, with whom she had lived since childhood. This happened after the uncle, who had always been suspicious of the client's sexuality because of her choice of dress, looked through her phone in her absence and found her chat with her partner, which he took as proof that she was a lesbian.	1
4.	HRAPF/PA /453/2024	11/03/24	Omoro	Community leaders, Landlord	The client reported that she was being evicted by her landlord and the local leaders on suspicions that she was a homosexual. The client's landlord heard rumors about the client's sexuality through her neighbors and she notified the local leaders, who summoned the client and advised her to vacate their village.	1
5.	HRAPF/PA /454/2024	11/03/24	Gulu	Landlord	The client was evicted by her landlord from her rented room after the landlord heard a rumour that the client was bisexual. This rumour was apparently spread by the client's friend after a falling out between the two of them.	1
6.	HRAPF/PA /455/2023	13/3/24	Kitgum	Landlord	The client's landlord told them to leave his house after he heard rumours from other people in the neighbourhood that the client is a lesbian, because of	1

					their manner of dress and general conduct.	
7.	HRAPF/PA /456/2024	3/03/24	Kyotera	Landlord	The client's landlord cautioned him a few months back about bringing men to the house who look or otherwise act like women, stating that these people looked like homosexuals. In March, the client's landlord asked him to move out, stating that since he had not heeded the warning, there were suspicions that the client was also a homosexual.	1
8.	HRAPF/PA /457/2024	13/03/24	Mbale	Family	The client was chased away from home by his father on suspicions that the client was a homosexual. This followed the client forming a friendship with a man whom most of the people around the village had accused of being a homosexual.	1
9.	HRAPF/PA /458/2024	19/03/24	Wakiso	Landlord	The client's neighbours, being suspicious that he might be a homosexual, reported this to their landlord and demanded that he evict the tenant. In March 2024, the landlord issued the client with an eviction notice.	1
10.	HRAPF/PA /459/2024	5/03/24	Kiboga	Landlord	The neighbours to the client reported to the landlord that he repeatedly brought home men whom they suspected he was having sex with. The landlord relied on this information to evict him on grounds of his sexuality.	1
11.	HRAPF/PA /460/2024	22/03/24	Wakiso	Landlord	The client's neighbours found out that he works for an LGBT-support organisation, and started to question him about his own sexuality. They later complained to the landlord and brought their suspicions to his attention, leading to the client's eviction.	1
12.	HRAPF/PA /461/2024	12/03/24	Wakiso	Landlord	The client's landlord informed him that he heard from different people that the client was badly behaved because he was a suspected homosexual. He	1

					accordingly asked the client to vacate the house he was renting.	
13.	HRAPF/PA /462/2024	12/03/24	Masaka	Landlord	The client, who had several friends that were transgender women, was reported by the neighbours to the landlord for bringing home 'men that behave like women', which they stated made them believe he and his friends were all homosexuals. The landlord believed this and demanded that the client leave the area immediately, because the neighbours had started threatening to attack him.	1
14.	HRAPF/PA /464/2024	13/03/24	Wakiso	Landlord	The client was evicted by his landlord after some of his neighbors accused him of being a homosexual. His landlord relied on these allegations to evict him from his premises	1
15.	HRAPF/PA /465/24	13/03/24	Wakiso	Landlord	The client received an eviction notice from the caretaker of the premises which he rents. The client, who believed he had always been timely with his rent payments, asked why and the landlord informed him he had received complaints about the client's behavior from his neighbors, and that it was in his best interest for him to vacate before the matters escalated.	1
16.	HRAPF/PA /466/24	10/03/24	Wakiso	Landlord	The client was evicted by his landlord on suspicions that he was a homosexual. The landlord informed the client that he had observed his behaviors for quite a long time and the nature of people he usually associates with and he had come to the conclusion that the client is a homosexual, and that the people he usually associates with are also homosexuals.	1
17.	HRAPF/PA /467/2024	10/03/24	Sironko	Landlord, community	The clients were expelled from the village by the local area leaders on suspicions that the clients were	2

				leaders	homosexuals. The clients' landlord together with their neighbors lodged a complaint that they were suspecting the clients to be homosexuals and based on those allegations, the clients were evicted from the village.	
18.	HRAPF/PA /468/24	15/03/24	Wakiso	Landlord	The client was assaulted by her relatives after they learnt about her sexuality, and one of them then went and informed her landlord about what they had found out. The landlord consequently evicted her from the rental premises.	1
19.	HRAPF/PA /469/24	15/03/24	Wakiso	Landlord	The clients' landlady evicted them from their house, accusing them of being homosexuals. She informed them that she had been reliably informed that the clients were homosexuals and that for that reason, she didn't want them on her premises any longer.	2
20.	HRAPF/PA /470/24	10/03/24	Manafwa	Family	The client's relatives held a meeting in early March and they resolved to chase the client away from their family home. They informed the client that they had always suspected he was a homosexual, and that their continued association with the client was damaging their family reputation.	1
21.	HRAPF/PA /471/24	12/03/24	Mbale	Landlord	The client had lived with their partner for 2 years, although the entire neighbourhood assumed they were siblings. In March 2024, the two had a misunderstanding and during the course of quarreling loudly, the client's partner repeatedly revealed information about the client's alleged sexual proclivities which made the neighbours aware that the two were in fact in a relationship. This information was promptly shared with the landlord, who quarreled bitterly at	2

					them for lying to her before she evicted them both.	
22.	HRAPF/PA /473/24	16/03/24	Kabale	Family	The client lived with his sister, who was supporting him financially. She repeatedly complained to him that his friends looked like they were homosexuals, and demanded that he stop associating with them, but he refused. She eventually lost her temper and demanded that he leave her home, stating that the only reason he would refuse to cut ties with the homosexuals was if he was also one of them.	1
23.	HRAPF/PA /474/24	18/03/24	Mbarara	Landlord	The client is a transgender woman who often cross dresses while at home, which the neighbours had repeatedly complained about. In March 2024, thieves broke into one of the neighbours' houses and the client was blamed for this, with neighbours insisting that she probably only dresses like a woman to commit crimes. They demanded that the landlord evict her, which he did.	1

3.2 Cases of violence

There was a slight decrease in the number of cases of actual violence and threats of violence against individuals on basis of their real or/ presumed SOGIE. In March 2024, 20 cases were registered affecting 20 persons, as compared to February 2024, during which 24 cases were registered affecting 32 persons.

i) Cases of actual violence on the basis of sexual orientation/ gender identity

There were 13 cases of actual violence against persons on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE in March 2024, affecting 13 persons. This violence was perpetrated by unknown persons in 7 cases, members of the general community in 3 cases, family members in 2 cases and friends/ acquaintances in 1 case. In 12 cases, physical assaults were involved and the victims sustained serious bodily injuries while in the last case, the victim was subjected to blackmail.

Out of the 13 cases, 5 cases happened in Gulu, 4 cases in Wakiso, 2 cases in Isingiro (Nakivale Refugee Settlement) and 1 case each in Kampala and Jinja districts.

The details of these cases are discussed in the table below:

No.	Case code	Date of reporting	District	Nature of violence	Perpetrator	Brief facts	Number of Victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/475 /2024	20/3/24	Kampala	Physical assault	Unknown person	Client was coming from the bar at around 9:00pm when some persons who were unknown to her assaulted her while accusing her of being a homosexual. She sustained actual bodily injuries during the attack.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA/476 /2024	10/3/24	Isingiro	Physical assault	Unknown persons	The client had previously reported people throwing stones at his house and heckling him whenever they saw him, calling him a homosexual. On 9 th March, as he was walking home, some people he did not see threw stones at him, and one of them hit him on the back.	1
3.	HRAPF/PA/477 /2024	1/3/24	Gulu	Physical assault	Unknown persons	The client was harassed by a group of men unknown to her whom she found at a bar in Gulu city. The men accused her of working with people who promote homosexuality in Gulu and, feeling unsafe, she decided to leave the bar and go home. They however followed her out, attacked her and beat her up while ordering her to stop working with homosexuals.	1
4.	HRAPF/PA/478 /2024	16/3/24	Wakiso	Physical assault	General community	On 16/03/2024, the client was attacked by 4 men while he was walking to his home, two	1

						of whom he knew from his neighbourhood. These men had previously accused him of being a homosexual and verbally harassed him whenever he passed by, but he always ignored them. On 16 th March, they asked him why he was using a route they had prohibited all homosexuals to use, and then descended on him and started beating him. One of them stabbed the client with a sharp object in the thigh at least twice.	
5.	HRAPF/PA/479/2024	19/3/24	Jinja	Physical assault	Unknown people	The client was assaulted by unknown men who tried to rape her while accusing her of stealing their girlfriends. She was rescued by a friend, but felt she could no longer live in that place safely as they men who attacked her could not be identified or apprehended.	1
6.	HRAPF/PA/480/24	1/03/24	Wakiso	Physical Assault	Family	The client was attacked by three strangers at night while he was coming back from his work place. They accused him of being gay because of the way he walks, and ordered him to stop acting like a woman. He made an alarm, and some of his neighbours came out to investigate which scared away the assailants.	1
7.	HRAPF/PA/481/24	1/03/24	Isingiro	Physical Assault	Family	The client was walking back home when two boda boda riders came and started shouting at her, telling her to stop her behaviors of dating fellow women. One of them came close to her and stabbed her in her right forearm with a knife before they rode away.	1

						She reported the matter to the police but there have been no arrests yet in connection to the incident.	
8.	HRAPF/PA/482/24	22/03/24	Wakiso	Physical Assault	Unknown persons	The client was assaulted by unknown people at Salaama Road when he was coming from a bar. While assaulting him, they demanded that he tell all his gay friends to stop going to that bar because the bar was not for homosexuals.	1
9.	HRAPF/PA/483/24	24/02/24	Gulu	Physical assault	General community	The client was in her home when a man she knew by face from the neighbourhood barged in and started beating her, asking her why she was a lesbian. She was worried that he might sexually assault her, so she made an alarm which attracted her neighbours and they forced him to leave, despite his protests that he was trying to teach her proper manners.	1
10.	HRAPF/PA/484/24	4/03/24	Gulu	Physical assault	General community	The client was at home when a man she knew by face from the neighbourhood came to the compound and told the landlord that the client is a homosexual. When she tried to defend herself and deny these allegations, the man instead turned on her and started beating her, asking why she was making him look like a fool spreading false rumours yet he knew for a fact that the client was a homosexual.	1
11.	HRAPF/PA/485/24	16/03/24	Gulu	Physical assault	Unknown persons	The client was attacked by a group of people, all of whom were unfamiliar to her. They	1

						informed her that they had been monitoring her for some time and had noticed that she sometimes cross-dressed when leaving home yet she was a man (as perceived by them). They demanded that she 'behave normally', and threatened to return if she did not.	
12.	HRAPF/PA/487/24	23/03/24	Gulu	Physical assault	Unknown persons	The client was assaulted by two of his brothers due to the fact that they were suspecting him of being a homosexual. They accused him of hanging out with friends who are a bad influence and whom they have always known to be homosexuals in the area.	1
13.	HRAPF/PA/492/24	23/3/24	Wakiso	Blackmail	Friend	The client stated that his friend learnt about his sexuality, and he keeps threatening that he is going to report him to his family and to his wife. This friend has on several occasions also threatened to mobilise people to beat the client if he does not renounce homosexuality and repent.	1

ii) Cases involving threats of violence based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity

A total of 7 cases involving threats of violence against persons on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE were reported in March 2024, affecting 7 persons. All these were threats of physical violence.

The threats were perpetrated by persons unknown to the clients in 3 cases, friends and acquaintances of the victims in 2 cases, members of the general community in 1 case and the victims' relatives in 1 case.

2 of these cases happened in Wakiso, 2 cases in Gulu, 1 case each happened in Jinja, Mbale and Kasese districts.

This table provides a detailed breakdown of the threats:

No.	Case code	Date of reporting	District	Nature of threat	Perpetrator	Brief facts	Number of Victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/488/24	12 /3/24	Wakiso	Threat of physical harm	Acquaintances	The client stated that his bosses and workmates learnt about his sexuality after his was outed by some of his friends. He was immediately terminated from work, and he left, but his former work colleagues keep harassing him and threatening to find him and beat him.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA/489/24	25/03/24	Gulu	Threat of physical violence	Unknown persons	The client reported receiving threatening messages through his social media and SMS demanding that he stop hanging out with some males in his area as he was trying to spread homosexuality. The messages were also sent through some of his friends' phones, always threatening to find and beat him up. In March 2024, a letter with the same threats was shoved under his door while he was away from home. Despite reporting all these to the police, there have been no arrests made in connection with the matter, nor has there been any progress on the investigation.	1
3.	HRAPF/PA/490/24	25/03/24	Gulu	Threat of physical violence	Unknown persons	The client has been receiving threatening messages via his mobile phone from persons who are known to him, telling him that he should vacate their village because he is a homosexual, that if he doesn't vacate their village, they will ensure that he is killed.	1
4.	HRAPF/PA/491/	23/03/24	Jinja	Threat of physical	Unknown persons	The client has been receiving threats of violence from some unknown persons who accuse him	1

	24			harm		of promoting homosexuality in Jinja and the neighbouring districts. In these messages, usually sent through his social media, the perpetrators demand to know why he is always the one who works with lawyers he invites from Kampala to free any homosexuals that get arrested in that area, and they threaten to harm him if he does not stop.	
5.	HRAPF/ PA/493/ 24	3/3/24	Wakiso	Threat of physical violence	General community	The client in this case reported being threatened by staff at a bar he frequents, as well as people in his neighbourhood generally. These individuals often tell him they know him to be a homosexual, and threaten to report him to the police or the Local Council authorities. Of recent, some of his neighbours have also started threatening to physically hurt him if he does not leave the area or change his ways.	1
6.	HRAPF/ PA/494/ 24	17/03/24	Mbale	Threat of physical violence	Family	The client works with an LGBTIQ support organisation in her area. When her brothers found out about this, they accused her of also being a homosexual, and threatened to beat her and demolish her house, which she built on a part of their communal land that had been allocated to her, if she does not immediately cease her association with this organisation.	1
7.	HRAPF/ PA/495/ 24	20/3/24	Kasese	Threat of physical violence	Friend	The client, a pastor who had previously been forced to flee after he was threatened with physical violence for allegedly being a homosexual, reported being threatened again by an acquaintance whom he had not spoken	1

						to in months. This person informed him that he knew he had returned to continue spreading homosexuality, and threatened to open a case against him at police and to find and have him beaten if he does not leave the area again.	
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3.3 Cases of arrests

In March 2024, HRAPF handled a total of 9 cases in which individuals were arrested on sexuality related charges. This is three times the number of cases recorded in February 2024. In 7 cases, the persons arrested were charged with offences under the AHA while in 2 of the cases, the persons were arrested due to suspicion that they were homosexuals but were charged with possession of opium and unnatural offences. In 7 cases, the persons arrested were released on police bond, in 1 case the person was released upon paying a bribe and in 1 case, the persons arrested were arraigned before court and remanded.

The arrests registered during March 2024 affected 20 persons. 4 cases were registered from Kampala, 3 cases from Wakiso and 1 case each from Jinja and Nakasongola districts.

This table provides a detailed breakdown of the arrests

No.	Case code	Date of reporting	District	Charge	Brief facts	Number of Victims
1.	HRAPF/PA /496/24	17/03/24	Kampala	Homosexuality	The client was arrested, charged with homosexuality and detained for a day after the mother of a friend of his went to the police and complained that she thought he was having sex with her son (also an adult who lives at home with her).	1
2.	HRAPF/PA /497/24	15/03/24	Wakiso	Unnatural offences	The clients were home when a friend of theirs came to visit. This friend was unfortunately being tracked by the police on accusations of theft, and the police found and arrested him from their home. The officers however also took an interest in why 4	4

					young men were living together, and took their phones forcefully and went through them while expressing suspicion that they might be gay. One of the phone had a porn video downloaded from the internet featuring two men. The officers concluded that this meant the four were all gay, so they arrested and took them to Wakiso Police Station as well. They were later arraigned on charges of having carnal knowledge against the order of nature and remanded to prison.	
3.	HRAPF/PA/499/24	19/03/24	Wakiso	Homosexuality	One of the clients in this case took a friend home to visit and they spent the night. In the morning, the mother of one of them came to the room to wake her up, and when she found out that the two had shared a room, she lost her temper, went to the police station and had them both arrested. In her statement, she stated that she had always suspected that her daughter was involved in homosexuality but had never been able to prove it or find the person who recruited her, but that clearly the friend she had brought home was the recruiter.	2
4.	HRAPF/PA/500/24	13/3/24	Wakiso	Possession of opium	The clients were at a bar in Nabweru when police officers came in, went up to them and told them that the police had been reliably informed that the bar regularly hosts homosexuals, and that they were clearly also homosexuals who were recruiting other young men. The three were immediately taken to the police station, but when the lawyers went to follow up on the case, the charge was amended to possession of narcotics without valid reason for the	3

					initial charge or the amendment.	
5.	HRAPF/PA /501/24	12/3/24	Jinja	Homosexuality	The client went to visit a friend and while they were at home, the friend's mother returned and found them sitting together outside the house. She immediately lost her temper and insisted that she knew the client must be one of the homosexuals recruiting her son, and that the two probably had sex while she was gone. She locked them in the house, went to the police station and returned with two officers who arrested the client.	1
6.	HRAPF/PA /502/24	22/3/24	Kampala	Homosexuality	The client was in a bar and after he got drunk, he approached a man in the bar and danced close to him, making suggestive moves and remarks to him. The other patrons who noticed this turned on him, some beat him up while others verbally abused him. One of them called a police officer from Kira Road Police Station, whom they told that the client had attempted to seduce and sexually assault a patron, leading to his arrest.	1
7.	HRAPF/PA /503/24	22/3/24	Kampala	Homosexuality	The clients were arrested from a bar near Owino market. When the police officers arrived, they detained all people who were found in the bar and searched their belongings, and they found condoms and a few sachets of personal lubricant in one of the clients' bags. On this basis alone, the officers concluded that they were all homosexuals, and they drove them to Old Kampala Police Station, where they were charged with homosexuality.	6
8.	HRAPF/PA /503/24	22/3/24	Kampala	Attempted homosexuality	The client was arrested after a few of his friends complained to the police that he often touches them	1

					inappropriately. They complained that they thought he wanted to recruit them into homosexuality.	
9.	HRAPF/PA/504/24	4/3/24	Nakasongola	Attempted homosexuality	The client was arrested upon a complaint from one of his friends that he was trying to recruit him into homosexuality. The client was surprised by this allegation as there had never been anything sexual between the two of them. The arrest was however made public, leading to the client being outed as gay throughout the village. The client's friend insisted on being paid Ugx 1,000,000 as compensation, which the client's relatives felt compelled to pay to secure his freedom.	1

7. Comparison with February 2024

There has been a reduction in the overall number of cases reported as well as the number of cases involving actions that deliberately targeted persons for negative treatment on basis of their real or presumed SOGIE. In February 2024, a total of 149 cases involving LGBTI persons were reported as compared to 111 cases in March 2024. In terms of cases that specifically targeted individuals on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE, there was a reduction from 59 cases affecting 82 persons in February 2024, to 52 cases affecting 66 persons in March 2024.

In both months, the highest number of cases registered were evictions, with 32 evictions affecting 47 persons in February 2024 and 23 evictions affecting 26 persons in March. The cases of violence and threats of violence slightly decreased from 24 cases affecting 32 persons in February, 2024 to 20 cases affecting 20 persons in March 2024. Cases of arrests on sexuality related charges dramatically increased from 3 in February 2024 affecting 3 persons to 9 cases affecting 20 persons in March 2024.

8. Comparison with the period from 1st March 2023 to 31st March 2023

In March 2023, a total of 47 cases were handled involving LGBTIQ persons, of which 25 cases involved actions that directly targeted persons on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE (43.2% of all cases handled). The actions in these cases affected a total of 58 people and included 18 cases of real or threatened violence, 5 eviction cases and 2 arrests on sexuality related charges.

In contrast, 111 cases involving LGBTIQ persons were handled in March 2024, of which 52 involved actions of targeted/deliberate homophobia (46.8% of all cases handled) and 66 persons were affected. This represents a total percentage increase of 136.2% in the total number of cases reported, and an increase of 108% in the number of cases of deliberate homophobia between the two months before and after the AHA.

9. The first ten months of the AHA 2023 in Uganda

In the first ten months of the AHA 2023, a total of 903 cases involving LGBTIQ persons have been handled across the legal aid network, of which 520 (57.6%) targeted LGBTIQ people on the basis of their sexuality, affecting a total of 664 persons. The breakdown of cases so far is as follows:

Nature of violation	June 2023	July 2023	August 2023	September 2023	October 2023	November 2023	December 2023	January 2024	February 2024	March 2024	Total number of cases
Evictions	19	26	22	22	28	20	27	30	32	23	249
Violence	23	21	19	24	27	9	14	25	24	20	206
Arrests	4	6	6	3	6	7	6	4	3	9	54
Other forms of discrimination	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	6
Total	46	53	47	49	64	39	47	59	59	52	515

The victims in these cases are:

Nature of violation	June 2023	July 2023	August 2023	September 2023	October 2023	November 2023	December 2023	January 2024	February 2024	March 2024	Total number of victims
Evictions	20	33	26	31	37	24	33	35	47	26	312
Violence	23	24	22	37	35	10	20	32	32	20	255
Arrests	7	10	11	5	10	7	9	6	3	20	88

Other forms of discrimination	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	6
Total	50	67	59	73	85	44	62	73	82	66	661

In the same 10 months period from June 2022 to March 2023, a total of 389 LGBTIQ cases were handled, of which 140 cases (35.9%) contained actions that deliberately targeted LGBTIQ persons for detrimental treatment. This translates to an increase of 514 cases in the overall total number of cases handled, from the period of June 2022 to March 2023 to the same 10 month period following the enactment of the AHA. Similarly, the number of cases of deliberate homophobia have increased by 375 from 140 cases in June 2022 to March 2023 to 515 from June 2023 to March 2024.

7. Conclusion

As the Anti-Homosexuality Act moves inexorably towards one year of implementation with no real hope of a reversal of this legislation in the near future, we note with concern that the attacks and harassment against LGBTIQ+ persons in the criminal justice system have started to spill over more and more often to legal aid service providers/ lawyers providing services to suspected LGBTIQ persons. In the month of March 2024, a HRAPF lawyer was arrested and detained for more than two hours after officials from the Office of the Directorate of Public Prosecution took offence at the lawyer's defence of a suspected gay man. These attacks not only interfere with the work of the lawyers but also violate our clients' non-derogable right to a fair trial, and this new trend continues to underscore the heavily negative impact of the AHA 2023 on the lives and rights of LGBTQ persons.

It remains to be seen whether the few positive pronouncements in the recent Constitutional Court judgment that nullified sections 3(2)(c), 9, 11(2)(d) and 14 of the AHA 2023 will be sufficient to address the rampant evictions, violence against and access to health and justice challenges for suspected LGBTQ+ persons within the framework of enforcing the AHA 2023.