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

13th MARCH 2025

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1. Introduction

This is the 21st 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 purely on the basis of their SOGIE as reported in the month of February 2025.

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 February 2025. Quantitative data for this report 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. All data reported has been independently verified to ensure its accuracy.

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 February 2025 were reported to HRAPF's network.

3. Nature and number of cases reported

HRAPF handled a total of 41 cases in the month of February 2025, a decrease from the 61 cases handled in January 2025. Out of the 41 cases handled, 14 cases involved actions that directly targeted people for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE, representing 34.1% of all the cases handled during the month of February 2025. The number of victims affected by these violations reduced from 28 persons in January 2025 to 19 persons in February 2025.

Out of the 14 cases in which LGBTIQ people were specifically targeted for violent treatment during the month of February 2025, 7 cases involved actual physical violence and threats of violence being committed against the victims, 4 were arrests on sexuality related charges while 3 were cases of eviction.

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

3.1. Cases involving violence

A total of 7 cases involving actual violence were registered during the month of February 2025 affecting 11 individuals, compared to 6 cases which were registered in January 2025 affecting 7 individuals.

Cases of actual violence

There were 5 incidents of actual violence against persons on the basis of their presumed SOGIE, affecting 8 individuals. 3 of these incidents were perpetrated by unknown persons, 1 by family members and 1 by neighbours of the victims. All the incidents involved physical violence and the victims sustained serious injuries as a result of the attacks. 3 of the cases were registered from Isingiro district, 1 case from Kampala district and 1 from Mbarara district. It should be noted that this is the second month in a row where there is a concentration of violence against suspected LGBTQ persons in the Nakivale Refugee Settlement in Isingiro district, with 6 out of the 7 cases of violence on the basis of SOGIE reported in January 2025 having occurred in the same area.

No.	Case code	Date of reporting	District	Nature of violence	Perpetrator	Brief facts	No. of victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/782 /2025	19/02/25	Isingiro	Physical assault	Unknown Persons	The client was assaulted on by unknown individuals who flashed bright lights in his face to prevent him identifying them. They repeatedly called him a homosexual throughout the attack, and warned him to change his ways. He sustained serious injuries as a result of the attack and reported the case at Nakivale Police Station, although investigations are still ongoing.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA/783 /2025	19/02/25	Isingiro	Physical assault	Unknown persons	While the clients were walking in the refugee settlement, they were attacked by a group of people who accused them of being the cause of problems in the refugee camp. They sustained serious injuries as a result of the attack and although they reported an assault case to the police, none of the suspects have yet been arrested.	3

3.	HRAPF/PA/784/2025	19/2/25	Isingiro	Physical assault	Unknown persons	The client was walking to a friend's place when he met two boda boda riders who started shouting that he was a homosexual. He tried to walk away from them but they attacked and beat him up, causing serious injuries all over his body. He was rescued by some men who were passing by, and he immediately reported the case to the police.	1
4.	HRAPF/PA/785/25	27/02/25	Kampala	Physical assault	Family	The client in this case is an A' Level student who was expelled from school on allegations that she was a lesbian. When she was taken back home, her father beat her brutally before throwing her out of the house and informing her that he would henceforth not take any responsibility for her.	1
5.	HRAPF/PA/786/25	24/02/25	Mbarara	Physical assault	Neighbours	The clients in this case reside at a crisis shelter for LGBTQ persons. They were attacked by people in their neighbourhood and beaten on suspicion that they and their colleagues at the shelter are all homosexuals.	2

Threats of violence

In the month of February 2025, there were 2 cases involving threats of violence against persons on the basis of their presumed sexuality. The incidents both happened in Busia, affecting 3 people, and were threats of mob violence.

No	Case code	Date of reporting	District	Nature of violence	Perpetrator	Brief facts	No. of victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/787/2025	14/02/25	Busia	Mob violence	General community	The clients in this case were attacked at a bar where they were drinking together. The	2

						other patrons accused the two of being homosexuals and threatened to lynch them, forcing them to run away. The crowd followed them for some time, yelling and threatening them, but they were both able to escape, although one of the clients was later evicted after the landlord heard about the incident.	
2.	HRAPF/PA/788/2025	17/2/25	Busia	Mob violence	General community	The client was taking an evening walk around the village when he met a group of young men. They immediately started heckling him, calling him a homosexual and threatening him with stones and sticks. He ran away from them towards his house, and locked himself in, but they followed him and continued shouting outside his house, demanding that he come out so that the community can see the face of a homosexual. They later prevailed on the landlord to evict him by threatening to damage the house.	1

3.2. Arrests

There was a decrease in the number of arrests on sexuality related charges from 6 cases affecting 11 persons in January 2025, to 4 cases affecting 5 persons in February 2025. In 2 of these cases, the victims were charged with homosexuality under the Anti-Homosexuality Act while in one case each, the victims were charged with being a common nuisance and impersonation. In three of the cases, the victims were released on police bond while in 1 case the victim was arraigned before the Chief Magistrates' Court of Bubulo on charges of homosexuality, and he is currently on remand at Bubulo Main Prison. The arrests were registered in the districts of Abim, Hoima, Kampala and Namisindwa.

No.	Case code	Date of reporting	District	Charges preferred	Brief facts	No. of Victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/789/25	12/02/25	Hoima	Common Nuisance	The client, got a job at a bar, and the owner's brother took an interest in her. He attempted to initiate a sexual relationship with her and, when she turned him down, he touched her inappropriately, discovering in the process that she is a transgender woman. He reported her to the police, and she was arrested and detained for 1 day on charges of being a common nuisance. Upon her release, the police officers ordered her to immediately vacate Hoima district and find somewhere else to stay and work.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA/790/2025	7/02/25	Namisindwa	Homosexuality	The client was in a taxi which was stopped by a group of people unknown to the client. They dragged him out, assaulting him and accusing him of having 'sodomised' someone. He was then forcefully dragged to the police station, and later arraigned before Bubulo Chief Magistrates court on charges of homosexuality and then remanded.	1
3.	HRAPF/PA/791/25	7/02/25	Kampala	Homosexuality	The clients in this case were arrested after a friend of theirs with whom they had a disagreement went to the station and reported that the two are homosexuals, that they had raped him and stolen his phone as well.	2
4.	HRAPF/PA/792/25	9/02/25	Abim	Personation	The client in this case was employed as a house help but was being harassed by her employer's cousin. She repeatedly turned him down, and when he later learnt through rumours that she was a transgender woman, he reported her to the police station, stating that she was a male pretending to be a female and	1

					was probably a thief. The client was held from 7 th to 9 th February on charges of personation.	
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3.3. Evictions

Cases of evictions were the lowest number of cases registered during the month of February 2025, at 3 cases affecting 3 individuals, as compared to 7 cases affecting 7 individuals in January 2025. Out of the 3 eviction cases reported in February 2025, 1 was reported in Buhweju, 1 in Kabarole and 1 in Wakiso. 2 of the evictions were orchestrated by the families of the victims while 1 was by the landlord acting upon pressure from the neighbours.

No.	Case code	Date of reporting	District	Perpetrator	Brief facts	No. of Victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/793/25	2/2/25	Wakiso	Family	The client was chased from her parents' home after her mother learnt about her sexuality through rumours from her friends. The client's mother evicted her from home and also went to the bakery where she used to work as a casual labourer and requested her bosses to terminate her contract on ground that she is a homosexual. As a result, the client was rendered both homeless and unemployed.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA/794/2025	17/02/25	Buhweju	Family	The client and her partner were in her bedroom at her parents' home when her aunt entered the room. She immediately notified the parents, who evicted the client and also informed most of their other relatives to deny her access to their homes on the grounds that she was a homosexual.	1
3.	HRAPF/PA/795/25	10/02/25	Kabarole	Landlord	The client's landlord gave him notice to vacate the premises by 28 th February on the grounds that the neighbours had complained that the client is a homosexual, and his continued stay on the premises may affect the proper upbringing of their children. All efforts to secure a time extension within which the client could	1

					vacate the said premises were futile.	
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4. Comparison with January 2025

There was a decrease in the overall number of cases reported in February 2025, to 41 cases from 61 cases in January 2025. The number of cases involving actions that deliberately targeted persons for negative treatment on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE also reduced from 21 cases in January 2025, to 14 cases in February 2025, and there was a reduction in the number of victims from 28 persons in January to 19 persons in February 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, and this trend held steady in February 2025, with 7 cases affecting 11 individuals. The number of eviction cases reduced from 6 cases affecting 6 persons in January to 3 cases affecting 3 persons in February 2025. Cases involving arrests on sexuality related charges also reduced from 6 cases affecting 11 persons to 4 cases affecting 5 persons in February 2025. There were no cases of employment discrimination in February 2025.

5. Comparison with February 2024

In comparison with February of 2024, the month when the Anti-Homosexuality Act had been in force for 8 months, there has been a drastic reduction in the number of cases handled. The total number of cases reduced from 149 in February 2024 to 41 in February 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 February 2024 to 14 cases in February 2025, a 64.4% reduction. In February 2024, the highest number of incidents were cases of eviction, at 32 cases, followed by cases of violence and threats of violence at 24 cases. There were only 3 arrests of individuals for sexuality-related reasons in February 2024.

In contrast, in February 2025, out of the 14 cases in which individuals were directly targeted for negative treatment, the highest number of cases were cases of violence and threats of violence at 7 incidents, followed by arrests at 4 cases, with evictions being exponentially lower at 3 cases. 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. The number of persons affected has also reduced significantly from 82 persons in February 2024 to 19 individuals in February 2025.

6. Comparison with February 2023 (before the AHA)

During February 2023, debates on the AHB had reached a crescendo. In that month, a total of 27 cases were handled involving LGBTQ persons, of which 9 cases involved actions that directly targeted persons on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE, representing 33.3% of all cases handled. The actions in these cases affected a total of 39 people and included 4 cases of real or threatened violence, 3 eviction cases and 2 arrests related to sexuality related charges. In one of the arrest cases, there was mass arrest of LGBTQ persons attending a focus group discussion as part of a research study, thus accounting for the high number of victims.

In February 2025, 41 cases were handled, out of which 14 involved actions targeting people for violence and violations on the basis of their sexuality, representing 34.1% of all cases handled. It is worth noting that, although the number of cases handled in February 2025 is definitely higher than the number registered in February 2023, expressed as a percentage of the total number of cases handled, the cases involving acts of deliberate homophobia had already started to rise significantly in February 2023, no doubt in reaction to the tabling of the AHB and the public discourse around LGBTQ rights at the that time.

7. The first 21 months of the AHA 2023 in Uganda

In the 21st month of the implementation of the AHA 2023, a total of 1,587 cases involving LGBTIQ persons have been handled across the HRAPF legal aid network, of which 795 (50.1%) targeted LGBTIQ people on the basis of their sexuality, affecting a total of 1,014 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	Feb 2025	Total number of cases
Evictions	164	132	10	9	2	4	6	7	6	3	343
Violence	137	121	14	10	9	9	14	3	8	7	332
Arrests	38	34	11	1	5	3	3	8	6	4	113
Other forms of discrimination	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	7
Total	345	287	35	20	16	16	23	18	21	16	795

The victims in these cases are:

Nature of violation	June to Dec '23	Jan to June 2024	July 2024	Aug 2024	Sept 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Total number of victims
Evictions	204	162	11	10	4	4	7	8	6	3	419
Violence	171	142	15	12	14	10	16	3	10	11	404
Arrests	59	63	14	2	9	4	5	12	11	5	184
Other forms of discrimination	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	7
Total	440	367	40	24	27	18	28	23	28	19	1,014

8. Conclusion

The human rights situation of LGBTI persons is still worrying. The continued implementation of the AHA has greatly facilitated the commission of human rights violations against LGBTI persons which have majorly manifested through arbitrary arrests, discrimination, inhumane and degrading treatment. Violence against suspected LGBTQ persons in the Nakivale Refugee Settlement remains alarmingly high, with very little being done on the part of the authorities to address it.