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REPORT ON VIOLENCE AND VIOLATIONS BASED ON REAL OR PRESUMED SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY DURING THE THIRD MONTH OF THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE ANTI-HOMOSEXUALITY ACT 2023

13th September 2023

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1. Introduction

August 2023 has marked the third full month of the Anti-Homosexuality Act 2023 (AHA) being in force, and in this month, both the state and the citizens have continued to zealously enforce the AHA in their different capacities, with arrests of real or suspected LGBTQ persons continuing, as well as cases of violence and evictions from rented accommodation. This is a report of the nature of cases affecting LGBTQ persons handled by the Legal Aid Clinic at HRAPF during the month of August 2023.

This report builds on previous reports in this series, which have documented violence and violations of the rights of LGBTQ persons during the run up to the passing of the AHA, the first 21 days of implementation of the AHA, and the first and second months respectively. The report also documents the total number of cases since the AHA came into force, and makes comparisons between August and the first two months, as well as the same period June to August 2023.

2. Methodology

This report contains data on cases handled by the HRAPF Legal Aid Clinic during the month of August 2023 only. The data for the report has been drawn from cases received across the HRAPF legal aid network during the month, including the network of 132 community paralegals, the main legal aid clinic in Kampala, the specialised legal aid desks as well as the regional legal aid centres hosted by partners across the country.

The data was collected through a review of case files, from which quantitative data as to the numbers and natures of cases and cases of violence and violations was ascertained. The cases in which violence and other violations appeared on the face of it to have occurred were then subjected to qualitative review to confirm the basis of the violence or violations in order to ensure that only cases in which such violence was on the basis of the sexuality of the victim were included in the report.

Like previous reports in this series, it is important to note that this report contains only those cases which have been handled and verified by HRAPF and does not cover cases that may have been reported to other legal providers, or not reported at all. The report therefore does not present a complete picture of the situation of LGBTQ people across the country in August, and is thus limited in this regard. However, the report does capture cases reported from across the country through HRAPF's vast network, and therefore presents a fairly representative picture of SOGIE-based violence in light of the enforcement of the AHA 2023.

3. Nature and number of cases reported

In the month of August 2023, HRAPF handled a total of 71 cases across the legal aid network, a reduction from 84 in July 2023. Out of the 71 cases handled, 47 involved actions that directly targeted people for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE, representing

66.2% of all the cases handled during the month. Out of these, 22 were cases of eviction from rented properties, 19 were cases of violence and threats of violence and 6 were arrests for sexuality-related reasons. These actions affected a total of 59 individuals. This section of the report provides detailed data on these cases.

3.1. Evictions from rented property

In August 2023, a total of 22 cases of eviction involving 26 persons were reported, and in each of these cases the eviction was whole or primarily based on the fact that the tenant was a suspected homosexual. The evictions were primarily spearheaded by the property owners, many of whom cited the fear of being in conflict with the law as the basis for the eviction. Landlords carried out evictions of their tenants in 10 cases, followed by family members of LGBTQ persons in 5 cases, followed by neighbours in 2 cases and Local Council I (LC I) (village) officials in 1 case, and property manager in 1 case. In three cases, evictions were by multiple actors - by both the landlord and the neighbours in one case; by the landlord and LC I officials in another; and by the landlord, LC I officials and police authorities in yet another case.

The majority of these evictions took place within the Kampala metropolitan areas, that is, 10 cases within Kampala district itself, and 5 cases from Wakiso district. The other cases were all in Eastern Uganda, 4 in Mbale district, 2 in Tororo and 1 in Bulambuli, representing a definite spike in this category of cases in the eastern region.

The table below discusses these cases in detail:

NO.	CASE CODE	DATE OF REPORTING	DISTRICT	PERPETRATOR	BRIEF FACTS	NUMBER OF VICTIMS
1.	HRAPF/PA/103/2023	1 st August 2023	Kampala	Landlord	The client in this case was evicted by his landlord after the landlord heard rumours that he is a homosexual because he never brought any females to his house.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA/104/2023	7 th August 2023	Wakiso	Landlord	The clients were evicted from the home they shared after the landlord heard rumours from the neighbourhood that the two were a gay couple.	2
3.	HRAPF/PA/105/2023	8 th August 2023	Kampala	Family	The client was forced to move in with their aunt after they ran into financial trouble. After several weeks of living with her, the aunt started to suspect that the victim was a homosexual from rumours in the	1

					neighbourhood based on their appearance. The aunt asked them to move out immediately, calling them an abomination.	
4.	HRAPF/PA/10 6/2023	10 th August 2023	Kampala	Family	The client was arrested and held at a police station near their home on suspicion that they were a homosexual. After their release, they were forced out of the family home, disowned by the parents and rendered homeless.	1
5.	HRAPF/PA/10 7/2023	10 th August 2023	Kampala	Landlord	The client, a woman who had been repeatedly harassed for sex by a male neighbour eventually told him she could not have sex with him because she was not interested in men. He immediately informed the landlord that she was a homosexual, and that she had been seen having sex inside the house, after which the landlord demanded that she leave immediately.	1
6.	HRAPF/PA/10 8/2023	13 th August 2023	Kampala	Neighbours and Landlord	The client was speaking with his partner inside the house when one of the neighbours, who had long suspected the two were sexual partners, eavesdropped through an open window, then loudly called on the other neighbours to come and see a homosexual, after which they demanded that he leave the premises, and then called the landlord, who reinforced the order.	1
7.	HRAPF/PA/10 9/2023	14 th August 2023	Kampala	LC officials	The client was given a written notice by the Vice Chairperson of his village asking him to leave the village, and when asked about it, the chairperson confirmed that as the leadership, they were worried that the village would do something drastic to him	1

					if he did not leave because he was a homosexual.	
8.	HRAPF/PA/110/2023	17 th August 2023	Wakiso	Landlord	The client's landlord asked him to leave his premises after hearing rumours that he was a homosexual, and that he had been having men over to the house which the neighbours found unpleasant.	1
9.	HRAPF/PA/114/2023	21 st August 2023	Kampala	Landlord	The client's landlord asked him why he had only male friends and visitors, and when he failed to explain it to their satisfaction, the landlord concluded that he was a homosexual and demanded that he leave the premises.	1
10.	HRAPF/PA/111/2023	22 nd August 2023	Wakiso	LC officials, landlord, police	The client's landlord heard that he was a homosexual and immediately called the LC Chairperson and the police, who came to the home and advised him to leave immediately or face arrest.	1
11.	HRAPF/PA/112/2023	22 nd August 2023	Wakiso	Landlord	The client was asked to leave the premises after they offered shelter to three transgender women who had been rendered homeless earlier after the crisis shelter in which they were living had faced challenges. The landlord felt that having three 'homosexual-looking' people in the house confirmed that the tenant was a homosexual too, and asked them all to leave.	4
12.	HRAPF/PA/113/2023	22 nd August 2023	Kampala	Manager of the building	The client was asked to leave their rental home after the manager of the premises heard a rumour that the victim was a homosexual. He explained that they would not tolerate 'those kinds of people' in their neighbourhood.	1

13.	HRAPF/PA/13 6/2023	28 th August 2023	Kampala	Landlord	The client, a transgender woman was asked to leave her rented room at the beginning of August 2023 by the landlord, who stated that he did not wish to have trouble with the law	1
14.	HRAPF/PA/11 5/2023	28 th August 2023	Wakiso	Family	The client's father found out that the victim was gay and asked him to leave the family home in anger, and ordered the rest of his family not to associate with or help him in any way.	1
15.	HRAPF/PA/11 6/2023	29 th August 2023	Mbale	Landlord	The client, a known transman, was asked to leave his home by the landlord, who stated that although he understood that the client was a decent person, he was not ready to risk being arrested for harbouring a homosexual.	1
16.	HRAPF/PA/11 7/2023	29 th August 2023	Mbale	Landlord	The client was visited at his home by a transgender woman friend of his, and the following day the landlord came to the premises and asked him to leave, stating that he would not tolerate homosexuals moving in and out of his house.	1
17.	HRAPF/PA/13 5/2023	30 th August 2023	Kampala	Neighbours	The client had his door forced by neighbours when his partner had come to visit because they were suspicious about his sexuality. When they accessed the house, they found the two lying together on the bed and immediately raised an alarm, saying they had found them having sex and demanding that they both leave immediately.	1
18.	HRAPF/PA/11 8/2023	30 th August 2023	Mbale	Family	The client was outed to his wife by the landlord at the office premises as a person working with an LGBTQ organization. The	1

					wife threw him out of their home, rendering him homeless.	
19.	HRAPF/PA/11 9/2023	30 th August 2023	Mbale	Family	The client's aunt was using their phone when she saw a notification from a WhatsApp group with the word 'transgender' in the name. she checked the chat and found out that her nephew self-identified as a transgender woman, and she immediately demanded that they leave her home.	1
20.	HRAPF/PA/12 0/2023	30 th August 2023	Bulambuli	Landlord, LC chairperson	The client owned a drug shop with a room behind in which he lived. He catered to members of the LGBTQ community, who could get their medication from his drug shop free of charge. The landlord reported to the chairperson that he was encouraging the homosexuals to keep coming to the premises, and the two asked him to leave the area immediately.	1
21.	HRAPF/PA/12 1/2023	31 st August 2023	Tororo	Neighbours	The client, a health worker and activist was forced to leave her home by the neighbours, who ganged up on her and demanded that she leave because she was a known promoter of homosexuality in the region.	1
22.	HRAPF/PA/12 2/2023	31 st August 2023	Tororo	Landlord	The client's landlord heard rumours that they were gay and asked them to leave the rented premises where they lived because he did not want to live with a homosexual.	1

3.2. *Cases of violence*

In August 2023, there were 17 cases reported involving violence and threats of violence against 20 persons (a reduction from 21 cases reported in July 2023). Of these, 12 were cases of actual violence against persons on the basis of their presumed sexuality, while 5 were threats of violence.

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 August 2023 affecting 14 persons, with the majority of them being physical assaults (9 cases). There were also cases of extortion (1); verbal abuse (1); sexual harassment (1); and 'revenge' pornography (1).

The violence was perpetrated entirely by non-state actors, with 6 assaults being orchestrated by unknown strangers and 1 case each by family members, friends, neighbours, intimate partners, bodaboda riders and 1 by a landlord's child. In one case, a family ganged up with the neighbours of two people to form a mob and beat them up. The majority of these cases were reported from within the Kampala metropolitan area (4 cases from Kampala and 5 from Wakiso) while the rest were reported in the Eastern region (2 each from Mbale and Bulambuli).

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/123/2023	3 rd August 2023	Kampala	Physical assault	Unknown men	The client was attacked near his house by four men he did not know. They walked up to him as though asking for directions, and when he turned to speak to them, they started beating him around the head and torso, asking him why he was gay. They were scared away by a passing motorist.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA/148/2023	7 th August 2023	Wakiso	Physical assault	Unknown men	The client was threatened repeatedly by men he used to see on the way to his house, although he never paid any attention to them. However, on 4 th August, he found these men and they attacked and beat him up, asking him why he did not heed their	1

						warning and leave the village because they did not want homosexuals in their area.	
3.	HRAPF/PA/12 4/2023	10 th August 2023	Wakiso	Physical Assault	Boda boda riders	The client had been badly beaten by boda boda riders unknown to them at the entrance to their home at the end of July 2023, and was forced to leave the place immediately. When he went back to collect his properties as part of the process of relocating, the same group of men attacked and beat him up again, and although the matter was reported to a nearby police station on both occasions, there have been no arrests.	1
4.	HRAPF/PA/12 5/2023	11 th August 2023	Kampala	Sexual harassment	Landlord's son	The client was harassed several times for sex by the son of her landlord, and when she told him that she was unable to date or have sex with him, he started threatening to have his father evict her unless she gave in.	1
5.	HRAPF/PA/12 6/2023	11 th August 2023	Wakiso	Physical assault	Unknown men	The client was walking to their home at night when they were approached by two men unknown to them, who then proceeded to beat them up, asking them why a man would walk and talk and sometimes dress like a woman, and telling them to stop being a homosexual.	1
6.	HRAPF/PA/12 7/2023	15 th August 2023	Wakiso	Revenge pornograph y	Intimate partner	The client ended a brief sexual relationship with the perpetrator, upon which the perpetrator	1

						threatened to (and later released) photos showing the victim's naked chest through various social media channels.	
7.	HRAPF/PA/12 8/2023	18 th August 2023	Kampala	Physical assault	Neighbours	Three of the client's neighbours attacked them in their home and beat them up after they had returned from drinking at a neighbourhood bar. They threatened to have the client arrested for homosexuality if they did not immediately leave the neighbourhood.	1
8.	HRAPF/PA/12 9/2023	25 th August 2023	Kampala	Extortion	Unknown man	The client was approached through a social media app by a stranger who begged to meet with him, claiming that he was interested in pursuing an intimate relationship. After several weeks of social media conversations, the client finally agreed to meet with the perpetrator, but the moment the perpetrator arrived at the victim's home, he demanded for one million Uganda shillings and threatened to tell all the neighbours and the police that the victim was a homosexual who had attempted to rape him.	1
9.	HRAPF/PA/13 0/2023	29 th August 2023	Wakiso	Physical assault	Friends	The client was called out of his house by three of his friends to go to a nearby pitch to watch football. He went with them but when they arrived at the field (where there was no match going on), they	1

						turned on him and beat him up, stating that they had just found out he was a homosexual and were teaching him that this is not acceptable.		
10.	HRAPF/PA/13 1/2023	30 th 2023	August	Bulambuli	Physical assault	Neighbours, family	The clients were found kissing inside their house by the sister of one of them, who called on the neighbours. They formed a mob and started beating them both, until they were able to escape and run out of the house.	2
11.	HRAPF/PA/13 2/2023	30 th 2023	August	Bulambuli	Physical assault	Unknown man	The client was arrested and detained in prison for over a month on homosexuality-related charges. When he was released, a man he did not know approached him and offered him a job, which he gratefully accepted since he had been fired from his previous place of employment. He was taken to a place he did not know where he found three other men, and they all beat him up, telling him that simply escaping prison did not mean that they were going to tolerate homosexuality in their area.	1
12.	HRAPF/PA/13 3/2023	30 th 2023	August	Mbale	Physical assault and theft	Unknown man	The client owned a small bar in Mbale. Three men came into his bar towards closing time and begged to be let in, which he did. They stayed for over an hour, by which time everyone else had left, then turned on him and beat him	1

						up and took money and other properties from the bar, claiming that they were simply taking their share of 'homosexual money'.	
13.	HRAPF/PA/13 4/2023	30 th August 2023	Mbale	Verbal abuse	Mother of victim's intimate partner	The client had had a relationship with their partner for over a year but when the partner's mother found out, she started to track them. The mother then attacked the client at her home and verbally abused her with derogatory words, alleging that she was a homosexual who was recruiting her child.	1

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

During the month of August, there were 6 cases involving threats of violence against persons on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE from Mbale (3), Isingiro (1), Kampala (1) and Wakiso (1). These cases affected a total of 8 individuals and the threats included 3 threats of physical violence, 2 threats of arrest, and 1 threat of sexual violence. They were perpetrated by neighbours in 2 cases, family in 2 cases, neighbours and the LC I authorities in 1 and neighbours and police authorities in 1.

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
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1.	HRAPF/PA/149/2023	1 st August 2023	Kampala	Threats of physical and sexual violence	Family	The client, a lesbian woman was repeatedly threatened by her uncle, who said that he knew that she was a homosexual and that he would beat her/ get men to 'show her the right way'. She was forced to flee from her home to avoid the implied threat of rape.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA/141/2023	11 th August 2023	Wakiso	Threats of arrest	Neighbours, local council leaders	The victims run a school for disadvantaged children in Wakiso district and often have people from America and Europe, who donate time and resources to the school, come over to meet the children. In March 2023, they had a group of people from Spain, and the neighbours started to claim that the white people were homosexuals who were teaching the students to be gay. In August 2023, they were formally confronted by the neighbours and authorities, who threatened to have the two directors of the school arrested for promoting homosexuality.	2

3.	HRAPF/PA/137/2023	25 th August 2023	Isingiro	Threat arrest	of	Neighbours, police authorities	The client, a transgender woman who resided in a refugee settlement was forced to flee the settlement after several of their neighbours reported them to the police authorities as homosexuals, and the police threatened to arrest them if they did not leave.	1
4.	HRAPF/PA/138/2023	29 th August 2023	Mbale	Threat physical violence	of	Neighbours	The clients were threatened by the neighbours with lynching if they did not leave the neighbourhood immediately. This happened after one of the neighbours peeped into his house and saw him kissing his partner on the lips and told the rest.	2
5.	HRAPF/PA/139/2023	29 th August 2023	Mbale	Threats physical violence	of	Neighbours	The client's neighbours, after repeatedly heckling her and calling her a homosexual for several weeks, kicked in her door and directly told her she needed to leave their village or they would beat her up.	1
6.	HRAPF/PA/140/2023	29 th August 2023	Mbale	Threats physical violence	of	Family	The client's father chased them with a panga and threatened to kill and bury them in order to 'get rid of the family shame' if they ever returned to the family homestead.	1

3.3. Cases of arrest

There were 6 cases of arrests of persons on the basis of their sexuality in the month of August 2023, of which 2 were taken to court while 3 were resolved at the police level. In 3 of these cases, the individuals involved were charged with homosexuality (1 was taken to court); 1 was charged with aggravated homosexuality and taken to court and in 2 cases the victims were not charged at all. These arrests affected a total of 11 individuals, 6 of whom were subjected to forced anal examinations during detention. The arrests happened in Wakiso (1); Soroti (1); Sironko (1); Kyegegwa (1) and Kampala (2).

NB: The cases of arrests reported here exclude cases that HRAPF's legal aid clinic does not handle, particularly those where the person is accused of having sexual relations with a person below 18 years of age, and cases involving persons who have been banned from receiving legal aid services from HRAPF due to violations of the HRAPF Legal Aid Policy.

No.	Case code	Date of reporting	District	Charge	Brief facts	Number of Victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/142/2023	3 rd August 2023	Kyegegwa	Homosexuality	Two people were beaten up by a crowd of angry villagers on suspicion that they had been having sex. They were taken to a police post in Kyegegwa where they were held for 5 days before being released on police bond.	2
2.	HRAPF/PA/147/2023	3 rd August 2023	Kampala	No formal charges preferred	The client met a one Morris (an individual that has become particularly notorious for working with a gang and some elements within the police force to extort gay and bisexual men) on a social media app and unknowingly agreed to meet with him. When they met, however, he found him with a police officer, who arrested him and took him to Rubaga Police post. Morris claimed that the victim had tried to rape him, and demanded 1,000,000/- in compensation. The victim was held for several hours but was later released	1

					without formal charges being preferred.	
3.	HRAPF/PA/143/2023	11 th August 2023	Kampala	No charges preferred	The client in this case met someone on a popular dating app and the two agreed to meet up. However, when he went for the meeting, he found that the other person had come with a police officer. The two immediately grabbed him, took his phone and money and took him to Namasuba Police Post, where he was held overnight before being released the following morning. His property was not returned to him	1
4.	HRAPF/PA/144/2023	18 th August 2023	Soroti	Aggravated homosexuality	The client, a homeless person with a mental disability, was arrested and charged with aggravated homosexuality. It was alleged that he was found engaging in sexual activity with another male person with a physical disability. He was subjected to an anal examination before the matter was taken to court and by the date of this report, he was still in prison on remand.	1
5.	HRAPF/PA/145/2023	27 th August 2023	Wakiso	Homosexuality	Five people were arrested from a crisis shelter in Wakiso and held at Nsangi Police Division for five days on charges of homosexuality. The arrest happened following a violent attack on one of the residents of the shelter by the son of the area chairperson, who claimed that he had been hitting on him. All five of them were subjected to forced anal examinations,	5

6.	HRAPF/PA/146/2023	28 th August 2023	Sironko	Aggravated trafficking in persons and homosexuality	The client was arrested following an incident where he apparently helped someone to get a job from where they were reportedly sexually assaulted by a male person. The allegation was that he was part of a ring that traffics men for this purpose. The matter was taken to court and he is currently on remand.	1
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4. Comparison with July 2023

The data indicates that there is active and continuing enforcement of the AHA 2023, and that in the month of August 2023, both the state and private citizens continued to enforce the law as they interpret its strictures. This holds steady since 31st May 2023, when the law first came into force, and is unlikely to stop as long as the law continues in force.

However, there has been a reduction in the number of cases reported overall as well as the number of cases involving actions that deliberately targeted persons for negative treatment on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE. In July 2023, a total of 84 cases involving LGBTQ persons were reported across the network as compared to 71 in August, a reduction of 15.5%. In terms of the cases that specifically targeted individuals on the basis of their SOGIE, there was also a reduction from 53 cases affecting 67 people in July 2023 to 47 cases affecting 59 people in August 2023. However, the percentage of the total number of cases per month in which people were deliberately targeted because of their real or presumed SOGIE increased from 63.1% in July to 66.2% in August 2023.

In both months, the biggest number of cases were evictions, with 26 cases of evictions affecting 33 people reported in July 2023, although this number went down to 22 cases affecting 26 people in August 2023. This was followed by cases of violence against persons in both months, with 21 cases reported in July, affecting 24 persons, compared to 19 cases reported in August, affecting 22 persons. Cases of arrests on sexuality related charges held steady at 6 in July and 6 in August, although the arrests in August affected a slightly higher number of persons, that is, 11 people a compared to 10 in July.

In all the cases involving real or threatened violence, there has remained a continuing reluctance by the affected people to report the matters to the authorities out of fear of further victimization, which has in fact happened in at least one case (where 5 people were arrested by the police and charged with homosexuality after they complained about some individuals brutally assaulting one of their colleagues for allegedly hitting on them). While the majority of the violence and violations are being perpetrated by non-state actors therefore, there is still very little effort by the state in the way of redressing these violations and violence.

The trends in arrests are also noteworthy as they indicate a formal acknowledgment, and therefore deliberate enforcement, of the AHA 2023. During the month of August in particular, one case drew a significant amount of attention as the first case in which a person was charged with aggravated homosexuality for sexual activity between adults. The basis for the charge was the fact that one of the persons involved had a physical disability limiting their mobility, although latter accounts of the incident indicate that the person who was arrested and charged was a homeless person with a perceived mental disability. Nevertheless, in the wake of so much media attention, the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions issued a circular cautioning state attorneys against preferring charges under the AHA, a formal recognition again of the enforcement of the AHA through the police, courts and DPP's office, and called for all such files to be reviewed at the head office. This may result in some positive developments for individuals who have been charged under the AHA, particularly those awaiting trial, although how far this impact may stretch remains to be seen. However, the particular individual remains in jail on remand.

Another worrying development is nonconsensual anal examinations. Six were recorded in the month of August and yet there was none in July.

5. Comparison with the period from 1st August 2022 to 31st August 2022

In August 2022, a total of 45 cases were handled involving LGBTQ persons, of which 13 cases involved actions that directly targeted persons on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE. The actions in these 13 cases affected a total of 13 people, and included 9 cases of real or threatened violence, 3 evictions and 1 arrest.

It is quite clear that there has been a significant increase in these cases in August 2023, as discussed above: in August 2023, the HRAPF legal aid programme handled 71 cases, of which 47 involved actions that deliberately targeted persons on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE. Between August 2022 and August 2023, there has been an increase of 72.3% in SOGIE motivated abuse and violence. The cases of real or threatened violence have also increased greatly from 9 in August 2022 to 19 in August 2023; evictions have increased from 3 in August 2022 to 22 in August 2022 and arrests have increased from 1 in August 2022 to 6 in August 2023.

The difference in these figures is clearly attributable to the existence of the AHA, although it should be noted that, in August 2022, there was also a slight increase in SOGIE motivated abuse and violence following the story of a one Mukisa Elisha alleging recruitment into homosexuality and abuse, which sparked extensive public debate about homosexuality in Uganda (and quite probably marked a turning point in the journey towards the Anti Homosexuality Act, 2023).

6. The first three months of the AHA 2023 in Uganda

In the first three months of the AHA 2023, a total of 220 cases involving LGBTQ persons have been handled across the HRAPF legal aid network, of which 146 (66.4%) targeted LGBTIQ people on the basis of their sexuality, affecting a total of 176 persons. The breakdown of cases so far is as follows:

Nature of violation	June 2023	July 2023	August 2023	Total number of cases
Evictions	19	26	22	67
Violence	23	21	19	63
Arrests	4	6	6	16
Total	46	53	47	146

The victims in these cases are:

Nature of violation	June 2023	July 2023	August 2023	Total number of victims
Evictions	20	33	26	79
Violence	23	24	22	69
Arrests	7	10	11	28
Total	50	67	59	176

In comparison with the same three-month period in 2022, a total of 107 LGBTIQ cases were handled in that period, of which 34 cases (31.8%) contained actions that deliberately targeted LGBTIQ persons for detrimental treatment. This translates to an increase of 112 cases or a percentage increase of 329.4%.

7. Conclusion

The trends as discussed above indicate a clear connection between the enforcement of the AHA 2023 and the incidence of violence and violations against KGBTQ people. It is worth noting that, while cases of violence against persons on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE have been steadily decreasing over the past three months (albeit with only minor variations), and cases of evictions appear to also be reducing from July to August, cases of arrest, which is the real enforcement by the state, have continued to increase steadily from 4 in June to 6 in July and August, indicating quite clearly that the AHA's enforcement is going strong, as is its impact on the lives of LGBTQ persons in Uganda. Anal examinations on arrested persons are the latest worrying development that was not there before.