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

October 2025

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1. Introduction

This is the 28th 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 September 2025. This report builds on the reports produced earlier for every month since the AHA came into force and therefore adds on to 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 network in September 2025. Quantitative data for this report was obtained from a review of case files for data on the number of cases handled and the number of cases in which acts of violence or other human rights violations were identified. The data was then subjected to a qualitative analysis to ascertain the circumstances under which the incidents occurred, in order to ensure 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 covers only cases reported through the HRAPF legal aid network. The report therefore 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, specialised community 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 not all cases that occurred in September 2025 were reported to HRAPF's network.

3. Nature and number of cases reported

HRAPF handled a total of 60 cases in the month of September 2025, a slight reduction from the 66 cases handled in the month of August 2025. 18 cases involved actions that directly targeted people for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE, representing 30% of all the cases handled during the month, the same number as for August 2025. However, owing to 3 targeted mass arrests of LGBTQ persons in September 2025, the number of victims of these violations almost doubled, from 26 people in August 2025 to 41 people in September 2025.

Out of the 18 cases in which LGBTIQ people were specifically targeted for violent or otherwise detrimental treatment during the month of September 2025, 7 were cases of violence; 6 were arrests on sexuality-related charges and 4 were eviction cases. 1 case involved extortion of a suspected gay man by the local area leadership in the village where he lived.

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

3.1. Cases involving actual violence and threats of violence

A total of 7 cases involving violence were registered in September 2025, affecting 9 individuals. 6 of the cases involved actual physical violence towards the victims due to their SOGIE while 1 involved sustained verbal abuse. Two of the cases were reported in Gulu while one case was reported from each of the districts of Apac, Mbale, Mbarara, Manafwa and Kampala. 5 of these incidents were perpetrated by unknown persons while 1 was perpetrated by police officers and 1 by family members.

No.	Case code	Date of reporting	District	Nature of violence	Perpetrator	Brief facts	No. of Victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/900/2025	12/09/25	Kampala	Physical assault	Unknown persons	The client met a man online. They agreed to meet up in person. When the client arrived at the agreed meeting place, he was immediately surrounded by 4 men unknown to him who proceeded to beat him severely and took his phone and all the money he had on him. They then pursued him for a considerable distance after he managed to escape from them, forcing him to seek refuge inside a big supermarket in the neighbourhood which had armed guards.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA/901/2025	24/09/25	Apac	Physical assault	Unknown persons	The client received persistent threats from an ex-boyfriend who was incensed that she had ended their relationship and then started dating a woman. On 24 th September 2025, she was attacked by 2 people unknown	1

						to her who stopped her on her way home, and they asked where her 'wife' was, before starting to beat her all over her body until she lost consciousness.	
3.	HRAPF/PA/902/2025	30/9/2025	Gulu	Physical assault	Police officers	The client, a well-known transgender woman in her neighbourhood, was at home with a friend when 2 police officers in uniform walked into the compound, called her by name and then started beating her. When she tried to inquire about the reasons for the beatings, one of the officers warned her that this would continue happening if she did not stop promoting homosexuality in their area.	1
4.	HRAPF/PA/903/2025	30/9/2025	Gulu	Physical assault	Unknown persons	The client, a community paralegal and peer leader working with key populations was attacked while she was walking home. Two men accosted her in an alley near her home, demanded to know why she supports homosexuals and then proceeded to push her down and punch her several times.	1
5.	HRAPF/PA/904/2025	4/09/25	Mbale	Physical assault	Unknown persons	The client was outed to his parents in November 2024 and consequently evicted from home. However, in April 2025, his mother allowed him to return and stay with her brother (his uncle) and his family. Since then, his cousins have been harassing him repeatedly because of his sexuality. At the beginning of September 2025, he was attacked by people unknown to him just outside the family compound. They assaulted him and told him to leave that home if he wanted peace.	1
6.	HRAPF/PA/905/2025	17/9/2025	Mbarara	Physical assault	Unknown persons	The clients are all residents of a crisis shelter that catered to transgender persons. On the day of the incident, three men unknown to any of them forced entry into the gate, made the people they found on the premises kneel in the	3

						living room and then proceeded to beat them brutally while demanding for money. They took all the money the victims had as well as most phones, and then jumped over the perimeter wall and escaped when they heard knocks at the gate.	
7.	HRAPF/PA/906/2025	29/09/2025	Manafwa	Verbal abuse	Family	The client moved to Manafwa to stay with his father. When he arrived at his father's home, his father complained that he looked 'gay', and he took the client to a hospital in Kampala for 'hormone balancing' in an attempt to 'cure' him. In August 2025, the client's father found out that he was involved in an intimate relationship with a man. Since then he has continued to continuously out the client in the village, telling everyone that he is ashamed, and verbally insulting the client whenever he meets him, which has made it difficult for the client to continue residing at home.	1

3.2 Arrests

There were 6 cases reported in September 2025 in which 27 persons were arrested purely on the basis of their presumed SOGIE. This contrasts sharply with the statistics in August 2025 where 5 cases occurred with only 9 victims. September 2025 has brought back memories of mass arrests in the years preceding the AHA. Three groups of suspected LGBTQ persons were arrested in mass swoops.

Three of the incidents in this month were reported from Wakiso district, while one of the remaining three were reported from each of Kampala, Soroti and Kabarole districts. In 4 of the cases, the clients were charged with homosexuality while in one case, the victims were charged with being a common nuisance; in another they were charged with disappearance and in one case, no charges were preferred at all.

No.	Case code	Date of reporting	District	Charges preferred	Brief facts	No. of victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/894/2025	7/09/25	Wakiso	Being a common nuisance	The clients in this case were attending a friend's birthday party at a private residence when police officers came and arrested them. The police suspected that they were the 'gang of homosexuals' that a father claimed his son, a juvenile had joined. The juvenile was not known to the clients at all. The clients were later charged with being a common nuisance and detained until 10 th September 2025, when they were released on police bond.	6
2.	HRAPF/PA/895/2025	7/09/25	Kampala	Disappearance	The clients were arrested from their homes by a group of security operatives on allegations of facilitating the disappearance of a juvenile. Like their colleagues in the case above, the police raided their 2 separate homes (same fence), informing them of the disappearance case, the suspicion that the minor had run off to be with homosexuals and the suspicion that they might be the homosexuals in question. They were assaulted during the arrest and their phones taken away, and they were charged with 'disappearance' and detained overnight.	4
3.	HRAPF/PA/896/2025	24/09/25	Soroti	Homosexuality	The clients were arrested from the home of one of them on allegations of homosexuality. This happened after a neighbour called the police to inform them that one of the clients, whom she had long suspected was a gay man, had hosted a male visitor overnight, presumably for sexual relations. They were held in custody for 12 days before they were arraigned on charges of homosexuality.	2

4.	HRAPF/PA/897/2025	29/09/25	Wakiso	Homosexuality	The client was approached through Facebook by a man unknown to him, who began a casual flirtation with him. After a few days, the man suggested a physical meeting, which the client agreed to, but when he arrived at the meeting place, he found police officers who arrested and detained him on charges of homosexuality. He was threatened by the police officers and the complainant, who demanded exorbitant sums of money for his release, and he was held in custody for 3 days when he could not pay.	1
5.	HRAPF/PA/898/2025	22/09/25	Kabarole	Homosexuality	The client is a peer leader working with various organisations to distribute HIV prevention medicines and commodities to members of the KP community in his district. On 3 rd September 2025, one of his clients was arrested on suspicion of aggravated defilement and the suspect gave the police the name of the client on the understanding that he would be released if he helped them identify other homosexuals. The client was accordingly charged with homosexuality and held or 8 days.	1
6.	HRAPF/PA/899/2025	28/9/25	Wakiso	No charges preferred	The clients in this case were exiting a bar where they had gone to celebrate a friend's birthday when they were intercepted by police officers. The officers tried questioning them at the scene, then accused them of being rude and took them to the police station. The officers who arrested them tried to extort them but a paralegal who was in the neighbourhood intervened and all the clients were released without charge.	13

3.3 Evictions

There were 4 cases of evictions on the basis of sexuality in September 2025, affecting 4 persons. 2 cases were reported from Kampala, 1 case was from Wakiso while the other was from Kabarole district. In 2 of the cases, the evictions were orchestrated by family members; in 1 case, the eviction was initiated by the landlord while in the last case, the local area leadership worked with the landlord to evict the client from the village of residence.

No.	Case code	Date of reporting	District	Perpetrator	Brief facts	No. of Victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/907/2025	19/09/25	Wakiso	Landlord	The client was arrested with 2 friends from the clinic where he works in August 2025 on allegations of possession of narcotics and homosexuality. His landlord who happened to be at the clinic at the time, witnessed the incident. About a week after the client was released, the landlord reached out to inform the client that they needed him to vacate the premises within two weeks as they wanted to do renovations. An independent verification into the matter revealed that the client was the only one being asked to leave the premises, indicating that the eviction was motivated by the landlord's knowledge of the client's arrest for homosexuality.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA/908/2025	22/9/25	Kabarole	Landlord and local leaders	The client was arrested and charged with homosexuality, although he was later released on police bond. When he went back home, the area chairperson and his landlord evicted him from the home claiming that they did not want homosexuals like him in their area. He left the area and currently stays with his grandmother.	1
3.	HRAPF/PA/909/2025	12/09/25	Kampala	Family	The client in this case was still living at home with their	1

					parents. In September 2025, the client's siblings gained unauthorized access to her phone and found chats between her and her partner and other suggestive content, which they brought to the parents' attention. The client's parents immediately demanded that she leave the family home as they were not willing to continue raising a lesbian.	
4.	HRAPF/PA/910/2025	15/9/25	Kampala	Family	The client in this case had a disagreement with her partner. The partner then outed her to her parents, informing them that the two were in a relationship. The client's parents got very angry and immediately threw her out of the house with her clothes.	1

3.4 Other forms of discrimination

In September 2025, 1 case of extortion against an individual on the basis of their sexuality was recorded. The incident was reported in Sironko district and was perpetrated by the local council leadership.

No.	HRAPF Case code	Date of reporting	District	Nature of complaint	Perpetrator	Brief facts	No. of victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/911/2025	25/09/25	Sironko	Extortion	Local area leadership	The client was visiting with a friend when suspicious neighbours forced their way inside. The client's friend managed to escape but they called the area Local Council chairperson who demanded that he pay two million shillings to the village council as a fine or else be evicted from the village, arrested and outed to the entire village.	1

4. Comparison with August 2025

There was a reduction in the overall number of cases reported in September 2025, from 66 cases in August 2025 to 60 cases, but the number of cases in which individuals were targeted for violence and other violations on the basis of their SOGIE remained constant at 18 cases. However, the number of individuals affected by these actions increased significantly from 26 in August to 41 in September. Cases involving violence were the highest number of cases in August, where 8 incidents affecting 11 individuals were reported. This held steady in September, although the numbers slightly reduced to 7 cases affecting 9 individuals. Cases of arbitrary arrests of individuals on the basis of their SOGIE increased slightly from 5 cases in August to 6 cases in September, but the number of victims increased dramatically from 9 people in August to 27 persons in September 2025.

In a new disturbing twist, mass arrests resumed. Two raids were carried out in September on the private residences of suspected queer persons and the residents and visitors arrested on allegations of causing the disappearance of the same minor. In both of these cases, the facts simply were that a male juvenile had run away from home and his parent reported him missing at two police stations, with the additional information that they suspected he had run away to join a group of homosexuals. In both cases, the reaction of the police was to raid the homes of suspected queer people in their area, and in the end the arrested individuals were all released unconditionally as none of them even knew the minor in question. The third mass arrest was of 13 people who had been attending a friend's birthday party and were rounded up by police officers as they tried to leave the venue. The police had waited outside the venue to carry out this arrest. The entire group was released without charges after an attempt at extortion failed. These three mass arrests both point to particularly disturbing trend in the usual police profiling of LGBTQ persons for arbitrary arrests. Finally, evictions increased slightly from 3 affecting 4 people in August to 4 cases affecting 4 people in September 2025.

5. Comparison with September 2024

HRAPF handled a total of 72 cases in the month of September 2024, of which 16 cases involved actions that directly targeted people for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE, representing 22.2% of all the cases handled during the month of September 2024. It is worth noting that, while the overall number of cases handled reduced to 60 cases in September 2025, the number of cases in which individuals were targeted for detrimental treatment on the basis of their SOGIE actually increased from 16 cases in September 2024 to 18 in September 2025. Cases of arrests for sexuality related reasons increased drastically from 2 cases affecting 5 people in September 2024 to 6 cases affecting 27 people in September 2025; evictions on the basis of sexuality increased from 2 cases affecting 4 individuals to 4 cases affecting 4 individuals in September 2025, although cases involving violence reduced from 9 cases affecting 14 people in

September 2024 to 7 cases affecting 9 persons in September 2025. This shows that the situation for LGBTIQ people in September 2025 seems worse than that in September 2024.

6. Comparison with the pre-AHA period – September 2022

In September 2022, about 6 months before the Anti-Homosexuality Bill 2023 was tabled and about 10 months before the law was enacted, a total of 45 cases were handled involving LGBTIQ persons. Of these, 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 (a little more than the 7 cases recorded in September 2025), 3 evictions and 1 arrest. It is important to note that, while the AHA was not yet in force at this time, there was still heightened public outcry against homosexuality and increased media attention towards the LGBTQ community following allegations of ‘recruitment’ of people into homosexuality,¹ which would eventually culminate into the tabling of the AHB 2023 in February 2023.

7. The implementation of the AHA 2023 from 30th May 2023 to 30th September 2025

As the implementation of the AHA marks two years and three months, a total of 1,967 cases involving LGBTIQ persons have been handled across the HRAPF legal aid network, of which 911 cases (46.3%) involved actions that specifically targeted LGBTIQ people because of their sexuality, gender identity and sex development affecting a total of 1,216 persons.

The breakdown of all the cases involving SOGIE- motivated violence and violations so far is as follows:

Nature of violation	June 2023 to Dec 2023	Jan 2024 to June 2024	July 2024 to Dec 2024	Jan to June 2025	July 2025	Aug 2025	Sept 2025	Total No. of cases
Evictions	164	132	38	38	4	3	4	383
Violence	137	121	59	36	5	8	7	373
Arrests	38	34	31	25	1	6	6	141

¹ Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (HRAPF), Report on violence and violations based on real or presumed sexual orientation or gender identity during the month of August 2024, (Sept 2024), <https://hrapf.org/mdocs-posts/hrapfs-report-on-cases-of-violence-violations-based-on-real-or-presumed-sogi-for-august-2024/>, accessed Sept 13, 2025.

Other forms of discrimination	6	0	0	4	2	1	1	14
Total	345	287	128	105	11	18	18	911

The victims in these cases are:

Nature of violation	June to Dec 2023	Jan - June 2024	July - Dec 2024	Jan 2025	July 2025	Aug 2025	Sept 2025	Total No. of victims
Evictions	204	162	44	6	4	4	4	463
Violence	171	142	70	10	7	11	9	457
Arrests	59	63	47	11	1	10	27	280
Other forms of discrimination	6	0	0	1	2	1	1	16
Total	440	367	160	28	12	26	41	1,216

8. Conclusion

Over the last 28 months, HRAPF has carefully monitored the human rights situation for LGBTIQ persons in the wake of the enactment of the AHA 2023, tracking the impact of the law on access to justice, SRHR, protection from violence and other aspects of the day to day experiences of LGBTIQ persons. It remains abundantly clear that, despite a notable reduction in the number of cases of violence and violations perpetrated primarily by non-state actors, the situation still remains dire for LGBTIQ persons, and the state institutions in the criminal justice sector continue to enforce the AHA 2023 in a way that prejudices the right to liberty for LGBTIQ persons across the country, despite slight improvements in the legal environment in April 2024. The only apparent solution to this impasse remains a complete overhaul of the legal framework to provide for specific protection from violence and human rights violations on the basis of real or presumed SOGIE, as required by African Commission Resolution 275.

APPENDIX: Cases of arrests still pending before police stations and courts across the country at the end of September 2025

Currently, HRAPF is providing legal representation to a total of 23 individuals in 15 cases that are still pending actively either at police stations or before various courts across the country. In 5 cases, 9 individuals are still reporting on police bond and answering charges of homosexuality. In 10 cases, 14 individuals are answering various charges, including homosexuality, promotion of homosexuality, aggravated homosexuality, indecent practices and having carnal knowledge against the order of nature/ indecent practices in various courts of law. Of the 14 persons whose cases are pending before the courts, 7 are still on remand in the various prisons around the country while 5 were released on bail.

List of cases in which individuals are still reporting on police bond

No.	HRAPF Case Code	Nature of Charges	Brief Facts	Current status	Number of victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/885/2025	Homosexuality	The clients were arrested from a lodge after the police which had come to arrest someone else checked their property and found lubricants. Both were detained at the police on allegations of homosexuality, until 25 th August 2025 when they were released on police bond.	The clients were released on police bond and are still reporting on bond.	2
2.	HRAPF/PA/886/2025	Homosexuality	The client was arrested on 22 nd August 2025 and detained on charges of homosexuality after a boda boda rider in his neighbourhood claimed that he had asked him out. He was detained for 3 nights.	The client was released on police bond and is still reporting on bond.	1

3.	HRAPF/PA/ 887/2025	Homosexuality	The client received a message from an unknown person who asked if the client could help him find a job. They met at the client's home and afterwards, the person came back with men in plain clothes who introduced themselves as police officers. They went ahead and did a search of his home and found some drugs and lubricants and condoms. They arrested and detained him on allegations of possession of narcotics and homosexuality. He was arrested on 24 th August and released on 25 th August 2025.	The client was released on police bond and is still reporting on bond.	1
4.	HRAPF/PA/ 888/2025	Homosexuality	The clients were at the clinic where one of them works in when they were arrested on 26 th August 2025. The arresting officers informed them that they were being arrested and detained for practicing homosexuality and possessing marijuana in the premises. They were released on 28 th August 2025 on police bond.	The clients were released on police bond and are still reporting on bond.	3
5.	HRAPF/PA/ 889/2025	Homosexuality	The clients in this case were arrested on 16 th August 2025 when a person reported to the police that the two had offered him money for sex and video recordings which he refused. They were detained for 11 days without prosecution on charges of homosexuality and released on 27 th August 2025 on police bond.	The clients were released on police bond and are still reporting on bond.	2

List of cases currently pending before courts

No.	HRAPF Case code	Offence in charge sheet	Brief facts	Status	Number of victims
1.	HRAPF/PA /857/2025	Aggravated homosexuality	The client's ex, a co-worker, reported the client to the police that the client had 'sodomised' him. The client was detained by the police for 9 days before he was arraigned in court on charges of aggravated homosexuality after it emerged that he was 'in a position of authority over the victim' at work.	The client in this case was remanded pending committal to the High Court for trial.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA /775/25	Aggravated Homosexuality	The accused was arrested when coming from a bar after a group of men accused him of having had sexual intercourse with a man. He denied knowing the person who he was accused of having had sex with. On 15 th May 2025, the charges against clients were amended to aggravated homosexuality after the complainant alleged that he had been raped by the accused.	The client is on remand and the case is yet to be committed to the High Court for trial.	1

3.	HRAPF/PA /13/2023	Rape Aggravated Human trafficking	The accused was arrested on 28 th July 2023 after the mother of an adult man with whom he had been in a long-term relationship reported him to the police, accusing him of sodomising her son. The police charged him with rape and aggravated human trafficking basing on the same facts and allegations that he had infected the partner with HIV.	Case pending hearing in the High Court. The accused is still on remand.	1
4.	HRAPF/PA /743/24	Trafficking in persons and having carnal knowledge against the order of nature.	The client was arrested and charged with having carnal knowledge against the order of nature after a friend he had hosted at his home temporarily accused him of 'sodomising' him in an attempt to extort him.	The client was released on bail and the matter is still pending judgment.	1
5.	HRAPF/PA /144/2023	Unnatural offences	The prosecution alleges that the accused was found having sex with a disabled man at a sports field. The accused denies the allegations.	Accused released on bail on 30 th July 2024 after nearly a year. The matter came up on 6 th October 2025 for State's response to an application that the Accused be declared unfit to stand trial due to mental incapacity, but the State Attorney was absent on that date. Matter is coming up again on 27 th November 2025.	1
6.	HRAPF/PA /655/2024	Promotion of Homosexuality	The prosecution alleges that the accused had a video strip showing acts of homosexuality.	He was released on bail. The case came up for hearing on 22 nd September but the magistrate was not in court, so the case	1

				was adjourned to 13 th November 2025.	
7.	HRAPF/PA /656/2024	Unlawful possession of government stores; Promotion of Homosexuality	The accused states that while celebrating the birthday of a colleague, the councilor of the area raided the party and had them arrested on allegations of promoting homosexuality. Prosecution alleges that they found them in possession of 3 boxes of male condoms, 26 six national IDs, one Kenyan ID, thirteen photographs, lubricants and covid-19 cards, all meant for promoting homosexuality.	The clients were released on bail on 3 rd April 2025. The case came up for hearing on 6 th October 2025 but the magistrate was not in court, so the case was adjourned to 14 th November.	3
8.	HRAPF/PA /501/2024	Aggravated homosexuality	The accused was arrested on 7 th March 2024 on allegations of having sexual intercourse with another man. Later, the charge was amended to aggravated homosexuality after the mother of the partner insisted that he was 17 years.	The client is still on remand and although the accused was committed to the High Court for trial, the matter has not yet been fixed for hearing.	1
9.	HRAPF/PA /774/25	Trafficking in persons, forgery and acts of sodomy	The suspects state that they brought a friend to go and work in Rwanda. After checking in at a lodge, the friend demanded for money and when it was denied, he accused them of demanding for sex from him and reported them to the police. They were arrested on 21 st January 2025 and 23 rd January 2025 respectively.	The file was sanctioned, one of the clients was re- arrested on 29 th May 2025, arraigned and remanded to prison. On 25 th June 2025, the client was granted bail. The matter is coming up on 8 th October 2025, on which date the second accused was arrested and remanded. The matter was adjourned to 12 th November 2025.	2

10.	HRAPF/PA /896/25	Homosexuality	The clients were arrested from the home of one of them on allegations of homosexuality. This happened after a neighbour called the police to inform them that one of the clients, whom she had long suspected was a gay man, had hosted a male visitor overnight, presumably for sexual relations. They were held in custody for 12 days before they were arraigned on charges of homosexuality.	The file was sanctioned and the clients were arraigned in court after over 12 days in police custody. The clients were then arraigned and remanded. The matter shall be coming again up for hearing on 16 th October 2025.	2
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