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

14<sup>th</sup> November 2025

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## **1. Introduction**

This is the 29<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 October 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 October 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 October 2025 were reported to HRAPF's network.

## **3. Nature and number of cases reported**

HRAPF handled a total of 56 cases in the month of October 2025, a reduction from the 60 cases handled in the month of September 2025. 15 cases involved actions that directly targeted people for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE, representing 26.8% of all the cases handled during the month, down from 18 cases (30%) recorded in September 2025. The victims of these violations in October were 24 persons, a significant reduction in number from 41 victims in September. Out of the 15 cases in which LGBTIQ people were specifically targeted for violent or otherwise detrimental treatment during the month of October 2025, 7 were cases of violence, affecting 8 people; 3 were arrests on sexuality related charges, affecting 11 people (one was a mass arrest of 9 people at once); 3 were evictions, affecting 3 persons; and 2 were other acts of discrimination affecting 2 people. 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 October 2025, affecting 9 individuals. 6 of the cases involved actual physical violence towards the victims due to their SOGIE while 1 case involved an assault and robbery. 3 of the cases were reported in Gulu; 2 cases were reported in Kampala; 1 case was reported in Mbale; and 1 case was reported in Wakiso. The violence in these cases was perpetrated by unknown persons in 3 cases; family members in 2 cases and members of the general community where the victims reside in 2 cases.

No	HRAPF Case Code	Date of reporting	District	Nature of violence	Perpetrator	Brief facts	No. of victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/912/2025	6/10/25	Kampala	Assault and robbery	Family members	The client reported that she had been subjected to repeated harassment at home after she told her parents and uncles that she would never have a child, and they started to question her sexuality. At the beginning of October 2025, she was attacked and assaulted by an unknown man who stole her bag containing her phones and laptop. The following day, she found the gadgets at her uncle's home and he refused to return them to her or offer any explanation for how he got them, but told her they would get the proof of her sexuality now. This made her believe that she had been deliberately targeted for the attack by her family and she	1

						now lives in fear of further attacks.	
2.	HRAPF/PA/913/2025	7/10/25	Gulu	Physical violence	Unknown persons	The client, a community paralegal, was followed by three unknown men who attacked her as she approached a nearby trading centre. They started beating her, accusing her of pretending to be a human rights defender while recruiting young girls into homosexuality. They kept beating her until they heard some people coming and ran away. This is the 2 <sup>nd</sup> time this kind of attack has happened to her in the year 2025.	1
3.	HRAPF/PA/914/2025	20/10/25	Wakiso	Physical violence	Family members	The client had his partner visit him at his parents' home, where he was living at the time. His father returned unexpectedly and found the two in the living room, which made him furious. He started beating the client while berating him loudly, attracting the attention of the boda boda rider who had brought him home, who joined in the beating, kicking the client repeatedly in the testicles. The client's partner was able to escape in the	1

						chaos.	
4.	HRAPF/PA/915/2025	31/10/25	Mbale	Physical violence	Unknown persons	The client, a transgender woman, was attacked by four unknown men while passing through a heavily wooded area on her way home. The men accused the client of behaving like a woman, beat her severely, and tore her shirt to check if she had breasts. When people approached, the attackers fled without taking anything. The client is currently in pain and living in fear.	1
5.	HRAPF/PA/916/2025	9/10/25	Gulu	Physical violence	General community	The client, a community peer leader working with a KP-led organisation, was followed home by a man known to her by face from their neighborhood. He forced his way into her house, forcefully undressed her and started beating her up with a wire bicycle lock, threatening to stab her with a knife and kill her for encouraging young girls in the area to become homosexuals. He kicked her several times in the stomach, leading to heavy bleeding (she was 2 months pregnant	1

						at the time) and eventual miscarriage.	
6.	HRAPF/PA/917/2025	24/10/25	Gulu	Physical violence	Unknown persons	The client in this case was walking home from her office at a KP-led organisation when she was attacked by 3 men unknown to her. The men accused her of being a homosexual and using her organisation to teach young women to also become homosexuals, beat her up and then stole her laptop. The client lost a tooth and sustained other injuries in the attack.	1
7.	HRAPF/PA/918/2025	15/10/25	Kampala	Physical violence	University students	The client in this case went to a hall of residence at Makerere University to visit a friend but the other students in the hall turned on them and started beating them up, claiming that the two looked like gay people and were probably about to have sex. Several days later, when the client returned to the university to pick up his property with HRAPF lawyers, the lawyers were attacked by the students and the car they were traveling in damaged.	2

### 3.2. Arrests

There were 3 cases reported in October 2025 in which 11 persons were arrested purely on the basis of their presumed SOGIE, as compared to September 2025, where 6 arrests were recorded, affecting 27 persons. October was also marked with an increase in threats against suspected LGBTQ students in halls of residence at Makerere University, and in one particularly outstanding incident, a student was arrested by the police to protect them from the threat of lynching by their fellow students. Two of the incidents in this month were reported from Kampala district, while one was reported from Wakiso. In 2 of the cases, the clients were charged with homosexuality while in one case, the victim was charged with entering a building with intent to commit a felony, to wit, homosexuality.

No.	HRAPF Case code	Date of reporting	District	Charges preferred	Brief facts	No. of Victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/919/2025	6/10/25	Wakiso	Homosexuality	The client engaged in a casual flirtation with a random stranger they met through Facebook, and the two later agreed to meet. When they met for the very first time, the client was arrested by the man he was meeting, who took him to a nearby police station, where he was detained for 3 days before being released on bond. When he went back later to report on police bond, he was forcibly taken for an anal examination 'to aid in investigations.'	1
2	HRAPF/PA/920/2025	15/10/25	Kampala	Intent to commit felony	The client in this case was visiting a friend at a hall of residence in Makerere university when the two were attacked and beaten brutally	1

					by the students. The friend managed to escape but the client was only rescued when the police was called and fired bullets into the air to disperse the mob. He was then held first in protective custody and later on charges of entering a building with intent to commit a felony. He was subjected to an anal examination before being released on police bond 2 days later.	
3	HRAPF/PA/921/2025	20/10/25	Kampala	Homosexuality	The clients were at a friend's house getting ready to go to a party at a mutual friend's home when a man none of them knew forcefully barged in, claiming that one of them had been sending him messages asking for sex. Despite all the clients insisting that they did not know whose number had been texting the man, the police officers he had come with arrested all 9 of them and detained them on charges of homosexuality. They were released the following day on police bond.	9

### 3.3. Evictions

There were 3 recorded cases of evictions in the month of October 2025, affecting 3 individuals. 2 of the incidents were reported in Kampala while one was reported in Mityana district. In one of the incidents, the eviction was orchestrated substantively by the local area leadership while in the other 2, the evictions were orchestrated by the landlord.

No	HRAPF Case code	Date of reporting	District	Perpetrator	Brief facts	No. of victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/922/2025	2/10/25	Mityana	Local area leaders	The client had lived in the same house without issues with his landlord for more than a year. At the end of September, while he was attending a funeral in the village, the chairperson made a speech, naming his landlord by name and blaming the landlord for not getting rid of the evil in the village despite their pleas as a council. He encouraged the villagers to do something about this. About a week later, the client's landlord came to his home and informed him that he would have to leave as the landlord could no longer withstand the pressure from the leaders.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA/923/2025	13/10/25	Kampala	Landlord	The client's ex-partner outed her to the landlady. The landlady tried unsuccessfully to get her arrested for homosexuality and then later demanded that she leave the house without notice. When contacted by HRAPF lawyers, she simply stated that she was unwilling to tolerate bad manners.	1
3.	HRAPF/PA/924/2025	20/10/25	Wakiso	Landlord	The client's landlord evicted him from his home on the suspicion that the client was gay. The landlord informed the client that the neighbors had on several occasions complained that the client only hosted men at his house, and that some of them dressed, behaved or talked like women, which likely meant they were gay.	1

### 3.4. Other forms of discrimination

During the month of October 2025, HRAPF also recorded 2 other cases involving other forms of discrimination against individuals on the basis of their SOGIE. In one of the cases, the client was subjected to cyber harassment and extortion by a friend who had found out about his sexuality while in the other, the client was abducted in an attempt to extort him for money.

No	HRAPF Case code	Date of reporting	District	Nature of violation	Perpetrator	Brief facts	No. of victims
1	HRAPF/PA/925/2025	27/10/2025	Kampala	Cyber Harassment	Friend	The client in this case met a person previously unknown to him through a WhatsApp group they are both in, and they became fairly close friends over a period of 6 months. The other person then started to repeatedly ask the client for money, which he at first willingly gave when he had, until he decided to stop giving him money. The other person then started to send him threatening messages through his WhatsApp account, threatening to come to the client's workplace, out him, have him fired and arrested unless he paid him exorbitant sums of money.	1
2	HRAPF/PA/926/2025	28/10/25	Kampala	Abduction and extortion	Unknown persons	The client in this case met a man through a dating app and they agreed to a physical meeting. However, when they met up, the client was accosted by two men on a boda boda, apparently working with the man he had come to meet. They forcefully put him onto the boda boda and threatened to have him arrested if he did not give them 10 million shillings. He struggled with them, causing the motorcycle to lose balance. He was able to run away from them after the motorcycle crashed at the roadside near a police station, and he immediately went and reported the case of abduction	1

#### **4. Comparison with September 2025**

There was a reduction in the overall number of cases reported from 60 cases in September 2025 to 56 cases in October 2025, and a corresponding reduction in the number of cases in which people were deliberately targeted for detrimental treatment on the basis of their SOGIE from 18 cases in September to 15 cases in October 2025. In both months, cases of violence on the basis of SOGIE were highest at 7 cases, but arrests for sexuality related reasons reduced from 6 in September to 3 in October 2025. It is worth noting that the trend of mass arrests of suspected LGBTQ persons continued in October, although there was a reduction with only 1 mass arrest recorded as compared to 3 in September 2025. Evictions also reduced slightly from 4 cases affecting 4 people to 3 cases affecting 3 people.

In a rather frightening series of events in October 2025, students at Makerere University, Uganda's largest public university started a witch hunt targeting their peers that they perceived as gay. Over a period of more than 2 weeks, students at the university exchanged lists of names and contacts of 'gay lords', physically assaulted 2 people (who reported the matter) and burnt the belongings of one student, who chose not to report but the perpetrators themselves reported this incident through social media. In one incident, the students formed themselves into a violent mob that attempted to lynch a fellow student and were only stopped by the police. They complained about the police's interference to the university management, and the situation only calmed down after the university leadership intervened and suspended the students involved in mobilising the mobs. In one incident, HRAPF lawyers who had accompanied one of the victims to Mitchell Hall to pick his property were also attacked, a laptop stolen and their car damaged.

This violent spike raises concerns about the safety of LGBTQ persons in institutes of higher education, but also in public spaces generally as the campaign season kicks off, with its usually associated spike in violence. It is commendable that the university's management responded decisively by suspending some of the ringleaders.

#### **5. Comparison with October 2024**

HRAPF handled a total of 50 cases in the month of October 2024, which is a little less than the 56 cases handled in October 2025. Out of the 50 cases handled in October 2024, 16 cases involved actions that directly targeted people for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE, representing 32% of all the cases handled during the month of October 2024, a slightly higher number than the 15 cases reported in October 2025 (26.8% of all cases reported in the month). The number of cases of violence on the basis of SOGIE dropped slightly from 9 cases affecting 10 people in October 2024 to 7 cases affecting 8 people in October 2025; the number of eviction cases also reduced slightly from 4 cases affecting 4 people in October 2024 to 3 cases affecting 3 people in October 2025; and the number of arrests for sexuality related reasons remained constant at 3.

While, on the face of it, these figures might appear encouraging, hinting at a slow reduction in targeted violence and violations, it must be noted that the trend of mass arrests documented in September and October 2025 were not present in the same period in 2024, and that the

recent spike in mob violence against suspected LGBTQ students is also a new phenomenon, thus indicating a regression rather than progress of any magnitude.

#### **6. Comparison with the pre-AHA period – October 2022**

In October 2022, a total of 53 cases were handled involving LGBTQ persons, of which 7 cases involved actions that directly targeted persons on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE. The actions in these 7 cases affected a total of 7 people, and included 3 cases of real or threatened violence and 4 arrests for sexuality related reasons. While the total number of cases reported by LGBTQ persons is not significantly different between the 2 months, the number of cases in which individuals were targeted for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE more than doubled from 7 cases in October 2022, before the AHA came into force, to 15 cases in October 2025, indicating that the levels of violence and violations on the basis of SOGIE are still much higher presently than they were before the AHA came into force.

#### **7. The implementation of the AHA 2023 from 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

As the implementation of the AHA marks two years and three months, a total of 2,023 cases involving LGBTIQ persons have been handled across the HRAPF legal aid network, of which 926 cases (45.8%) involved actions that specifically targeted LGBTIQ people because of their sexuality, gender identity and sex development affecting a total of 1,240 persons.

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

<b>Nature of violation</b>	<b>June 2023 to Dec 2023</b>	<b>Jan 2024 to June 2024</b>	<b>July 2024 to Dec 2024</b>	<b>Jan to June 2025</b>	<b>July 2025</b>	<b>Aug 2025</b>	<b>Sept 2025</b>	<b>Oct 2025</b>	<b>Total No. of cases</b>
Evictions	164	132	38	38	4	3	4	3	386
Violence	137	121	59	36	5	8	7	7	380
Arrests	38	34	31	25	1	6	6	3	144
Other forms of discrimination	6	0	0	4	2	1	1	2	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>926</b>

The victims in these cases were:

<b>Nature of violation</b>	<b>June to Dec 2023</b>	<b>Jan - June 2024</b>	<b>July - Dec 2024</b>	<b>Jan 2025</b>	<b>July 2025</b>	<b>Aug 2025</b>	<b>Sept 2025</b>	<b>Oct 2025</b>	<b>Total No of victims</b>
Evictions	204	162	44	6	4	4	4	3	466

Violence	171	142	70	10	7	11	9	8	465
Arrests	59	63	47	11	1	10	27	11	291
Other forms of discrimination	6	0	0	1	2	1	1	2	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1,240</b>

## 8. Conclusion

HRAPF has continued to monitor the human rights situation for LGBTQ persons in Uganda in the 29 months since the AHA came into force, and it is clear that violations of the rights of individuals on the basis of their SOGIE remain higher now than they were in the period before the AHA was enacted. The trend of police arresting suspected LGBTQ persons en masse for flimsy reasons remains a cause for concern, as does the recent spike in violence against suspected LGBTQ students at Makerere University, with both matters requiring close monitoring over the next few months.

## 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 21 individuals in 14 cases that are still pending actively either at police stations or before various courts across the country as a result of arrests of real or suspected LGBTIQ persons. In 4 cases, 7 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, 5 are still on remand in the various prisons around the country while 9 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/919/25	Homosexuality	The client in this case engaged in a casual flirtation with a random stranger they met through Facebook, and the two later agreed to meet. When they met for the very first time, the client was arrested by the man he was meeting, who took him to a nearby police station, where he was detained for 3 days before being released on bond. When he went back later to report on police bond, he was forcibly taken for an anal examination 'to aid in investigations'.	The client was released on police bond and is still reporting on bond.	1
2	HRAPF/PA/920/25	Intent to commit a felony	The client in this case was visiting a friend at a hall of residence in Makerere university when the two were attacked and beaten brutally by the students. The friend managed to escape but the client was only rescued when the police was called and fired bullets into the air to disperse the mob. He was then held first in protective custody and later on charges of entering a building with intent to commit a felony. He was subjected to an anal examination before being released on police bond 2 days later	The client was released on police bond and is still reporting on bond.	1

3	HRAPF/PA/888/2025	Homosexuality	The clients were at the clinic where one of them works in when they were arrested on 26 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> August 2025 on police bond.	The clients were released on police bond and are still reporting on bond.	3
4	HRAPF/PA/889/2025	Homosexuality	The clients in this case were arrested on 16 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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 is still awaiting 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 <sup>th</sup> 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 still awaiting committal to the High Court for trial.	1
3.	HRAPF/PA /13/2023	Rape  Aggravated Human trafficking	The accused was arrested on 28 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> July 2024 after nearly a year.  The matter came up on 6 <sup>th</sup> October 2025 for State's response to an application that the Accused be declared unfit to	1

				stand trial due to mental incapacity, but the State Attorney was absent on that date. Matter is coming up again on 27 <sup>th</sup> November 2025.	
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 <sup>nd</sup> September but the magistrate was not in court, so the case was adjourned to 13 <sup>th</sup> November 2025.	1
7.	HRAPF/PA /656/2024	Unlawful possession of government stores; Promotion of Homosexuality	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 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 <sup>rd</sup> April 2025. The case came up for hearing on 6 <sup>th</sup> October 2025 but the magistrate was not in court, so the case was adjourned to 14 <sup>th</sup> November.	3
8.	HRAPF/PA /501/2024	Aggravated homosexuality	The accused was arrested on 7 <sup>th</sup> 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	1

				yet been fixed for hearing.	
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 <sup>st</sup> January 2025 and 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2025 respectively.	One of the clients in this case was released on bail while the other is on remand. The matter was adjourned to 12 <sup>th</sup> 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 matter is still pending in court and shall be coming again up for hearing on 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2025. Both clients are out on bail.	2