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

20th January 2026

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1. Introduction

This is the 31st 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, Cap 117 Laws of the Republic of Uganda, Revised Edition, 2023 (AHA) came into force on 30th May 2023. This makes it two years and six months of the law being in force. The report discusses cases in which known or suspected LGBTIQ persons were targeted for violence and violations purely on the basis of their sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression (SOGIE) as reported to HRAPF in the month of December 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 December 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, specialized 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 December 2025 were reported to HRAPF's network.

3. Nature and number of cases reported

HRAPF handled a total of 38 cases in the month of December 2025, a reduction from the 55 cases handled in the month of November 2025. 8 cases involved actions that directly targeted people for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE, representing 21% of all the cases handled during the month. The victims of these violations in December were 8 persons, a significant reduction from 27 people affected by SOGIE-based violence and human rights violations in November 2025.

Out of the 8 cases in which individuals were targeted for detrimental treatment on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE, 3 cases involved actual violence and threats of violence, 2 cases involved evictions for sexuality related reasons; while there was 1 case each of arrest, discrimination in access to health services, and extortion on the basis of real or presumed SOGIE.

3.1. Cases of violence and threats of violence

3 cases involving violence and threats of violence were reported to the HRAPF legal aid network in December 2025, affecting 3 individuals. Of these, 2 involved actual violence while 1 involved threats of violence. This sub-section considers these cases in details. This represents a significant reduction from 5 cases affecting 6 individuals that were reported in November 2026.

a) Cases of actual violence

Two cases of violence were registered in December 2025, affecting 2 individuals. One of the cases was recorded in Gulu while the other was recorded in Mbarara district. In both cases, the clients were subjected to physical assault, and in both cases, the perpetrators were local community members not personally known to the clients.

SN.	HRAPF Case Code	Date of Reporting	District	Nature of violence	Perpetrator	Brief Facts	No. of victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/949/25	11/12/25	Gulu	Physical assault	Unknown persons	The client was at his home waiting for a friend when he heard a knock. He opened, thinking that it was his friend, but was instead confronted by 3 men unknown to him who forcefully pushed into the house and immediately started beating him, accusing him of recruiting young men in the village into homosexuality. They left him unconscious, and his friend found him a while later and took him to hospital.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA/950/25	2/12/25	Mbarara	Physical assault	Unknown persons	The client was engaged in a debate about politics with some people he met in a bar and as the argument escalated, one of the opponents said that the client was only supporting his particular political party because he is gay anyway. This led to the client being hit, kicked him and insulted him before the bouncer broke up the fight. The client sustained minor injuries all over his body.	1

b) Cases involving threats of violence

In December 2025, one case in which an individual was threatened with violence purely on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE was reported in Kampala. In this case, the client, a transgender man, was threatened with physical harm by a person well known to them in their neighbourhood.

SN.	HRAPF Case Code	Date of Reporting	District	Nature of Threat	Perpetrator	Brief Facts	No. of Victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/951/25	13/12/2025	Kampala	Physical violence	General community	In August 2025, the client had been forced to leave their village of residence with their partner after a mob threatened to lynch them. Despite the fact that they filed a case and identified the ring leaders to the police, they were never actually arrested or otherwise reprimanded. In December 2025, the client returned to their previous residence in the belief that the danger had passed, but they were confronted on the same day by one of the ring leaders of the mob from the August incident who threatened to mobilise residents to beat up or kill the client if they had refused to learn the first lesson.	1

3.2. Evictions

Two cases of evictions were recorded during the month of December in Wakiso district, and in both cases, the victims were evicted by members of their own families upon learning of their respective SOGIE. This is a significant reduction from 7 cases affecting 11 individuals that were reported in November 2025.

SN.	HRAPF Case Code	Date of Reporting	District	Perpetrator	Brief Facts	No. of Victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/952/25	15/12/25	Wakiso	Family	The client had been living with her brother for the past 5 years, and they had not had any issues. On 14 th December, she returned home to find her brother angry with her and demanding that she leave his home immediately. She later found out that he had had accessed her phone messaging apps earlier that day when she had left the phone charging in the living room, found her chats with her partner and figured out that she was a lesbian.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA/953/25	10/12/25	Wakiso	Family	The client in this case was staying at their family home. On the day of the incident, her mother left home to go to work and returned unexpectedly to find her and her partner in an intimate position in the sitting room. The mother lost her temper and demanded that they both leave immediately, and also asked that the client not return until she stopped being a homosexual.	

3.3. Arrests

In December 2025, one arrest on SOGIE-related charges was recorded from Wakiso district. This is a reduction in SOGIE-related arrests from the 6 cases received and handled in November 2025. It was worth noting that the victim in this case was specifically targeted for the arrest through entrapment on a gay dating app by a police officer.

SN.	HRAPF Case Code	Date of Reporting	District	Charges preferred	Brief Facts	No. of Victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/954/25	9/12/2025	Wakiso	Homosexuality	The victim in this case met someone through a gay dating app and the two eventually agreed to meet up on 6 th December. When the client showed up for the meeting, however, two policemen came to meet him, forcibly took his phone and dragged him to the nearby	1

					police station, accusing him of engaging in homosexuality and demanding money in exchange for his release. He was held for 4 days.	
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3.4. Other forms of discrimination

HRAPF also recorded 2 cases involving other forms of discrimination against individuals on the basis of their SOGIE in December 2025, one from Kabarole District and 1 from Wakiso. 1 case involved extortion by an intimate partner of the victim while the other was discrimination in a health centre, perpetrated by health workers. It is important to note that, because of the scarcity of mechanisms through which LGBTIQ+ persons can lodge complaints of violence against them in light of the AHA, they are rendered particularly vulnerable to such forms of violence and discrimination, especially where it is directly related to their real or presumed sexuality. In many cases, reporting the matter is itself not an option as it presents the significant threat of further victimisation through arrest.

i. Discrimination in access to health services

There was one case concerning discrimination in access to health services. This happened in Kabarole district.

SN.	HRAPF Case Code	Date of Reporting	District	Nature of Complaint	Perpetrators	Brief Facts	No. of Victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/955/25	2/12/2025	Kabarole	Denial of health services	Health workers	The client in this case, a transgender woman, went to seek for healthcare at a government health centre but on arrival, a female health worker looked at her with visible disdain before stating that she looked like a homosexual, and asking if she was bleaching her skin to attract more men. A few other staff who were present joined in, commenting on her appearance and comparing her to other women in the facility, saying that she looked more 'ladylike than real women'. The client got frustrated and anxious as this had started to attract a crowd of both	1

						patients and other health workers, so she walked away without seeing a doctor.	
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ii. Extortion

HRAPF recorded one case of extortion from Wakiso district by an intimate partner.

1.	HRAPF/PA/9 56/25	12/12/2025	Wakiso	Extortion	Intimate Partner	The client received phone messages from an intimate partner demanding for exorbitant sums of money and threatening to tell the client’s neighbours and the police that the client had lured him home and ‘recruited’ him or otherwise enticed him into engaging in ‘gay sex’. The client was frustrated because even after he caved to the initial demands, the perpetrator simply kept asking for more money.	1
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4. Comparison with November 2025

There was a significant reduction in the overall number of cases reported between November and December 2025, with 55 cases reported in November and 38 cases reported in December. Similarly, the number of cases in which individuals were targeted due to their real or presumed SOGIE reduced from 21 cases affecting 28 persons in November (38% of all reported cases) to 8 cases affecting 8 individuals in December, representing 21% of all cases reported in December.

In November, the highest number of cases recorded were evictions, with 7 cases affecting 11 individuals, but this number reduced drastically to 2 cases affecting 2 individuals in December 2025. In a similar trend, cases of violence and threats of violence reduced from 5 cases affecting 6 individuals to 3 cases affecting 3 individuals, while arrests on sexuality related charges also reduced significantly from 6 cases affecting 7 people to 1 case affecting 1 individual in December 2025.

5. Comparison with December 2024

December 2024 was the 19th month of the implementation of the AHA 2023 and in that period, HRAPF recorded a total of 45 cases involving LGBTIQ+ persons, out of which 18 involved actions that directly targeted individuals for negative treatment on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE (40% of all cases reported in the month). Of these, 8 cases were arrests on sexuality-related charges, 7 were eviction cases while 3 cases involved violence and threats of violence on the basis of real or presumed SOGIE.

There was thus a significant reduction in the number of cases handled in December 2025 as compared with the same month a year ago. In the 31st month of the enforcement of the AHA 2023, the total number of cases reported involving LGBTIQ+ persons was 38, as compared to 45 cases in the 19th month, and the number of cases in which individuals were specifically targeted for detrimental treatment on the basis of their SOGIE also reduced significantly from 18 cases in December 2024 to 8 cases in December 2025, thus possibly indicating a steady downward trend. It is important to note that, in December 2023 (the 7th month of the AHA's enforcement), HRAPF recorded a total of 83 cases, of which 47 involved actions that deliberately targeted individuals for detrimental treatment on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE (56.6% of all cases handled).

6. Comparison with December 2022 (the Pre-AHA period)

In December 2022, a month before the AHB 2023 was tabled, HRAPF handled a total of 42 cases, of which 12 cases involved actions that directly targeted individuals for violence and abuse on the basis of their SOGIE. These numbers reduced a little to 38 cases handled overall, of which 8 involved actions that deliberately targeted individuals for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE in December 2025. This would suggest a downward shift in violence and violations against individuals on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE, although the trend remains relatively uncertain when taken in light of the fact that, in November 2025, the number of cases in which individuals were targeted for detrimental treatment on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE was 21, while this number was 15 cases in October 2025.

The trend remains uncertain, and is therefore more likely to have been influenced by extraneous factors, such as an increased focus on political differences and political campaigns in the month leading up to the polls, rather than an actual positive shift towards greater respect for and protection of the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons in Uganda. In terms of context, December 2025 was the final month leading to the 15th January 2026 presidential and parliamentary elections. As such the atmosphere was more charged towards politics, but unlike earlier election cycles, homosexuality did not come up as a serious electoral issue during this cycle. This may explain the fewer cases.

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

As the implementation of the AHA marks two years and six months, a total of 2,116 cases involving LGBTIQ persons have been handled across the HRAPF legal aid network, of which 956 cases (45.2%) involved actions that specifically targeted LGBTIQ people because of their sexuality, gender identity and sex development affecting a total of 1,276 individuals. The breakdown of all the cases involving SOGIE- motivated violence and violations so far is as follows:

Nature of violation	June to Dec '23	Jan to June '24	July to Dec '24	Jan to June '25	July 2025	Aug 2025	Sept 2025	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025	Total No. of cases
Evictions	164	132	38	38	4	3	4	3	7	2	395
Violence	137	121	59	36	5	8	7	7	5	3	388
Arrests	38	34	31	25	1	6	6	3	6	1	151
Other forms of discrimination	6	0	0	4	2	1	1	2	4	2	22
Total	345	287	128	105	11	18	18	15	22	8	956

The victims in these cases are:

Nature of violation	June - Dec 2023	Jan - June 2024	July - Dec 2024	Jan - June 2025	July 2025	Aug 2025	Sept 2025	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025	Total No of victims
Evictions	204	162	44	41	4	4	4	3	11	2	479
Violence	171	142	70	47	7	11	9	8	6	3	474
Arrests	59	63	47	73	1	10	27	11	7	1	299
Other forms of discrimination	6	0	0	6	2	1	1	2	4	2	24

Total	440	367	160	167	12	26	41	24	28	8	1,276
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8. Conclusion

HRAPF has continued to monitor the human rights situation for LGBTQ persons in Uganda in the 31 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 high, despite a sudden reduction in December 2025 that is easily attributable to a shifting focus towards politics. The trend of violence against persons by individuals merely on suspicion of their SOGIE continues, as well as entrapment for arbitrary arrests and extortion through dating apps. Both trends need to be closely monitored in the coming months, and efforts made to address this growing challenge to the rights and wellbeing of LGBTIQ persons in Uganda.

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 12 individuals in 10 cases that are still pending actively either at police stations or before various courts across the country. In 2 cases, 2 individuals are still reporting on police bond and answering charges related to homosexuality. In 8 cases, 10 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 10 persons whose cases are pending before the courts, 6 are still on remand in the various prisons around the country while 4 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/938/2025	Attempted homosexuality	The client was introduced to someone by a friend, and the two flirted on social media for a while before agreeing to meet. On 10 th November, 2025, he went to the agreed meeting spot. Upon arriving, the client was ambushed by three men who assaulted him, stole his property, accused him of being gay and threatened to kill him. They then dragged him to a nearby police station, where he was detained on charges of attempted homosexuality and later released on police bond on 16 th November 2025.	Client is still reporting on police bond	1
2.	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 on 4 th October 2025 the client was arrested by the man he was meeting, who took him to a nearby police station, where he was detained	The client was is still reporting on police bond.	1

			for 3 days before being released on bond on 6 th October 2025. When he went back later to report on police bond, he was forcibly taken for an anal examination 'to aid in investigations'.		
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List of cases currently pending before courts

No.	HRAPF Case code	Offence in charge sheet	Brief facts	Status	Number of victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/89 6/25	Homosexuality	The clients were arrested from the home of one of them on 17 th September 2025 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 unnatural offences.	The matter is still pending in court. A bail application was made on 22 nd December 2025 but it was denied and the matter shall be coming again up for hearing on 22 nd January 2025. The clients have now been in pretrial detention for more than 3 months.	2

2.	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 arrested on 30 th June 2025 and detained by the police for 9 days before he was arraigned in court on 8 th July 2025 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 in detention awaiting committal to the High Court for trial. He has now been in prison for more than six months without trial.	1
3.	HRAPF/PA /775/25	Aggravated Homosexuality	The accused was arrested on 10 th January 2025 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 client 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. The client has now been in prison for one year without trial	1

4.	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. They were released on police bond on 31 st January 2025 following an application for unconditional release. On 4 th June, one of the clients was re-arrested and arraigned in court and released on bail on 25 th June 2025. The 2 nd client was also arrested on 8 th November 2025 and released on police bond on 10 th December 2025.	The case will be coming up for hearing on 21 st January 2026.	2
5.	HRAPF/PA /655/2024	Promotion of Homosexuality	The prosecution alleges that the accused had a video strip showing acts of homosexuality. The client was arrested on 20 th March 2024 and arraigned in court on 22 nd March 2024. He was released on bail.	The case came up for hearing on 13 th November but the magistrate was not in court, so the case was adjourned to 12 th January 2026.	1

6.	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. The client has been in pre-trial detention for close to one year and ten months.	1
7.	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 in prison on remand. He has so far spent two years and five months in detention without trial.	1
8.	HRAPF/PA /144/2023	Unnatural offences	The client was arrested on 16 th August 2023 on allegations that he was found having sex with a disabled man at a sports field. He was charged with aggravated homosexuality. The accused denies the allegations. He was released on bail.	The matter was coming up again on 5 th January 2026, but the magistrate was not available and it is now scheduled for 2 nd February.	1