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REPORT ON VIOLENCE AND VIOLATIONS BASED ON REAL OR PRESUMED SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2024

10TH NOVEMBER 2024

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1. Introduction

This is the 18th monthly report on violence and other 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 presumed SOGIE as reported in the month of November 2024. This is a follow up to the reports produced earlier in this series and therefore seeks to build on 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 clinic during the month of November 2024. The data for this report was collected using both qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection, and it was independently verified and analysed to ensure its accuracy.

Quantitative data was obtained from a review of case files, which method yielded data on the number of cases handled and the number of cases in which acts of violence or other human rights violations were identified. This data was then subjected to a further in-depth qualitative analysis to ascertain the circumstances under which the incidents occurred, in order to ascertain that only cases in which such acts were perpetrated purely or primarily on the basis of real or presumed SOGIE are included in the report.

The data presented in this report is limited by the fact that it covers only cases reported through the HRAPF legal aid network. The report presents a fair picture of the situation for LGBTIQ persons across the country as reported to HRAPF's countrywide network of community paralegals, regional legal aid centres, specialized legal aid desks and the main legal aid clinic, but it may not be representative of all LGBTIQ persons' lived realities during the month, as we acknowledge the possibility that not all cases that occurred in November 2024 were reported to HRAPF's network.

3. Nature and number of cases reported

HRAPF handled a total of 47 cases in the month of November 2024, a reduction from the 50 cases handled in October 2024. Out of the 47 cases handled, 23 cases involved actions that directly targeted people for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE, representing 48.9% of all the cases handled during the month of November 2024. The number of victims affected by these violations increased from 18 persons in October 2024, to 28 persons in November 2024.

Out of the 23 cases in which LGBTIQ people were specifically targeted for violent treatment during the month of November 2024, 14 cases involved violence and threats of violence against persons on the basis of their SOGIE, 6 were eviction cases and 3 were arrests on sexuality-related charges.

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

3.1 Cases involving actual and threatened violence

Cases involving violence and threats of violence against individuals on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE were the highest category of cases registered in November 2024 at 14 verified cases affecting 16 persons. This was an increase from the 9 cases affecting 10 persons reported in October 2024.

i. Cases of actual violence on the basis of sexual orientation/ gender identity

There were 12 cases of actual violence against persons on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE in November 2024, affecting 14 persons. This violence was perpetrated by unknown persons in 6 cases, neighbours in 1 case and members of the general community in which the victims resided in 4 cases. All the cases involved physical violence and the victims sustained injuries, some of which were serious. 3 cases were registered from Kampala district, 3 in Wakiso, and 1 case was registered from each of the districts of Kalangala, Mukono, Masaka, Mbarara, Kanungu and Gulu.

This marks an increase from 8 cases registered in October 2024, affecting 9 persons.

The table below discusses these cases in detail:

No.	Case code	Date of reporting	District	Nature of violence	Perpetrator	Brief facts	No. of victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/721/2024	7/11/24	Kalangala	Assault	Unknown persons	The clients were at their home on the night of November 2 2024 when they heard a commotion outside. A large crowd was gathered outside, yelling at them to leave and stop spreading	2

						homosexuality. They hid inside until they thought that everyone had left, then one stepped out to check if they were all gone. A person she did not see and hit her on the head and she collapsed.	
2.	HRAPF/PA/722/2024	8/11/24	Kampala	Assault	Unknown persons	The client in this case was assaulted near his home in Ndeeba by about 5 men unknown to him. The attackers accused him of being a homosexual, and after beating him, they took off with his phone.	1
3.	HRAPF/PA/723/2024	5/11/24	Wakiso	Assault	General community	The client was attacked and beaten by a group of boys from his general neighbourhood as he was walking home. While they were beating him up, they repeatedly asked him why he insists on walking like a woman, and if he is a homosexual. The client had previously reported being threatened by this group.	1
4.	HRAPF/PA/724/2024	25/11/24	Mukono	Assault	Neighbours	The client was robbed and when he confronted the person who stole from him, the perpetrator shouted loudly that the client was just a homosexual, and that he even had 'homosexuals' drugs' in his house. The neighbours forcibly broke into the house and when they found the client's bottle of PrEP, they turned on him and beat	1

						him brutally, then told the landlord and demanded that the client is evicted.	
5.	HRAPF/PA/725/24	24/11/24	Kampala	Assault	Unknown persons	The client was attending a friend's birthday party in Kawempe when a group of about 8 people attacked and beat up the party attendees at around half past midnight. The others were able to run but the client was held down and punched and kicked severely by the attackers, who afterwards took off with his phone.	1
6.	HRAPF/PA/726/24	28/11/24	Kampala	Assault	General community	The client was attacked by a man who suspected that the client was having a relationship with a girl that the man was interested in. While beating her, he repeatedly told her that he knew the other girl only rejected him because the client was turning her into a homosexual, and he warned that he would beat her again and tell people she is gay if she ever went back to their local church. He still continues to threaten the client.	1
7.	HRAPF/PA/727/24	8/11/24	Masaka	Assault	Unknown persons	At around 10pm on November 7, 2024, while the client was heading to his home, three men on a motorcycle stopped and surrounded him. One accused him of spreading homosexuality in the area while the	1

						others checked his pockets and took out his phone and money. They then pushed him down and started kicking and punching him, leaving him unconscious and with injuries all over his body. When he regained consciousness, he found himself in a nearby clinic where he received first aid and treatment for his injuries.	
8.	HRAPF/PA/728/24	13/11/24	Mbarara	Assault	General community	The client's friend was beaten up at a popular bar in Mbarara by the bouncer, and when he confronted the perpetrator, he beat him up to, telling him that he did not want anyone connected to homosexuals anywhere in the vicinity of the bar. The bouncer then physically pushed the client out of the premises, causing him to fall on the tarmac road and injure his arm, hand and leg.	1
9.	HRAPF/PA/729/24	30/11/24	Kanungu	Assault	Unknown persons	The 2 clients were hanging out at a drinking spot when a group of 3 men unknown to them started asking if they were homosexuals on a date. One of them confronted the men and told them to mind their own business, which angered them and they turned violent. One client was able to escape but the other was beaten brutally by the men.	2

10.	HRAPF/PA/730/24	4/11/2024	Gulu	Assault	Unknown persons	The client, a known transgender woman, was attacked as she was walking home on November 4, 2024 by persons unknown to her, beaten badly and left lying on the side of the road. They did not speak a word to her as they beat her and did not take anything from her.	1
11.	HRAPF/PA/731/24	17/11/24	Wakiso	Assault	General community	The client was working at his salon when some men came in and started assaulting him, demanding that he leave the village because he is a homosexual. He was embarrassed in front of his customer and has since reported loss of business	1
12.	HRAPF/PA/732/24	27/11/24	Wakiso	Assault	Unknown persons	The client was attacked at her home by about 5 people who were previously unknown to her. They pushed their way into her house and just started beating her up, accusing her of being a homosexual.	1

ii. Cases of threats of violence on the basis of sexual orientation/ gender identity

There were two cases of threats of violence perpetrated against 2 persons in Butebo district in Eastern Uganda and Kabarole district. This marked an increase from 1 case affecting 1 person that was reported in October 2024.

No.	Case code	Date of reporting	District	Nature of violence	Perpetrator	Brief facts	No. of victims
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1.	HRAPF/PA/733/2024	4/11/24	Butebo	Threats of physical violence	Family	The client's mother chased him from the family home upon discovering that he is gay and HIV positive, and threatened to have him killed if he returned. He sought shelter at a friend's place a little distance away from home and when the family found out, they started threatening to attack him and beat him up if he did not leave the village and stop embarrassing them.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA/739/2024	11/11/24	Kabarole	Threats of physical violence	General community	The client, a peer educator working with a known LGBTQ-support organisation in Fort Portal, was verbally attacked repeatedly by people in the neighbourhood where he stays, who continuously called him an 'evil' homosexual. In an incident on 10 th November, they threatened to beat him up if he did not leave their village.	1

2.2 Evictions

There was a slight increase in the number of cases of eviction from rented property from 4 cases affecting 4 individuals in October 2024 to 6 cases affecting 7 individuals in November 2024. There were 2 cases registered from Lira, and one case each from Kampala, Wakiso, Kalangala and Masaka. In 4 of these cases, the evictions were orchestrated by the landlords/ property owners while in 2 cases, the evictions were by the LC chairpersons, who demanded that the victims leave the village entirely.

No.	Case code	Date of reporting	District	Perpetrator	Brief facts	Number of Victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/734/24	4/11/24	Kampala	Landlord	The client states that on 2/11/24, the mother of his son came to his home to pick their 1-year-old son. They had an argument and she caused a commotion, insulting the client's sister and stating that the client is gay. The client's landlord was informed by the neighbours and the landlord asked him to vacate the premises within one month.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA/735/2024	01/11/24	Wakiso	LC Leadership	The client has served for a long time in his area of residence as a KP peer coordinator, focusing primarily on GBQ men and transgender women. In October 2024, the neighbours started questioning him about his sexuality and wondering if he was also a KP, and eventually, his landlord came to the house to ask him the same questions. At the beginning of November 2024, the LC Chairperson came to his house and gave him a letter demanding that he leave the village within a month.	1
3.	HRAPF/PA/736/24	15/11/24	Lira	Landlord	The client was at home with a friend who is a girl when his partner came to visit. The girl excused herself briefly and while she was gone, the client and his partner went into the bedroom and started kissing. The girl returned and entered the room without knocking and found them kissing. She immediately ran out and informed the client's landlord, and the client was evicted with immediate effect.	1
4.	HRAPF/PA/737/24	18/11/24	Lira	Landlord	The client is a transgender man who had recently moved into a new rented premises after being	1

					evicted from their previous residence. The landlord at the new residence started questioning why the client dressed and behaved like a man, and asking if the client was a homosexual. After about a month, the landlord demanded that the client leave his premises because the client and his friends 'do not look normal', and that he had even found out that the client was evicted from his previous residence because of homosexuality.	
5.	HRAPF/PA/738/24	19/11/24	Masaka	Landlord	The client was fired from the salon where he used to work after his boss became suspicious that he was gay from comments made by the client's friends when they used to visit him at the salon. The employer then informed the client's landlord of his suspicions, and also informed him that the client was now jobless. The landlord evicted the client on the basis of this complaint.	1
6.	HRAPF/PA/721/2024	7/11/2024	Kalangala	LC Leadership	In the case involving a mob attack against two lesbian women on Nkose island in Kalangala district, the two women were told to leave the island immediately by the LC I chairperson after he was informed of the incident the day after it happened. He found the two in a clinic where they had spent the night because one had been knocked unconscious, and when he saw them, he told them that he would not tolerate homosexuals on the island, and told them to plan to leave with all their property that very day.	2

3.3 Arrests

There were 3 arrests on sexuality-related charges in November 2024, of which 2 were in Kampala and 1 was in Wakiso. The victims were charged with homosexuality in 1 case, conspiracy to commit a felony in another and in the last case, there were no charges preferred at all. The arrests affected a total of 5 persons, a slight increase from the 4 individuals who were affected by 3 incidents of sexuality-related arrests in October 2024. In all these cases reported in November, the clients were all released on police bond although two of the cases are still under investigation.

This table provides a detailed breakdown of the arrest:

No.	Case code	Date of reporting	District	Charge	Brief facts	Number of Victims
1.	HRAPF/PA /740/24	26/11/24	Wakiso	No charges preferred	The clients were arrested in police operation while they were standing outside a bar. The following morning, all the arrested persons were released but the clients were held for two more days merely because they were both wearing rainbow coloured bracelets. They were later made to clean the police station before being released unconditionally.	2
2.	HRAPF/PA /741/24	14/11/24	Kampala	Homosexuality	The clients were found being intimate inside their house by a neighbour who peeped into the house and then made an alarm. A mob surrounded the house, forced the two out and took them to Nabisalu Police Post where they were detained on charges of homosexuality.	2
3.	HRAPF/PA /742/2024	11/11/24	Kampala	Conspiracy to commit a felony	The client connected a friend of his to another friend to help him find a job, but the friend who made the job offer then asked the other out on a date, which the other found insulting. Believing that the client had set him up to be 'recruited' into homosexuality, the client's friend had him arrested and detained at Katale Police Post on charges of conspiracy to commit a felony.	1

4. Comparison with October 2024

There was a reduction in the overall number of cases reported in November 2024 from 50 cases to 47 cases, but the number of cases involving actions that deliberately targeted persons for negative treatment on basis of their real or presumed SOGIE increased from 16 cases to 23 cases. The number of victims affected by these violations also increased from 18 persons in October 2024 to 28 persons in November 2024.

In both months, the highest number of recorded cases were cases involving violence and threats of violence against individuals on the basis of their real or presumed sexual orientation, with 14 cases affecting 16 individuals in November 2024, and 9 cases involving 10 individuals in October 2024. Cases involving evictions increased from 4 cases affecting 5 persons in October 2024 to 6 cases affecting 7 persons in November, while arrests for sexuality related reasons remained constant at 3 cases across both months, although the number of victims increased from 4 individuals in October to 5 in November.

5. Comparison with November 2023

HRAPF handled a total of 69 cases involving LGBTIQ persons in the month of November 2023, out of which 39 cases involved actions that directly targeted people for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE, representing 56.95% of all the cases handled during the month of November 2023. These cases affected a total of 44 individuals. Out of the 39 cases in which LGBTIQ people were specifically targeted for detrimental treatment, 20 were cases of unlawful evictions from rented properties affecting 24 persons, 9 were cases of violence and threats of violence affecting 10 persons, 7 were arrests for sexuality-related reasons affecting 7 persons while 3 were civil matters reported by LGBTI persons where they had been discriminated due to their sexuality, affecting 3 persons. In comparison to November, 2024, there is a noticeable decline both in the general number of cases from 69 to 47, as well as in the decline in the number of cases in which individuals were specifically targeted for detrimental treatment on the basis of their SOGIE from 39 cases in November 2023 to 23 cases in November 2024.

It is worth noting that, while in November 2023, the highest number of cases were eviction cases at 20 cases in total, this number has reduced drastically in November 2024 to only 6 cases. Arrests for sexuality-related reasons have also greatly reduced from 7 arrests affecting 7 individuals in November 2023 to 3 arrests affecting 5 individuals in November 2024. In contrast, violence against LGBTQ persons by non-state actors constituted the highest number of cases in November 2024 at 14 cases, an increase from 9 cases in November 2023.

These trends are suggestive of 3 factors:

- Violence against LGBTQ persons remains a critical concern and is primarily driven by the high levels of homophobia and a restrictive legal regime that provides absolutely no protection for the rights and wellbeing of LGBTQ persons.
- The judgment of the Constitutional Court of Uganda in the AHA petition (*Hon. Fox Odoi-Oywelowo and 22 others v Attorney General and others, Consolidated Constitutional Petitions No. 14, 15, 16 and 87 of 2023*) continues to have a positive impact on access to housing for LGBTQ persons, having struck down section 9 of the AHA that made it illegal to rent housing facilities to individuals 'for purposes of homosexuality'.
- Arrests of LGBTQ persons by the police continue to decline, with the exception of some pockets of obvious persecution against LGBTQ persons by police authorities. However, the impact of the law on the general public still remains quite clear as evidenced by the other forms of violence and harassment faced by LGBTQ persons.

6. Comparison with the period from 1 November 2022 to 30 November 2022 (pre-AHA)

In November 2022, a total of 39 cases were handled involving LGBTIQ persons, of which 10 cases involved actions that directly targeted persons on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE (25.6% of all cases handled). The cases involved 5 incidents of real or threatened violence and 5 evictions. There were no sexuality-related arrests in the period.

In contrast, 47 cases were handled in November 2024, of which 23 (48.9%) involved actions that specifically targeted individuals on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE. There were 14 acts of violence and threats of violence in November 2024; 6 evictions and 3 arrests on sexuality-related reasons. It is thus abundantly clear that, prior to the AHA coming into force, there was noticeably less violence against individuals on the basis of their SOGIE.

7. The first 18 months of the AHA 2023 in Uganda

In the first 18 months of the AHA 2023, a total of 1,440 cases involving LGBTIQ persons have been handled across the HRAPF legal aid network, of which 742 (51.5%) targeted LGBTIQ people on the basis of their sexuality, affecting a total of 940 persons. The breakdown of cases so far is as follows:

Nature of violation	June to December	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2024	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	Aug 2024	Sept 2024	Oct 2024	November 2024	Total number of cases

	2023												
Evictions	164	30	32	23	19	16	12	10	9	2	4	6	327
Violence	137	25	24	20	17	20	15	14	10	9	9	14	314
Arrests	38	4	3	9	8	5	5	11	1	5	3	3	95
Other forms of discrimination	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Total	345	59	59	52	44	41	32	35	20	16	16	23	742

The victims in these cases are:

Nature of violation	June to Dec '23	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2024	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	Aug 2024	Sept 2024	Oct 2024	November 2024	Total number of victims
Evictions	204	35	47	26	23	17	14	11	10	4	4	7	402
Violence	171	32	32	20	20	22	16	15	12	14	10	16	380
Arrests	59	6	3	20	18	11	5	14	2	9	4	5	156
Other forms of discrimination	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Total	440	73	82	66	61	50	35	40	24	27	18	28	944

Although evictions continue to decline on a monthly basis in a very noticeable trend, it is worth noting that, because they were so rampant in the first 10 months of the AHA (June 2023 to March 2024), they still remain the highest number of cases to date, with the highest number of victims, although cases of violence and threats of violence have been higher than evictions since May 2024 (after the judgment in the AHA petitions).

8. Conclusion

The situation for LGBTQ persons in Uganda remains precarious, with the biggest threat coming from the communities in which LGBTQ persons reside and work and generally exist, even though the state machinery seems to be less interested in active

enforcement of the law. It remains a cause for concern as Uganda gears up for another election year, in which LGBTQ rights issues are traditionally politicised and weaponised for political clout, as this generally tends to feed into the general levels of active homophobia within the society. The existence of the AHA 2023 makes it that much harder to address violence and violations against LGBTQ persons through formal institutions, which creates a high level of impunity that inevitably results in increased violence. It is therefore still a matter of great concern that the AHA has remained a law 18 months after its coming into force, despite the obvious impact it has had on the lives and rights of a significant section of Uganda's population.