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

12TH MAY 2025

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1. Introduction

This is the 23rd 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 April 2025.

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 April 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 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 April 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 April 2025, an increase from the 49 cases handled in March 2025. Out of the 56 cases handled, 17 cases involved actions that directly targeted people for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE, representing 30.6% of all the cases handled during the month of April 2025 and 22 persons were affected by the violations.

Out of the 17 cases in which LGBTIQ people were specifically targeted for violent treatment during the month of April 2025, 8 were eviction cases, 6 cases involved actual physical violence and threats of violence being committed against the victims, 3 cases involved arrests for sexuality related reasons.

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

3.1. Evictions

The cases of evictions increased from 5 cases affecting 5 individuals in March 2025 to 8 cases affecting 9 individuals in April 2025. 2 of the eviction cases were reported in Mbale and 1 case each in the districts of Bushenyi, , Kapchorwa, , Kasese, Kampala, Mukono and Sironko. The evictions were orchestrated by the clients' landlords in 4 cases, family members in 3 cases and the landlord working with the local area leadership in 1 case. This is the first time since the Constitutional Court nullified provisions criminalising landlords renting out properties to 'homosexuals' in April 2024 that evictions have overtaken cases of violence as the highest number of violations in a month.

No.	Case code	Date of reporting	District	Perpetrator	Brief facts	No. of Victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/812/2025	7/04/25	Mbale	Family members	The client had been receiving persistent threats from his father, who demanded that the client vacate the home he had constructed on the jointly owned family land. The client's father insisted that they were no longer able to put up with the shame of having a homosexual child. When the client refused to leave, his father simply climbed on to the roof of the house and removed some of the iron sheets, leaving the client and his property exposed to the elements. The client felt that he did not have a choice at this point but to vacate the place and, although he reported the matter to the police, he was not given any assistance.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA/813/2025	24/04/25	Mbale	Landlord	The client attended a party at the home of his friend where he also found one of his neighbours. A few days after the party, the client's landlord came by and ordered the client to vacate the premises. Upon inquiry, the landlord informed him that he had been seen at a party with homosexuals and that he was also a homosexual.	1
3.	HRAPF/PA/814/25	25/04/25	Sironko	Landlord	The client in this case was forced to relocate to	1

					Budadiri after her husband found out that she was a bisexual and forced her to leave their matrimonial home. While in Budadiri, she confided her troubles to a friend who then outed her to the entire village as a homosexual. The information reached the clients' landlord, who immediately ordered her to leave the premises by 15 th April. The eviction notice was also signed by the area chairperson.	
4.	HRAPF/PA/815/25	28/04/25	Kapchor wa	Landlord	The client hosted two female friends for a few days at her house. The landlord found out about this and came to demand that the two leave because he had received information that they were lesbians. The client tried to argue about this and the landlord responded by asking her to also leave the premises, stating that she and her friends were 'birds of the same feathers'. The client initially thought that this was a joke but even after her friends left, her landlord never changed his position, and actually threatened to involve the authorities if she did not leave.	1
5.	HRAPF/PA/816/25	23/04/25	Bushenyi	Family Members	The client tried to initiate a romantic relationship with one of her female colleagues at college, which the colleague immediately reported to her parents and to their church leaders. The client's parents and the church leaders rebuked her for her actions, and her parents asked her to leave their home immediately. They also stopped paying her tuition, stating that they could not continue to support a homosexual.	1
6.	HRAPF/PA/817/25	14/04/25	Kasese	Landlord	The clients were living together, and one of them routinely cross-dressed. The neighbours reported to the landlord that the two were a couple, and they insisted	2

					that they did not want to live near homosexuals who might influence their children. The landlord therefore asked the two to leave the premises.	
7.	HRAPF/PA/818/25	22/04/25	Kampala	Landlord and Local area leaders	The client was approached by his landlord and asked to leave the rental premises. The landlord informed the client that he had noticed a number of the client's visitors were males who tended to dress, act or speak like females, and that he did not want those kinds of people in this house. The landlord also reported this to the area leaders, who joined efforts with the landlord to ask that the client leave the village altogether.	1
8.	HRAPF/PA/819/25	4/04/25	Mukono	Family members	The client had a friend visiting him at home overnight. In the middle of the night, the two had an argument and when the client's mother came in to check what the problem was, she found the client's friend wearing only boxer briefs without a shirt, which she insisted meant that the two had just had sex. She stated that she had always suspected that her son was gay but was looking for proof. She then shouted and called on the neighbour to help her take the two to the police. They were both able to get away before being apprehended but the client's mother warned him never to return to her home.	1

3.2. Cases involving actual violence and threats of violence

A total of 6 cases involving violence and threats of violence were registered in April 2025, affecting 8 individuals. Of these, 3 cases involved actual violence while 3 cases involved threats of violence. There has been a slight increase in cases of violence in April 2025, compared to the month of March in which 5 cases affecting 6 individuals were registered.

Cases of actual violence

There were 3 incidents of actual violence against persons on the basis of their presumed SOGIE, affecting 4 individuals. All these incidents were perpetrated by unknown persons, and they all involved physical violence as a result of which the victims sustained injuries. 2 cases were registered in Kampala district while 1 was registered in Mbarara. This was a reduction from the 5 incidents of actual violence against persons on the basis of their presumed SOGIE, affecting 6 individuals recorded in March 2025.

No.	Case code	Date of reporting	District	Nature of violence	Perpetrator	Brief facts	No. of victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/820 /2025	22/04/25	Kampala	Physical assault	Unknown persons	The client was attacked by some persons who are known to her by face. They assaulted her while accusing her of being a homosexual, and warned her to leave their village for her safety. She reported the matter at the police station but none of the perpetrators has yet been arrested.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA/821 /2025	7/04/25	Kampala	Physical assault	Unknown persons	The client met someone through a social media app and they chatted for several weeks before agreeing to meet. When the client got there, the person he found attacked and started beating him, and he was joined by two other men, both unknown to the client, who also joined in the assault. The three also took his phone and wallet.	1
3.	HRAPF/PA/822 /25	1/04/25	Mbarara	Physical assault	Unknown persons	The clients were walking home on the evening of 1 st April when they were attacked by unknown persons. The attackers accused them of being homosexuals, forcibly took their phones, wallets and money and threatened to kill them if they did not vacate the village.	2

Threats of violence

There were 3 incidents involving threats of violence being directed against the victims due to their SOGIE/presumed SOGIE which were registered during the month of April 2025. All the incidents involved verbal threats and 4 persons were affected. All these incidents were registered in Wakiso district. 2 of the incidents were perpetrated by the victim's neighbours and in 1 case by the client's close family members. This was an increase from the one case recorded in March 2025.

No	Case code	Date of reporting	District	Nature of violence	Perpetrator	Brief facts	No. of victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/823/2025	10/04/25	Wakiso	Threats of physical violence	Family members	The clients in this case, a transgender man and his girlfriend, had faced repeated harassment and threats from both their families, who wanted them to end their relationship and stop living together. In April 2025, one client's brother came to their home and threatened to rape the client's girlfriend to teach them both a lesson, but the neighbours intervened when they heard her screams. They were both forced to temporarily flee their home that evening out of fear that he would return.	2
2.	HRAPF/PA/824/25	25/04/25	Wakiso	Threats of physical violence	Neighbours	The client's neighbour keeps harassing him, verbally insulting him and mocking him whenever she sees him. She recently threatened that she would do something that would greatly hurt him if he did not leave the village, so he reported this to the area leadership. During the mediation, the woman apologised, but told the chairperson that the client is a homosexual. The chairperson nevertheless asked her to stop harassing him, but she has continued to out him, insult him and threaten to hurt	1

						him.	
3.	HRAPF/PA/825/25	7/04/25	Wakiso	Threats of physical violence	Neighbours	The client is a peer leader and a trained community paralegal, and therefore often associates with MSM and transgender persons in his area. As a result of this, the neighbours started to accuse him of recruiting people into homosexuality and to spread rumours around the village that he is gay. He has recently started to receive threats through WhatsApp, with several messages urging him to leave the village and take the homosexuals with him or face the consequences.	1

3.3. Arrests

Arrests for sexuality-related reasons reduced from 3 cases affecting 3 persons in March 2025 to 2 cases affecting 4 persons in April 2025. There was also 1 case where the client was only summoned at police to answer allegations of homosexuality which had been raised by the general community against him. In one case, the client was charged with homosexuality under the Anti-Homosexuality Act, while in the other case the clients were first charged with homosexuality but upon their release, the officers indicated a charge of possession of narcotics on their bond forms. All the victims were released on police bond but their cases are still under investigation. 2 of the cases were registered in Wakiso and 1 case in Mukono district.

No.	Case code	Date of reporting	District	Charges preferred	Brief facts	No. of Victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/826/25	27/04/25	Wakiso	Homosexuality / Possession of Narcotics	The clients' landlord came to their rented house with police officers to evict them forcefully over unpaid rent arrears of 2 months. As they were throwing the client's properties out of the house, they found some sachets of lubricants and condoms in the bedroom, which the police officers reacted	3

					to by arresting and charging them with homosexuality. They were detained for two days before being released on police bond, but the offence indicated on the bond form was possession of narcotics, contrary to the stated reasons for arrest and the initial recorded charges.	
2.	HRAPF/PA/827/2025	11/04/25	Wakiso	Homosexuality	The client was at a friend's home when the friend and two people started harassing him, asking him why he is gay and then assaulting him. The friend then called police officers who arrested him after they were told that he is a homosexual. He was held at the police station on charges of homosexuality before being released on police bond later.	1
3.	HRAPF/PA/828/25	01/04/25	Mukono	Common Nuisance	The client, a pastor was summoned to the police station after his neighbours complained that his church was too noisy and that many of the church members seemed to be homosexuals, and that the neighbours worried that the church was promoting homosexuality in their area. The client was extensively interrogated about the church and the suspected LGBTQ people that go there before being warned that the police would continue to monitor the church through their informers.	1

4. Comparison with March 2025

There was a slight increase in the overall number of cases reported in April 2025 from 49 cases in March 2025 to 56 cases in April 2025. The number of cases involving actions that deliberately targeted persons for negative treatment on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE also increased from 16 cases in March 2025 to 17 cases in April 2025, while the number of victims increased from 19 in March 2025, to 22 in April 2025. Eviction cases were the highest number of cases registered in April 2025, at 8 cases affecting 9 individuals while in March, 5 eviction cases were registered affecting 5 individuals. The cases of violence and threats of violence increased from 5 cases affecting 6 individuals in March 2025, to 6 cases affecting 8 individuals in April 2025. Arrests on sexuality related charges slightly reduced from 3 cases affecting 3 individuals in March 2025, to 2 cases affecting 5 individuals in April 2025.

5. Comparison with April 2024

A total of 99 cases involving LGBTI persons were handled the month of April 2024, out of which 44 cases involved actions that directly targeted people for negative treatment on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE and 61 persons were affected. Out of the 44 cases in which LGBTIQ people were specifically targeted for detrimental treatment during the month of April 2024, 19 were cases of evictions from rented properties, 17 were cases of violence and threats of violence while 8 were arrests for sexuality-related reasons.

In contrast, 56 cases were handled in April 2025, of which 17 cases involved acts of deliberate homophobia. Evictions from rented properties were the highest number of cases registered at 8 cases affecting 9 individuals, followed by cases of violence and threats of violence at 6 cases affecting 8 persons and arrests related to sexuality charges were the lowest at 2 cases affecting 5 individuals.

6. The first 23 months of the AHA 2023 in Uganda

In the 23rd month of the implementation of the AHA 2023, a total of 1,692 cases involving LGBTIQ persons have been handled across the HRAPF legal aid network, of which 828 (48.9%) targeted LGBTIQ people on the basis of their sexuality, affecting a total of 1,055 persons.

The breakdown of all the cases by month so far is as follows:

Nature of violation	June to December 2023	Jan to June 2024	July 2024	Aug 2024	Sept 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	March 2025	April 2025	Total number of cases
Evictions	164	132	10	9	2	4	6	7	6	3	5	8	356
Violence	137	121	14	10	9	9	14	3	8	7	6	6	344
Arrests	38	34	11	1	5	3	3	8	6	4	3	3	119
Other forms of discrimination	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	9
Total	345	287	35	20	16	16	23	18	21	16	16	17	828

The victims in these cases are:

Nature of violation	June to Decem ber 23	Jan to June 2024	July 2024	Aug 2024	Sept 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	March 2025	April 2025	Total number of victims
Evictions	204	162	11	10	4	4	7	8	6	3	5	9	433
Violence	171	142	15	12	14	10	16	3	10	11	7	8	419
Arrests	59	63	14	2	9	4	5	12	11	5	3	5	192
Other forms of discrimination	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	11
Total	440	367	40	24	27	18	28	23	28	19	19	22	1,055

7. Conclusion

The implementation of the Anti-Homosexuality Act 2023 continues to have a negative impact on the rights of LGBTQ persons, specifically in relation to protection from violence, protection of the right to liberty and access to housing, the three aspects that this series of reports majorly tracks. The data indicates that violence and other human rights violations continue to be high, almost two years since the AHA 2023 was enacted, thus highlighting the necessity for a swift review of this law. The rise in the number of cases of evictions is worrying, but we hope this is a temporary trend.

APPENDIX: Update on Cases of arrest still pending before police stations and courts across the country

Currently, HRAFP is providing legal representation/following up to a total of 23 individuals in 14 cases that are still pending actively either at various police stations or before various courts across the country. In 6 cases, 12 individuals are still reporting on police bond and answering various charges related to their sexuality, both under the Penal Code Act and the Anti-Homosexuality Act, specifically homosexuality, attempted homosexuality and having carnal knowledge against the order of nature. In 8 cases, 12 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. Of the 12 persons whose cases are pending before the courts, 5 remain on remand in various prisons across the country. It is thus quite clear that the Uganda Police

Force and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions are actively enforcing the Anti-Homosexuality Act, alongside the various provisions criminalizing same sex sexual behaviour in the Penal Code Act.

It is important to note that none of those who were reporting on police bond last month have had charges withdrawn, and instead two more have been added. For those in prison, none has been released on bail or conclusion of their cases. The most recent changes are shown in the table below:

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

No.	Nature of Charges	Brief Facts	Current status	Number of victims
1.	Homosexuality /Possession of Narcotics	The suspects were arrested on 27 th April 2025, after their landlord came to their rental with police officers to forcefully evict them over unpaid rent arrears of 2 months. As they were throwing their properties out of the house, they found some sachets of lubricant and condoms in their bedroom, which the police officers reacted to by arresting and charging them with homosexuality. They were detained at the police post for two days before being released police bond, but the offence indicated on the bond form was possession of narcotics, contrary to the stated reasons for arrest and the initial recorded charges.	The clients were released on 28 th April on police bond and they are currently reporting on their bond.	3
2.	Homosexuality	On 11 th April 2025, the client was at a friend's home when the friend and two people started harassing him, asking him why he is gay and then assaulting him. The friend then called police officers who arrested him after they were told that he is a homosexual. He was held at the police station on charges of homosexuality before being released on bond	The client was released on police bond on 17 th April 2025 and he is still reporting on bond.	1
3.	'Trafficking in persons, forgery and acts	The suspects state that they brought a friend to go and work in Rwanda. After checking in a lodge, the friend demanded for money and when it was denied, he accused them of demanding for sex from	Accused were released on police bond on 31 st January	2

	of sodomy'	him and reported them to the police. They were arrested on 21 st January 2025 and 23 January 2025 respectively.	after the police were served with an application for unconditional release filed by HRAPF. Clients still reporting on police bond.	
4.	'Public Nuisance'	The suspects were arrested while at a friend's home. Men knocked on the door at midnight and demanded to be let in. They searched the house and accused the suspects of being homosexuals since they were two males staying in the house. They were taken to the police.	Released on police bond on 10 th January 2025. Suspects still reporting on police bond.	2
5.	Homosexuality	The accused persons were arrested on 8 th September 2024 from their home after being accused of being homosexuals and were held at the police station.	The accused were released on police bond on 24 th September 2024 after more than two weeks in detention; still reporting on bond.	3
6.	Attempted homosexuality	The suspect was arrested on 23 rd March 2025 when he visited a friend's home and found there people who accused him of being a homosexual, arrested him and took him to the police.	The client was released on police bond on 26 th March 2025. Still reporting	1

			on police bond.	
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Cases currently pending before courts

No.	Offence in charge sheet	Brief facts	Status	Number of victims
1.	Homosexuality	The accused was arrested on 17 th March and detained at the police. This was after a male friend came to visit him and his neighbors alerted the police alleging that the two were homosexuals. The prosecution alleges that he knowingly allowed the use of his house for purpose of undertaking activities that encourage homosexuality.	Accused initially released on police bond on 27 th March; rearrested on 3 rd April and produced in court on 4 th April, bail application denied. Client currently on remand in prison.	1
2.	Homosexuality	On 9 th December 2024, the accused was arrested when coming from a bar after a group of men accused him of having had sexual intercourse with an 18 year old man. He denies knowing the person who he was accused of having had sex with.	Case came up on 9 th April 2025 and the prosecution side led one witness and the case was adjourned to 15 th May 2025. The client is still on remand in prison.	1
3.	Having carnal knowledge against the order of nature	The accused was arrested on 7 th February 2025 after he was beaten up by community members who alleged that he had anal intercourse with another man. He was taken to the police and later to court.	Appeared in court on 11 th February 2025 and the case was adjourned. Client still on remand in prison.	1
4.	Rape	The accused states that he was arrested on 28 th July 2023 on allegations of homosexuality after	Case pending hearing in the High Court.	1

	Aggravated Human trafficking	the mother of a man with whom he had been in a 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.	The accused is still on remand in prison	
4.	Trafficking in persons and Having carnal knowledge of a person against the order of nature	The accused states that in 2022 he was imprisoned after a man he had given shelter to reported him to the police for having 'sodomised' him.	Released on bail on 22 May 2023. On 14 th April 2025, the client produced his last witness in court to testify in his favour and the case was adjourned to 2 nd June for Judgement.	1
5.	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 in prison. The case is at prosecution hearing stage. On 8 th May the matter had been cause listed for further hearing of the prosecution case but it did not proceed as the trial magistrate was not available.	1
6.	Promotion of Homosexuality	The prosecution alleges that the accused had a video strip showing acts of homosexuality.	He was released on bail. Matter last came up on 3 rd April for further hearing of the prosecution case and it was adjourned to 15 th May 2025.	1
7.	Unlawful possession of	The accused states that while celebrating the birthday of a colleague, the councillor of the area	They was released on bail on 3 rd April	3

	government stores; Promotion of Homosexuality	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, covid-19 cards all meant for promoting homosexuality.	2025. Matter was adjourned to 15th May 2025 for hearing of the prosecution case.	
8.	Aggravated homosexuality Amended from indecent practices	The accused was arrested on 7th March 2024 on allegations of having sexual intercourse with another man. Later the charge was amended to aggravated homosexuality as the mother of the partner was insisting that the partner was 17 years.	The client is still in prison. The case is yet to be heard. HRAPF filed a bail application but it hasn't yet been fixed for hearing.	1