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Effect of Anti-Homosexual Act 2023 in Uganda

June 16, 2023



1. The Anti-homosexuality Act, 2023

The **Anti-Homosexuality Act 2023**, **Act (No. 6 of 2023)** was assented, to by the President of Uganda on the 26th day of May 2023. The Act was published in the Uganda Gazette on 30th day of May 2023. The law is currently in force. As a result, some authorities and individuals are enforcing this law, including landlords issuing eviction notices of suspected LGBTIQ persons, loss of employment,

psychosocial/emotional violence, political/institutional violence, physical violence, and denial of healthcare services, among other violations.

1. Current political, and social environment for LGBTIQ persons

The current political and social environment is insecure and unbearable for LGBTIQ individuals based on real or imputed sexual orientation and gender identity. The politicians are fueling political clout towards the implementation of the Anti-Homosexuality Act, against the West and government funding. LGBTIQ persons are living in real fear of mob violence, persecution and prosecution. As a result, the current operational environment is unfavorable for LGBTIQ advocacy and related activities.

1. Challenging the Anti-Homosexuality Act, 2023 in court.

Three petitions challenging the Anti-Homosexuality Act, 2023 have so far been filed by activists at the Constitutional Court. The petitions intend to overturn the law for being unconstitutional. The Attorney General has responded to Constitutional Petition Number 014 of 2023 filed by Hon. Fox Odoi-Oywelowo , Frank Mugisha and 6 (six) Others, rejoinder affidavits are being prepared for filing. In an effort to stop the enforcement of the law pending the determination of the petitions, Hon. Fox Odoi-Oywelowo , Frank Mugisha and 6 (six) Others have filed an application for a temporary injunction.

1. Risks faced by LGBTIQ Individuals and Community

The LGBTIQ community in Uganda is living under fear of the Anti-Homosexuality Act. Since the tabling of the Act in Parliament, the LGBTIQ community has registered a sharp increase in violations. To date, 80 and more incidents of human rights violations and abuses have been documented, some of which were group violations. The cases include:

- 1. 38 cases of forced evictions, representing 20.2%
- 2. 30 cases of physical violence, representing 15.96%
- 3. 30 cases of psychological violence, representing 15.9 %
- 4. 16 cases of detention and arrest, representing 8.51%
- 5. 14 cases of blackmail, representing 7.45 %
- 6. 60 cases of other violations such as sexual violation, loss of employment, family banishment, denial of health services, political violence, etc.

The civil and operational space for the LGBTIQ community continues to close. In addition to the attacks my homophobic individuals and groups, government agencies such as the National Bureau for NGOs are also targeting to close down all organizations that are registered by LGBTIQ individuals and those that directly serve the LGBTIQ community. The effects of the Anti-homosexuality Act 2023 have affected service delivery to the LGBTIQ community.

1. Advisory

Human rights organizations working with sexual and gender minorities should streamline and alight their operations to mitigate violations towards LGBTIQ persons.

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