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

August 2025

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1. Introduction

This is the 26th 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 July 2025. A comparison is made with the month of June 2025. This report builds on the reports produced earlier for every month since the AHA came into force 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 network during the month of July 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, 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 July 2025 were reported to HRAPF's network.

3. Nature and number of cases reported

HRAPF handled a total of 41 cases in the month of July 2025, a significant reduction from the 57 cases handled in the month of June 2025. Out of the 41 cases handled, 12 cases involved actions that directly targeted people for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE, representing 29.3% of all the cases handled during the month of July 2025. This represents a reduction from June 2025, where 19 cases were registered where people were targeted for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE. A total of 14 persons were affected by the violations in July 2025 as compared to 60 people in June 2025 – a sharp reduction in the number of victims. Out of the 12 cases in which LGBTIQ people were specifically targeted for violent or otherwise detrimental treatment during the month of July 2025, 4 were eviction cases, 5 cases involved violence and threats of violence against victims due to their actual or presumed SOGIE, 2 cases involved other forms of discrimination, and 1 case involved arrests for sexuality related reasons.

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

3.1. Evictions

There were 4 cases of evictions on the basis of sexuality in July 2025, affecting 4 persons. One case was reported in each of the districts of Wakiso, Mbale, Jinja and Lira. The evictions were executed by the clients' families in 3 cases and the local leaders in 1 case.

| No. | HRAPF/PA Case code | Date of reporting | District | Perpetrator | Brief facts | No. of Victims |
|-----|--------------------|-------------------|----------|-------------------|--|----------------|
| 1. | HRAPF/PA/864 /2025 | 11/07/25 | Wakiso | Community leaders | The client in this case had some disagreements with his roommates and was forced to move out and store his personal properties with the area woman councillor. When he went back to retrieve his property, she declined to hand it over and informed him that the area chairperson had ordered an investigation first, and that if he was found to be a homosexual, he would be required to leave the village entirely. | 1 |
| 2. | HRAPF/PA/865 /2025 | 24/07/25 | Jinja | Family | The client in this case is a transgender man who had been living with his parents while studying. His parents became suspicious about his sexuality and confiscated his phone, where they found intimate photos and videos of him with his partner. They thus demanded that he leave the house immediately and also stopped paying his tuition at university, stating that they would not associate with or waste their money on a homosexual. | 1 |
| 3. | HRAPF/PA/866 /2025 | 30/07/25 | Lira | Family | The client in this case works with a health facility that primarily serves KPs. Her brothers heard about this and confronted her, giving her an ultimatum of 1 month to either quit the job or leave the family home as they did not want to be associated with homosexuals in any way. | 1 |
| 4. | HRAPF/PA/867 | 23/07/25 | Mbale | Family | The client in this case hosted her partner at her parents' | 1 |

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|--|-----|--|--|--|---|--|
| | /25 | | | | home, where she was living at the time. The partner had visited home several times before with no issues, but on this occasion, the client's sister confronted her, informing their parents of rumours that the client was a lesbian and alleging that she and her guest were probably being intimate in the parents' home. The family reacted harshly, demanding she leave immediately and never return. They also withheld her passport, bank cards and academic documents, and forced her to leave the home with only a few clothes late in the night. | |
|--|-----|--|--|--|---|--|

3.2. Cases involving actual violence and threats of violence

A total of 5 cases involving violence and threats of violence were registered in July 2025, affecting 7 individuals. 3 of the cases involved actual violence towards the victims due to their SOGIE while 2 cases involved threats of violence.

Cases involving actual violence

There were 3 reported cases of actual violence in July 2025, affecting 4 individuals, and they all involved physical assaults. 2 cases were reported in Kampala and 1 was reported from Kabarole. 2 of these incidents were perpetrated by unknown persons while 1 was perpetrated by individuals from the general community where the victim ordinarily resides.

| No. | Case code | Date of reporting | District | Nature of Violence | Perpetrator | Brief facts | No. of Victims |
|-----|--------------------|-------------------|----------|--------------------|-----------------|--|----------------|
| 1 | HRAPF/PA/869 /2025 | 8/7/25 | Kampala | Assault | Unknown persons | The client in this case had been repeatedly threatened by different individuals in her neighbourhood who accused her of being a homosexual. She was attacked near her home by a group of people unknown to her who assaulted her and injured her on the head and neck. | 1 |
| 2 | HRAPF/PA/870 | 8/7/25 | Kampala | Physical | Unknown | The clients were at home in the evening | 2 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|---------|----------|-------------------|-------------------|---|---|
| | /2025 | | | violence | persons | when a group of people they did not recognise forced entry into the house and attacked them both, accusing them of being lesbians. They were both beaten badly and their property destroyed before they managed to force their way out and run away from the area. | |
| 3 | HRAPF/PA/871 /2025 | 25/7/25 | Kabarole | Physical violence | General community | The client in this case was accused of assault by a young man he had met at a prayer meeting, although the matter was later dropped by the complainant and the police authorities. About a month later, a group of young men from the neighbourhood broke into his home and beat him up, accusing him once again of assaulting the young man and spreading homosexuality. | 1 |

Threats of violence

There were 2 reported incidents of threats of violence in the month of July 2025, affecting 3 people. The cases were reported in Lira and Kampala districts, and involved threats of physical harm.

| No | Case code | Date of reporting | District | Nature of violence | Perpetrator | Brief facts | No. of victims |
|----|--------------------|-------------------|----------|--------------------|-------------------|---|----------------|
| 1. | HRAPF/PA/872/ 2025 | 22/07/25 | Lira | Physical harm | General community | The client was walking home from her workplace (an LGBTQ support organisation) when she met a group of young men along the way. They called her by name, asked why she works with homosexuals, and stated that they | 1 |

| | | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------|----------|---------|---------------|-------------------|--|---|
| | | | | | | were still researching her but they would soon expose her and she would not like the consequences. She walked away but later that night, some people tried to break into her home and when she raised the alarm, they jumped over the perimeter wall and disappeared. She suspects that it may have been the same group. | |
| 2. | HRAPF/PA/875/2025 | 02/07/25 | Kampala | Physical harm | General community | The clients in this case are a couple that rent a home near the offices of a well-known LGBTQ-support organisation, which they also visit often. They report that one evening as they were walking home, they were heckled by a group of men that they passed by at a shop in their neighbourhood. The group shouted at them, calling them derogatory names and threatening to 'punish' them if they did not change their ways or leave the village. | 2 |

3.3. Arrests

There was 1 case in which a person was arrested purely on the basis of their presumed SOGIE in July 2025, as compared to June, where 16 cases were registered, affecting 44 persons. The client in this case was charged with promotion of homosexuality, and the case was reported in Wakiso district. The victim was released on police bond and continues to report on bond.

| No. | Case code | Date of reporting | District | Charges preferred | Brief facts | No. of victims |
|-----|-------------------|-------------------|----------|----------------------------|--|----------------|
| 1. | HRAPF/PA/868/2025 | 20/07/25 | Wakiso | Promotion of Homosexuality | As the client was getting ready to leave the house and go out with a friend in the evening, police officers came to his home, accused him of promoting homosexuality and recruiting other young men and arrested him. He was | 1 |

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|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| | | | | | held at the station until the following day, when he was released on police bond. | |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|

3.4. Other forms of discrimination

During the month of July 2025, one case of dismissal from employment and one case of blackmail were reported from Mbarara district, affecting 2 individuals.

| No. | Case code | Date of reporting | District | Nature of case | Brief facts | No. of victims |
|-----|--------------------|-------------------|----------|---------------------------|---|----------------|
| 1. | HRAPF/PA/873 /2025 | 17/07/25 | Mbarara | Blackmail | The client's aunt and mother went to her home and tried to blackmail her into agreeing to a marriage with a man they had selected for her. They threatened to publicly expose her sexuality unless she complied with their demands. | 1 |
| 2. | HRAPF/PA/874 /2025 | 24/07/25 | Mbarara | Dismissal from employment | The client is a transgender woman who was dismissed by her employer from work without pay. The employer claimed that some customers at the restaurant were not comfortable with her appearance and how she behaves like girls yet she is a biological male, and that she makes customers uncomfortable. | 1 |

4. Comparison with June 2025

There was a decrease in the overall number of cases reported in July 2025, from 57 cases in June 2025 to 41 cases, and the number of cases in which individuals were targeted for violence and other violations on the basis of their SOGIE also reduced significantly from 19 in June to 12 in July 2025. Similarly, the number of individuals affected by these violations reduced significantly from 60 persons in June 2025 to 14 persons in July 2025. Cases involving threats and actual violence were the highest number of cases in July. The total number of cases registered has reduced alongside the number of cases in which individuals were targeted for violence and abuse on the basis of their sexuality.

5. Comparison with July 2024

In July 2024, HRAPF handled a total of 72 cases involving LGBTIQ persons. Out of these, 34 cases involved actions that directly targeted people for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE, representing 47.2% of all the cases handled during the month, and 40 persons were affected by the violations. In comparison, these figures have dropped significantly in July 2025, with only 41 cases handled, of which 12 involved targeted homophobia (29.3%) The number of individuals affected by these incidents also reduced to 14 in July 2025, compared to 40 from July 2024.

6. Comparison with July 2023

In July 2023, just 2 months after the AHA came into force, a total of 84 cases were handled involving LGBTIQ persons, of which 53 cases involved actions that directly targeted persons on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE (63.1%). The proportion of reported cases in which SOGIE-motivated violence has been verified therefore has reduced in the two years between July 2023 and July 2025 by 33.8%.

7. Comparison with the pre-AHA period – July 2022

The reduction in the number of cases handled in July and the number of cases in which individuals were specifically targeted for detrimental treatment on the basis of their SOGIE begs a comparison with the pre-AHA period, to ascertain if the numbers in July 2025 indicate a return to pre-AHA levels of homophobia. In July 2022, there was a total of 28 LGBTIQ cases reported across the HRAPF legal aid network, and of these, only 6 (21.4%) involved incidents where LGBTIQ persons were specifically targeted on the basis of their sexuality, affecting 6 persons, as compared to 12 cases affecting 14 people in July 2025 – an indication that, while the situation may appear to be settling for the majority of LGBTQ persons in Uganda, it is still far from ideal, and the violence and violations remain higher than pre-AHA levels.

8. The implementation of the AHA 2023 from 30th May 2023 to 31st July 2025

As the implementation of the AHA marks two years and two months, a total of 1,841 cases involving LGBTIQ persons have been handled across the HRAPF legal aid network, of which 875 cases (47.5%) involved actions that specifically targeted LGBTIQ people because of their sexuality, affecting a total of 1,149 persons.

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

| Nature of | June to | Jan to | July to | Jan | Feb | March | April | May | June | July | Total number |
|-----------|---------|--------|---------|-----|-----|-------|-------|-----|------|------|--------------|
|-----------|---------|--------|---------|-----|-----|-------|-------|-----|------|------|--------------|

| violation | Dec 2023 | June 2024 | Dec 2024 | 2025 | 2025 | 2025 | 2025 | 2025 | 2025 | 2025 | of cases |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Evictions | 164 | 132 | 38 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 376 |
| Violence | 137 | 121 | 59 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 358 |
| Arrests | 38 | 34 | 31 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 129 |
| Other forms of discrimination | 6 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 12 |
| Total | 345 | 287 | 128 | 21 | 16 | 16 | 17 | 16 | 19 | 11 | 875 |

The victims in these cases are:

| Nature of violation | June to Dec 2023 | Jan to June 2024 | July to Dec 2024 | Jan 2025 | Feb 2025 | March 2025 | April 2025 | May 2025 | June 2025 | July 2025 | Total number of victims |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|
| Evictions | 204 | 162 | 44 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 10 | 8 | 4 | 455 |
| Violence | 171 | 142 | 70 | 10 | 11 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 437 |
| Arrests | 59 | 63 | 47 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 44 | 1 | 243 |
| Other forms of discrimination | 6 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 14 |
| Total | 440 | 367 | 160 | 28 | 19 | 19 | 22 | 19 | 60 | 12 | 1,149 |

9. Conclusion

The implementation of the AHA continues to negatively impact on the rights of LGBTIQ persons, and it remains critical that the AHA and all the laws which are aimed at curtailing the rights of LGBTIQ persons are nullified as a critical first step towards protecting the rights of LGBTIQ persons in Uganda. This month presents a marked decrease in the number of cases involving violations, but this is not yet up to pre-AHA levels. We are yet to see if this trend will normalise or July 2025 was simply an outlier.

APPENDIX: Cases of arrests still pending before police stations and courts across the country at the end of July 2025

Currently, HRAPF is providing legal representation to a total of 13 individuals in 10 cases that are still pending actively either at police stations or before various courts across the country. In 1 cases, 1 individual is still reporting on police bond and answering charges of promotion of homosexuality. In 9 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 in various courts of law. Of the 12 persons whose cases are pending before the courts, 7 are still on remand in the various prisons around the country while 5 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 /868/2025 | Promotion of homosexuality | The client was getting ready to leave the house and go out with a friend when officers police came to his home, accused him of promoting homosexuality and recruiting other young men and arrested him. He was held at the station until the following day, when he was released on police bond. | The client was released on police bond and is still reporting on bond. | 1 |

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 in this case was remanded pending committal to the High Court for trial. | 1 |
| 2. | HRAPF/PA /775/25 | Aggravated 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 a man. He denied knowing the person who he was accused of having had sex with. | On 15 th May 2025, the client's charges were amended to aggravated Homosexuality after the complainant alleged that he had been raped by the accused. The client is yet to be committed to the High Court for trial. | 1 |
| 3. | HRAPF/PA /13/2023 | Rape Aggravated Human trafficking | The accused states that he was arrested on 28 th July 2023 on allegations of homosexuality after 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. | Case pending hearing in the High Court. The accused is still on remand. | 1 |
| 4 | HRAPF/PA /743/24 | Trafficking persons and in | The accused states that in 2022 he was imprisoned after a man he had given shelter to reported him to the police for | The matter is still pending judgment. | 1 |

| | | | | | |
|----|--------------------|--|---|---|---|
| | | Having carnal knowledge of a person against the order of nature | having 'sodomised' him. | | |
| 5 | HRAPF/PA /144/2023 | Unnatural offences | The prosecution alleges that the accused was found having sex with a disabled man at Soroti Sports field. The accused denies the allegations. | Accused released on bail on 30 th July 2024 after nearly a year. The matter came up on 22 nd July 2025 for hearing of an application for stay of proceedings on account of the client's unstable mental state. A response from the State prosecutor is expected on 12 th August 2025 | 1 |
| 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 matter was cause listed for 11 th August 2025 for hearing | 1 |
| 7. | HRAPF/PA /656/2024 | Unlawful possession of government stores; Promotion of Homosexuality | The accused states that while celebrating the birthday of a colleague, the councillor 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 six national IDs, one Kenyan ID, thirteen photographs, | He was released on bail on 3 rd April 2025. The matter is cause listed for hearing on 11 th August 2025 | 3 |

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|----|--------------------|--|--|---|---|
| | | | lubricants, covid-19 cards all meant for promoting homosexuality. | | |
| 8. | 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 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. The client's bail application has not yet been fixed. | 1 |
| 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 st January 2025 and 23 January 2025 respectively. | The file was sanctioned, one of the clients was re- arrested on 29 th May 2025, arraigned and remanded to prison. On 25 th June 2025, the client was granted bail. The second client in this case is still at large | 2 |