



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

8th May 2024

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1. Introduction

It is now slightly more than a month since the Constitutional Court of Uganda delivered its judgment in the Consolidated Petitions No. 14, 15, 16 and 85 of 2023 (Hon. Fox Odoi Oywelowo and 21 others v Attorney General and 4 others), nullifying provisions of the Anti-Homosexuality Act, 2023 (AHA) imposing reporting obligations on all persons who know or suspect someone to have

acommitted an offence under the Act, aggravating the offence of homosexuality on the basis of the offender having a terminal illness, and letting premises for purposes of homosexuality. However, the Court maintained the parts of the Act criminalising homosexuality, aggravated homosexuality, child grooming, same sex marriage and promotion of homosexuality. The month of April 2024 also marks has 11 months since the AHA came into force. At this stage, the AHA has been in force for six months more than its predecessor, the AHA 2014 which was in force for only five months (10th March 2014 to 1st August 2014).

This is the 11th monthly report on violence and other human rights violations on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity/ expression since the AHA came into force. It 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 2024. This report builds on the reports produced earlier in this series and therefore seeks to build on the data available about violations against LGBTIQ people during the time the AHA 2023 has been in force - from 30th May 2023 to date.

2. Methodology

This report provides an overview of reported cases of violence and human rights violations on the basis of SOGIE that were handled by the HRAPF legal aid clinic in April 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 veracity.

Quantitative data was obtained from a review of case files to ascertain the number of cases handled and the cases in which the particular incidents of violence and violations reported herein occurred. This data was then subjected to a further in-depth qualitative analysis to ascertain the circumstances under which the incidents occurred. Only cases in which there is reason to believe that the actions in the incidents deliberately targeted persons primarily or wholly on the basis of their real or presumed sexuality are included in the report.

As with previous reports in this series, this report is limited by the fact that it covers only data reported through the HRAPF legal aid network, that is, our countrywide network of community paralegals, regional legal aid centres, specialised legal aid desks and the central legal aid clinic. The report presents a fair picture of the situation for LGBTIQ persons across the country as reported to HRAPF but 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 2024 were reported to HRAPF's network.

3. Nature and number of cases reported

HRAPF handled a total of 99 cases in the month of April 2024, a reduction from 111 cases handled in March 2024. Out of the 99 cases handled, 44 cases involved actions that directly targeted people for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE, representing 44.4%

of all the cases handled during the month of April 2024. There was thus a reduction in the number of cases in which individuals were targeted for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE, from 52 cases in March 2024 to 44 cases in April 2024, and the number of victims of these incidents slightly reduced from 66 persons in March to 61 persons in April.

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. These actions affected a total of 61 individuals. This section of the report provides detailed data on these cases.

3.1 Evictions from rented property

Evictions from rented premises remained the highest category of violations recorded. In April 2024, there were 19 cases of evictions from rented property that were reported to HRAPF’s legal aid clinic, affecting 23 individuals. This was a reduction from the 23 cases recorded in March 2024, affecting 26 individuals. The cases were reported from the districts of Wakiso (5); Kampala (5); Jinja (2); and 1 each from Arua, Amuru, Kisoro, Masaka, Mbarara, Mukono, and Sironko. The evictions were perpetrated primarily by property owners/ landlords (14); followed by family members (4) and local council authorities working with property owners (1).

The table below discusses these cases in detail:

No.	Case code	Date of reporting	District	Perpetrator	Brief facts	Number of victims
1.	HRAPF/PA /505/2024	2/04/24	Kampala	Landlord	The clients' landlord evicted him on suspicions of being a homosexual. This was after the client's neighbors lodged complaints to their landlord that the client was a homosexual and requested their landlord to evict him as they were worried that some of their children would learn the client's behaviors.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA /506/2024	2/04/24	Amuru	Family	The client’s cousin accused her of being a homosexual and she went ahead and reported her to her parents. The clients’ parents relied on the information they heard from her cousin and chased her away from their home, rendering her homeless.	1
3.	HRAPF/PA /507/2024	3/04/24	Mbarara	Landlord	The client’s neighbors complained that he used to host many boys at his house and that, for that, reason they suspected him to be a homosexual. His landlord evicted	1

					him and refused to refund his rent which he had paid in advance for two months.	
4.	HRAPF/PA /508/2024	4/04/24	Kampala	Family	The client was chased away from his parents' home after his parents suspected him of being a homosexual. This was due to the fact that he was very close to a man who had for a long time been suspected by many people around the village for being a homosexual.	1
5.	HRAPF/PA /509/2024	4/04/24	Kampala	Family	The client was chased from his sister's home where he had been residing since his childhood. His sister became suspicious of his sexuality after she noticed that he used to hang around with only boys.	1
6.	HRAPF/PA /510 /2023	7/04/24	Wakiso	Family	The client's parents chased him away from their family on suspicion that he was gay. The suspicions started after two of the client's friends approached his mother and outed the client as gay, and asked that his parents get him into therapy. Based on these allegations, the client's parents chased him away from their home.	1
7.	HRAPF/PA /511/2024	5/4/24	Sironko	Landlord	The client's neighbors reported to their landlord that the client was a homosexual due to the fact that he usually hosted only men at his premises, and that they never understood the kind of relationships the client had with these men. Based on the allegations from the client's neighbors, his landlord called the client and asked him to vacate the premises.	1
8.	HRAPF/PA /512/2024	5/4/24	Arua	Landlord	The client's neighbors reported to the landlord that she was a suspected homosexual, and that she was working with an organisation which promotes homosexuality in Arua district. Despite the various pleas the client made to her landlord not to evict her, the landlord insisted that the client should vacate as he didn't want to be seen as a person hosting homosexuals in the area. He accordingly issued her a notice requiring her to vacate the house by the end of the month.	1

9.	HRAPF/PA /513/2024	6/4/24	Jinja	Landlord	The client's neighbors reported to their landlord that the client is a homosexual. The client works with a KP support organisation, and many times some of the organisation's clients who are her friends, some of whom are transgender women, visit her which made the neighbours suspicious. The neighbours therefore asked the landlord to evict the client, which the landlord agreed to do.	1
10.	HRAPF/PA /514/2024	7/04/24	Kisoro	Landlord	A few days after the client paying his rent in advance for 5 months, his landlord called him and informed him that he had heard rumors about the client's sexuality and due to that fact he ordered him to vacate his premises by the end of the month. He promised to refund the clients' rent but ordered him to vacate his premises first.	1
11.	HRAPF/PA /515/2024	9/04/24	Kampala	Landlord	The client had a misunderstanding with his partner and during the scuffle, some of his neighbors came out to see what had happened. The client's partner outed him, and told the neighbours that the two were lovers. The neighbors immediately informed the landlord about the incident and requested their landlord to evict the client, which the landlord did with immediate effect.	1
12.	HRAPF/PA /516/2024	8/04/24	Wakiso	Landlord	The client in this case is an organisation that operates a shelter for KPs. When the landlady found out about this, she immediately issued an eviction notice, stating that she did not want 'those kinds of people' staying on her premises.	1
13.	HRAPF/PA /517/2024	8/04/24	Wakiso	Landlord, Community leaders	The client's landlord asked the client to move out of his home after he heard rumours that the client is a gay man. The landlord then informed the local area Chairperson, who also warned the client not to bother finding another home within their area.	1
14.	HRAPF/PA /518/2024	21/04/24	Wakiso	Landlord	The clients were evicted by their landlady after one of the landlady's children accused them of being homosexuals.	3

15.	HRAPF/PA /519/24		Wakiso	Landlord	The client's landlord gave him notice requiring him to vacate his home within a few days. The client was not able to move due to financial constraints, but once the notice period expired, the landlady immediately entered into the client's house and confiscated some of his household properties.	1
16.	HRAPF/PA /520/24	9/04/24	Jinja	Landlord	The client's landlord evicted her after her neighbors accused her of being a homosexual. The neighbors stated that they had on several occasions observed her dressing up like a man.	1
17.	HRAPF/PA /521/2024	10/04/24	Kampala	Landlord	The client's friend came to visit him and the two had a disagreement, after which the friend went outside and started shouting that the client was a homosexual. This drew a crowd, which included the landlord, a few days later the client's landlord asked that he leave the house immediately.	1
18.	HRAPF/PA /522/24	23/04/24	Mukono	Landlord	The client's neighbors accused him of being a homosexual and they reported him to his landlord. The landlord was upset by this information and reacted by evicting the client.	1
19.	HRAPF/PA /523/24	24/04/24	Masaka	Landlord	The clients' neighbours repeatedly complained to the landlord that the three of them were homosexuals, and asked the landlord to evict them. Eventually, the landlord listened to his tenants eventually and asked the three to move out of his house.	3

3.2 Cases of violence

There was a slight decrease in the number of cases of actual violence and threats of violence against individuals on basis of their real or/ presumed SOGIE. In April 2024, 17 cases were registered affecting 20 persons, as compared to March 2024, during which 20 cases were registered affecting 20 persons.

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

There were 11 cases of actual violence against persons on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE in April 2024, affecting 12 persons. This violence was perpetrated by unknown persons in 6 cases and members of the general community in 5 cases. All these cases involved physical assaults and the victims sustained serious bodily injuries. Out of the 11 cases recorded, 7 cases happened in Wakiso, 2 cases in Gulu and 1 case each in Arua and Isingiro districts.

The details of these cases are discussed in the table below:

No.	Case code	Date of reporting	District	Nature of violence	Perpetrator	Brief facts	Number of Victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/524/2024	23/04/24	Isingiro	Physical assault	General community	The client was assaulted by some people in his neighborhood who had always accused him of being a homosexual. Prior to the incident, they had threatened him several times, and would always refer to him in derogatory terms.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA/525/2024	29/04/24	Wakiso	Physical assault	Unknown persons	The client was assaulted by persons unknown to her while she was coming from a bar. The men accused her of being a homosexual and sleeping with their women before beating her up, leading to serious injuries on her head and the upper part of her body.	1
3.	HRAPF/PA/526/2024	26/4/24	Wakiso	Physical assault	Unknown persons	On 25/4/24, the client was assaulted by some unknown persons while he was coming from the market, who accused him of promoting homosexuality. He sustained serious bodily injuries as a result of the attack.	1
4.	HRAPF/PA/527/2024	23/04/ 24	Wakiso	Physical assault	General community	A person who identified himself as a friend of the client called the client's father and told him that the client is a homosexual. The father was very upset and immediately set up on the client and beat him up.	1

5.	HRAPF/PA/528 /2024	23/04/24	Arua	Physical assault	General community	The client reported being sexually harassed by a man in the neighbourhood who constantly told her that he would not stop pursuing her until she accepted him and stopped sleeping with fellow women. When she continued to ignore his advances, he got upset and beat her up	1
6.	HRAPF/PA/529 /24	18/04/24	Wakiso	Physical Assault	Unknown persons	The client was walking back home at night when 3 men who were unknown to her grabbed her and started assaulting her. The men accused her of being a homosexual due to the fact that she dresses up 'like men' and that she 'usually hides her breasts.'	1
7.	HRAPF/PA/530 /24	19/04/24	Gulu	Physical Assault	General community	The client was assaulted by a man from the village whom she knew by face. The man told her while beating her that she must stop being a lesbian and spoiling all the other women in the village, and demanded that she stop talking to 'normal' women.	1
8.	HRAPF/PA/531 /24	20/04/24	Wakiso	Physical Assault	Unknown persons	The client was attacked by some men who came to his home and accused him of being gay. When he tried to tell them this was not true, they instead started assaulting him, leading to serious injuries.	1
9.	HRAPF/PA/532 /24	23/04/24	Gulu	Physical assault	General community	The client was attacked by a man from her neighbourhood whom she knew by face. He came at her with a big stick, and demanded that she admit to being a lesbian and promise to change her ways. When she refused to do that, he hit her repeatedly with the stick all over her body.	1

10.	HRAPF/PA/533 /24	28/04/24	Wakiso	Physical assault	Unknown persons	The clients were walking to their home when a group of men unknown to them accosted them and started shouting that they are homosexuals and are living together as partners. The clients tried to force their way past the men to run away but the men started beating them up instead. This went on for several minutes until they were able to slip away and run home.	2
11.	HRAPF/PA/534 /24	28/04/24	Wakiso	Physical assault	Unknown persons	The client is a community paralegal who had been helping suspected LGBTQ persons who get into conflict with the law in his area. He was attacked by some men who insisted that he was a homosexual because they had seen him several times getting homosexuals out of custody, and that he was therefore promoting homosexuality. They beat him up in retaliation for the supposed promotion.	1

ii) Cases involving threats of violence based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity

A total of 6 cases involving threats of violence against persons on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE were reported in April 2024, affecting 8 persons. All these were threats of physical violence. The threats were perpetrated by members of the general community in 3 cases, members of the clients' families in 2 cases and persons unknown to the clients in 1 case. 1 case each happened in Apac, Busia, Masaka, Mukono, Tororo and Wakiso districts.

This table provides a detailed breakdown of the threats:

No.	Case code	Date of reporting	District	Nature of threat	Perpetrator	Brief facts	Number of Victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/535/ 24	15/04/24	Apac	Threat of physical harm	Family	The client was visiting his parents' home with two of his friends when his aunt also came to visit. She found the three of them seated outside	3

						the house and started accusing them of being homosexuals and threatening to harm them all if they did not leave immediately. She also warned her nephew to never bring his homosexual friends to the family home again.	
2.	HRAPF/ PA/536/ 24	17/04/24	Masaka	Threat of physical violence	Family	The client's relatives were always suspicious of his sexuality because of his close association with people in the neighbourhood who are considered gay. His relatives started threatening to beat him, lock him up or report him to the authorities if he did not cut ties with the homosexuals.	1
3.	HRAPF/ PA/537/ 24	18/04/24	Mukono	Threat of physical violence	Unknown persons	The client was attacked by men wielding pangas while he was at home. The men shouted loudly that he was a homosexual and that his sister had sent them to teach him a lesson. They were unable to harm him because he had locked himself inside the house, and he was able to escape through the backdoor and run to the nearby police station.	1
4.	HRAPF/ PA/538/ 24	20/04/24	Tororo	Threat of physical harm	General community	The client reported receiving threatening messages from the relatives of his ex-partner. They accused him of having recruited their son into homosexuality, and threatened to have him killed because of this.	1
5.	HRAPF/ PA/539/ 24	18/04/24	Wakiso	Threat of arrest	General community	The client received numerous threats from friends of his partner who threatened to report him to the police and ensure that he goes to prison for being a homosexual.	1

6.	HRAPF/PA/540/24	21/04/24	Busia	Threat of physical violence	General community	The client had been living under suspicion of being a homosexual for months, and the matter had been reported to the local area leaders but they had not taken any action. Some people in the village resorted to threatening to harm the client if he did not leave the village on his own.	1
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3.3 Cases of arrests

In April 2024, HRAPF handled a total of 8 cases in which a total of 18 individuals were arrested on sexuality related charges, which is slightly lower than the number of arrests recorded in March 2024 (9 cases involving 20 individuals). In 4 cases, the persons arrested were charged with offences under the AHA while in the remaining 4, the victims were arrested due to suspicion that they were homosexuals but were charged with loitering with intent to commit a crime, criminal trespass, forgery and in one case, no charges were preferred at all. In all the cases, the persons were released on police bond, and none of the files were sanctioned for trial.

3 of these cases were registered from Wakiso, 2 cases from Kampala and 1 case each from Arua, Buikwe, and Mbarara districts.

This table provides a detailed breakdown of the arrests

No.	Case code	Date of reporting	District	Charge	Brief facts	Number of Victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/541/24	7/04/24	Kampala	Promotion of homosexuality	The client was arrested on 7/4/24 from Bakuli on charges of promoting homosexuality and detained at Old Kampala Police Station.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA/542/24	19/04/24	Mbarara	Homosexuality	The client had a disagreement with his partner, who went to the police station and reported that the client had seduced him. The police arrested the client and opened a case of homosexuality against him.	1
3.	HRAPF/PA/543/24	16/04/24	Arua	Homosexuality	The client went and reported at police that her partner was threatening violence towards her. When police summoned the partner, they realized that it was a masculine-presenting woman, and they arrested both of them and charged them with homosexuality.	2

4.	HRAPF/PA /544/24	14/04/24	Wakiso	Homosexuality	The police came to the clients' house and arrested them on allegations of homosexuality. The officers stated that they had received complaints from the general community that the clients were homosexuals.	3
5.	HRAPF/PA /545/24	8/04/24	Buikwe	No charges preferred	The clients visited their friend and spent a night there. In the morning, the police came and arrested them, stating that the neighbors complained that the clients were practicing homosexuality throughout the night. However, they were all not formally charged.	5
6.	HRAPF/PA /546/24	12/04/24	Kampala	Forgery	The client was applying for a Visa to Germany and a KP led organisation gave him a recommendation. He went to Nasser road to seal his documents, and a police officer who was around saw the letter and arrested him, alleging that the document had been forged. The police officer demanded that the client first call the head of that organisation to the station before they could be released.	1
7.	HRAPF/PA /547/24	10/04/24	Wakiso	Criminal trespass	The clients went to visit a friend of theirs with whom they went to a bar. As they were coming home afterwards, the security guard refused to let them into the gate, stating that he had observed them earlier and knew them to be homosexuals. They decided to jump over the fence, upon which the security guard called the police and they were arrested and charged with criminal trespass.	3
8.	HRAPF/PA /548/24	7/04/24	Wakiso	Loitering with intent to commit a crime	The clients were arrested while coming from a bar at around 1:00am, and charged with loitering with intent to commit a crime. They were detained at Namugoona Police Station, but while at the station, they were accused of being homosexuals because a police officer recognized them as having stood surety for someone that was previously arrested on charges of homosexuality.	2

4. Comparison with March 2024

There has been a reduction in the overall number of cases reported as well as the number of cases involving actions that deliberately targeted persons for negative treatment on basis of their real or presumed SOGIE. In March 2024, a total of 111 cases involving LGBTIQ persons were reported as compared to 99 cases in April 2024. In terms of cases where individuals were specifically targeted on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE, there was a reduction from 52 cases affecting 66 persons in March 2024, to 44 cases affecting 61 persons in April 2024.

In both months, the highest number of cases registered were evictions, with 23 evictions affecting 26 persons in March 2024 and 19 eviction affecting 23 persons in April. The cases of violence and threats of violence slightly reduced from 20 cases affecting 20 persons in March, 2024 to 17 cases affecting 20 persons in April 2024. Cases of arrests on sexuality related charges reduced from 9 cases affecting 20 persons to 8 cases affecting 18 persons.

5. Comparison with the period from 1st April 2023 to 30th April 2023

In April 2023, a total of 59 cases were handled involving LGBTIQ persons, of which 36 cases involved actions that directly targeted persons on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE (61.1% of all cases handled). The actions in these cases affected a total of 67 people and included 20 cases of real or threatened violence, 10 eviction cases and 6 arrests on sexuality related charges.

In contrast, 99 cases involving LGBTIQ persons were handled in April 2024, of which 44 cases involved actions of targeted/ deliberate homophobia (44.4% of all cases handled) and 61 persons were affected. This represents a total percentage increase of 59.6% in the total number of cases reported, and an increase of 8.9% in the number of cases of deliberate homophobia between the two months before and after the AHA. It is worth noting at this point that during the month of April 2023, the AHA had in fact been passed by Parliament and was only awaiting presidential assent, although the Bill was the focus on heated debates and conversations in the media and in the public sphere generally.

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

In the first eleven months of the AHA 2023, a total of 1,002 cases involving LGBTIQ persons have been handled across the legal aid network, of which 559 (55.8%) targeted LGBTIQ people on the basis of their sexuality, affecting a total of 722 persons. The breakdown of cases so far is as follows:

Nature of violation	June 2023	July 2023	August 2023	September 2023	October 2023	November 2023	December 2023	January 2024	February 2024	March 2024	April 2024	Total number of cases
Evictions	19	26	22	22	28	20	27	30	32	23	19	268
Violence	23	21	19	24	27	9	14	25	24	20	17	223
Arrests	4	6	6	3	6	7	6	4	3	9	8	62
Other forms of discrimination	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	6
Total	46	53	47	49	64	39	47	59	59	52	44	559

The victims in these cases are:

Nature of violation	June 2023	July 2023	August 2023	September 2023	October 2023	November 2023	December 2023	January 2024	February 2024	March 2024	April 2024	Total number of victims
Evictions	20	33	26	31	37	24	33	35	47	26	23	335
Violence	23	24	22	37	35	10	20	32	32	20	20	274
Arrests	7	10	11	5	10	7	9	6	3	20	18	106
Other forms of discrimination	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	6
Total	50	67	59	73	85	44	62	73	82	66	61	722

In the same 11 months' period from June 2022 to April 2023, a total of 448 LGBTIQ cases were handled, of which 176 cases (35.9%) contained actions that deliberately targeted LGBTIQ persons for detrimental treatment. This translates to an increase of 554 cases in the overall total number of cases handled, from the period of June 2022 to April 2023 to the same 11 month period following the enactment of the AHA. Similarly, the number of cases of deliberate homophobia have increased by 383 from 176 cases in the period from June 2022 to April 2023, to 559 in the period from June 2023 to April 2024.

7. Conclusion

Regardless of the recent pronouncements by the Constitutional where some of the Sections under the AHA were nullified, the violence being committed against LGBTIQ persons and the various other forms of violations have still persisted, with no significant reduction.