



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

**11<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

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## **1. Introduction**

This is HRAPF's 13<sup>th</sup> 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 on 30<sup>th</sup> 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 June 2024. This report builds on the reports produced earlier in this series and therefore seeks to build on the data available about the enforcement of the AHA 2023 from 30<sup>th</sup> 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 reported to the HRAPF legal aid clinic in June 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 were 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 June 2024 were reported to HRAPF's network.

## **3. Nature and number of cases reported**

HRAPF handled a total of 81 cases in the month of June 2024, marking a slight reduction from 83 cases handled in May 2024. Out of the 81 cases handled, 32 cases involved actions that directly targeted people for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE, representing 39.5% of all the cases handled during the month of June 2024. There was a decrease in the number of cases in which individuals were targeted for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE, from 41 cases in May 2024 to 32 cases in June 2024, and the number of victims of these incidents reduced from 50 persons in May to 34 persons in June.

Out of the 32 cases in which LGBTIQ people were specifically targeted for detrimental treatment during the month of June 2024, 15 cases involved violence and threats of violence against persons on the basis of their SOGIE, 12 were eviction cases while 5 cases involved arrests for sexuality-related reasons.

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

### 3.1 Cases involving violence and threats of 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 during the month of June 2024 at 15 verified cases affecting 16 persons, as opposed to 20 cases affecting 22 persons reported in May 2024.

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

There were 10 cases of actual violence against persons on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE in June 2024, affecting 11 persons. This violence was perpetrated by unknown persons in 7 cases and members of the general community in which the victims resided in 3 cases. All the cases involved physical violence and the clients sustained serious injuries. 7 of these cases were reported in Wakiso district and 1 case each in Buikwe, Gulu and Kabarole districts.

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/590/2024 | 1/6/24            | Wakiso   | Physical assault   | Unknown person | The client went to a bar with a group of friends, but they were denied entry. When she insisted on being given a reason for this, one of the bouncers shoved her, accusing her of being a homosexual and a sex worker as he physically assaulted her. | 1              |

|    |                   |         |        |                  |                 |  |   |
|----|-------------------|---------|--------|------------------|-----------------|--|---|
| 2. | HRAPF/PA/591/2024 | 8/6/24  | Wakiso | Physical assault | Unknown persons | The client was attacked by a group of men unknown to him who thought he had been involved in a theft. In the process of shoving and questioning him, they found out that he was a transgender man, and they proceeded to beat him up, calling him a homosexual. They then took him to Kajjansi Police Station where he was held briefly on the theft allegations before he was released unconditionally.   | 1 |
| 3. | HRAPF/PA/592/2024 | 8/6/24  | Lugazi | Physical assault | Unknown persons | The client, a well-known transgender woman in her area, was attacked by a man she did not know while she was walking home. The man raised a sharp object and tried to cut the victim on the neck, but the victim raised her hand to ward off the attack and her hand was badly cut in the process.   | 1 |
| 4. | HRAPF/PA/593/2024 | 11/6/25 | Wakiso | Physical assault | Unknown persons | One of the victims in this case visited a friend and spent the night. Early the following morning, the mother of the second victim came to visit unexpectedly and when she found the two together, she started quarreling loudly, accusing the visitor of being a homosexual and trying to spoil her son. The noise attracted other people, who immediately started beating both individuals and verbally insulting them. The local area chairperson and defence secretary also joined the | 2 |

|    |                   |         |        |                  |                   |  |   |
|----|-------------------|---------|--------|------------------|-------------------|--|---|
|    |                   |         |        |                  |                   | fracas, confiscated the phones of the victims and ordered them to vacate the village immediately.  |   |
| 5. | HRAPF/PA/594/2024 | 12/6/25 | Wakiso | Physical assault | Unknown persons   | The client was forced to flee their home town in Mbarara after being threatened several times by the parents of their partner. When the client arrived in Kampala, they continued to receive threats from the partner's parents until one day three unknown men went to their workplace, outed them and then proceeded to attack and physically assault them without reason. The client believes it is the parents of their partner that orchestrated this, although it could not be proved. | 1 |
| 6. | HRAPF/PA/595/2024 | 14/6/24 | Wakiso | Physical assault | General community | The client had always presented as a cisgender female before her neighbours, but they started to suspect her sexuality and attacked and beat her with a view to undressing her. They were attempting to prove once and for all what her gender was. She was able to run away from them to a friend's place. When the client's landlord heard about this, he immediately gave notice to the client to leave the property.   | 1 |
| 7. | HRAPF/PA/596/2024 | 17/6/24 | Gulu   | Physical assault | General community | The client was attacked by two men who were known to him because they reside in the same village. The men accused him of being a homosexual and spoiling their   | 1 |

|     |                 |         |          |                  |                   |   |   |
|-----|-----------------|---------|----------|------------------|-------------------|---|---|
|     |                 |         |          |                  |                   | children in the village. He was walking home in the evening when the attack happened.   |   |
| 8.  | HRAPF/PA/598/24 | 26/6/24 | Wakiso   | Physical assault | Unknown persons   | The client was attacked by individuals unknown to him who were armed with an iron bar. They hit him about the head and all over his body, and stated that they would deal with all homosexuals 'in their own way' as they hit him.  | 1 |
| 9.  | HRAPF/PA/599/24 | 26/6/24 | Wakiso   | Physical assault | Unknown persons   | The client's brother, who was suspicious of his sexuality, resorted to following him around secretly, and he one time followed him to a party that a friend of the client was holding. When he entered the room, he found a number of people who had cross-dressed, as well as people who were hugging or otherwise holding their intimate partners. He immediately identified his brother and beat him up while dragging him out, shouting at him for being a homosexual and hanging out with homosexuals. He told their parents about this and they reacted by evicting the victim from home. | 1 |
| 10. | HRAPF/PA/600/24 | 27/6/24 | Kabarole | Physical assault | General community | The client was attacked by his neighbours, who accused him of recruiting young men in the area into homosexuality because he was constantly visited by young queer persons as a peer leader. The landlord heard about the attack and the reasons for it and evicted him.  | 1 |

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

A total of 5 cases involving threats of violence against persons on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE were reported in June 2024, affecting 5 persons. All these were threats of physical violence. The threats were perpetrated by family members in 2 cases and the general community, an intimate partner of the victim and unknown persons in 1 case each. 3 cases happened in Wakiso and 2 cases happened in Mbale district.

| No. | Case code         | Date of reporting | District | Nature of threats            | Perpetrator       | Brief facts  | No. of victims |
|-----|-------------------|-------------------|----------|------------------------------|-------------------|--|----------------|
| 1.  | HRAPF/PA/601/24   | 25/6/24           | Mbale    | Threats of physical violence | Unknown persons   | The client is a community paralegal and well known movement leader in her area. In June 2024, she found a letter pinned to her front door written by unknown persons threatening to 'handle her' if she did not immediately leave the village. The letter specifically accused her of encouraging other young people to be homosexuals like her, and noted that the village would no longer tolerate this. | 1              |
| 2.  | HRAPF/PA/602/2024 | 4/6/24            | Wakiso   | Threats of physical violence | Family            | The client's father has been threatening to beat him up for being gay if the client does not leave the father's home.  | 1              |
| 3.  | HRAPF/PA/603/24   | 3/6/24            | Wakiso   | Threats of physical violence | General community | The client was threatened with physical violence by some youths who usually hang out near her home. This happened after her neighbour, with whom they had a disagreement, called these youths and told them that she had reliable information that the client was a  | 1              |

|    |                 |         |        |                              |                  |  |   |
|----|-----------------|---------|--------|------------------------------|------------------|--|---|
|    |                 |         |        |                              |                  | homosexual, and encouraged them to attack her.   |   |
| 4. | HRAPF/PA/604/24 | 11/6/24 | Wakiso | Threats of physical violence | Intimate partner | The client had a relationship with someone they met on a dating app but when the relationship ended, the other party started trying to extort the client, threatening to out him to his family and neighbours if he did not pay him money. He also threatened to inform people in the neighbourhood to beat up the client. | 1 |
| 5. | HRAPF/PA/605/24 | 12/6/24 | Mbale  | Threats of physical violence | Family           | The client's relatives were threatening to harm her after they started suspecting that she was a transgender woman. The threats from her relatives forced the client to run away from home and seek refuge in Kenya.   | 1 |

### 3.2 Evictions

In June 2024, there were 12 cases of eviction from rented property that were reported to HRAPF's legal aid clinic, affecting 14 individuals. This was a reduction from the 17 cases recorded in May 2024, affecting 17 individuals. The cases were reported from the districts of Wakiso (5) Kampala (2) and 1 case each in Iganga, Mityana, Mbale, Luwero and Mbarara. The evictions were perpetrated primarily by the property owners/ landlords (8), family members in 2 cases and landlords working with the LC leadership in 2 cases.

| No. | Case code | Date of reporting | District | Perpetrator | Brief facts | Number of Victims |
|-----|-----------|-------------------|----------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
|-----|-----------|-------------------|----------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|



|    |                   |           |         |                             |  |   |
|----|-------------------|-----------|---------|-----------------------------|--|---|
| 1. | HRAPF/PA/597/24   | 26/6/2024 | Kampala | Landlord                    | The client was forced to flee from a refugee in Isingiro district to Kampala as a result of an assault that the police had not taken seriously, as well as intimidation and threats by the police. She rented a house in Kampala but the landlord found out that she was a transgender woman and demanded that she leave the rented accommodation by end of June 2024.   | 1 |
| 2. | HRAPF/PA/606/2024 | 12/6/24   | Kampala | Landlord, community leaders | The client, a transgender woman, was evicted by her landlord after he started to suspect that she was queer. He informed the area chairperson, who also reiterated the eviction and demanded that she not try to find housing in their zone again.   | 1 |
| 3. | HRAPF/PA/607/2024 | 14/06/24  | Wakiso  | Landlord                    | The clients had been living together for nearly a year. The neighbours constantly complained that they behaved like a couple and issued vague threats to them, and their house had been broken into on several occasions under circumstances that were never cleared up. In June 2024, their landlord reached out to them and demanded that they leave the house, stating that he was tired of hearing complaints from the neighbours. | 2 |
| 4. | HRAPF/PA/608/2024 | 14/6/24   | Wakiso  | Landlord                    | The client was arrested and charged with unnatural offences, for which he was remanded to Kigo Prison. When he was released on bail, he found that many of his properties had been stolen, and the landlord had left him a notice requiring him to leave the premises because he had learnt about the reasons for the client's arrest and did not want to associate with a person like him.  | 1 |
| 5. | HRAPF/PA/609/2024 | 13/6/24   | Iganga  | Landlord, local leadership  | The clients were issued with an eviction notice by the local area leaders after their landlord sought for assistance from the area leaders to evict the clients, whom she suspected were a couple. The area  | 2 |

|     |                   |          |         |          |   |   |
|-----|-------------------|----------|---------|----------|---|---|
|     |                   |          |         |          | chairperson therefore demanded that the two leave because the landlord and the community did not want them in their area anymore.   |   |
| 6.  | HRAPF/PA/610/2024 | 15/06/24 | Mityana | Family   | The clients' sister chased her away from her home on suspicions that the client was a lesbian. The client used to hang out with a woman whom many people around the village suspected to be a lesbian, and it is for this reason that her sister started to suspect she was also a lesbian.   | 1 |
| 7.  | HRAPF/PA/611/24   | 16/06/24 | Wakiso  | Landlord | The client hosted someone at his home who robbed him of household properties. He had the perpetrator arrested and in his defence, the perpetrator claimed that the client was a homosexual who had tried to sexually assault him. The police called the landlord to hear the allegations, and the landlord got very angry and immediately demanded that the client vacate the premises by 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024. | 1 |
| 8.  | HRAPF/PA/612/24   | 17/06/24 | Mbale   | Landlord | The client's landlord evicted her on suspicion that she was a lesbian. The suspicion arose after a man tried to hit on her and she turned him down. He then accused her of being a lesbian and reported her to the landlord.  | 1 |
| 9.  | HRAPF/PA/613/24   | 18/06/24 | Luwero  | Landlord | The caretaker at the home where the client was renting started to get suspicious of the client's sexuality and reported the matter to the landlord. The landlord reacted by demanding that the client leave the home immediately.   | 1 |
| 10. | HRAPF/PA/614/24   | 19/06/24 | Wakiso  | Landlord | The client had a disagreement with her partner that led to the end of their relationship. In anger, the partner outed her to the neighbours, who informed the landlord. The landlord evicted the client as a result.  | 1 |
| 11. | HRAPF/PA/615/24   | 20/06/24 | Wakiso  | Landlord | The client's landlady heard rumours from the neighbours that the client was a homosexual, which   | 1 |

|     |                 |          |         |        |  |   |
|-----|-----------------|----------|---------|--------|--|---|
|     |                 |          |         |        | the landlord relied on to evict the client from their rented premises.   |   |
| 12. | HRAPF/PA/616/24 | 23/06/24 | Mbarara | Family | The client was outed to her parents, whom she lived with, by a friend with whom she had a disagreement. The parents were very upset to learn this information and asked that the client leave their family home immediately. They warned her to never return unless she is ready to repent and stop being a lesbian. | 1 |

### 3.3 Cases of arrests

In June 2024, HRAPF handled a total of 5 cases in which a total of 5 individuals were arrested on sexuality related charges. In the months of May and June, the number of arrests remained constant. However the number of victims affected by the arrests reduced from (11) in May to (5) in June 2024.

In 3 of these cases, the persons arrested were charged with homosexuality under the AHA 2023; in 1 case the client was charged with attempted homosexuality under the AHA 2023; in one case the person was charged with both impersonation (under the Penal Code Act) and homosexuality (under the AHA 2023) while in 1 case, the victim was charged with having carnal knowledge against the order of nature under the Penal Code Act. All victims were subsequently released on police bond.

3 of these cases were registered from Wakiso, 1 case was registered in Mukono and 1 was registered in Kasese.

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 /617/24 | 17/6/24           | Wakiso   | Unnatural offences | The client was accused by his neighbours of hanging out with young people in the neighbourhood in order to recruit them into homosexuality. They called the police to arrest him, which the police did. He was detained on charges of committing an unnatural offence. | 1                 |

|    |                     |          |        |                                 |  |   |
|----|---------------------|----------|--------|---------------------------------|--|---|
| 2. | HRAPF/PA<br>/618/24 | 4/06/24  | Mukono | Attempted<br>homosexuality      | The client invited a potential intimate partner to his home, who then demanded to be paid 50,000/- for sex. The client had not expected the encounter to be transactional, and therefore refused to pay. The visitor then went to the police station to report that the client is a homosexual, and the police arrested and detained the client on charges of attempted homosexuality. | 1 |
| 3. | HRAPF/PA<br>/619/24 | 27/06/24 | Kasese | Impersonation,<br>Homosexuality | The client, a transgender woman, was arrested by a group of people who found her moving around Kasese town while dressed in a skirt and a blouse. They started interrogating her about her sexuality, and later took her to the police station, where she was detained on charges of homosexuality and impersonation.  | 1 |
| 4. | HRAPF/PA<br>/620/24 | 29/06/24 | Wakiso | Homosexuality                   | The client met a person on a dating site and they agreed to meet, but when the other person came, he brought police officers with him, and they arrested the client and demanded money from him, which he did not have. They then dragged him to the police station where detained him on charges of homosexuality. They also confiscated his phone as an exhibit.                     | 1 |
| 5. | HRAPF/PA<br>/621/24 | 30/06/24 | Wakiso | Homosexuality                   | The client was arrested and detained on charges of homosexuality after a friend whom he had sheltered at his home for a while went to the police and reported that he was a homosexual. This happened after the two had a disagreement over money.   | 1 |

#### 4. Comparison with May 2024

There has been a slight 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 May 2024, a total of 83 cases involving LGBTI persons were reported as compared to 81 cases in June 2024. In terms of cases where individuals were specifically

targeted on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE, there was a reduction from 41 cases affecting 50 persons in May 2024, to 32 cases affecting 35 persons in June 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 20 cases affecting 22 individuals in May and 15 cases involving 16 persons in June 2024. There was a reduction in the cases of evictions from 16 evictions affecting 17 persons to 12 evictions affecting 14 persons in June 2024. Cases of arrests for sexuality-related reasons remained constant, with 5 cases registered in both months, although the number of persons affected by the arrests reduced from 11 in May to 5 in June 2024.

### 5. Comparison with June 2023

In June 2023, a total of 68 cases were handled involving LGBTIQ persons, of which 43 cases involved actions that directly targeted persons on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE (63.2%) of all cases handled. The actions in these cases affected a total of 46 people and included 22 cases of real or threatened violence, 18 eviction cases and 3 arrests on sexuality related charges. In contrast, 81 cases involving LGBTIQ persons were handled in June 2024, of which 32 cases involved actions of targeted/ deliberate homophobia (39.5% of all cases handled) and 35 persons were affected.

While the total number of cases handled continues to be higher than it was in the previous year, it is well worth noting that the number of cases in which individuals were specifically targeted for detrimental treatment purely on the basis of their SOGIE has reduced significantly between the two months, from 63.2% of all cases handled in June 2023, the very first month of implementation of the AHA 2023, to 39.5% of all cases handled in June 2024, the 13<sup>th</sup> month of implementation of the AHA and the third consecutive month following the decision of the Constitutional Court doing away with some provisions of the Act.

### 6. The first thirteen months of the AHA

In the first thirteen months of the AHA 2023, a total of 1,166 cases involving LGBTIQ persons have been handled across the legal aid network, of which 632 (54.2%) targeted LGBTIQ people on the basis of their sexuality, affecting a total of 807 persons. The breakdown of cases so far is as follows:

| Nature of violation | June to December 2023 | January 2024 | February 2024 | March 2024 | April 2024 | May 2024 | June 2024 | Total number of cases |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------|---------------|------------|------------|----------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Evictions           | 164                   | 30           | 32            | 23         | 19         | 16       | 12        | 296                   |
| Violence            | 137                   | 25           | 24            | 20         | 17         | 20       | 15        | 258                   |

|                               |            |           |           |           |           |           |           |            |
|-------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Arrests                       | 38         | 4         | 3         | 9         | 8         | 5         | 5         | 72         |
| Other forms of discrimination | 6          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 6          |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>345</b> | <b>59</b> | <b>59</b> | <b>52</b> | <b>44</b> | <b>41</b> | <b>32</b> | <b>632</b> |

The victims in these cases are:

| <b>Nature of violation</b>    | <b>June to Dec 2023</b> | <b>January 2024</b> | <b>February 2024</b> | <b>March 2024</b> | <b>April 2024</b> | <b>May 2024</b> | <b>June 2024</b> | <b>Total number of victims</b> |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Evictions                     | 204                     | 35                  | 47                   | 26                | 23                | 17              | 14               | 366                            |
| Violence                      | 171                     | 32                  | 32                   | 20                | 20                | 22              | 16               | 313                            |
| Arrests                       | 59                      | 6                   | 3                    | 20                | 18                | 11              | 5                | 122                            |
| Other forms of discrimination | 6                       | 0                   | 0                    | 0                 | 0                 | 0               | 0                | 6                              |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>440</b>              | <b>73</b>           | <b>82</b>            | <b>66</b>         | <b>61</b>         | <b>50</b>       | <b>35</b>        | <b>807</b>                     |

It is also particularly interesting to note that, since the Constitutional Court judgment in the case of *Fox Odoi-Oywelowo and 21 others v Attorney General and 4 others* (Consolidated Constitutional Petitions 14, 15, 16 and 85 of 2024), there has been a noticeable reducing trend in cases of violence and violations on the basis of AHA, particularly for the eviction cases, as evidenced by the table below tracking figures from January 2024 to June 2024.

## Trends in violence and violations on the basis of SOGIE before and after the Court decision

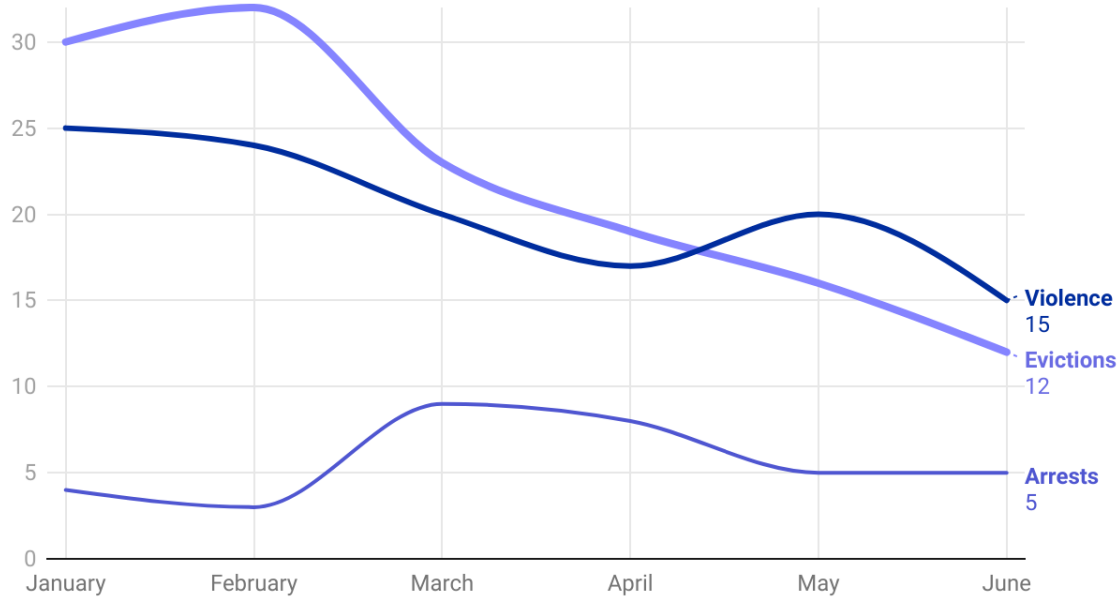


Chart: HRAPF • Source: HRAPF Legal aid clinic • Created with Datawrapper

### 7. Conclusion

While the continued implementation of the AHA remains a major challenge for the LGBTQ community in Uganda, it is evident that the position of the law has a huge bearing on the human rights situation for LGBTQ persons, as it is now clear that the modification of the law by the Constitutional Court led to a reduction in some types of violations on the basis of SOGIE in a trend that has more or less held steady over the past three months. The numbers of violations are going down, although they are way above the numbers before the AHA. Physical violence still continues to have more cases and affect more people than evictions, after overtaking that category in the month of May 2024, soon after the Constitutional Court's decision. The number of arrests continued to be constant but also affecting less people.