



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

**12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024**

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## **1. Introduction**

This is the 17<sup>th</sup> monthly report on violence and other human rights violations on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity/ expression since the Anti-Homosexuality Act (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 October 2024. This is a follow up to 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 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 October 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 are 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 October 2024 were reported to HRAPF's network.

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

HRAPF handled a total of 50 cases in the month of October 2024, a reduction from the 72 cases handled in September 2024. Out of the 50 cases handled, 16 cases involved actions that directly targeted people for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE, representing 32% of all the cases handled during the month of October 2024. The number of cases in which persons were directly targeted due to their SOGIE has remained steady at 16 cases in both September and October 2024. The number of victims affected by these violations reduced from 27 persons in September 2024, to 18 persons in October 2024.

Out of the 16 cases in which LGBTIQ people were specifically targeted for detrimental treatment during the month of October 2024, 9 cases involved violence and threats of violence against persons on the basis of their SOGIE, 4 were eviction cases and 3 were arrests on sexuality related charges. This section of the report provides detailed data on these cases.

### 3.1 Cases involving actual and threatened 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 October 2024, at 9 verified cases affecting 10 persons. This is the same number of cases that was recorded for September 2014 with a reduction in the number of victims from 14 in September to 10 in October.

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

There were 8 cases of actual violence against persons on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE in October 2024, affecting 9 persons. This violence was perpetrated by unknown persons in 5 cases, neighbours in 2 cases and members of the general community in 1 case. All the cases involved physical violence and the victims sustained injuries, some of which were serious. 5 of these cases were registered from Wakiso and 1 case each from Gulu, Kampala, and Omoro 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/705/2024	1/10/24	Wakiso	Physical assault	Unknown Persons	The client met someone on a popular gay dating app and when they physically met, the person he met instead physically roughed him up. He told the client that he and his friends were on a mission to track down and kill all homosexuals in Uganda, but the client was able to escape and run away.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA/706/	26/10/24	Gulu	Physical	Neighbour	The client was assaulted by a certain	1

	2024			assault		woman in her neighbourhood. The woman came with a jug of hot water and she poured it on the clients' chest while accusing her of being a homosexual and spreading HIV to the young girls around the village.	
3.	HRAPF/PA/707/2024	29/10/24	Wakiso	Physical assault	Unknown persons	The client was assaulted by unknown persons while coming from work. The perpetrators accused the client of being a homosexual and ordered him to vacate their village. During the process of the attack, the client sustained a fracture of his left arm.	1
4.	HRAPF/PA/708/2024	17/10/24	Wakiso	Physical assault	Unknown persons	A group of about 4 men attacked the client near his home and assaulted him. The client sustained serious bodily injuries as a result of the attack. The client noted that prior to his attack, he had been receiving threats from unknown persons who had been accusing him of being a homosexual and threatening to 'deal with him'.	1
5.	HRAPF/PA/709/2024	11/10/24	Kampala	Physical assault	General community	A mob matched to the client's house in Kabalagala, where she was staying with her partner, accusing her of being a homosexual. The mob wanted to lynch the client but she managed to escape from them but	1

						could not return to her home for fear of further attacks.	
6.	HRAPF/PA/710/24	1/10/24	Omoro	Physical Assault	Neighbours	The client operates a bar in Koro village, Omoro district, which had been doing well until some people started spreading a rumour that she is a homosexual, causing some customers to shun her. When she tried to confront the people who were spreading the rumours about her sexuality, they assaulted her and told her that they were tired of her behaviour and that she should vacate their village.	1
7.	HRAPF/PA/711/24	18/10/2024	Wakiso	Physical assault	Unknown persons	The client was walking to work when she found her way blocked by a group of people she did not know, who started shouting at her and calling her a homosexual. She tried to run away but they knocked her down and beat her before leaving her there.	1
8.	HRAPF/PA/712/24	14/10/24	Wakiso	Physical assault	Unknown persons	The clients were seated at a roadside bar chatting when a group of men walked up to them and started slapping them and roughing them up. They tried to fight back but the gang started shouting that they are homosexuals before stealing their phones and running away.	2

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

Only 1 case was registered involving threats of violence against persons on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE were reported in October 2024. This case directly affected 1 person and it involved threats of physical violence directed towards the victim due to their SOGIE. The threats were perpetrated by the victims' neighbour and the case was registered from Gulu district.

No.	Case code	Date of reporting	District	Nature of threats	Perpetrator	Brief facts	No. of victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/713/24	13/10/24	Gulu	Threats of physical violence	General community	The client was moving with a friend of hers and a group of boda boda men near her home started heckling her and threatening to beat her for behaving like a woman yet she is supposed to be a man. She notes that these boda boda men often threaten her every time they see her and she is worried that their threats might actualise into violence.	1

**3.2 Evictions**

There was a slight increase in the number of cases of eviction from rented property from 2 cases affecting 4 individuals in September 2024 to 4 cases affecting 4 individuals in October 2024. There was 1 case registered from each of the districts of Wakiso, Busia, Tororo and Lwengo, and the evictions were orchestrated by family members in 2 cases, local area leadership in 1 case and the local area leadership and the landlord in the last case.

No.	Case code	Date of reporting	District	Perpetrator	Brief facts	Number of Victims
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1.	HRAPF/PA/714 /24	1/10/2024	Lwengo	Community leaders	The client was arrested and detained at Mbirizi Police Station on charges of homosexuality in a highly publicised event in August. After his release, he stayed briefly with a friend for fear of attack, before he returned to his home in October 2024. Unfortunately, a village meeting was held upon his return and, in the presence of the local area leadership and some residents of the village, it was resolved to evict the client from the village.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA/715 /2024	1/10/24	Busia	Community leaders, Landlord	The client's friends were arrested in July 2024 on the orders of their area youth councillor, and he worked with the HRAPF team to ensure the release of his friends. When the youth councillor heard about this, he informed the police that the client was also a homosexual, and demanded that they arrest him, which they declined to do. He then confronted the client's landlord and demanded that he evict the client or risk his house being burnt to the ground. The landlord asked the client to vacate the premises in fear of this threat.	1
3.	HRAPF/PA/716 /10/24	1/10/24	Tororo	Family	The client was evicted from the family home by his parents after they were informed that he had been hanging out around town with a known homosexual, and that he was probably also starting to engage in homosexual activity.	1
4.	HRAPF/PA/717 /10/24	10/10/2024	Wakiso	Family	The client had a friend over at their family home and the friend started dancing in a sexually suggestive way and making comments that made the family members suspect that he was gay. The family got upset with the client for bringing home a	1

					homosexual, and they chased him away from the house on suspicion that he was also a homosexual.	
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### 3.3 Arrests

There was a decrease in the number of arrests on sexuality related charges from 5 arrests in September 2024, affecting 9 individuals to 3 arrests affecting 4 individuals in October 2024. 2 arrests were registered in Wakiso and 1 arrest was registered in Kampala district. All these cases are still at police pending investigations and the victims were released on police bond. In one case the victim was charged with homosexuality contrary to section 2 of the AHA 2023; in the second one, the charge was attempted homosexuality while in the third case, the victims were charged with being a common nuisance after the police officers learnt that they had gay pornographic videos in their phones.

This table provides a detailed breakdown of the arrest:

No.	Case code	Date of reporting	District	Charge	Brief facts	Number of Victims
1.	HRAPF/PA /718/24	31/10/24	Wakiso	Common Nuisance	The clients were invited for a house party in Bwebajja on 28 October 2024 but failed to find the venue, forcing them to start walking back. On their way back, they were picked up by a passing police patrol, who questioned them about why they were walking on the road at 1.00am, and their phones were confiscated and searched. When the arresting officers found gay porn in the clients' phones, they immediately took them to Bwebajja Police Station, accusing them of being homosexuals, but they later charged them with being a common nuisance instead.	2
	HRAPF/PA /719/2024	24/10/24	Wakiso	Homosexuality	On 23 October 2024, the client was arrested from his home by police officers who were informed by a friend of his that he is a homosexual. They accused him of trying to sodomise his friend and held him at the	1



2.					station until 25 October 2024, when his relatives were threatened into paying a hefty bribe by the police officers.	
3.	HRAPF/PA /720/24	30/10/24	Kampala	Attempted Homosexuality	On 29 October 2024, the client agreed to meet up with someone they had connected with on a gay dating app, but the person came with police officers who arrested the client for being a homosexual and demanded money for his release. He had no money, so he was taken to Wakaliga Police Station and later transferred to Nateete Police Station where he was held until 4 November 2024 on charges of attempted homosexuality.	1

#### 4. Comparison with September 2024

There was a reduction in the overall number of cases reported in October 2024 from 72 cases to 50 cases, but the number of cases involving actions that deliberately targeted persons for negative treatment on basis of their real or presumed SOGIE remained steady at 16. The number of victims affected by these violations reduced from 27 persons in September 2024 to 18 persons in October 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 9 cases affecting 14 individuals in September 2024, and 9 cases involving 10 individuals in October 2024. Cases involving arrests on sexuality related charges reduced from 5 cases affecting 9 individuals in September 2024 to 3 cases in October, affecting 4 individuals. The cases of eviction slightly increased from 2 cases affecting 4 individuals in September to 4 cases affecting 4 individuals in October 2024.

#### 5. Comparison with October 2023

HRAPF handled a total of 83 cases in the month of October 2023. Out of the 83 cases handled, 64 cases involved actions that directly targeted people for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE, representing 77.1% of all the cases handled during the month. Out of the 64 cases in which LGBTIQ people were specifically targeted for detrimental treatment, 28 were cases of violence and threats of violence, 27 were cases of evictions from properties, 6 were arrests for sexuality-related reasons and 3 were cases of extortion. In contrast, 50 cases were registered in the month October 2024, out of the 50 cases handled, 16 cases involved actions that

directly targeted people for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE, representing 32% of all the cases handled during the month. The number of victims affected by these violations were 18 persons in October 2024.

This indicates that the number of violations continue to reduce despite the law being in force.

**6. Comparison with the period from 1st October 2022 to 31st October 2022 (pre-AHA)**

In October 2022, a total of 53 cases were handled involving LGBTQ persons, of which 7 cases involved actions that directly targeted persons on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE. The actions in these 7 cases affected a total of 7 people, and included 3 cases of real or threatened violence and 4 arrests.

This number increased by 30 cases in October 2023, in which 83 cases were handled, while the cases in which individuals were specifically targeted for negative treatment increased from 7 to 64 cases. While there is a significant reduction in the number of cases handled in October 2024 as compared to October 2023 and in the number of cases in which individuals were specifically targeted for negative treatment, this number still remains higher in October 2024 as compared to October 2022, before the AHA.

**7. The first 17 months of the AHA 2023 in Uganda**

In the first 17 months of the AHA 2023, a total of 1,393 cases involving LGBTIQ persons have been handled across the HRAPF legal aid network, of which 716 (51.4%) targeted LGBTIQ people on the basis of their sexuality, affecting a total of 912 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	July 2024	August 2024	September 2024	October 2024	Total number of cases
Evictions	164	30	32	23	19	16	12	10	9	2	4	321
Violence	137	25	24	20	17	20	15	14	10	9	9	300
Arrests	38	4	3	9	8	5	5	11	1	5	3	92
Other forms of discrimination	6	0	0	0	0	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>35</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>719</b>

The victims in these cases are:

Nature of violation	June to Dec 2023	January 2024	February 2024	March 2024	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	August 2024	September 2024	October 2024	Total number of victims
Evictions	204	35	47	26	23	17	14	11	10	4	4	395
Violence	171	32	32	20	20	22	16	15	12	14	10	364
Arrests	59	6	3	20	18	11	5	14	2	9	4	151
Other forms of discrimination	6	0	0	0	0	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>40</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>916</b>

Cases of violence and threats of violence still have the highest number of cases overall, and the highest number of victims, and the cases of evictions have continued to decline steadily since the pronouncements of the Constitutional Court during the month of April 2024 nullifying section 9, which criminalised the letting of premises ‘for purposes of homosexuality’, a clear indication that criminalisation of SOGIE has a direct and profound impact on human rights violations against LGBTQ persons. However, there was a slight increase by two cases in October 2024, the first time this is happening since the Constitutional Court judgment, but the numbers are not as high as before the decision was rendered.

## 8. Conclusion

While the continued implementation of the AHA remains a major challenge for the LGBTIQ community in Uganda, it is evident that the position of the law has a huge bearing on the human rights situation for LGBTIQ persons, as it is now clear that the modification of the law by the Constitutional Court led to a reduction in some types of violence and violations on the basis of SOGIE in a trend that has more or less held steady over the past months. Those provisions of the law which were not nullified continue to be a big source of violence and violations against LGBTIQ persons, specifically violence. Arrests also continue.