



## THE HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATE: CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (HRAPF) publishes the *Human Rights Advocate* magazine on an annual basis. The magazine highlights human rights issues and areas for reform in Uganda's laws with a view to protecting vulnerable and marginalized groups.

This year's issue marks the Magazine's 10<sup>th</sup> edition and will focus on human rights concerns emerging before and after the passing of the Anti- Homosexuality Act of 2023 (AHA). It will combine events and debates in 2023 and 2024 and how they impacted and continue to impact affected communities and the country in general. HRAPF and several human rights organizations published comments about both the AHA Bill and Act. Additionally, HRAPF was one of twenty-two petitioners who challenged the constitutionality of the Act in *Hon Fox Odoi & 21 others v Attorney General* (Consolidated petition 14,15,16 and 85 of 2023) UGCC 10.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Edition of the *Human Rights Advocate* will explore the more intricate aspects of the Act, the Constitutional Petition challenging its validity and the impact that the Act has had on specific human rights of members of the LGBTQ community in Uganda.

### 1. Background

The Anti -Homosexuality Act 2023 not only prohibits any form of consensual sexual relations between persons of the same sex but to also prohibits what it refers to as the "promotion of homosexuality."<sup>1</sup> The Act violates the rights of Key Populations who are members of the LGBTQ community as it undermines not only their right to freedom from discrimination<sup>2</sup> but also their rights to freedom of association, privacy, speech and expression among others.

In response to this draconian law, a constitutional petition<sup>3</sup> was filed by HRAPF and other human rights defenders on procedural and substantive grounds including: inadequate public participation during the legislative processes; conduct showing bias on the part of the Speaker of Parliament; violation of the right to human dignity, the principle of legality, the right to non-discrimination, among others.<sup>4</sup> While the first round of the petition garnered some wins and secured protections relating to certain aspects on non-discrimination and right to shelter, many oppressive provisions of the Act which continue to marginalize members of the LGBTQ community were upheld by the Court. HRAPF and others have appealed against the Constitutional Court's position on these remainder provisions and awaits the decision of the Supreme Court regarding the same.

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<sup>1</sup> See generally Parliamentary watch "The Anti-Homosexuality Act 2023"  
<https://www.parliament.go.ug/sites/default/files/The%20Anti-Homosexuality%20Act%2C%202023.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> See generally "The 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda", Articles 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28,29.

<sup>3</sup> *Hon Fox Odoi & 21 others v Attorney General* (Consolidated petition 14,15,16 and 85 of 2023) UGCC 10.

<sup>4</sup> As above.

It is against this background that the Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (HRAPF), whose main objective is to bring human rights to *all* seeks to publish this year's *Human Rights Advocate* magazine. In a bid to raise awareness and informed discourse regarding the AHA, HRAPF seeks contributions in the form of opinion pieces or academic articles from various authors, as well as artistic expressions in the form of poetry, comics, drawings, paintings or photography, which convey the subject on any of the specific themes outlined below. Members belonging to Uganda's Key Populations are strongly encouraged to make submissions. A modest stipend will be extended to cover logistical and related expenses for successful submissions.

## 2. Main objectives

The main objectives of this edition of the *Human Rights Advocate* are:

- To advocate for a full repeal of the Anti-Homosexuality Act 2023 and achieve full compliance with human rights standards.
- To promote marginalised persons' human rights, equality and knowledge of human rights principles and laws.
- To increase knowledge and access to information by the public of human rights violations against communities targeted by the AHA.
- To provide a platform (exhibition) where key populations can share their experiences on the effects of the Act, freely and without judgement.
- To create and promote networks of like-minded human rights advocates and establish support systems for members of key affected populations through visibility of HRAPF's partners.

## 3. Themes

Submissions must cover any one or more of the following themes:

- i) Uganda's legal framework in relation to the AHA.
- ii) Transcribed interview with a stakeholder on the AHA petition.
- iii) Cultural and/or religious perspectives on the AHA and or Petition.
- iv) The impact of the AHA on specific rights of LGBTI individuals in Uganda (*a socio legal perspective e.g.: dignity/shelter/Property/work*).
- v) A Human rights based approach to the AHA.
- vi) Personal story of the effect (s) of AHA on Key Populations (KPs) by a member (s) of KPs. (*Can be Anonymised*)
- vii) Art work conveying the effects of AHA on Key Populations, e.g.: *poetry, comics, drawings, paintings, etc.* by a member (s) of KPs (*Can be anonymised*).

Opinion pieces, articles, stories and poetry must be between **250 and 500 words**, while graphics and comics must not exceed 2 pages.

## 4. Deadlines:

Submissions must be sent to [info@hrapf.org](mailto:info@hrapf.org) by **15<sup>th</sup> January 2025** at **9:00PM EAT**. Late submissions will not be considered.