



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

**11<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

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## **1. Introduction**

This is the 19<sup>th</sup> 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 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 December 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 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 December 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 December 2024 were reported to HRAPF's network.

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

HRAPF handled a total of 45 cases in the month of December 2024, a slight reduction from the 47 cases handled in November 2024. Out of the 45 cases handled, 18 cases involved actions that directly targeted people for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE, representing 40% of all the cases handled during the month of December 2024. The number of victims affected by these violations were 23 in December 2024, as compared to 28 persons in November 2024.

Out of the 18 cases in which LGBTIQ people were specifically targeted for violent treatment during the month of December 2024, 8 were arrests on sexuality related charges, 7 were eviction cases on suspicions of involvement in homosexuality, while 3 were cases of violence on the basis of presumed SOGIE.

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

### 3.1 Arrests

There was a noticeable increase in the number of arrests on sexuality related charges from 3 cases affecting 4 persons in November 2024, to 8 cases affecting 12 persons in December 2024. In 4 of these cases, clients were charged with homosexuality under the Anti-Homosexuality Act; in 3 cases, clients were charged under the Penal Code Act (unnatural offences in 2 cases and personation in 1 case) while in the last case, the clients were arrested but no charges were preferred against them. 6 of these cases are still pending investigation at police, but all the clients were released on police bond. In 2 cases, the clients are still standing trial at the Chief Magistrates Courts at Nakawa and Entebbe, although in both cases the clients are out on bail. These two cases are the ones where clients were charged with having carnal knowledge against the order of nature under the Penal Code Act. All 8 arrests happened in Kampala.

This is the first time since these reports were first published that arrests have shot to the top as contributing the biggest number of violations, overtaking both violence and evictions. This is a worrying development. The prosecutors use both the AHA and the Penal Code provisions as they deem fit, but the Penal Code charges seem more likely to be endorsed by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, more than those under the AHA, showing the danger of the Penal Code provisions remaining on the law books alongside the AHA provisions.

**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 /743/24	8/12/24	Kampala	Unnatural offences	The client was arrested and charged with having carnal knowledge against the order of nature after a friend he had hosted at his home temporarily accused him of 'sodomising' him. The client was arraigned after he refused to pay money to the alleged complainant, and the case is still ongoing at the Chief Magistrates Court at Nakawa.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA /744/24	2/12/24	Kampala	Homosexuality	The first client was approached on Facebook by a man with whom they started a flirtation, and later agreed to meet. When the two met, the other person came with police officers from Kabalagala Police station, who	2

					arrested him. While he was in custody, the police officers went through his phone and found communications with the second client, whom they suspected to be the first client's intimate partner, and tricked him into meeting them. They arrested him too and charged them both with homosexuality.	
3.	HRAPF/PA /745/2024	2/12/24	Kampala	Unnatural offences, Theft	The clients had been arrested in May 2023 on charges of theft and unnatural offences, which were later dismissed by the court. On 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2024, they were summoned to the police station to pick up their property that had been confiscated in the earlier case but when they got there, they were instead arrested and charged with the same exact offences. On 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2024, they were arraigned before the Chief Magistrates Court at Entebbe.	2
4.	HRAPF/PA /746/2024	01/12/24	Wakiso	Homosexuality	The client was arrested on 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 at around 11am, detained at New Taxi Park Police Post for a few hours and then transferred to Nansana Police Station, from where he was transferred to Lubigi Police Station. It was upon reaching Lubigi Police Station that he was told that one of his friends had opened up a case against him for allegedly raping him. He was detained for two days and then released on police bond.	1
5.	HRAPF/PA /747/2024	20/12/24	Kampala	Homosexuality	The client was arrested on 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024 and detained at Kira Road police station on charges of homosexuality. The complainant in this case alleged that the client had promised him money in exchange for sex and then refused to pay him. He was held until 23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2024, when he was released on police bond.	1
6.	HRAPF/PA /748/2024	9 <sup>th</sup> /12/24	Kampala	Homosexuality	On 9 <sup>th</sup> December at around 11pm, the clients were attacked by a group of people unknown to them as they were walking back home. The assailants accused the clients of being homosexuals and threatened to lynch them, but a passing police patrol rescued them. When	2

					they reached Kenjoy Police Post, however, they were instead detained and charged with homosexuality because the police officers had heard from the mob that the two were a gay couple. They were released on police bond on 11th December 2024.	
7.	HRAPF/PA /749/2024	23/12/24	Kampala	No charges preferred	The two clients in this case were arrested on 23 <sup>rd</sup> December and 24 <sup>th</sup> December 2024 in connection with the disappearance of a friend of theirs. The parents of the (adult) woman who had gone missing had them arrested, claiming that they had influenced their daughter to become a lesbian and then made her run away from home. The two were held until 26 <sup>th</sup> December, when they were released from Katwe Division Police Headquarters, although they were not actually charged with any offences.	2
8.	HRAPF/PA /750/2024	29/12/24	Kampala	Personation	On 29 <sup>th</sup> December 2024, the client visited a man in her neighbourhood who had been pestering her for sex for a long time. While at his home, they got into an argument because she still refused to have sex with him, and he grabbed her by force to undress her. It was during the ensuing scuffle that the man discovered she was a transgender woman. He immediately locked her in the house and called the area chairperson, who took her to Lugoba Police Station where she was charged with personation. She was released on 30 <sup>th</sup> December on police bond. The incident was publicised all over social media.	1

### 3.2 Evictions

There was a slight increase in the number of cases of eviction from rented property from 6 cases affecting 7 individuals in November 2024 to 7 cases affecting 8 individuals in December 2024. Of these, 4 cases were reported in Fort Portal, while one case was reported from Rukungiri, Mbarara and Gulu each. 6 of the evictions were orchestrated by landlords and 1 by members of the victim's immediate family.

No.	Case code	Date of reporting	District	Perpetrator	Brief facts	Number of Victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/751/24	10/12/24	Wakiso	Landlord	The clients were evicted by their landlord in November 2024 on suspicions that they were homosexuals. Prior to their eviction, one of the clients had been attacked by some persons unknown to him who accused him of being a homosexual and that they wanted him out of their village due to his homosexual tendencies.	2
2.	HRAPF/PA/752/2024	11/12/24	Wakiso	Landlord	The client was evicted by his landlord on suspicions that he was a homosexual. This was after some of his neighbours raised complaints to their landlord that the client exhibited traits of homosexuals and they pleaded with him to evict him. Consequently, the client's landlord ordered him to vacate his premises so that he could retain his other tenants.	1
3.	HRAPF/PA/753/24	11/12/24	Wakiso	Landlord	The client was evicted by his landlord due to suspicion that the client is a homosexual. The landlord gave him an ultimatum to vacate his premises by 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2024.	1
4.	HRAPF/PA/754/24	12/12/24	Wakiso	Landlord	The client was renting a home in Bweyogerere, where he was hosting 11 other queer persons that were homeless for various reasons. The neighbours kept complaining that the client and his housemates were homosexuals. These complaints later led to the client's eviction.	1
5.	HRAPF/PA/755/24	01/12/24	Gulu	Landlord	The client in this case, a transgender man, had been assaulted by a neighbour in November on allegations that he was having a sexual affair with the neighbour's wife. The landlord heard this story and on 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2024 reached out to the client, demanding that he leave the premises within the week.	1

6.	HRAPF/PA/756/2024	05/12/24	Mbarara	Landlord	The client was evicted from her rented accommodation after the landlord heard rumours that she was really a male person dressing and acting as a female, and that she was in fact a homosexual. The landlord demanded that she leaves by the end of December or he would have her removed forcibly by the village leadership.	1
7.	HRAPF/PA/757/2024	09/12/24	Rukungiri	Family	The client was evicted from their family home after his mother went into his bedroom and found him and his partner kissing. The mother of the client was therefore very upset and called other family members, who verbally abused the client and then informed him that he had been disowned.	1

### ***3.3 Cases involving actual 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 lowest category of cases registered during the month of December 2024, at 3 verified cases affecting 3 persons, a drastic reduction from 8 cases affecting 9 persons in November 2024. All three cases were of actual violence and were perpetrated by unknown persons. The cases happened in Manafwa, Gulu and Kmapala respectively.

The table below discusses these cases in detail:

<b>No.</b>	<b>Case code</b>	<b>Date of reporting</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Nature of violence</b>	<b>Perpetrator</b>	<b>Brief facts</b>	<b>No. of victims</b>
1.	HRAPF/PA/758/2024	3/12/24	Manafwa	Physical assault	Unknown Persons	The client in this case was at home with his mother and younger brother when a man he did not know came to their home, asked for his name and then proceeded to slap him several times, accusing him of being a homosexual. The client's mother reacted by throwing the client's	1

						property out of the house.	
2.	HRAPF/PA/759/2024	3/12/24	Gulu	Physical assault	Unknown persons	The client, a transgender man was followed home from a bar by a group of men who saw him kissing his girlfriend in the bar. They attacked him just as he was approaching his home and beat him up, accusing him of trying to teach his partner to be a lesbianism.	1
3.	HRAPF/PA/760/2024	13/12/24	Kampala	Extortion	Unknown persons	The client met a person on a dating app and they later agreed to meet in person, and the client directed him to his home. However, before the physical meeting, the other person started calling the client and demanding for money in exchange for not going to his home and outing him to his village leadership.	1

### 3. Comparison with November 2024

There was a slight reduction in the overall number of cases reported in December 2024 from 47 cases in November 2024, to 45 cases in December 2024. The number of cases involving actions that deliberately targeted persons for negative treatment on basis of their real or presumed SOGIE reduced from 19 cases in November 2024, to 18 cases in December 2024. The number of victims affected by these violations also reduced from 28 persons in November 2024 to 23 persons in December 2024.

Arrests on sexuality related charges were the highest number of cases recorded during the month of December 2024 at 8 cases affecting 12 people, a significant increase from 3 cases affecting 4 persons in November 2024. The cases of evictions increased slightly from 6 cases affecting 7 individuals in November to 7 cases affecting 8 individuals in December 2024. In a surprising new



development, cases of actual violence and threats of violence on the basis of real or presumed SOGIE dropped dramatically from 12 cases affecting 14 persons in November 2024 to 3 cases affecting 3 individuals in December 2024.

#### 4. Comparison with December 2023

HRAPF handled a total of 83 cases in the month of December 2023. Out of the 83 cases handled, 47 cases involved actions that directly targeted people for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE, representing 56.6% of all the cases handled during the month. Out of the 47 cases in which LGBTIQ people were specifically targeted for detrimental treatment, 27 were cases of eviction from rented properties, 14 cases involved violence and threats of violence being targeted against persons due to their SOGIE while 6 were arrests for sexuality-related reasons. In contrast, 45 cases were registered in the month December 2024, out of which, 18 cases involved actions that directly targeted people for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE, representing 40% of all the cases handled during the month. The number of victims affected by these violations were 62 persons in December 2023 and 23 persons in December 2024.

#### 5. The first 19 months of the AHA 2023 in Uganda

In the first 19 months of the AHA 2023, a total of 1,485 cases involving LGBTIQ persons have been handled across the HRAPF legal aid network, of which 760 (51.2%) targeted LGBTIQ people on the basis of their sexuality, affecting a total of 967 persons.

The breakdown of cases so far is as follows:

	June to December 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2024	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	Aug 2024	Sept 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Total number of cases
Evictions	164	30	32	23	19	16	12	10	9	2	4	6	7	334
Violence	137	25	24	20	17	20	15	14	10	9	9	14	3	317
Arrests	38	4	3	9	8	5	5	11	1	5	3	3	8	103
Other forms of discrimination	6	0	0	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>23</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>760</b>



## Violence, evictions and arrests of persons on basis of presumed SOGIE Jan - Dec 2024

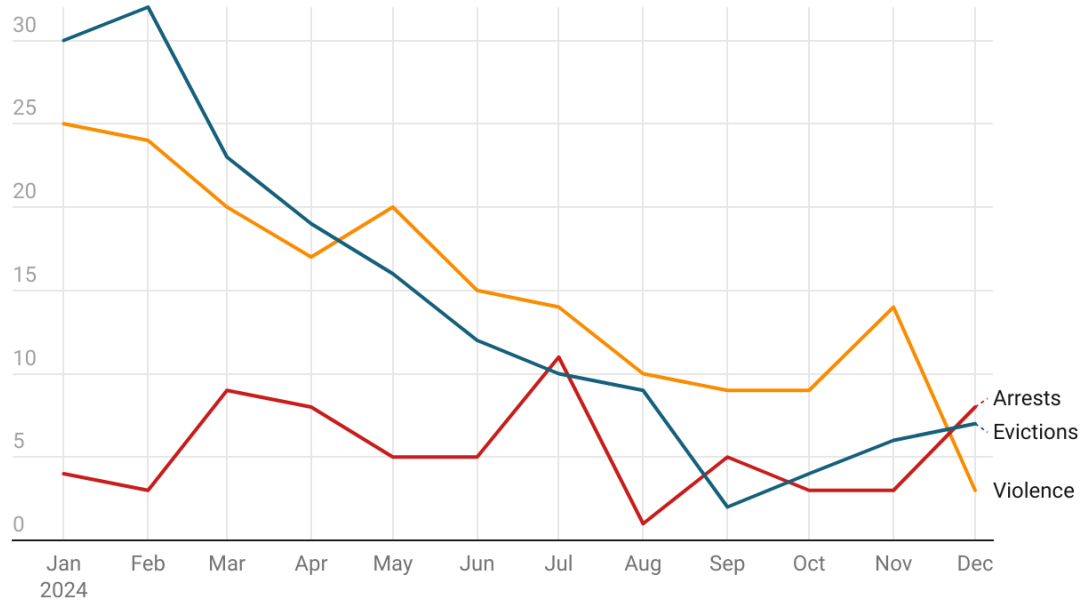


Chart: HRAPF • Source: HRAPF Legal aid clinic data • Created with Datawrapper

When considered in isolation, the trends in the cases of violence and violations that HRAPF has specifically tracked since May 2023 remain worrying, particularly because there is no noticeable and sustained downward trend in any of the three types of violence/violations. In Figure 2 below, it is clear that, while cases of evictions on basis of SOGIE seemed to dramatically reduce between April and November 2024, a clear consequence of the Constitutional Court in Consolidated Petitions No. 14, 15, 16 and 85 of 2023, this has changed drastically in December 2024 in a trend the reasons for which are as yet unclear, beyond the pressures the festive season generally tends to impose on LGBTQ persons in Uganda. While the cases of violence and threats of violence have fluctuated between high and low points throughout the year, it is clear that there was a general downward trend, until the month of November 2024, when there was a significant spike in cases of violence. Most worrying, however, is the trend in arrests of individuals on sexuality-related charges, which has remained consistently uncertain, with huge spikes in months March, April, July and December 2024.

Figure 2: Trends in evictions, violence and arrests

## Violence, evictions and arrests of persons on basis of presumed SOGIE Jan - Dec 2024

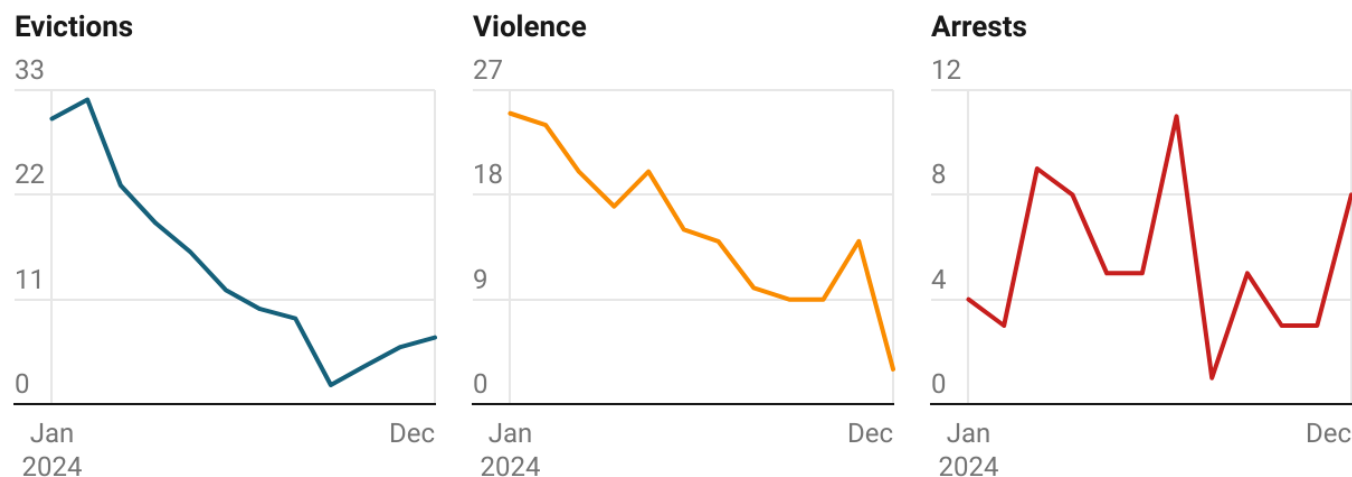


Chart: HRAPF • Source: HRAPF Legal aid clinic data • Created with Datawrapper

The victims in these cases are:

Nature of violation	June to Dec '23	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2024	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	Aug 2024	Sept 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Total number of victims
Evictions	204	35	47	26	23	17	14	11	10	4	4	7	8	410
Violence	171	32	32	20	20	22	16	15	12	14	10	16	3	383
Arrests	59	6	3	20	18	11	5	14	2	9	4	5	12	168
Other forms of	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6

discrimination														
<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>28</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>967</b>

## 6. Conclusion

The trends discussed above make a clear point that, as long as the AHA remains in force in Uganda, the human rights situation for LGBTQ persons in Uganda is going to remain uncertain and in a constant state of flux, with protection for the rights of LGBTQ people remaining at the discretion of a society and police force heavily permeated with prejudice against LGBTQ persons. Periods of relative safety and instability for LGBTQ persons are invariably followed by sudden spikes in violence and other violations, and this can only be sustainably cured by repealing laws criminalising same-sex sexual relations.