

# REPORT ON VIOLENCE AND VIOLATIONS BASED ON REAL OR PRESUMED SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH 2025

10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025

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#### 1. Introduction

This is the 22<sup>nd</sup> monthly report on violence and other forms of 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 March 2025.

# 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 March 2025. Quantitative data for this report was obtained from a review of case files for data on the number of cases handled and the number of cases in which acts of violence or other human rights violations were identified. The data was then subjected to a qualitative analysis to ascertain the circumstances under which the incidents occurred, in order to ensure 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. All data reported was independently verified to ensure its accuracy.

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, specialised 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 March 2025 were reported to HRAPF's network.

# 3. Nature and number of cases reported

HRAPF handled a total of 49 cases in the month of March 2025, an increase from the 41 cases handled in February 2025. Out of the 49 cases handled, 16 cases involved actions that directly targeted people for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE, representing 32.6% of all the cases handled during the month of March 2025, slightly up from the 14 cases in February 2025. The number of victims affected by these violations in the month of March was 19, same as in February.

Out of the 16 cases in which LGBTIQ people were specifically targeted for negative treatment during the month of March 2025, 6 cases involved actual physical violence and threats of violence being committed against the victims, 5 were eviction cases, 3 cases

involved arrests for sexuality related reasons and 2 cases involved other forms of violence and discrimination against suspected LGBT persons. This section of the report provides detailed data on these cases.

# 3.1. Cases involving actual violence and threats of violence

A total of 6 cases involving violence and threats of violence were registered in March 2025, affecting 7 individuals. Of these, 5 cases involved actual violence while 1 was a threat of violence. There has been a slight reduction in cases of violence in March 2025, compared to the month of February in which 7 cases affecting 8 individuals were registered.

# Cases of actual violence

There were 5 incidents of actual violence against persons on the basis of their presumed SOGIE, affecting 6 individuals. 4 of these incidents were perpetrated by unknown persons and 1 incident was perpetrated by the neighbours of the victim. All the incidents involved physical violence and the victims sustained injuries. 3 of the cases were registered from Wakiso while 2 were registered from Mbarara.

No.	Case code	Date of	District	Nature of	Perpetrator	Brief facts	No.	of
		reporting		violence			victin	ns
1.	HRAPF/PA/796	10/03/25	Mbarara	Physical	Neighbours	The client was attacked by her neighbours,	1	
	/ 2025			assault		who demanded that she explain to them why		
						she behaves like a woman yet she is a male		
						person, and if she is a homosexual. They then		
						started beating her, but the area chairperson		
						intervened and took her to his office where he		
						held her all night against her will. The		
						following morning, he opened for her and		
						ordered her to immediately vacate their		
						village as they could not host homosexuals or		
						persons who behave like them in their village.		
2.	HRAPF/PA/797	27/03/25	Mbarara	Physical	Unknown	The client in this case was attacked on a public	1	
	/2025			assault	persons	road by people she did not know. They		
						accused her of spreading immoral behaviour		
						in their locality and warned her that if she did		

						not reform, they would kill her.	
3.	HRAPF/PA/798 /25	3/03/25	Wakiso	Physical assault	Unknown persons	The client, a transgender woman, was attacked while she was at a restaurant in her neighbourhood by a female person who is unknown to her. The woman accused the client of enticing her husband into a sexual affair and attempting to ruin people's marriages with homosexuality. The perpetrator said all this loudly while also slapping the client.	1
4.	HRAPF/PA/799 /25	20/03/25	Wakiso	Physical assault	Unknown persons	The clients in this case are a queer couple who had lived in the area for more than a year, although they had faced repeated verbal harassment from the neighbours over their suspected sexuality. On 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2025, while one of the clients was walking home from work, she was attacked by unknown persons who pushed her down, kicked her several times in the lower abdomen and around her chest and back while asking why she was sleeping with a fellow woman.	2
5.	HRAPF/PA/800 /25	5/03/25	Wakiso	Physical Assault	Unknown persons	The client was attacked by 4 unknown persons as she was walking from her home to a nearby pharmacy. She was injured mostly on the back and hands when the attackers dragged her on the ground while accusing her of being a homosexual and bringing homosexuals into their area.	1

# Threats of violence

In the month of March 2025, there was only 1 case involving threats of violence against persons on the basis of their presumed sexuality and 1 person was affected as a result of the threats. This incident happened in Mbarara district.

No	Case code	Date of	District	Nature	of	Perpetrator	Brief facts	No.	of
		reporting		violence				victir	ms
1.	HRAPF/PA/801/20	28/03/25	Mbarara	Threats	of	Neighbours	The client, who is the administrator at a	1	
	25			physical			crisis shelter for LGBTQ persons, was		
				violence			facing harassment from her neighbours		
							who accuse her of being a homosexual.		
							They allege that the client usually hosts		
							well known homosexuals and that he		
							should vacate the premises or else they		
							shall harm him.		

#### 3.2. Evictions

The cases of evictions increased from 3 cases affecting 3 individuals in February 2025 to 5 cases affecting 5 individuals in March 2025. The 5 cases were reported in the districts of Isingiro, Kampala, Luweero, Mbale, and Wakiso. The evictions were orchestrated by local area leaders in 2 cases, family members in 2 cases and the property owners in 1 case.

No.	Case code	Date of	District	Perpetrator	Brief facts	No.	of
		reporting				Victims	
1.	HRAPF/PA/802	27/03/25	Isingiro	Family	The client in this case was outed to his family by a friend	1	
	/25				with whom they had a misunderstanding. When the		
					family members heard that the client was a homosexual,		
					they confronted him and then chased him out of the		
					family home, and warned him never to return.		
2.	HRAPF/PA/803	12/03/25	Mbale	Landlord	The client in this case hosted a friend who was struggling	1	
	/2025				with homelessness, and the friend hosted a partner while		
					the client was away. The client was later called by the		

					landlady ad informed that the neighbours heard her two homosexual friends having sex in the house, which would not be tolerated. She was asked to leave the house immediately, with the landlady insisting that she must also be a homosexual.	
3.	HRAPF/PA/804 /25	17/03/25	Luweero	Local area Leadership	The client's girlfriend heard a rumour that he had a male partner and became very angry. She quarrelled loudly and informed neighbours that the client was a homosexual, and the rumour reached the local area chairperson who immediately issued him a notice to vacate the village.	1
4.	HRAPF/PA/805 /25	18/03/25	Wakiso	Local area Leadership	The client, a feminine presenting transgender woman, went to her local chairperson's office to get a recommendation letter in order to process her national ID. When she told the chairperson her birth names, which did not tally with her gender expression, the chairperson immediately started shouting at her, calling her a homosexual. He tore up the draft recommendation letter and then ordered that she leave the village with immediate effect.	1
5.	HRAPF/PA/811 /25	13/3/25	Kampala	Family	The client in this case was in the room with his partner when his sister walked in without knocking. She immediately started shouting for their parents to come, so the client and his friend ran out of the house in fear. His parents later called and informed him that he was no longer welcome at home.	1

# 3.3. Arrests

Arrests for sexuality-related reasons reduced from 4 cases affecting 5 persons in February 2025 to 3 cases affecting 3 persons in March 2025. In 2 of these cases, the victims were charged with homosexuality under the Anti-Homosexuality Act while in one case

each, the victim was charged with attempted homosexuality. In 2 of the cases, the victims were released on police bond, although the cases are still under investigation, while in the last case, the victim was arraigned before the Chief Magistrates Court of Mengo and is currently on remand. 2 of the cases were registered in Kampala district while 1 case was registered in Kases district.

No.	Case code	Date of reporting	District	Charges preferred	Brief facts	No. Victims	of
1.	HRAPF/PA/ 806/25	26/03/25	Kampala	Homosexuality	The client agreed to meet up with a man he had met on a popular gay dating up. When he arrived at the meeting site, he found 3 people who beat him up, stole all his properties and money and then took him to Gogonya police station in Nsambya, where they reported that he is a homosexual and was trying to lure them into having sex with them. The police officers immediately arrested him and detained him on charges of homosexuality.	1	
2.	HRAPF/PA/ 807/2025	26/03/25	Kasese	Attempted Homosexuality	The client met someone online and the two flirted for a few weeks before agreeing to meet. At the meeting point, the client met with a man who accused him of being a homosexual, forcefully detained him and took him to Nyakiyumbu police station, where he was held on charges of attempted homosexuality.	1	
3.	HRAPF/PA/ 808/25	17/03/25	Kampala	Homosexuality	The client was at home with a friend when a group of police officers from Musajja Alumbwa Police Station came to the house and dragged him out. They claimed that his neighbours had tipped them off that he was having sex with a man at that time, so they forced their way into the house and searched it, finding some lubricants and condoms that they took as exhibits. Although his friend was able to escape in the ensuing chaos, the client was arrested and held	1	

	for several days. Upon his release, his landlord	
	ordered him to immediately vacate the house	

#### 3.4. Other forms of discrimination (Multiple violations)

In two cases recorded in March 2025, the clients were subjected to other forms of discrimination on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE. One of the cases was an invasion of privacy and extortion while in the other case, the victims were subjected to unlawful detention by the village leadership and later evicted from the village. One of the cases happened in Mbale while the other occurred in Wakiso district. 4 individuals were affected in these two incidents.

	Case code	Date of	District	Nature of	Perpetrator	Brief facts	No.	of
		reporting		violation			Vict	ims
	HRAPF/PA/809	25/03/25	Wakiso	Unlawful	Local area	The clients were in their house in the afternoon of	3	
1.	/25			detention;	leadership	25th March 2025 when the area chairperson and		
				eviction		defence secretary came to their house and asked		
						them why they had not gone to work, and why		
						three adult men lived together in the same house.		
						The defence secretary then cuffed them and took		
						them to office of the chairperson, where they were		
						held for 5 hours. The chairperson then released		
						them, confiscated the keys to their house and		
						demanded that they leave the village within 3		
						days.		
2.	HRAPF/PA/810	10/3/25	Mbale	Breach of	General	The client was employed as a salesperson at a	1	
	/25			privacy;	community	boutique, where she also resided in a small room		
				extortion		behind the shop. She was forced to quit at the		
						beginning of the year after her employer		
						repeatedly harassed her but a few weeks after she		
						left, he started calling her and demanding for		
						large sums of money from her. He told her that he		
						had installed a CCTV camera in her room and that		

			he had videos of her having sex with her female	
			partner, and would release them if she did not	
			pay him off.	

#### 4. Comparison with February 2025

There was a slight increase in the overall number of cases reported in March 2025, from 41 cases in February 2025, to 48 cases in March 2025. The number of cases involving actions that deliberately targeted persons for negative treatment on basis of their real or presumed SOGIE also increased from 14 cases in February 2025 to 16 cases in March 2025, while the number of victims remained the same at 19. Cases of violence and threats violence have steadily remained highest in March, with 6 cases involving 7 persons, although this was a reduction from 7 cases affecting 11 individuals in February 2025. The number of eviction cases increased from 3 cases affecting 3 persons in February 2025 to 5 cases affecting 5 persons in March 2025, while arrests on sexuality related charges reduced from 4 cases affecting 5 persons in February 2025 to 3 cases affecting 3 individuals in March 2025.

#### 5. Comparison with March 2024

In March of 2024, 111 cases involving LGBTIQ persons were handled, of which 52 involved actions of targeted/deliberate homophobia (46.8% of all cases handled) and 66 persons were affected. Of these 52 cases, 23 involved evictions from rented premises, affecting 26 persons; 20 involved violence, and affected 20 individuals; while 9 cases involved arrests for sexuality-related reasons, affecting 20 individuals.

In contrast, 49 cases were handled in March 2025, of which 16 involved acts of deliberate homophobia. The highest number of cases was violence and threats of violence at 6 cases affecting 7 people, followed by evictions at 5 cases affecting 5 individuals. It should be noted that in March 2024, all the provisions of the AHA were still in force, including Section 9 which prohibited renting of premises to any person for purposes of homosexuality; Section 11(2)(d) which prohibited renting or leasing of premises to anyone or using any premises for purposes of encouraging homosexuality; and Section 14 which imposed a duty on individuals to report persons suspected of engaging in homosexuality. The drastic reduction in the numbers of cases in which people are targeted for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE is indicative of the detrimental impact of the sections of the AHA that nullified by the Constitutional Court in April 2024.

# 6. Comparison with March 2023 (before the AHA)

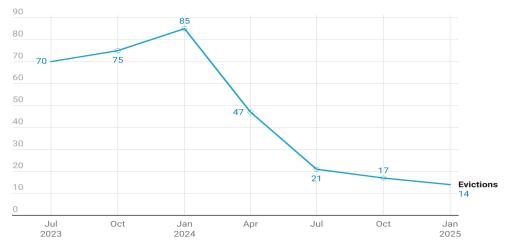
In March 2023, a total of 47 cases were handled involving LGBTIQ persons, of which 25 cases involved actions that directly targeted persons on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE (43.2% of all cases handled). The actions in these cases affected a total of 58 people and included 18 cases of real or threatened violence, 5 eviction cases and 2 arrests on sexuality related charges. In contrast, 48 cases were handled in March 2025, of which 16 cases involved actions targeting people for violence and violations on the basis of their sexuality.

It is worth noting that in March 2023, debates about the enactment of the Anti-Homosexuality Act had intensified in the Ugandan Parliament. It was during this period that the Anti-Homosexuality Bill was referred to the sectoral committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs for review and public consultation, and it was also in March 2023 that the Bill was passed by Parliament for the first time. During this time, therefore, there was a lot of discussion about the AHA and about LGBTIQ rights generally in the public, most of which was very negatively and negatively impacted on public perceptions, attitudes and actions towards suspected LGBT persons.

# 7. The first 22 months of the AHA 2023 in Uganda

In the 22<sup>nd</sup> month of the implementation of the AHA 2023, a total of 1,636 cases involving LGBTIQ persons have been handled across the HRAPF legal aid network, of which 811 (49.6%) targeted LGBTIQ people on the basis of their sexuality, affecting a total of 1,033 persons.

Cases of eviction were initially the highest number of cases, accounting for nearly 50% of all cases recorded per quarter. However, there is a noticeable trend of reduction in cases of evictions over the last 7 quarters, with the numbers having peaked in the first quarter of 2024, before falling steadily over the following quarters. It is worth noting that cases of evictions are primarily perpetrated by non-state actors, specifically owners of rental premises and family members of the victims, and that the reduction in these cases is in large part a clear reaction to the judgment of the Constitutional Court in Consolidated Petitions 14, 15, 16 and 85 of 2024 in April 2024 (beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2024).



#### Trends in eviction cases from Q3 2023 to Q1 2025

In similar fashion, cases involving violence and threats of violence against persons on the basis of their SOGIE, also primarily perpetrated by non-state actors in the communities where LGBTQ persons live and work, have been on a consistently downward trend since the second quarter of 2024, as indicated in the graph below. While this can also primarily be attributed to the court judgment, which reaffirmed the rights of LGBTQ persons, albeit on a limited scale, it is also important to note that the reduced public discourse on LGBTQ rights from the second quarter of 2024 to date continues to contribute to this reduction by limiting public attention on LGBTQ persons and the public profiling of suspected individuals.

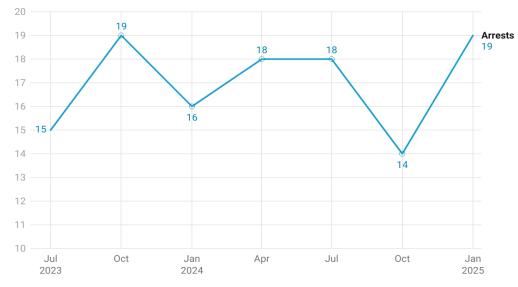
Chart: HRAPF Research Department • Source: HRAPF Legal Aid Clinic • Created with Datawrapper



# Trends in SOGIE-based violence from Q3 2023 to Q1 2025

Chart: HRAPF Research Department • Source: HRAPF Legal Aid Clinic • Created with Datawrapper

By staggering contrast, cases of arrests of individuals on basis of their SOGIE have continued to increase in some quarters, including the first quarter of 2025, and seem to maintain a more or less steady trend since the AHA came into force on May 30, 2023. Indeed, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2024, when cases of violence and evictions started to noticeably reduce, cases of arrests on the basis of sexuality actually increased. It is important to note that arrests are perpetrated primarily by the state, and it is therefore clear that, while the general public seems to have reacted positively to the judgment of the Constitutional Court in April 2024 as indicated in the reducing trends of violations, the judgment actually had no visible impact on the operations of the Uganda Police Force and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. A particularly worrying trend as documented over the last four quarters is the use of online platforms, particularly gay dating apps, by unscrupulous individuals who connive with police officers to trap suspected LGBTQ persons and arrest them arbitrarily, usually for purposes of extorting them.



# Trends in arrests of persons for sexuality related reasons: Q3 2023 to Q1 2025

Chart: HRAPF Research Department • Source: HRAPF Legal Aid Clinic • Created with Datawrapper

At present, HRAPF is providing representation to a total of 19 individuals in 12 cases that are still pending actively either at various police stations or before various courts across the country. In 4 cases, 8 individuals are still reporting on police bond and answering various charges related to their sexuality, both under the Penal Code Act and the Anti-Homosexuality Act, specifically homosexuality, attempted homosexuality and having carnal knowledge against the order of nature. In 8 cases, 11 individuals are answering various charges, including homosexuality, promotion of homosexuality, aggravated homosexuality, indecent practices and having carnal knowledge against the order of nature/ indecent practices. Of the 11 persons whose cases are pending before the courts, 5 remain on remand in various prisons across the country. It is thus quite clear that the Uganda Police Force and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions are actively enforcing the Anti-Homosexuality Act, alongside the various provisions criminalizing same sex sexual behaviour in the Penal Code Act. The details case are listed in the appendix to this report.

#### The breakdown of all the cases by month so far is as follows:

Nature of violatio	on June	t	o Jan	to	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	Total
	Decen	nber	June		2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2025	2025	2025	number of
	2023		2024											cases
Evictions	164		132		10	9	2	4	6	7	6	3	5	348
Violence	137		121		14	10	9	9	14	3	8	7	6	338
Arrests	38		34		11	1	5	3	3	8	6	4	3	116
Other forms	of 6		0		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	9
discrimination														
Total					35	20	16	16	23	18	21	16	16	811
	345		287											
The victir	ns in thes	e cases a	re:											
Nature of	June to	Jan	to July	A	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	D	ec	Jan	Feb	March	Total
violation	Decem	June	2024		2024	2024	2024	2024	20	)24	2025	2025	2025	number of
	ber 23	2024												victims
Evictions	204	162	11	1	.0	4	4	7	8		6	3	5	424
Violence	171	142	15	1	2	14	10	16	3		10	11	7	411
Arrests	59	63	14	2	2	9	4	5	12	2	11	5	3	187
Other forms of	6	0	0	0	)	0	0	0	0		1	0	4	11
discrimination														
Total	440	367	40	2	24	27	18	28	23	3	28	19	19	1,033

#### 8. Conclusion

While the continued implementation of the AHA 2023 remains a major hindrance to the full enjoyment of the rights of LGBTQ persons in Uganda, it is also undeniable that the general public has adjusted to the position of the law as modified by the Constitutional Court Judgment, and that cases of violence and violations by non-state actors have accordingly reduced. Unfortunately, at the same time, the Uganda Police Force continues to carry out arbitrary arrests of LGBTQ persons, some of whom are subjected to prolonged trials and pre-trial detention in the absence of credible evidence, under the guise of enforcing the law. It thus remains evident that the presence of this law has a significant bearing on the human rights situation for LGBTQ

persons, majorly manifesting through arbitrarily arrests, unlawful evictions, violence, threats of violence and other forms of discrimination.

# APPENDIX: Cases of arrest still pending before police stations and courts across the country

No.	Nature of Charges	Brief Facts	Current status	Number of victims
1.	'Trafficking in persons, forgery and acts of sodomy'	The suspects state that they brought a friend to go and work in Rwanda. After checking in a lodge, the friend demanded for money and when it was denied, he accused them of demanding for sex from him and reported them to the police. They were arrested on 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2025 and 23 January 2025 respectively.	Accused were released on police bond on 31 <sup>st</sup> January after the police were served with an application for unconditional release filed by HRAPF. Clients still reporting on police bond.	2
2.	'Public Nuisance'	The suspects were arrested while at a friend's home. Men knocked on the door at midnight and demanded to be let in. They searched the house and accused the suspects of being homosexuals since they were two males staying in the house. They were taken to the police.	Released on police bond on 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2025. Suspects still reporting on police bond	2
3.	Homosexuality	The accused persons were arrested on 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2024 from their home after being accused of being homosexuals and were held at the police station.	The accused were released on police bond on 24 <sup>th</sup> September 2024 after more than two weeks in detention; still reporting on bond.	3
4.	Attempted	The suspect was arrested on 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2025 when he visited a friend's home and found there people	The client was released on police bond on 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2025; still reporting on	1

# List of cases in which individuals are still reporting on police bond

homosexuality	who accused him of being a homosexual, arrested	police bond.	
	him and took him to the police.		

# Cases currently pending before courts

No.	Offence in charge sheet	Brief facts	Status	Number of victims
1.	Homosexuality	The accused was arrested on 17 <sup>th</sup> March and detained at the police. This was after a male friend came to visit him and his neighbors alerted the police alleging that the two were homosexuals. The prosecution alleges that he knowingly allowed the use of his house for purpose of undertaking activities that encourage homosexuality.	Accused initially released on police bond on 27 <sup>th</sup> March; rearrested on 3 <sup>rd</sup> April and produced in court on 4 <sup>th</sup> April Currently on remand	1
2.	Homosexuality	On 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2024, the accused was arrested when coming from a bar after a group of men accused him of having had sexual intercourse with an 18 year old man. He denies knowing the person who he was accused of having had sex with.	Case came up in court on 19th March 2025 and was adjourned to 9th April 2025. The client is still on remand.	1

3.	Having carnal knowledge against the order of nature	after he was beaten up by community members	Appeared in court on 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 and the case was adjourned. Client still on remand in prison.	1
4.	Rape Aggravated Human trafficking	The accused states that he was arrested on 28 <sup>th</sup> July 2023 on allegations of homosexuality after the mother of a man with whom he had been in a relationship reported him to the police accusing him of sodomising her son. The police charged him with rape and aggravated human trafficking basing on the same facts and allegations that he had infected the partner with HIV.	Case pending hearing in the High Court. The accused is still on remand in prison	1
4.	Trafficking in persons and Having carnal knowledge of a person against the order of nature	The accused states that in 2022 he was imprisoned after a man he had given shelter to reported him to the police for having 'sodomised' him.	Released on bail on 22 May 2023. Case adjourned to 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2025 for defence hearing	1
5.	Unnatural offences	The prosecution alleges that the accused was found having sex with a disabled man at a sports field. The accused denies the allegations.	Accused released on bail on 30 <sup>th</sup> July 2024 after nearly a year in prison. The case is at prosecution hearing stage, last heard on 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2025.	1
6.	Promotion of	The prosecution alleges that the accused had a	He was released on bail.	1

	Homosexuality	video strip showing acts of homosexuality.	Matter last came up on 3 <sup>rd</sup> April for further hearing of the prosecution case.	
7.	Unlawful possession of government stores; Promotion of Homosexuality	The accused states that while celebrating the birthday of a colleague, the councillor of the area raided the party and had them arrested on allegations of promoting homosexuality. Prosecution alleges that they found them in possession of 3 boxes of male condoms, 26 six national IDs, one Kenyan ID, thirteen photographs, lubricants, covid-19 cards all meant for promoting homosexuality.	They was released on bail on 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2025. Matter was adjourned.	3
8.	Aggravated homosexuality Amended from indecent practices	The accused was arrested on 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 on allegations of having sexual intercourse with another man. Later the charge was amended to aggravated homosexuality as the mother of the partner was insisting that the partner was 17 years.	The client is still in prison. The case is yet to be heard.	1