



**REPORT ON VIOLENCE AND VIOLATIONS BASED ON REAL OR PRESUMED SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER  
IDENTITY DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2026**

**17<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

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## **1. Introduction**

This is the 32<sup>nd</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 to HRAPF in the month of January 2026. This report builds on the reports produced earlier for every month since the AHA came into force and therefore adds on to 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 network in January 2026. 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 are included in the report. All data reported has been independently verified to ensure its accuracy.

The data presented in this report covers only cases reported through the HRAPF legal aid network. The report therefore 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 community legal aid desks and the main legal aid clinic, although it may not be representative of all LGBTIQ+ persons' lived realities during the month, as not all cases were reported to HRAPF.

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

HRAPF handled a total of 62 cases in January 2026, a significant increase from the 38 cases handled in the month of December 2025. Out of these, 13 cases involved actions that directly targeted people for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE, representing 21% of all the cases handled during the month and representing an increase from 8 cases of SOGIE-related violations in December 2025. The victims of these violations were 20 persons, a significant increase from 8 people affected by SOGIE-based violence and human rights violations in December 2025.

Out of the 13 cases in which individuals were targeted for detrimental treatment on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE, 4 cases involved actual violence and threats of violence, 2 cases involved evictions for sexuality related reasons; 4 were arrests based on SOGIE and 3 cases involved other forms of violence/ discrimination on the basis of real or presumed SOGIE.

### 3.1. Arrests

In January 2026, there were 4 cases involving arbitrary arrests of suspected LGBTIQ+ persons for sexuality-related reasons. In one of these cases, the victims were charged with smoking opium, despite having been informed at the point of arrest that they were being arrested for homosexuality; in the second case, the victims were charged with homosexuality; in another, the charge was promotion of homosexuality while in the last case, the charge was aggravated trafficking of persons and homosexuality. The cases were reported from Wakiso (1 case) and Kampala districts (3 cases). A total of 11 victims were involved in these cases.

This marks an increase in arbitrary arrests on sexuality-related charges from December 2025, in which month 1 person was arrested and detained on charges of homosexuality.

SN.	HRAPF Case Code	Date of Reporting	District	Charges preferred	Brief Facts	No. of Victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/957/26	9/1/26	Wakiso	Homosexuality; aggravated trafficking in persons	The victim in this case was arrested on 9 <sup>th</sup> January on allegations of homosexuality after someone he met through TikTok reported him to the police. He was held in custody until 11 <sup>th</sup> January, when he was released on police bond.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA/958/26	16/1/26	Kampala	Possession of Opium	The clients were at home when a group of police officers came to the door and informed them that they were all under arrest for being homosexuals. They took them to the police station, and the following day the arresting officer showed a plastic bag full of opium and said they had been arrested for possessing that opium, even if this had not been presented at the point of arrest and booking.	4
3.	HRAPF/PA/959/26	22/1/26	Kampala	Homosexuality	The clients were at their home when they had a disagreement and started quarreling loudly, an argument that was overheard by the neighbours. The neighbours surmised from this argument that the clients were LGBTIQ+ persons and called the police, who arrested them and charged them with homosexuality. They were held at two different police stations for more than 2 weeks.	5

4.	HRAPF/PA/960/26	28/1/26	Kampala	Promotion of homosexuality	The client in this case met a man on popular gay dating app and the two started a flirtation, after which they agreed to meet. When they met up, however, the other person immediately apprehended the client and took him to the nearby police station, where the client was charged with promotion of homosexuality.	1
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### 3.2. Cases of violence and threats of violence

4 cases involving violence and threats of violence were reported to the HRAPF legal aid network in January 2026, affecting 4 individuals. This figure increased slightly from December 2025, in which 3 cases of violence were also reported, affecting 3 persons.

#### a) Cases of actual violence

There were 3 cases registered in January 2026, of which 1 was reported in Buikwe while 2 were reported from Kampala. One incident involved a physical assault, committed by members of the general community in which the victim resides, while the remaining 2 involved assaults and robberies and were both perpetrated by persons unknown to the victims. These incidents affected a total of 3 individuals altogether.

SN.	HRAPF Case Code	Date of Reporting	District	Nature of violence	Perpetrator	Brief Facts	No. of victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/961/26	17/12/25	Buikwe	Physical assault	General Community	The client was attacked at her home by a group of men she recognised from the neighbourhood. The men broke into her home at night, beat her up brutally and then dragged her to the police station, accusing her of being a homosexual. She was later physically dragged to the police station, with the assailants demanding that the police arrest her. The police held her overnight 'for her	1

						safety' and then released her the following morning.	
2.	HRAPF/PA/961/26	27/1/26	Kampala	Robbery and assault	Unknown persons	The client met someone through a gay dating app and during their chat, he asked the other person if he could help him get a job. The other person agreed to meet up to discuss this but when the client arrived at the meeting point, he found a gang of people who beat him up, accusing him of being a homosexual. They also stole his phone, power bank and the money he had.	1
3	HRAPF/PA/963/26	21/01/26	Kampala	Assault and robbery	Unknown persons	The client in this case (a transgender woman) met a man on a gay dating app and the two agreed to meet up but when they did, the other person simply started beating the client, accusing her of being a homosexual. He took her phone from her and then told her that, if she wanted to report the theft, she could proceed to the police station (which was a very short distance from the scene). She did not.	1

*b) Cases involving threats of violence*

In January 2026, one case in which an individual was threatened with violence purely on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE was reported in Mukono district.

SN.	HRAPF Case Code	Date of Reporting	District	Nature of Threat	Perpetrator	Brief Facts	No. of Victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/964/26	31/1/26	Mukono	Physical violence	Unknown	The client in this case met a stranger through a dating app and the two agreed to an in-	1

						person meeting. When the client arrived, he was waylaid by the other person who demanded money from him while threatening to have him beaten up if he did not comply. The client was forced to pay money to the assailant to avoid the beating.	
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### 3.3. Evictions

There were 2 cases in which individuals were evicted from their residences on the basis of their real or presumed sexuality, affecting 2 individuals. 1 case was reported in Kampala City while the other occurred in Wakiso district. In one of the cases, the eviction was orchestrated by the victim's family while in the other, the eviction was by the landlord.

This figure also holds steady from December 2025, during which 2 eviction cases on the basis of SOGIE were recorded.

SN.	HRAPF Case Code	Date of Reporting	District	Perpetrator	Brief Facts	No. of Victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/965/26	27/1/26	Kampala	Landlord	The client and his friends were arrested from his home in January by police officers and the area defence secretary. Upon his release, the landlord came to him and asked him to leave the premises, stating that he had been reliably informed by the local authorities that the client and his friends were homosexuals.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA/966/26	15/1/26	Wakiso	Family	The client was speaking to her partner on the phone without realising that her mother was standing nearby, eavesdropping on the conversation. She later confronted her to confirm if the client is indeed a homosexual, and afterwards chased her away from their family home, where the client was living.	1

### 3.4. Other forms of discrimination

In January 2026, 3 cases were reported to the HRAPF legal aid network in which individuals were subjected to other forms of discrimination on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE. One case involved discrimination in succession matters while two of the

cases involved cyber harassment. One of the cases was reported in Lira district, 1 in Kabarole district and 1 in Kampala district. 3 individuals were affected by the actions in these cases.

SN.	HRAPF Case Code	Date of Reporting	District	Nature of Complaint	Perpetrators	Brief Facts	No. of Victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/967/26	20/1/26	Lira	Discrimination	Family	The client in this case attended a meeting with LGBTQ community members in their home town, and his mother got to know about it. She confronted him, demanding to know if he was also gay, and although he denied the allegations, she still called his younger brother back to the home town to take over running the family business and the estate of their deceased father, stating that she could not continue associating closely with a homosexual.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA/968/26	30/1/26	Kabarole	Cyber harassment/ Extortion	Intimate Partner	The client in this case had a partner who, unbeknownst to him, took intimate photos and videos of him. When the client ended their relationship, the ex-partner started to demand exorbitant sums of money in exchange for not outing the client as gay and not leaking the photos and videos.	1
3.	HRAPF/PA/969/26	13/1/26	Kampala	Cyber harassment	Online acquaintance	The client met a stranger on social media and the two started a casual flirtation, which ended when the other person wanted to meet and the client did not wish to. The two thus had an argument and, after this, the perpetrator started getting the client's photos off of his social media accounts and sharing them with captions	1

						identifying him as a homosexual as well several disparaging and demeaning statements.	
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**4. Comparison with December 2025**

There was a significant increase in the overall number of cases involving LGBTIQ+ persons reported across HRAPF’s legal aid network, with 62 cases handled in January 2026 as compared to 38 cases reported in December 2025. The number of cases in which individuals were targeted for violence and other violations on the basis of their SOGIE also increased from 8 cases affecting 8 individuals in December, representing 21% of all cases reported in December, to 13 cases affecting 20 people (and representing 21% of all cases handled) in January 2026.

Cases involving arbitrary arrests of persons on sexuality-related charges increased sharply from 1 case affecting 1 individual in December 2025 to 4 cases affecting 11 individuals in January 2026; and cases of violence and threats of violence increased from 3 cases affecting 3 individuals in December 2025 to 4 cases affecting 4 individuals in January 2026. Eviction cases held steady in both months at 2 cases affecting 2 individuals.

**5. Comparison with January 2025**

HRAPF handled a total of 61 cases in the month of January 2025, out of which 21 cases involved actions that directly targeted people for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE, representing 34.4% of all the cases handled during the month of January 2025. The number of victims affected by these violations were 28 persons. Out of the 21 cases in which LGBTIQ people were specifically targeted for violent treatment during the month of January 2025, 8 cases involved violence and threats of violence, 7 were eviction cases and 6 were arrests on sexuality related charges.

In comparison, 62 cases were received in January 2026, of which 13 involved incidents of deliberate homophobia affecting 20 persons. This indicates that, while the total number of cases being reported has remained more or less the same across the two months, there is a slight reduction in cases of violence and violations against individuals on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE between the two months.

**6. Comparison with January 2023 (the Pre-AHA period)**

In January 2023, a total of 35 cases were handled involving LGBTIQ persons, of which 8 cases involved actions that directly targeted persons on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE, and they included 4 cases of evictions and 3 cases of real or threatened violence. There was only 1 arrest.

On the other hand, 62 cases were reported in January 2026, a significant increase, and of these, 13 involved acts of deliberate homophobia, also marking an increase from the period before the AHA came into force. In January 2023, there was 1 reported arrest of only 1 individual on the basis of their SOGIE, while in January 2026, following 32 months of the AHA, 11 individuals were arrested in 4 different cases.

**7. The implementation of the AHA 2023 from 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026**

As the implementation of the AHA marks 32 months, a total of 2,178 cases involving LGBTIQ persons have been handled across the HRAPF legal aid network, of which 969 cases (44.5%) involved actions that specifically targeted LGBTIQ people because of their sexuality, gender identity and sex development affecting a total of 1,296 individuals.

The breakdown of all the cases involving SOGIE- motivated violence and violations so far is as follows:

<b>Nature of violation</b>	<b>June to Dec 2023</b>	<b>Jan to June 2024</b>	<b>July to Dec 2024</b>	<b>Jan to June 2025</b>	<b>July 2025</b>	<b>Aug 2025</b>	<b>Sept 2025</b>	<b>Oct 2025</b>	<b>Nov 2025</b>	<b>Dec 2025</b>	<b>Jan 2026</b>	<b>Total No. of cases</b>
Evictions	164	132	38	38	4	3	4	3	7	2	2	397
Violence	137	121	59	36	5	8	7	7	5	3	4	392
Arrests	38	34	31	25	1	6	6	3	6	1	4	155
Other forms of discrimination	6	0	0	4	2	1	1	2	4	2	3	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>969</b>

The victims in these cases are:

<b>Nature of violation</b>	<b>June - Dec 2023</b>	<b>Jan - June 2024</b>	<b>July - Dec 2024</b>	<b>Jan - June 2025</b>	<b>July 2025</b>	<b>Aug 2025</b>	<b>Sept 2025</b>	<b>Oct 2025</b>	<b>Nov 2025</b>	<b>Dec 2025</b>	<b>Jan 2026</b>	<b>Total No of victims</b>
Evictions	204	162	44	41	4	4	4	3	11	2	2	481
Violence	171	142	70	47	7	11	9	8	6	3	4	478
Arrests	59	63	47	73	1	10	27	11	7	1	11	310
Other forms of discrimination	6	0	0	6	2	1	1	2	4	2	3	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1,296</b>

## 8. Conclusion

January 2026 marked the 32<sup>nd</sup> month of the implementation of the AHA 2023. It was also particularly significant as it was during this month that the general elections were held in Uganda and, while a reduction in violence and violations of the rights of LGBTQ persons on the basis of real or presumed SOGIE in December 2025 (in the run up to the elections), an immediate surge was noted, especially in targeted arrests of suspected LGBTQ persons on the basis of this suspicion alone, a few days after the elections were concluded. It remains a major concern that arbitrary arrests and prolonged detention of LGBTIQ+ persons persist 32 months later (and are in fact on the rise).

**APPENDIX: Cases of arrests still pending before police stations and courts across the country at the end of January 2026**

Currently, HRAPF is providing legal representation to a total of 12 individuals in 7 cases that are still pending actively either at police stations or before various courts across the country. In 1 cases, 5 individuals are still reporting on police bond and answering charges related to homosexuality. In 6 cases, 7 individuals are answering various charges, including homosexuality, promotion of homosexuality and aggravated homosexuality in various courts of law. Of the 7 persons whose cases are pending before the courts, 5 are still on remand in the various prisons around the country while 2 were released on bail. Of the cases pending last month, two were closed in circumstances that show that the prosecution was not warranted in the first place.

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

No.	HRAPF Case Code	Nature of Charges	Brief Facts	Current status	Number of victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/959/25	Homosexuality	The clients were at their home when they had a disagreement and started quarreling loudly, an argument that was overheard by the neighbours. The neighbours surmised from this argument that the clients were LGBTQ persons and called the police, who arrested them and charged them with homosexuality. They were held at two different police stations for more than 2 weeks.	The clients are still reporting on police bond.	5

**List of cases currently pending before courts**

No.	HRAPF Case code	Offence in charge sheet	Brief facts	Status	Number of victims
1.	HRAPF/PA /957/2025	Homosexuality/ Aggravated trafficking in persons	The victim in this case was arrested on 9 <sup>th</sup> January on allegations of homosexuality after someone he met through TikTok reported him to the police. He was held in custody until 21 <sup>st</sup> January, when he was released on police bond. On 12 <sup>th</sup> February he was arraigned in court and remanded until 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2026.	The client was remanded to prison until 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2026.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA /857/2025	Aggravated homosexuality	The client's ex, a co-worker, reported the client to the police that the client had 'sodomised' him. The client was detained by the police for 9 days before he was arraigned in court on charges of aggravated homosexuality after it emerged that he was 'in a position of authority over the victim' at work.	The client is still in detention awaiting committal to the High Court for trial.  He has now been in prison for more than seven months without trial.	1
3.	HRAPF/PA /775/25	Aggravated Homosexuality	The accused was arrested on 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2025 when coming from a bar after a group of men accused him of having had sexual intercourse with a man. He denied knowing the person who he was accused of having had sex with. On 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2025, the charges against clients were amended to aggravated	The client is still awaiting committal to the High Court for trial.  The client has now been in prison for one year and 1 month without trial.	1

			homosexuality after the complainant alleged that he had been raped by the accused.		
4.	HRAPF/PA /13/2023	Rape  Aggravated Human trafficking	The accused was arrested on 28 <sup>th</sup> July 2023 after the mother of an adult man with whom he had been in a long-term 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 in prison on remand.  He has so far spent two years and six months in detention without trial.	1
5.	HRAPF/PA /501/2024	Aggravated homosexuality	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 after the mother of the partner insisted that he was 17 years.	The client is still on remand in prison although he was committed to the High Court for trial. He has been on remand in prison for one year and 10 months.  A bail application was fixed for hearing on 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	1
6.	HRAPF/PA /774/25	Trafficking in persons, forgery and attempted homosexuality	The suspects state that they brought a friend to go and work in Rwanda. After checking in at 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 <sup>rd</sup> January 2025 respectively. They were released on police bond on 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2025	On 21 <sup>st</sup> January, there was no hearing. The matter was adjourned to 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	2

			following an application for unconditional release. On 4 <sup>th</sup> June, one of the clients was re-arrested and arraigned in court and released on bail on 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2025. The 2 <sup>nd</sup> client was also arrested on 8 <sup>th</sup> November 2025 and released on police bond on 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2025.	
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### Update on closed cases

No.	HRAPF Case code	Offence in charge sheet	Brief facts	Status	Number of victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/896/25	Homosexuality	The clients were arrested from the home of one of them on 17 <sup>th</sup> September 2025 on allegations of homosexuality. This happened after a neighbour called the police to inform them that one of the clients, whom she had long suspected was a gay man, had hosted a male visitor overnight, presumably for sexual relations. They were held in custody for 12 days before they were arraigned on charges of unnatural offences.	This case came up on 22 <sup>nd</sup> January and was dismissed by court for want of prosecution. No witnesses had been produced by the prosecution since September 2025. The client was released from prison after 4 months.	2
2.	HRAPF/PA/144/2023	Unnatural offences	The client was arrested on 16 <sup>th</sup> August 2023 on allegations that he was found having sex with a disabled man at a sports field. He was charged with aggravated	The trial in this case was discontinued on 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2026 on grounds of mental incapacity of the client after two years and five months.	1

			homosexuality. The accused denies the allegations. He was released on bail.		
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