



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

10th March 2026

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1. Introduction

This is the 33rd 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, Cap 117 (AHA) that came into force on 30th 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 February 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 30th 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 February 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 February 2026, the same number as the cases handled in January 2026. Out of these, 14 cases involved actions that directly targeted people for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE, representing 22.5% of all the cases handled during the month and representing a slight increase from 13 cases of SOGIE-related violations in January 2026. The victims of these violations were 27 persons, an increase from 20 people affected by SOGIE-based violence and human rights violations in January 2026.

Out of the 14 cases in which individuals were targeted for detrimental treatment on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE, 6 were arrests based on SOGIE, 3 involved actual violence and threats of violence, 2 involved evictions for sexuality related reasons; and 3 cases involved other forms of violence/discrimination on the basis of real or presumed SOGIE.

3.1. Arrests

In February 2026, there were 6 cases involving arrests of suspected LGBTIQ+ persons for sexuality-related reasons. The cases were reported from Wakiso (2 cases), Kampala (2), Bushenyi (1) and Arua (1). A total of 19 victims were involved in these cases. The charges in these cases were homosexuality in 3 cases, attempted homosexuality in 1 case, impersonation in 1 case and in 1 case the victim was not charged with any offence at all. This marks an increase in arbitrary arrests on sexuality-related charges from January 2026, in which month 4 persons were arrested and detained on allegations of homosexuality. The Arua case particularly involved active politicization and witch-hunt of both the accused persons, HRAPF, and its individual lawyers by an Assistant Residence City Commissioner (A RCC).

SN.	HRAPF Case Code	Date of Reporting	District	Charges preferred	Brief Facts	No. of Victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/970/26	9/1/26	Wakiso	Impersonation	The clients were resident of a crisis shelter. On 8 th February 2026, they were arrested after some neighbours complained to the police that some of them dress like women and that they could be homosexuals. They were all charged with impersonation and held overnight before they were released the next day on police bond.	8
2.	HRAPF/PA/971/26	9/02/26	Bushenyi	Attempted homosexuality	The client was reported by some locals to the Chairperson that he had attempted to engage in sexual activity with another man. He was then taken to the police station, where he was detained on charges of attempted homosexuality.	1
3.	HRAPF/PA/972/26	12/02/26	Kampala	Homosexuality	The client lent a friend UGX 50,000/= but the friend refused to pay the debt. When the client demanded for his money, the respondent reported the client to police alleging that he is a homosexual and had raped him. The client was arrested and detained for 2 days.	1
4.	HRAPF/PA/973/26	20/02/26	Arua	Homosexuality	The clients were arrested on 18/02/2026 while at their home and detained until 25 th February on allegations of	2

					homosexuality. They were released on police bond on 25 th February 2026 after the UHRC intervened, but the Assistant Resident City Commissioner of their area of residence had them re-arrested the following day. They were arraigned in court on charges of homosexuality on 27 th February 2026.	
5.	HRAPF/PA/974/26	27/02/26	Wakiso	No charges preferred	The clients were walking near their home when they were rounded up by a group of police officers and taken to the police station, where they were accused of homosexuality and their phones forcibly taken from them and searched. One of the police officers used a severed power cable to lash the victims repeatedly across the back, threatening them with death. They were also taken on the same day to a nearby health facility and forced to undergo anal examinations, which were conducted in the presence of at least 2 police officers. Several hours later, the victims were all released without charges, and no file was opened officially.	5
6.	HRAPF/PA/975/26	4/02/26	Kampala	No charges preferred	The clients were arrested on allegations of being homosexuals and detained at a police station in Kampala on 4 th February 2026. They were held for several hours, questioned and verbally abused before being released without charges.	2

3.2. Cases of violence and threats of violence

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

a) Cases of actual violence

There were 3 cases registered in February 2026, one case from each of the districts of Wakiso, Kampala and Mukono. 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/976/26	19/02/26	Wakiso	Physical assault	Lodge manager	The client visited a guest house (commonly known as a lodge) with a partner, and the two were given a room. The manager of the lodge showed up in their room a few minutes later, accusing them of being homosexuals. He forced his way in and started beating them up while demanding that they get out of the premises.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA/977/26	20/02/26	Kampala	Robbery and assault	Unknown persons	The client met a man through a dating app from where they agreed to meet. He then went to the meeting place as agreed. However, at the meeting place, he found a gang that beat him up severely, stole his phones, national ID and money. They did so as they accused him of being a homosexual.	1
3	HRAPF/PA/978/26	23/02/26	Mukono	Assault	Unknown persons	The client went to a bar near her home at around 9pm. As she was entering the bar, some men who were playing games started heckling her and directing insults at her, saying that she is a homosexual. When she tried to confront them, a fight broke out and she sustained injuries on the face. She reported the incident to police but the suspects are still at large.	1

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 Wakiso district while the other was from Isingiro 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 January 2026, 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/979/26	2/02/26	Wakiso	Landlord	The client in this case was evicted from his rental home by his landlord on allegations that he is a homosexual.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA/980/26	26/02/26	Isingiro	Family	The client’s elder brother accessed his phone without his consent and found some videos that he believed were related to homosexuality. He then informed their grandmother, with whom they have been living since the death of their parents. The grandmother evicted him from the home and informed other family members, stating that such behaviour was unacceptable in her household.	1

3.4. Other forms of discrimination

In February 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. The cases involved cyber harassment, robbery and blackmail. One of the cases was reported in Tororo district, 1 in Bushenyi district and 1 in Mukono 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/981/26	3/02/26	Tororo	Cyber harassment	Media influencer	A Tik Tok influencer circulated a video with the client’s picture, claiming that the client and his friend are gay people influencing youth	1

						into gay acts. The perpetrator also threatened to mobilise his fans to assault them should they be seen around Malaba town.	
2.	HRAPF/PA/982/26	10/02/26	Mukono	Robbery	Unknown persons	The client was robbed by someone they met through a dating app. They had agreed to meet but upon reaching the agreed place, the man started asking for the client's phones and other items with threats of arrest. The client gave up the items to the person and he was let go.	1
3.	HRAPF/PA/983/26	11/02/26	Bushenyi	Blackmail	Ex-partner	The client was in a relationship, but they later broke up. Following the breakup, the former partner started demanding money from the client with threats of exposing his sexuality if the amount he wanted was not paid.	1

4. Comparison with January 2026

There was a uniform number of cases involving LGBTIQ+ persons reported across HRAPF's legal aid network, with 62 cases handled in January 2026 and February 2026. The number of cases in which individuals were targeted for violence and other violations on the basis of their SOGIE slightly increased from 13 cases affecting 20 individuals in January, representing 21% of all cases reported in January 2026, to 14 cases affecting 27 people (and representing 22.5% of all cases handled) in February 2026.

Cases involving arbitrary arrests of persons on sexuality-related charges increased from 4 cases affecting 11 individuals in January 2026 to 6 cases affecting 19 individuals in February 2026; and cases of violence and threats of violence reduced from 4 cases affecting 4 individuals in January 2026 to 3 cases affecting 3 individuals in February 2026. Eviction cases also held steady in both months at 2 cases affecting 2 individuals.

Compared with January 2026, February saw an increase in politicisation with an Assistant RDC in Arua taking it upon himself to publicise, harass and influence the continued detention of two women who were suspected of being lesbians. The harassment also extended to HRAPF lawyers and HRAPF as an organisation who were engaged in representing the accused persons, as the official

took to X, displayed the back side of a staff’s official work ID, and demanded that HRAPF should be deregistered for ‘promoting homosexuality.’ There was also politicisation in the case in Tororo involving an influencer. Cases of extortion and entrapment are also on the rise.

5. Comparison with February 2025

HRAPF handled a total of 41 cases in the month of February 2025, out of which 14 cases involved actions that directly targeted people for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE, representing 34.1% of all the cases handled during the month of February 2025. The number of victims affected by these violations were 19 persons. Out of the 14 cases in which LGBTIQ people were specifically targeted for violent treatment during the month of February 2025, 7 cases involved violence and threats of violence, 4 were arrests for sexuality related charges and 3 were cases of eviction. Thus, while there has been a significant increase in the total number of cases received in February 2026, the number of cases in which individuals were targeted for violence or other violations on the basis of their SOGIE remained the same, although the number of victims increased significantly from 19 persons in February 2025 to 27 persons in February 2026. Still, there were more arrests in February 2026 than in February 2025.

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

In February 2023, a total of 27 cases were handled involving LGBTQ persons, of which 9 cases involved actions that directly targeted persons on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE. The actions in these cases affected a total of 39 people and included 4 cases of real or threatened violence, 3 evictions cases and 2 arrests related to sexuality related charges. In comparison with February 2026, where 62 cases were received of which 14 involved acts that targeted individuals for violence and other violations on the basis of their SOGIE. It is worth noting, however, that the number of victims reduced from 39 persons affected by violence and violations in February 2023 to 27 persons in February 2026.

7. The implementation of the AHA 2023 from 30th May 2023 to 28th February 2026

As the implementation of the AHA marks 33 months, a total of 2,240 cases involving LGBTIQ persons have been handled across the HRAPF legal aid network, of which 983 cases (43.8%) involved actions that specifically targeted LGBTIQ people because of their sexuality, gender identity and sex development affecting a total of 1,323 individuals. The breakdown of all the cases involving SOGIE-motivated violence and violations so far is as follows:

Nature of violation	June to Dec 2023	Jan to	July to Dec 2024	Jan to June 2025	July 2025	Aug 2025	Sept 2025	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025	Jan 2026	Feb 2026	Total No.

		June 2024											of cases
Evictions	164	132	38	38	4	3	4	3	7	2	2	2	399
Violence	137	121	59	36	5	8	7	7	5	3	4	3	395
Arrests	38	34	31	25	1	6	6	3	6	1	4	6	161
Other forms of discrimination	6	0	0	4	2	1	1	2	4	2	3	3	28
Total	345	287	128	105	11	18	18	15	22	8	13	14	983

The victims in these cases are:

Nature of violation	June - Dec 2023	Jan - June 2024	July - Dec 2024	Jan - June 2025	July 2025	Aug 2025	Sept 2025	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025	Jan 2026	Feb 2026	Total No of victims
Evictions	204	162	44	41	4	4	4	3	11	2	2	2	483
Violence	171	142	70	47	7	11	9	8	6	3	4	3	481
Arrests	59	63	47	73	1	10	27	11	7	1	11	19	329
Other forms of discrimination	6	0	0	6	2	1	1	2	4	2	3	3	30
Total	440	367	160	167	12	26	41	24	28	8	20	27	1,323

8. Conclusion

February 2026 marked the 33rd month of the implementation of the AHA 2023. During the month, the post-election issues identified towards the end of January intensified, with more targeted arrests of persons suspected to be LGBTQ+. The number of arrests increased, and in two incidents, several people were arrested at once following suspicions of homosexuality. In one case, there was also heavy political engagement in the case, with an Assistant Resident City Commissioner directly interfering in police work and forbidding the release of suspects even after the statutory time of 48 hours had lapsed. This matter has since escalated and is gaining a lot of attention online, all being driven by the politician personally. Actual violence also remains a significant issue, with more people targeting suspected gay persons through dating apps and assaulting and robbing them.

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

Currently, HRAPF is providing legal representation to a total of 14 individuals in 8 cases that are still pending actively either at police stations or before various courts across the country. In 1 case, 5 individuals are still reporting on police bond and answering charges related to homosexuality. In 7 cases, 9 individuals are answering various charges, including homosexuality, promotion of homosexuality, and aggravated homosexuality in various courts of law. Of the 9 persons whose cases are pending before the courts, 7 are still on remand in the various prisons around the country while 2 were released on bail.

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 quarrelling 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	The victim in this case was arrested on 9 th January 2026 on allegations of	The client was remanded to prison until 13 th March 2026.	1

		trafficking persons	in homosexuality after someone he met through TikTok reported him to the police. He was held in custody until 21 st January, when he was released on police bond way beyond the mandatory 48 hours. On 12 th February he was arraigned in court and remanded until 13 th March 2026.		
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, way beyond the mandatory 48 hours 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 eight months without trial.	1
3.	HRAPF/PA /775/25	Aggravated Homosexuality	The accused was arrested on 10 th 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 th May 2025, the charges against clients were amended to aggravated homosexuality after the complainant alleged that he had been raped by the accused.	The client was committed to High court for trial. He has now been in prison for one year and 2 months without trial.	1

4.	HIRAPF/PA /13/2023	Rape Aggravated Human trafficking	The accused was arrested on 28 th July 2023 after the mother of an adult man 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.	HIRAPF/PA /501/2024	Aggravated homosexuality and Promotion of homosexuality	The accused was arrested on 7 th 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. At the start of the hearing on 19 th February 2026, the indictment was amended to include a further offence of promotion of homosexuality.	The hearing of the case was commenced on 19 th February and continued on 2 nd March 2026. It will be coming up for further hearing on 7 th April 2026	1
6.	HIRAPF/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 st January 2025 and 23 rd January 2025 respectively. They were released on police bond on 31 st January 2025 following an application for unconditional	On 25 th February, there was no hearing because the trial magistrate was absent. The matter was adjourned to 25 th March 2026	2

			release. On 4 th June, one of the clients was re-arrested and arraigned in court and released on bail on 25 th June 2025. The 2 nd client was also arrested on 8 th November 2025 and released on bail on 10 th December 2025.		
7.	HRAPF/PA /973/26	Homosexuality and Indecent Practices	The clients were arrested on 18/02/2026 while at their home in and detained on allegations of homosexuality. They were released on 25 th February after nearly a week in detention, and then re-arrested the next day and arraigned in court on 27 th February 2026 on charges of homosexuality and indecent practices.	The case was adjourned to 4 th March 2026, on which date a bail application was made and denied. The matter was adjourned to 16 th March 2026.	2