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

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1. Introduction

This is HRAPF's 40th monthly report on violence and other forms of human rights violations on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity/expression (SOGIE) since the enactment of the Anti-Homosexuality Act (AHA) Cap 117. This marks three years and four months since the Act came into force. The report discusses cases in which individuals were targeted for violence and violations purely on the basis of their presumed SOGIE as reported to HRAPF in the month of September 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 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 September 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, but 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 52 cases involving LGBTIQ+ persons in September 2026 - an increase in number from the 44 cases handled in August 2026. Out of these, 8 cases involved actions that directly targeted people for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE, representing 15.38% of all the cases handled during the month, as compared to 9 cases (20.4% of all cases handled) in August 2026. The incidents in the cases reported in September 2026 affected a total of 10 individuals, a significant reduction in number from the 44 individuals affected in August 2026. Out of the 8 cases in which individuals were targeted for detrimental treatment on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE in September 2026, 4 cases involved violence and threats of violence, 2 cases involved other forms of discrimination, 1 case was an arrest, and 1 involved eviction for sexuality related reasons.

3.1. Actual or threatened violence

Four cases of actual or threatened violence were reported in September. Of these, two involved actual physical violence, while two were threats of violence.

i. Actual violence

Two cases were reported. In one case, an individual was physically assaulted by an unknown person because of suspicion that the victim was a homosexual, while in the other case the brother of the victim assaulted the victim. The cases occurred in Kampala and Kanungu districts respectively.

SN.	HRAPF Case Code	Date of Reporting	District	Nature of violence	Perpetrator	Brief Facts	No. of Victims
1.	HRAPF/PA /1057/26	26/09/26	Kampala	Assault	Unknown person	The client, a transgender woman, was walking home from work when she was stopped by an unknown man. The man claimed that he had seen the client on Tiktok wearing a wig and women's clothes at a concert. He then started beating the client, saying she must be one of those homosexuals.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA /1058/26	15/09/26	Kanungu	Assault	Family/brother	The client, a transgender woman was approaching her home at around 9pm from work when she met her brother. The brother had assaulted her on two separate occasions in September, and on this day he again started beating her and threatening to kill her if she did not leave the area and stop bringing shame to their family with her transgenderism.	1

ii. Threats of violence

There were two incidents of threats of violence reported against individuals on the basis of their presumed SOGIE in September 2026, with one case reported from each of the districts of Mbale and Kyenjojo, affecting 3 individuals.

SN.	HRAPF Case Code	Date of Reporting	District	Nature of threat	Perpetrator	Brief Facts	Number of victims
1.	HRAPF/PA /1059/26	15/09/26	Mbale	Physical violence	Family	The client went to a nightclub with a male friend who became heavily intoxicated, and the client took the friend home since he was in no condition to go to his own home. The following morning, the client's father found the friend sleeping in the client's bed and lost his temper. He had previously suspected that the client is a gay man, and used this incident as proof of the allegation. He tried to assault the client and his friend but the two managed to run away. He has since continued to call and send the client messages threatening to beat him up or burn him if he ever saw him again.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA /1060/26	30/09/26	Kyenjojo	Physical violence	Family, neighbours	The clients reside in the same house, where they have lived for a few months now. The neighbours reported to the LCI Chairperson that the two were in an intimate relationship, and when the chairperson declined to banish them from the village, the neighbours started threatening to beat the two of them up if they did not leave voluntarily.	2

3.2. Evictions

There was one case in which an individual was evicted from their residence on the basis of their perceived sexual orientation, affecting 1 individual. This case was reported from Mbarara district.

SN.	HRAPF Case Code	Date of Reporting	District	Perpetrators	Brief Facts	No. of Victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/1061/26	08/09/26	Mbarara	Landlord	The client was accused by some neighbours and local residents of being a homosexual. A few days later, he received a notice from his landlord increasing the rent significantly. The notice also gave him a few days to vacate the premises if he was unable to pay the higher rent. The client repeatedly tried to engage his landlord to discuss the matter, but the landlord merely insisted he had nothing left to say. These notices were not served on any of the other tenants.	1

3.3. Arrests

There was 1 case in which individuals were arrested on the basis of their real or presumed sexuality, affecting 2 individuals. The arrest happened in Kampala district.

SN.	HRAPF Case Code	Date of Reporting	District	Charges preferred	Brief Facts	No. of victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/1062/26	23/09/26	Kampala	Being a public nuisance	The clients were at home when a group of people from the neighbourhood and police officers came into the house and informed them that they were under arrest. The neighbours accused the two of being homosexuals and the police officers, noticing that one of them was wearing a long dress, immediately apprehended the two and marched them to the police station. They were detained from 20th to 23rd September 2026, when they were arraigned in court and charged with being a public nuisance.	2

3.4. Other violations

There were two cases in which individuals were subjected to other forms of discrimination on the basis of their perceived sexual orientation, affecting two individuals. The cases were reported from Kampala and Kabarole districts.

SN.	HRAPF Case Code	Date of Reporting	District	Nature of violation	Perpetrator	Brief Facts	No. of victims
1.	HRAPF/PA/1063/26	05/09/26	Kampala	Blackmail	Co-workers	Two of the client's co-workers found out that the client is a gay man and they started blackmailing him, threatening to inform their boss of the client's sexual orientation unless he continuously paid them for their silence.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA/1064/26	23/09/26	Kabarole	Denial of healthcare/ Discrimination	Health worker (government facility)	The client went to a government health facility to seek a PrEP refill, and he was chased away from the facility without the medication because of his suspected sexual orientation.	1

4. Comparison with August 2026

There was an increase in the number of cases involving LGBTIQ+ persons reported across HRAPF's legal aid network, with 52 cases handled in September as compared to the 44 cases handled in August 2026. The number of cases in which individuals were targeted for violence and other violations on the basis of their SOGIE also reduced from 09 cases affecting 44 people in August to 08 cases affecting 10 individuals in September 2026. There was 1 case of arrest of persons for sexuality-related reasons in September, as compared to 4 cases of arrests in August 2026. Cases of violence and threats of violence were 4, affecting 5 persons in September, as compared to 4 cases affecting 4 persons in August 2026. Eviction cases remained the same at 1 case affecting 1 person in September 2026.

5. Comparison with September 2025

HRAPF handled a total of 60 cases in September 2025, of which 18 cases involved actions that directly targeted people for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE, representing 30% of all the cases handled, and affecting a total of 41 persons. Out of the 18 cases

in which LGBTIQ+ people were specifically targeted for violent or otherwise detrimental treatment during the month of September 2025, 4 were eviction cases, 6 cases involved arrest for sexuality related reasons, 7 cases involved violence and threats of violence against victims due to their actual or presumed SOGIE while 1 case involved other forms of discrimination. 27 individuals were arrested on homosexuality-related charges in September 2025, as compared to 2 individuals arrested in September 2026.

6. The implementation of the AHA 2023 from 30th May 2023 to 30th September 2026

As the implementation of the AHA marks 3 years and four months, a total of 2,590 cases involving LGBTIQ+ persons have been handled across the HRAPF legal aid network, of which 1,064 cases (41.08%) involved actions that specifically targeted individuals for negative treatment on the basis of their SOGIE, affecting a total of 1,462 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 June 2024**	**July to Dec 2024**	**Jan to June 2025**	**July to Dec 2025**	**Jan to June 2026**	**July 2026**	**August 2026**	**September 2026**	**Total No. of cases**
Evictions	164	132	38	38	23	17	1	1	1	415
Violence	137	121	59	36	35	29	1	4	4	426
Arrests	38	34	31	25	23	24	2	4	1	182
Other forms of discrimination	6	0	0	4	12	13	4	0	2	41
Total	**345**	**287**	**128**	**103**	**93**	**83**	**08**	**09**	**08**	**1064**

The victims in these cases are:

Nature of violation	**June - Dec 2023**	**Jan - June 2024**	**July - Dec 2024**	**Jan - June 2025**	**July to Dec 2025**	**Jan to June 2026**	**July 2026**	**August 2026**	**September 2026**	**Total No of victims**

Evictions	204	162	44	41	28	17	1	01	01	499
Violence	171	142	70	47	44	43	1	04	05	527
Arrests	59	63	47	73	57	49	4	39	02	393
Other forms of discrimination	6	0	0	6	12	13	4	0	02	43
Total	**440**	**367**	**161**	**167**	**141**	**122**	**10**	**44**	**10**	**1,462**

7. Conclusion

There was an overall increase in the number of cases reported to HRAPF generally in the month of September as compared to August 2026. However, there was a slight reduction in the number of cases in which individuals were specifically targeted for detrimental treatment on the basis of their real or presumed SOGIE in September as compared to August 2026.

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

As at the end of September 2026, HRAPF was actively providing representation to 7 individuals in 6 cases pending before various courts. One of these cases was reported in September 2026. 5 of the individuals are still in prison on remand awaiting trial while 2 individuals have been released on bail. There are no cases pending at police level.

List of cases currently pending before courts

No.	HRAPF Case code	Offence in charge sheet	Brief facts	Status	Number of victims
1.	HRAPF/PA /957/2026	Homosexuality/ Aggravated trafficking in persons	The client was arrested on 9th January 2026 on allegations of homosexuality after someone he met through TikTok reported him to the police. He was held in custody until 21st January, when he was released on police bond way beyond the mandatory 48 hours. He was later rearrested and arraigned.	The accused was granted bail on 22nd July 2026 and is now awaiting the hearing of the case set for 5th November 2026. Prosecution did not produce witnesses on 1st October 2026.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA /857/2025	Aggravated homosexuality	The client's ex, a co-worker, reported 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 nine months. An application for mandatory bail was filed and is yet to be fixed for hearing.	1

3.	HRAPF/PA /13/2023	Homosexuality Aggravated Human trafficking	The accused was arrested on 28th 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 allegations that he had infected the other man with HIV.	Case pending hearing in the High Court. The accused is still in prison on pre-trial detention and he has been in detention for 2 years and 10 months. The hearing was adjourned to the next available session.	1
4.	HRAPF/PA /1041/26	Impersonation and theft	The client is a transgender person who was working as a house help. They had misunderstandings with her employer, who had her arrested on 15th July 2026 on allegations of theft. While at police, she was subjected to a body search during which it was discovered that she was biologically male, and a charge of impersonation was preferred against her. She was detained at the police station until 20th July, when she was arraigned in court.	The client is still on remand and has appeared before court on 3 occasions, but the Prosecution did not produce any witnesses on all three appearances. The matter came up for hearing on September 15th, and the charge of theft (the initial reason for the arrest) was dismissed by Court. The client remains on remand on charges of personation, and the matter was adjourned to 28th October 2026.	1
5.	HRAPF/PA /1048/26	Aggravated trafficking in persons and aggravated homosexuality	The client was arrested on 2nd August 2026 and detained at a police station on allegations of trafficking 3 adult male persons for sexual purposes. The three persons were in the client's care as part of an education project at their church. He was detained at the police stations for 4 days and later arraigned in court on charges of aggravated trafficking and remanded to prison.	The client is still on remand awaiting committal to the High court for hearing. The charge sheet was amended to include the offence of aggravated homosexuality which can only be heard by the High Court.	1

6.	HRAPF/PA /1062/26	Being a public nuisance	The clients were arrested from their home after the neighbours reported to the police that the two were homosexuals. They were detained from 20th to 23rd September 2026, when they were arraigned in court and charged with being a public nuisance and remanded to prison.	The matter came up on 15th October 2026 and one of the clients was granted bail, while the other was further remanded due to absence of sureties. The case shall be coming up for hearing on 5th November 2026.	2