

GUIDELINES TO INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS ON HOW TO OFFER SUPPORT AFTER THE RECENT PASSAGE OF THE ANTI-HOMOSEXUALITY BILL BY THE UGANDAN PARLIAMENT

23 March 2023

Introduction

Dear Partners, Friends and Colleagues,

We express our gratitude for your steadfast allyship accorded to the Conveners for Equality (CFE) and Entire LGBTI community in the fight against the Anti-Homosexuality Bill 2023. We particularly value your assistance since the bill's introduction until its passage by Parliament on March 22, 2023. Based on past occurrences, such as in 2014, when the president initially stated he would not sign but ultimately did, it is probable that he will sign the bill into law.

As per Article 91 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995 (as amended), the President has a 30-day window from the bill's presentation to either approve the bill, or return it to Parliament for revaluation, or inform the Speaker in writing of their veto. In the event that the Bill is neither assented to or sent back to parliament for review within the designated timeframe, the bill is considered approved, and the Speaker will present it to Parliament, effectively enacting it into law.

With the Speaker's demonstrated intent to enact this Bill as law at whatever cost, our time to act is limited. Considering the current circumstances, these guidelines aim to offer a strategy to international partners who have demonstrated their solidarity and willingness to Publicly support the LGBTIQ+ community in Uganda.

Ways in which you can support the LGBTIQ+ community;

- 1) **Global Demonstrations.** We urge our allies, acquaintances, and Human Rights advocates to organise peaceful protests and unity events in cities worldwide to oppose this draconian law in its entirety. These initiatives should be carried out both presently and if the bill is enacted by the President to voice strong opposition against this unjust law and its detrimental consequences. By demonstrating solidarity with the at-risk LGBTIQ+ community in Uganda, these protests will heighten international awareness and intensify the demand for justice and human rights for all Ugandans.
- 2) **Issue Public Statements.** We urge you to Issue declarations denouncing the passage of this draconian bill and its adoption as well as the dangerous Anti-Gay Rhetoric surrounding it, urging President Museveni not to enact it into law, and emphasising that the Ugandan government must be held accountable to implement her National, Regional and International Human Rights Obligations to all

Ugandans. Additionally Highlight the significance of complying with constitutional tenets by fostering an inclusive and safe environment for all citizens, while safeguarding the human rights of each individual, irrespective of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

3) **Multinational Companies' Advocacy.** Its only Last year in 2022 that Uganda launched the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights; thereby domesticating the 2011 UN Guiding Principles on business and human rights. The National Action Plan seeks to promote a harmonious relationship in which both business and communities can thrive. Specifically, among its objectives is to promote social inclusion and rights of the vulnerable and marginalized individuals and groups in business operations. This can only be achieved through human rights compliance and respect human rights for all. This responsibility extends to national and international human rights and freedoms as enjoined in international human rights frameworks to which Uganda is a party to. The corporate responsibility to respect and promote human rights further extends directly to all their employees and those impacted by their work activities which the current bill seeks to criminalise Fundamental human rights freedoms and labour rights call for Responsible business conduct and ensuring the do no harm principles. If enacted and enforced in its current form, the bill will adversely impact communities and businesses such as when corporations have to inquire into the sexuality and gender identities of their employees. This contravenes the right to privacy and infringement of International Labour Organisation' conventions. The passed bill infringes on fundamental human rights protected both by the Ugandan constitution and international human rights frameworks to which many MNCs and TNCs are bound to. Most of these corporations are also bound by their home state Human Rights Standards. We therefore urge global corporations with investments in Uganda to openly express their apprehensions regarding the Bill and its possible impact on their employees, investors, and shareholders, especially those who identify as LGBTIQ+ who are at risk for blackmail or extortion due to the bill's severe clauses. Companies should also discuss the potential repercussions of the bill on their future economic endeavours in Uganda, highlighting the importance of an inclusive and diverse business atmosphere that upholds human rights, and promotes social inclusion and rights of the vulnerable and marginalised individuals and groups in business operations.

4) **Asylum Support.** Assemble a directory of organisations capable of aiding Ugandan LGBTIQ+ Identified individuals in seeking asylum if circumstances deteriorate and they must flee the country for safety. Collaborate with these organisations to expedite the asylum procedure and supply essential resources. Additionally, we urge you to request that your governments issue travel advisories for Uganda, alerting travellers to the threats facing actual or suspected LGBTIQ+ persons or those advocating for LGBTIQ+ rights due to the possible ramifications of the bill's implementation.



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- 5) **Diplomatic Actions and Travel Advisories.** Request that your governments release travel alerts for Uganda and consider the recall of ambassadors to their respective capitals for a minimum of one week for tactical deliberations on future interactions with Uganda concerning the oppressive law that affects all Ugandans. This measure will convey the global community's apprehension about the legislation and its possible ramifications. Advocate for diplomatic dialogue with Ugandan authorities to examine the potential effects of the legislation on international relations and human rights in general.
- 6) **International Advocacy.** Urge international leaders, celebrities, and prominent personalities to condemn the bill in the strongest terms possible, as their voices could wield considerable impact and prevent assent and implementation of this draconian Bill. Champion campaigns and endeavours that heighten awareness and bolster the LGBTIQ+ community's presence in Uganda, underlining the value of unity and global accountability to the adherence to Human Rights for all; in fostering change.
- 7) **Engage International Aid Groups.** Encourage international aid groups, particularly those focusing on HIV/AIDS related interventions, to address the law's potential impact on service provision for their partners in Uganda. This includes organisations like USAID, PEPFAR, CDC, and the Global Fund. Urge these groups to work closely with local implementing partners to develop contingency plans for service delivery to all without discrimination and advocate for the affected communities' rights and well-being towards the attainment of the highest level of the Right to Health.
- 8) **Engage Human Rights Partner Organizations.** Collaborate with non-LGBTIQ+ rights focused partner organisations in Uganda that you may work with or fund, urging them to issue statements condemning the bill and their implications on the work of NGOs and the larger Civil Society space. Emphasise the broader impact on civil society organising, human rights, and the shrinking space for NGOs. Encourage these organisations to collaborate with the Convening for Equality Coalition to build a united front in advocating for the rights and well-being inherent to all Ugandans, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.
- 9) **Highlight Other Critical Issues.** Attract global awareness to urgent matters such as rampant corruption, human trafficking, land appropriation, the suppression of civil liberties, and public order administration in order to redirect attention toward the broader concerns and interests of Uganda's populace. Emphasising these issues, illustrate that the Ugandan arms of government often employs the Anti Homosexuality bill as a diversion as evidenced in the past and presently. Call for heightened international pressure on the Ugandan government to tackle these problems holistically and openly,

while concurrently stress
community.

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- 10) **Engage Religious Leaders.** Urge distinguished religious leaders and establishments, including the Vatican and the Church of England, to advocate for tolerance, comprehension, and respect for human rights for everyone. Solicit declarations that encourage empathetic discourse, inclusiveness, and a cessation of discrimination encountered by the LGBTIQ+ communities in Uganda, Africa and indeed globally. By cultivating an atmosphere of empathy and insight, religious institutions can assume a crucial function in contesting detrimental narratives and championing the rights and dignity of all people.
- 11) **Support the Convening for Equality, LGBTIQ+ Community, and Human Rights Defenders.** Provide financial, technical, or physical support to the Convening for Equality Coalition, the LGBTIQ+ community, and human rights defenders working to promote LGBTIQ+ rights who are at a high risk as a consequence of this Law by donating through the [Friends of Chapter Four Uganda donation link](#). Contribute to legal challenges against the Law in the Constitutional Court, ensuring that resources are available for a robust defence of human rights and the pursuit of justice for those affected by this legislation.
- 12) **Aid and Sanctions.** The Convening for Equality Coalition articulates its opposition to decreasing or conditioning donor aid to Uganda, recognising the possible adverse consequences on the nation's budget and the general public. Nevertheless, the CFE understands that donor countries might re-evaluate their support for nations attempting to deprive a portion of the population of their fundamental human rights through legislation like the Draconian Anti-Homosexuality Law. Particular attention should be focused on institutions and people that are using donor funding to support this Bill or are directly benefiting from the Bill's divisiveness to fuel discrimination, and other human rights violations towards the Ugandan LGBTI community. In this regard, we advocate that Donor countries examine their aid allocations in parallel with promoting human rights, equality, and inclusion for everyone, ensuring that donor funds contribute to good governance and the rule of law without harming the wider population.
- 13) **Travel Bans.** Advocate for the imposition of travel bans on all public and religious leaders who have actively supported the Anti-Homosexuality Bill and fuelled hate and insecurity towards the LGBTIQ+ community until its passing into law. By denying entry to individuals who actively advocate for the restriction of rights for certain groups, such as the proponents of this bill and the politicians who recklessly used divisive and dangerous language during the legislative process of passing this law, Countries send a strong message emphasising the importance of respecting human rights for all. This

measure serves as a reminder
rights and dignity of Ugandans

or those who blatantly disregard the



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The passage of the Anti-Homosexuality Bill in Uganda represents a significant threat to the rights, safety and dignity of the LGBTIQ+ community, and the broader civil society within the country. The Convening for Equality Coalition appreciates the ongoing support from international partners and friends in standing up for justice and human rights. By working together and taking collective action in the ways outlined in these guidelines, we can amplify our voices, apply strategic pressure on the Ugandan government not to enact this law, and ultimately work towards creating a safer, more inclusive, tolerant, and just society for all Ugandans.

As we undertake to remain steadfast during this uncertain and scary period where our basic rights are actively being eroded, the CFE remains committed to advocating for the rights of the LGBTIQ+ community and supporting those who are most vulnerable among us in the face of this draconian piece of legislation. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and provide updates as necessary. Your unwavering allyship, support, engagement, and solidarity are crucial in our collective fight against all forms of injustice and protection of human rights for all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Together, we can make a difference and contribute to a world where every person is treated with dignity, respect, and equality, free from all forms of discrimination.

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