

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Kagimu Mission permanente du Ouganda Maurice
Rue Antoine-Carteret 6BIS
1202 Genève

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Anti-Homosexuality Bill

Dear Ambassador

We would like to express our outrage at a number of provisions in the Anti-Homosexuality Bill which is currently before Parliament in Uganda and to call on you to urge Parliamentarians and the government to ensure that the Bill is not passed into law.

If passed, the bill would institutionalise discrimination against those who are, or who are thought to be lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. It would reinforce the existing prohibition against consensual sex between individuals of the same sex—legislation that is itself contrary to international norms. The bill would go further, purporting to criminalise the ‘promotion’ of homosexuality, compelling HIV testing in certain circumstances, imposing life sentences for entering into a same-sex marriage, introducing the death penalty for ‘aggravated’ homosexuality, and punishing those who fail to report knowledge of any violations of these sweeping provisions within 24 hours. The confidentiality clause would compromise the right to fair trial. The bill would have lasting deleterious effects on the lives of individual Ugandans who are thought to run afoul of its far-reaching provisions, and it would significantly hamper the work of human rights defenders and public health professionals.

In sum, the bill would violate the principle of non-discrimination and would lead to violations of the human rights to freedom of expression, freedom of thought, conscience and religion, freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of association, liberty and security of the person, privacy, the highest attainable standard of health, and life. These rights are guaranteed under Uganda’s Constitution and in international and regional treaties to which Uganda is a party, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (African Charter).

Yours sincerely,