



**TWO MONTHS AFTER: REPORT ON VIOLENCE AND VIOLATIONS ON THE BASIS OF REAL OR PRESUMED SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND/ OR GENDER IDENTITY TWO MONTHS AFTER THE ANTI-HOMOSEXUALITY ACT CAME INTO FORCE**

**Kampala**

**9<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

**Contents**

<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2. Methodology</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3. Nature and number of cases reported</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1 <i>Evictions from rented property</i>	3
2.2 <i>Cases of violence</i>	9
2.3 <i>Cases of arrest</i>	15
<b>3 Comparison with June 2023</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>4 Comparison with the period from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>5 The first two months of the AHA 2023 in Uganda</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>6. Conclusion</b>	<b>20</b>

## **1. Introduction**

As of 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023, the Anti Homosexuality Act, 2023 had officially been in force for a total period of two months. As expected, this period has been particularly difficult for LGBTIQ persons in Uganda and has been fraught with challenges for civil society organisations working with LGBTIQ persons as well. Over the past two months, Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum has continued to monitor and document violence and violations of human rights on the basis of real or presumed sexual orientation and/ or gender identity and directly monitoring the impact of the AHA 2023 on the rights of LGBTIQ persons across the country. This report discusses cases involving actions that targeted real or suspected LGBTIQ persons for detrimental treatment on the basis of their real or presumed sexuality in the month of July, and draws comparisons with a similar period in 2022 as well as drawing conclusions about the entire period of the enforcement of the AHA 2023 over the past 2 months.

The report is a continuation from that produced for the period 1<sup>st</sup> June to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023, and as such only details of cases handled in the month of July (1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> July) will be included.

## **2. Methodology**

The data for this report has been collected and verified in the same manner as the previous report. This report contains only information reported to HRAPF through our legal aid network of 132 community paralegals, the central legal aid clinic in Kampala and specialised legal aid desks and regional legal aid centres. The data was collected through a physical review of case files and monitoring registers to ascertain the number of cases handled, the nature and number of violations and incidents of violence reported and the number of persons affected. An in-depth review of documents on the case files was also undertaken for purposes of ascertaining the circumstances under which these cases took place, thus ensuring that only cases in which individuals were specifically targeted on the basis of their SOGIE are included in this report.

It is important to note that this report does not present a comprehensive view of the situation for LGBTIQ people across the country as it contains only the cases that were reported to HRAPF through our legal aid network, and excludes cases reported to other legal aid service providers/ handled through other channels and those not reported at all. The report focuses on cases, which are defined as a separate set of facts involving the violation of laws or rights which are included in one file. Each case can therefore contain more than one violation against more than one individual.

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

In the period from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023, a total of 84 cases were handled across the legal aid network, with 53 of these containing actions that specifically targeted people for negative treatment on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity,

affecting a total of 67 persons. This represents 63.1% of all cases handled. Out of the 53 cases in which actions were taken targeting LGBTIQ persons on the basis of their sexuality, 26 were cases of evictions from homes, villages and rented properties affecting 33 persons; 21 were cases of actual or threatened violence affecting 24 persons; and 6 were cases of arrests affecting 10 persons.

### ***2.1 Evictions from rented property***

Between 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023 and 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023, HRAPF recorded a total of 26 cases in which evictions of 33 individuals were verified as having been caused by the real or presumed sexuality of the individuals in question. The main perpetrators were landlords, who evicted persons in 20 cases, of which two involved neighbors insisting on the evictions, followed by local council officials (2), then relatives (2), property manager in combination with Local Council I chairman (1) and the host under pressure from *boda boda* riders (1). The majority of the cases (22) happened in the Kampala/ Wakiso metropolitan area, and one case each in Kabarole, Kasese and Mbarara City in Western Uganda and one case in Iganga in Eastern Uganda.

NO.	CASE CODE	DATE OF REPORTING	DISTRICT	PERPETRATOR	BRIEF FACTS	NUMBER OF VICTIMS
1.	HRAPF/PA /67/2023	3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2023	Wakiso	Mother	The client was forced to leave home by his mother after she heard rumors that he was habitually keeping company with homosexuals, and that he was also probably a homosexual.	1
2.	HRAPF/PA /68/2023	4 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Wakiso	Landlord	The client's landlord heard rumors from the neighbours that the client was a homosexual who only brings men home, never women. The landlord asked the client to move out because he did not want problems with the law.	1
3.	HRAPF/PA /69/2023	6 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Kampala	Landlord	The client's landlord demanded that he move out following an incident when a neighbour complained that the client was a homosexual who would eventually recruit their children into homosexuality.	1
4.	HRAPF/PA /70/2023	10 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Kampala	Landlord	The client's landlady demanded that he leave the premises after noticing that the client was good friends with the landlady's son, which she claimed meant the client was grooming her son into homosexuality.	1
5.	HRAPF/PA /71/2023	10 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Kampala	Landlord and neighbours	A neighbour claimed that he had heard the client having sex with a man through their shared wall and reported to the other neighbours, who held a meeting in the compound and then called the landlord and informed him that they were no longer willing to live near him. The landlord asked the client to leave with immediate effect.	1
6.	HRAPF/PA /72/2023	10 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Wakiso	Landlord	The client's ex-partner came to her home to see her and when she found the client's new partner in the house, she got upset and	1

					started shouting loudly, crying and insisting that she wanted to continue their relationship, which the neighbours heard and reported to the landlady. The landlady immediately demanded that she leave the house, noting that as a Christian and an old lady, she did not want problems with God or with the police.	
7.	HRAPF/PA /73/2023	10 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Wakiso	Landlord	The client's landlord asked him to leave the premises after the local area leadership reached out and informed him that his tenant is a homosexual, and that the landlord should do something about it.	1
8.	HRAPF/PA /74/2023	11 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Wakiso	Landlord	The client's landlord issued him an eviction notice, stating that he had found out that the client was a homosexual and he (the landlord) was unwilling to accept such a practice on his property.	1
9.	HRAPF/PA /75/2023	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Wakiso	Friend	A transgender woman was residing at a saloon operated by her friend. However, after the friend had received various threats of attack from boda boda riders and other youth in the neighbourhood if he did not get rid of the homosexual in his salon, he was forced to evict the client with less than a week's notice in order to safeguard his property.	1
10.	HRAPF/PA /76/2023	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Wakiso	LC Chairpers on	The six clients were staying together. A man reported to the village leadership that he suspected his wife was having a sexual affair with one of them, a lesbian woman. Upon receiving this information, the LC chairperson went to the home of the clients and demanded that they all leave the village because they are all homosexuals.	6
11.	HRAPF/PA	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Wakiso	Landlord	The client's landlord asked him to leave the	1

	/77/2023				house he was renting with less than a week's notice because he heard rumors in the neighbourhood that the client was gay.	
12.	HRAPF/PA /78/2023	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Wakiso	Employer	The client was employed as a hairdresser at a queer-friendly salon and living in a spare room at the back of the salon. His employer was forced to fire him and immediately evict him from the premises after the employer himself was threatened with violence if he did not take these actions.	1
13.	HRAPF/PA /79/2023	17 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Kampala	Landlord	A transgender woman was approached by her landlady who asked her to immediately leave the house she was renting without giving a reason. When confronted about the matter later, the landlady merely said she had never known that 'such a polite boy' could be involved in 'such things', and that she never wanted to see or hear from the client and her fellow homosexuals ever again.	1
14.	HRAPF/PA /80/2023	8 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Mbarara	Landlord	A transgender woman was asked to leave the premises after she hosted two friends at her home who had been rendered homeless following a short stint in prison for matters related to their sexuality. When the landlord heard about it, he insisted that all three of them leave. Even after the client managed to help their friends find alternative accommodation, the landlord was still adamant that he did not want to have any homosexuals on his premises.	1
15.	HRAPF/PA /81/2023	17 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Kampala	Neighbours, landlord and LC leadership	In this case, the client was asked to vacate the premises where they were living after two friends of hers had an argument outside the house, which was witnessed by the neighbours. After the argument, one of the	1

					neighbours stated that the client and the other friends were all homosexuals and that is why they were always having quarrels with one another. The neighbours complained to the landlord and LC chairperson, and the client was evicted with one week's notice.	
16.	HRAPF/PA /82/2023	19 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Kampala	Neighbours and landlord	On 12 <sup>th</sup> July 2023, the client's neighbours held a neighbourhood watch meeting to discuss the client's 'questionable engagements' with members of the same sex, after which they called the landlord and gave him an ultimatum to evict the 'homosexual' or lose all his other tenants. The landlord asked that the client leave his premises immediately.	1
17.	HRAPF/PA /83/2023	19 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Kampala	LC Chairperson	A lesbian woman was evicted from the village where she was residing because the chairperson heard rumours that she was a homosexual. The chairperson asked her personally to leave the village or 'face the consequences'.	1
18.	HRAPF/PA /84/2023	25 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Wakiso	Landlord	The client, who works with an LGBTIQ organisation that was forced to close its drop in centre after the AHA was passed, continued providing services to clients at his home for their medication refills and commodities supplies. This eventually prompted curiosity and then hostility among the neighbours, who reported to the landlord leading to his eviction.	1
19.	HRAPF/PA /86/2023	26 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Wakiso	Landlord	The client was evicted from his home after the landlord heard from neighbours that his ex-boyfriend had come to the house and caused a scene, accusing him of cheating on him with another man, which the neighbours	1

					found curious and unacceptable.	
20.	HRAPF/PA /87/2023	26 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Wakiso	Landlord	Two transgender women were arrested along with another person after their landlord accused them of homosexuality. As soon as they were released, the landlord insisted that he did not want them in his houses any longer, and threatened to have them rearrested if they did not move.	2
21.	HRAPF/PA /88/2023	27 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Iganga	Mother	The client was asked by his mother to leave their home after she heard rumors that the persons he was constantly hanging out with were homosexuals and when he refused to stop hanging out with his friends, the mother decided to cut ties with him as well and threw him out of the house.	1
22.	HRAPF/PA /89/2023	28 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Wakiso	Landlord	The client had been evicted from his rented home after his partner's brother and father reached out to the landlord and informed him that they knew the client to be a homosexual who was attempting to recruit their son/ brother into homosexuality.	1
23.	HRAPF/PA /90/2023	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2023	Wakiso	Landlord	A transgender woman was evicted from her rented accommodation by the landlord after he found out that she is transgender.	1
24.	HRAPF/PA /91/2023	8 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Kabarole	Property Manager and LC Chairpers on	A transgender woman received a notice of eviction from the property managers who informed her that the LC council had resolved that her and the friends she habitually brought by to visit her could not be tolerated in their area as they were all clearly homosexuals.	1
25.	HRAPF/PA /92/2023	7 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Wakiso	Landlord	Two gay men were asked by the landlord to leave their rented premises because the neighbours had expressed discomfort with	2



					having them in the neighbourhood, stating that it was inconveniencing them all. The landlord thus issued an eviction notice which was served on the LC chairperson as well, upon which the chairperson reached out to the clients and demanded that they leave.	
26.	HRAPF/PA /93/2023	19 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Kasese	Landlord	A lesbian woman working with an organisation working with LGBT persons was served an eviction notice by her landlord, who claimed that she was spreading homosexuality in their area.	1

## 2.2 Cases of violence

HRAPF recorded a total of 21 cases involving violence or threats to violence and affecting 24 persons. Of the 21 cases, 11 cases involved actual violence affecting 12 persons and 10 involved threats of violence affecting 12 persons. Most of these cases were not reported to the police for fear of arrest/ harm as soon as the victims' sexual orientation and/ or gender identity were revealed.

### i) Cases of actual violence on the basis of Sexual orientation/gender identity

There were 11 cases of actual violence reported in July 2023. These were mainly cases of beatings/ assaults against LGBTIQ persons (9 cases) and 2 cases involving other forms of violence, that is, online violence and extortion, and affected a total of 12 persons. The perpetrators were mainly unknown persons (8 cases) and in the other four cases, the perpetrators were a neighbour, a fellow student, a partner and a father respectively. Beatings dominate the category of violence as there were 9 cases involving beatings, and the others were 1 case of cyber harassment and one case of extortion. Again, in almost all these cases, the victims did not want the cases reported to the police for fear of what would happen both from the side of the police and the perpetrators, most of whom were unknown. The majority of the violations happened in the Kampala/Wakiso metropolitan area (9) and one case each in Mbarara and Elegu.

NO.	CASE CODE	DATE OF REPORTING	DISTRICT	NATURE OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE	PERPETRATOR	BRIEF FACTS	NUMBER OF VICTIMS
1.	HRAPF/PA /49/2023	10 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Kampala	Beating	Unknown men	A transgender woman was attacked by three men unknown to her near	1

						her home while she was returning at night. She sustained injuries on her head, face, torso and legs.	
2.	HRAPF/PA/50/2023	11 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Wakiso	Beating	Unknown men	A transgender woman was going to visit a friend of hers when she was attacked by two men. They beat her severely, causing injuries on her head and face, before running off.	1
3.	HRAPF/PA/51/2023	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Wakiso	Beating	Boda boda riders	A gay man was attacked at home by three boda boda riders. They beat him up severely, accusing him of spreading homosexuality, and warned him to leave their area if he still wanted to live.	1
4.	HRAPF/PA/52/2023	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Kampala	Beating	Unknown men	A transgender woman was attacked near her home while walking back home at about 11.00pm. The men who attacked her beat her on the head and back, and she sustained several injuries.	1
5.	HRAPF/PA/53/2023	17 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Wakiso	Beating	Unknown men	A gay man repeatedly received messages on his phone threatening him and accusing him of spreading homosexuality for about a week before he was attacked by unknown men and beaten on 7 <sup>th</sup> July 2023 while going to his home at night.	1
6.	HRAPF/PA/54/2023	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2023	Wakiso	Beating	Unknown men	Two transgender men were attacked at about 10.00pm as they were going to their home from the hospital. The attack happened on 28 <sup>th</sup> July, barely a month after one of them had been attacked because of their sexuality (they were still on treatment from this attack).	2

						The attack also came less than three weeks after doing an interview with on international television about their sexuality and the challenges they were experiencing in the wake of the AHA.	
7.	HRAPF/PA /56/2023	28 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Elegu	Beating	Unknow n men	A lesbian woman was attacked in her home at night by three men who accused her of hitting on their girlfriends and trying to make them homosexuals, walking like a man and 'pretending to be a man'. The attack happened in the presence of her 2 pre-teenage children.	1
8.	HRAPF/PA /95/2023	17 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Kampala	Beating	Neighbors	A gay man was assaulted by two of his neighbours, who slapped him, verbally abused him and told him that if he does not move away from the neighbourhood, they would have the police arrest him for being a homosexual.	1
9.	HRAPF/PA /55/2023	25 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Kampala	Cyber harassment	Fellow student	An activist was repeatedly harassed through his social media accounts by someone who repeatedly demanded money from the client with the threat that he would report him to the police and have him arrested for being a homosexual if he did not comply. After the client had ignored these messages for about three weeks, the person reported to the police that the client was a homosexual who was trying to recruit him and who had been harassing him with requests for sex, which story was immediately put	1

						in the press by the police.	
10.	HRAPF/PA /94/2023	8 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Kampala	Extortion	Partner	The client's partner stole his personal and household property from his home and threatened to out him to the neighbourhood and the police if he demanded for the properties back.	1
11.	HRAPF/PA /102/2023	25 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Mbarara	Beating	Father	In this case, a gay man was beaten up by his father after he heard rumors that his son was gay. The client was summoned home to talk about something and as soon as he got there, his father took his phone from him, forced him to open it and read his chat with his partner. The father then descended on him, beating him with his fists, a stick, a belt and other objects before turning him out and asking him to never return.	1

*ii) Cases involving threats of violence based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity*

During the second month of the enforcement of the AHA, a total of 10 cases involving threats of violence against 12 persons were recorded. 4 of these threats were from neighbours, 2 from the police and local authorities, 2 by unknown people, 1 by boda boda riders, and 1 by guests at a party. Again, the majority of the cases (4) were reported from the Kampala/ Wakiso Metropolitan area, two from Busia and one each from Abim, Lugazi, Mbale and Tororo. The details of the threats based on sexual orientation and gender identity in July 2023 are produced below:

NO.	CASE CODE	DATE OF REPORTING	DISTRICT	NATURE OF THREAT	PERPETRATOR	BRIEF FACTS	NUMBER OF VICTIMS
1.	HRAPF/PA /57/2023	10 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Wakiso	Threat of sexual violence and	Men in the neighbourhood	A transgender man living at a crisis shelter was repeatedly threatened by men in the neighbourhood with sexual violence to 'remind her that	1

				physical violence		she is a woman' because they thought that he was acting as the 'husband' of all the women in the shelter.	
2.	HRAPF/PA/58/2023	10 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Wakiso	Threats of physical violence	Neighbours	A man was outed as gay in his neighbourhood by the ex-partner of his boyfriend who repeatedly came to his home to quarrel with him, demanding that he break up with the partner. The neighbours, who heard some of these quarrels, started to speak loudly in his presence, stating that they would soon 'get rid' of all the homosexuals in their compound.	1
3.	HRAPF/PA/59/2023	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Wakiso	Threat of physical violence	Boda boda riders	The client, a transgender woman, was working at a saloon in their neighbourhood until they were stopped one day on the way to work by a group of boda boda riders who demanded that the homosexuals at the saloon all leave the village or face violence.	1
4.	HRAPF/PA/60/2023	19 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Lugazi	Threats of physical violence	Party guests	The client had a party at his house and invited various people. During the party, one of the guests started screaming at the host, accusing him of inviting homosexuals and threatening that if he did not get rid of all the homosexuals in the house immediately, they would 'work on him' as well. The following day, this same threat was reechoed by the neighbours, forcing him to leave his area.	1

5.	HRAPF/PA /61/2023	21 <sup>st</sup> July 2023	Busia	Threat of lynching and arrest	Unknown people	The client is a peer leader who went to the police to inquire into the issue of arrest of two transgender women. He was accosted by the people he found there, who demanded that the police arrest him too or they beat him up because he had come to support the homosexuals.	1
6.	HRAPF/PA /62/2023	21 <sup>st</sup> July 2023	Busia	Threat of lynching and arrest	Neighbours	The victim, a transgender woman, was friends with two other transgender women who were arrested in the neighbourhood. After the arrest, her neighbours started threatening to have her arrested as well or beaten, insisting that she must be a homosexual as well because the arrested persons were her friends. She ran away when she heard that the police had in fact been informed about her and were actively looking for her.	1
7.	HRAPF/PA /63/2023	25 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Wakiso	Threat of arrest	Neighbours	Two gay men who were friends with a group of 4 persons who had been arrested were also threatened with arrest by neighbours who found out that they were in touch with those arrested.	2
8.	HRAPF/PA /64/2023	26 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Abim	Threat of arrest	Police and local council officials	A man who runs an organisation working with LGBTIQ persons in was repeatedly summoned by police and local authorities and threatened with arrest on suspicion that he was promoting homosexuality in the district.	1
9.	HRAPF/PA	27 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Tororo	Threat of	Neighbours	A lesbian woman and her partner	2

	/65/2023			physical violence	urs	were repeatedly threatened by their neighbours with violence, with the neighbours claiming that the two might abuse their children. In the end, they were forced to move away for fear of attack.	
10.	HRAPF/PA/66/2023	28 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Mbale	Threat of arrest	Police officers, local council officials	A transgender man was forced to leave his home after three different police officers and two of the LC leaders repeatedly came to his home looking for him without necessarily explaining why, until one of them intimated to a neighbour, who later informed the client, that they were looking for homosexuals.	1

### 2.3 Cases of arrest

There were a total of 6 arrests of people on grounds related to their sexual orientation/gender identity in the month of July 2023, with 10 individuals being affected. The police authorities have continued to actively enforce the law and charge persons under the Anti-Homosexuality Act, 2023, with 3 cases involving charges under the Anti-Homosexuality Act, 2023 and affecting 4 persons. However, none of the cases reported in July were sent to court by the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. A number of charges are being preferred under other laws, including one charge of indecent practices under the Penal Code Act, one of cyber harassment under the Computer Misuse Act, and one of domestic violence under the Domestic Violence Act, affecting 6 people. Again, most of the cases (4), occurred in the Kampala/ Wakiso Metropolitan area and one each in Busia and Dokolo.

NO.	CASE CODE	DATE REPORTED	DISTRICT	CHARGE	BRIEF FACTS	NUMBER OF VICTIMS
1.	HRAPF/PA/96/2023	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2023	Kampala	Homosexuality contrary to section 2 of the Anti-Homosexuality Act 2023	A man was arrested after a person he had met on a dating app turned against him and demanded money from him in exchange for not reporting him as a homosexual to the police.	1

					The client was held for 1 day on the basis of the social media chat exchanged with the complainant, but the complainant was never questioned even though he initiated the interaction.	
2.	HRAPF/PA/97/2023	3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2023	Wakiso	Cyber harassment contrary to section 24 of the Computer Misuse Act 2010	A man met another man on a popular gay dating app and the two started chatting about their shared interests for several days until they agreed to meet up. When the client went to meet the man, he found him with a police officer who immediately arrested him and told him he had been engaged in sending lewd and offensive messages to the complainant on social media, despite the fact that the complainant initiated the interactions. He was held for three days.	1
3.	HRAPF/PA/98/2023	5 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Busia	Homosexuality contrary to section 2 of the AHA 2023	The police while looking into charges of trafficking in persons against a friend of two transgender women found them at her home and arrested them instead, accusing them of being homosexuals. They were detained for two days.	2
4.	HRAPF/PA/99/2023	18 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Wakiso	Indecent practices contrary to section 148 of the	A man and a transgender woman were seen kissing near the entrance to their home by a neighbour, who called the police	4



				Penal Code Act	and reported that the two had been seen having sex and that they were homosexuals. They and the two other people who lived with them in the house were all arrested and held at police for 3 days.	
5.	HRAPF/PA/100/2023	21 <sup>st</sup> July 2023	Kampala	Domestic violence contrary to section 4 of the Domestic Violence Act, 2010	A transgender man had a fight with one of his siblings and as a result, the family took him to the police station where he was held. However, during the intervention, the police officer repeatedly stated that the family of the victim were really just tired of their homosexuality and were too embarrassed to even report them for the real crime they had committed of homosexuality and had to disguise it as domestic violence. Both the family and the investigating officer assigned to the case repeatedly heckled and verbally insulted the victim during the two days they were held at the station.	1
6.	HRAPF/PA/101/2023	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2023	Dokolo	Theft contrary to section 254 of the Penal Code Act and homosexuality c/s 2 of the AHA 2023	An intersex woman who had been working as a house help had a disagreement with her employer, who accused her of stealing 25,000/- and reported her to the police, but the employer also asked the officer to check the client's genitalia	1

					because she (the employer) was sure the client had a penis. This physical examination was conducted at police and, on the basis of the fact that the client's genitalia was ambiguous, the client was arrested and detained for a week on charges of homosexuality.	
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### 3 Comparison with June 2023

The data presented above shows the continuing impact of the AHA 2023, which is being actively enforced by the law enforcers as well as the general public. July 2023 shows an increase in the number of cases from 46 in June to 53 in July - an increase of 6 cases or 15.2% There was also an increase in the number of victims from 50 in June to 67 in July, an increase of 17 victims (34%).

In July, the biggest number of cases are those of evictions which rose from 19 in June to 26 in July - an increase of 7 cases or 15.8%, and affected more people - 33 individuals in July as compared to 20 in June, a 65% increase. There was a slight reduction in the number of cases involving real or threatened violence, which reduced from 23 to 21, a decrease of 2 cases or 8.7%, although the cases in July affected more people than those in June, 24 compared to 23, an increase of 4.2%. The number of cases of arrests also increased from 4 to 6, an increase of 2 cases (33.33%) and affected more people, 10 compared to 7 in June, an increase of 3 persons (42.9%).

The trend of victims fearing to report cases to the police for fear of being arrested by the police and retaliation by the perpetrators also continues - an effect of the Anti-Homosexuality Act. The trends also suggest that violence and violations get worse every month that passes when the law is in force.

There is clearly active enforcement of the Act by the police and arrests and charges under the Act do continue even when the facts do not support the charges. In June 2023, HRAPF recorded a total of 4 cases involving arrests of 7 persons on sexuality-related charges, and in three of these cases, the charges were under the Anti-Homosexuality Act. Two of these cases under the Anti-Homosexuality Act were resolved at the police and one proceeded to court - the one involving homosexuality and trafficking in persons.

Perpetrators continue to be overwhelmingly non state actors, an intended effect of the reporting obligations imposed on private citizens under section 14 of the Anti-Homosexuality Act. It explains why the cases of evictions continue to rise and dominate. The law is essentially implemented by non-state actors, and the state does nothing to protect LGBTIQ persons.

In terms of locations, there are more cases reported from the Kampala/ Wakiso metropolitan area but nevertheless there are cases from all the regions of the country.

#### 4 Comparison with the period from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022

The month of July 2023 has continued to be significantly different from comparable periods in previous years, clearly demonstrating the drastic change that the enactment of the AHA 2023 has had on the landscape for protection of the rights of LGBTIQ persons. For instance, in July 2022, there was a total of 28 LGBTIQ cases reported across the HRAPF legal aid network, and of these, only 6 (21.4%) targeted LGBTIQ persons specifically on the basis of their sexuality, affecting 6 persons. By contrast, a total of 84 cases have been recorded in July 2023, with 53 of those (63.1%) particularly targeting LGBTIQ people for negative treatment and affecting 67 persons. This represents a percentage increase of 783.3% in actions of deliberate homophobia within the same one-month period in 2022 as opposed to 2023, and the single most significant factor in this change is the enactment of the Anti-Homosexuality Act.

#### 5 The first two months of the AHA 2023 in Uganda

As noted above, 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023 marked the 2-month anniversary of the enforcement of the AHA 2023. The two-month period has been predictably turbulent for LGBTIQ persons as shown by the statistics from cases reported at the clinic. In the first two months of the AHA 2023, a total of 149 cases have been handled across the legal aid network, of which 99 (66.4%) targeted LGBTIQ people on the basis of their sexuality, affecting a total of 117 persons. The breakdown of cases so far is as follows:

Nature of violation	June 2023	July 2023	Total of cases
Evictions	19	26	45
Violence	23	21	44
Arrests	4	6	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>99</b>

The number of victims are as follows:

Nature of violation	June 2023	July 2023	Total of cases
Evictions	20	33	53
Violence	23	24	47
Arrests	7	10	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>117</b>

In comparison with the same two-month period in 2022, a total of 64 LGBTIQ cases were handled in that period, of which only 21 cases (32.8%) contained actions that deliberately targeted LGBTIQ persons for detrimental treatment. This translates to an increase of 78 cases or a percentage increase of 371.4%.

## **6. Conclusion**

The continuing impact of the AHA on the rights, lives and livelihoods of LGBTIQ people is clear and undeniable. The statistical data available so far clearly highlights the shifting trends, attributable to the public discourse on homosexuality at present and the AHA specifically, and available qualitative data suggests that the majority of the targeted violence and violations against LGBTIQ people is motivated in large part by the AHA 2023: the fear of it, or the enforcement of it.