

URGENT ACTION

UGANDAN ANTI-HOMOSEXUALITY BILL NOT TABLED

On 14 December, the Ugandan Parliament closed for the Christmas and New Year recess without tabling the Anti-Homosexuality Bill. Parliament is not expected to reconvene before February 2013.

The Anti-Homosexuality Bill, which contains provisions that would entrench discrimination and hatred against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, had appeared on the Parliament Order Paper on 21 November. It remained in the 'Business to Follow' section of the Order Paper for the remainder of the Parliamentary session but was not tabled for debate.

Earlier drafts of the Bill, which was first tabled in 2009, provided for the death penalty for the offence of "aggravated homosexuality" and criminalised the "promotion of homosexuality". Even with amendments, the Bill would have violated the principle of non-discrimination and would have led 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 the right to life. These rights are guaranteed under Uganda's Constitution and in international and regional treaties to which Uganda is a party.

Parliament ended before the Bill was tabled in original or amended form, and will resume in February 2013.

Amnesty International will continue to monitor the situation and keep in contact with partners in Uganda, and will take further action in the event that the Bill is tabled again.

No further action is requested at this time from the UA network. Many thanks to all those who sent appeals.

This is the first update of UA 338/12. Further information: <http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/AFR59/008/2012/en>

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