

URGENT ACTION

ANTI-HOMOSEXUALITY BILL SIGNED INTO LAW

On 24 February Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni signed the Anti-Homosexuality Bill into law.

President Yoweri Museveni has assented to the Anti Homosexuality Act which entrenches discrimination and hatred against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people.

The Anti-Homosexuality Act imposes penalties as high as life imprisonment for people engaging in consensual same-sex sexual activity, and contravenes the rights guaranteed in Uganda's Constitution and in regional and international human rights mechanisms which Uganda is a party to, including the right to privacy, freedom from discrimination and freedom of expression, assembly and association. The Act compels HIV testing in certain circumstances where the person is accused of 'aggravated homosexuality' – an offence which criminalizes same-sex sexual activity among 'serial offenders', people with disabilities and people living with HIV among others. The Act also criminalizes 'promotion of homosexuality', which will have a detrimental impact on healthcare providers and Ugandan and international organizations conducting advocacy on human rights issues.

No further action urging the President to veto the Anti Homosexuality Bill is requested from the UA network. Amnesty International continues to monitor the situation in Uganda and is consulting with local partners on further campaigning plans. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

This is the second update of UA 346/13. Further information: <http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/AFR59/002/2014/en>

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