



HEADLINES OF HATE

**HOW UGANDAN MEDIA
FUELS ANTI MINORITY
GROUPS SENTIMENT**

**A REPORT BY THE
EAST AFRICAN VISUAL ARTISTS**

FOREWORD

The power of the media to shape public perception and influence social discourse is undeniable. However, this power can be a double-edged sword, particularly when it comes to the portrayal of marginalized communities. In the context of Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Act, the media's role in either perpetuating discrimination or fostering understanding has never been more critical.

At East Africa Visual Artists (EAVA Artists), we firmly believe in the fundamental principles of human rights, diversity, and inclusion. We are committed to combating all forms of discrimination and prejudice against marginalized communities, including LGBTQ+ individuals who have been disproportionately affected by the harmful narratives propagated by some media outlets.

This report, "Headlines of Hate: How Ugandan Media Fuels Anti-Minority Group Sentiment," is a testament to our dedication to shedding light on these critical issues. It provides a comprehensive analysis of the media landscape in Uganda, examining how media coverage has influenced public perception of LGBTQ+ individuals and contributed to the stigmatization and discrimination they face.

The report's findings underscore the urgent need for ethical journalism and responsible reporting. It highlights the importance of media accountability in upholding human rights and fostering a more inclusive society. We are grateful to the numerous stakeholders who contributed to this report, including media organizations, civil society groups, regulatory bodies, and the brave individuals who shared their personal experiences.

As you delve into this report, I urge you to consider its recommendations and to reflect on the profound impact that media can have on the lives of marginalized communities. Let us all strive to create a media environment that celebrates diversity, promotes understanding, and champions the human rights of all. We at EAVA Artists remain steadfast in our commitment to driving positive change and fostering a more inclusive and respectful media landscape in Uganda and beyond.

Sincerely,



Director,
East African Visual Artists (EAVA Artists)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report, "Headlines of Hate: How Ugandan Media Fuels Anti-Minority Group Sentiment," examines the role of media in shaping public perception and contributing to the discrimination and stigmatization of LGBTQ+ individuals in Uganda. Utilizing a mixed-methods approach, including analysis of media reports, interviews with affected individuals, and legal/ethical considerations, the study reveals a complex interplay between media narratives, public opinion, and the lived experiences of minority groups.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Media as a Double-Edged Sword:** Media coverage surrounding the Anti-Homosexuality Act and LGBTQ+ issues has been both a platform for advocacy and a tool for perpetuating harmful stereotypes. While some outlets have provided a voice for marginalized communities, others have amplified discriminatory narratives, fueling prejudice and hatred.
- **Impact on Public Perception:** Media reporting has significantly influenced public opinion, often reinforcing negative stereotypes about LGBTQ+ individuals. This has contributed to increased social stigma, discrimination, and even violence against this community.
- **Legal and Ethical Violations:** Some media outlets have violated ethical guidelines and even legal provisions related to hate speech and incitement to violence in their coverage of LGBTQ+ issues. This raises concerns about media responsibility and accountability.
- **Challenges Faced by Minority Groups:** LGBTQ+ individuals in Uganda face heightened challenges and threats due to media exposure, including social ostracism, loss of employment, and physical violence. The fear of being targeted often leads to self-censorship and further marginalization.
- **Case Studies:** Specific case studies, such as the reporting on the "Kill the Gays" bill and outing campaigns, highlight the devastating impact of irresponsible media practices on the lives of LGBTQ+ individuals and the broader social fabric.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To mitigate the negative impact of media on minority groups, the report offers a range of recommendations for media organizations, regulatory bodies, civil society, and other stakeholders. These include:

- **Promoting Ethical Journalism:** Encouraging adherence to ethical guidelines, including accuracy, fairness, and respect for human dignity in reporting on LGBTQ+ issues.
- **Strengthening Media Accountability:** Implementing mechanisms for monitoring and addressing violations of media ethics and laws related to hate speech and incitement to violence.
- **Supporting Independent Journalism:** Protecting the space for independent media outlets to provide balanced and diverse perspectives on LGBTQ+ issues.
- **Educating Journalists:** Providing training and resources to journalists on ethical reporting on sensitive topics and covering marginalized communities.
- **Promoting Media Literacy:** Empowering the public to critically analyze media content and identify biased or harmful narratives.

INTRODUCTION

In May 2023, Uganda enacted a new Anti-Homosexuality Act (AHA), further criminalizing same-sex relations and LGBTQ+ identities within the country. This legislation, met with widespread international condemnation, imposes severe penalties, including life imprisonment for certain homosexual acts and even the death penalty for “aggravated homosexuality.” While a previous Anti-Homosexuality Act was passed in 2014, it was later annulled on procedural grounds. However, the damaging legacy of the 2014 Act, exacerbated by sensationalized and discriminatory media reporting at the time, created a hostile environment for LGBTQ+ individuals and contributed to the social stigma and legal discrimination they continue to face.

The media’s role in shaping public discourse surrounding the 2023 AHA and broader LGBTQ+ issues cannot be overstated. Media outlets, both within Uganda and internationally, extensively covered the legislative process, public reactions, and the ensuing human rights concerns. However, the quality and ethics of this coverage have varied significantly, with some platforms promoting understanding and empathy while others have amplified discriminatory narratives and fueled public hostility towards LGBTQ+ individuals.

OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE:

This report aims to critically examine the role of media in the context of Uganda’s 2023 Anti-Homosexuality Act and its broader implications for human rights. Specifically, the study seeks to:

- **Analyze** media coverage of LGBTQ+ issues in Uganda before, during, and after the enactment of the 2023 AHA, identifying patterns, biases, and ethical considerations.
- **Assess** the impact of media reporting on public perception of LGBTQ+ individuals and communities in Uganda, examining the consequences for their rights, well-being, and social inclusion within the broader context of legal and societal discrimination.
- **Investigate** the legal and ethical responsibilities of media outlets in reporting on human rights and marginalized communities, especially in light of the heightened vulnerabilities faced by LGBTQ+ individuals under the new law.
- **Document** the specific challenges and threats faced by LGBTQ+ individuals as a result of media exposure, including instances of discrimination, violence, and social exclusion, with a focus on the impact of the 2023 AHA.
- **Recommend** actionable strategies for media organizations, regulatory bodies, civil society, and other stakeholders to foster ethical journalism, responsible reporting, and media accountability, with the goal of protecting the rights and dignity of LGBTQ+ individuals in Uganda.

This report seeks to contribute to a deeper understanding of the complex relationship between media, public opinion, and human rights violations against marginalized communities. The findings and recommendations presented herein have the potential to inform not only media practices in Uganda but also broader discussions on media ethics, social responsibility, and the protection of human rights in diverse global contexts.

METHODOLOGY

This study employed a mixed-methods approach to comprehensively examine the media's role in relation to the Anti-Homosexuality Act (AHA) in Uganda and its impact on LGBTQ+ individuals. The research methodology consisted of the following components:

1. MEDIA CONTENT ANALYSIS:

- **Selection of Media Outlets:** A purposive sampling strategy was used to select a diverse range of media outlets, including national and regional newspapers, television stations, radio programs, online news portals, and social media platforms. The selection criteria included reach, influence, and diversity of perspectives on LGBTQ+ issues.
- **Data Collection:** A systematic collection of media reports, articles, opinion pieces, editorials, and social media posts related to the stigma and discrimination of LGBTQ+ communities was conducted. The data collection period spanned from January 2023 to December 2023 to capture the pre-enactment, enactment, and immediate post-enactment phases of the AHA.
- **Coding and Analysis:** The collected data was coded using a predetermined coding framework that focused on themes such as tone of coverage (positive, negative, neutral), framing of LGBTQ+ individuals, use of discriminatory language, adherence to ethical guidelines, and legal considerations. The coded data was then analyzed to identify patterns, trends, and discrepancies in media representation.

2. INTERVIEWS AND TESTIMONIES:

- **Participant Selection:** In-depth interviews were conducted with a diverse group of individuals affected by the AHA and media coverage, including LGBTQ+ activists, community leaders, journalists, legal experts, and human rights advocates. Participants were selected using a snowball sampling method to ensure representation of different perspectives and experiences.
- **Data Collection:** Interviews were conducted using a semi-structured interview guide, allowing for flexibility and open-ended responses. Participants were asked about their perceptions of media coverage, its impact on their lives and communities, and their experiences with discrimination or violence resulting from media exposure.
- **Analysis:** Interview transcripts were analyzed using thematic analysis to identify recurring themes, patterns, and individual perspectives on the media's role in shaping public opinion and influencing the lives of LGBTQ+ individuals.

3. LEGAL AND ETHICAL REVIEW:

- **Document Analysis:** A review of relevant legal documents, including the Anti-Homosexuality Act, media laws and regulations, and ethical guidelines for journalists, was conducted to assess compliance and identify potential violations.
- **Expert Consultation:** Legal experts and media ethicists were consulted to provide insights into the legal and ethical dimensions of media reporting on LGBTQ+ issues in Uganda.

LIMITATIONS:

While this study aimed to provide a comprehensive analysis, certain limitations should be acknowledged. The purposive sampling of media outlets and interviewees may not be fully representative of the entire media landscape and the experiences of all LGBTQ+ individuals in Uganda. Additionally, the social stigma associated with LGBTQ+ identities may have led to underreporting of discriminatory incidents or reluctance to participate in interviews.

Despite these limitations, this study offers valuable insights into the media's role in shaping public discourse and impacting the lives of LGBTQ+ individuals in the context of Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Act. The findings and recommendations presented herein have the potential to inform policy discussions, media practices, and advocacy efforts aimed at promoting human rights and media accountability in Uganda and beyond.

MEDIA COVERAGE AND MINORITY GROUPS

The media landscape in Uganda has been a battleground for competing narratives surrounding LGBTQ+ rights and identities. In the wake of the Anti-Homosexuality Act (AHA) of 2023, media coverage has intensified, often reflecting and reinforcing deep-seated societal prejudices. This section delves into the nuances of media representation of LGBTQ+ individuals, examining key incidents and reports that have exacerbated human rights violations.

ANALYSIS OF MEDIA COVERAGE:

A comprehensive analysis of media reports reveals a spectrum of coverage ranging from empathetic portrayals to outright demonization of LGBTQ+ individuals. Some outlets, particularly international media and independent platforms, have sought to humanize the LGBTQ+ community, sharing personal stories, highlighting the discriminatory impact of the AHA, and advocating for their rights. These platforms have often provided a critical counter-narrative to the dominant discourse.

However, a significant portion of media coverage, especially in local tabloids and some mainstream outlets, mostly faith-based media, has been characterized by sensationalism, fear-mongering, and the use of derogatory language. LGBTQ+ individuals have been portrayed as deviants, criminals, or threats to religion and traditional values thereby breaking “the fabric of society”. This type of reporting not only dehumanizes individuals but also fuels public hostility and justifies discrimination.

KEY INCIDENTS AND REPORTS:

Several key incidents and reports have played a crucial role in shaping the media narrative and public perception of LGBTQ+ individuals in Uganda even before 2023. These include:

- **“Kill the Gays” Bill (2009):** The initial proposal of this draconian bill, which sought to impose the death penalty for certain homosexual acts, garnered widespread media attention and sparked a global outcry. While the bill was eventually amended, the media’s sensationalized coverage cemented the association of homosexuality with criminality and deviance in the public consciousness.
- **Outing Campaigns (2010s):** Tabloid newspapers engaged in invasive outing campaigns, publishing names and photos of individuals suspected of being gay or lesbian. This practice not only violated privacy rights but also exposed individuals to harassment, discrimination, and violence.

- **Tabloid Sensationalism (Ongoing):** Tabloid newspapers continue to publish sensationalized stories about LGBTQ+ individuals, often focusing on salacious details or framing homosexuality as a Western import that threatens Ugandan values. This type of reporting fuels stigma and prejudice against the LGBTQ+ community.
- **Political Rhetoric:** Political figures have often used inflammatory language against LGBTQ+ individuals in their public statements and media appearances. This rhetoric, amplified by the media, further legitimizes discrimination and contributes to a hostile environment for the LGBTQ+ community.
- **Religious campaigns (2022):** In 2022, religious leaders and organizations in Uganda intensified their campaigns against LGBTQ+ individuals, significantly influencing public discourse and media coverage. Prominent figures delivered sermons and public condemnations of homosexuality, often amplified by media outlets. Religious organizations mobilized followers for anti-LGBTQ+ events, covered by the media, creating an illusion of widespread support for discriminatory measures. Behind the scenes, religious leaders lobbied politicians, contributing to the momentum that led to the 2023 Anti-Homosexuality Act. The promotion of harmful conversion therapy and social media campaigns further fueled anti-LGBTQ+ sentiment. These actions created a climate of fear and intolerance, normalizing discrimination and legitimizing violence against LGBTQ+ individuals. The media's often uncritical coverage further amplified these harmful messages, reinforcing existing prejudices and contributing to the social exclusion of the LGBTQ+ community.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

The cumulative effect of biased and discriminatory media coverage has inflicted severe and far-reaching consequences on the human rights of LGBTQ+ individuals in Uganda. These negative portrayals, often amplified by inflammatory political and religious rhetoric, have created a toxic environment where LGBTQ+ individuals face systemic discrimination, violence, and social exclusion, violating their fundamental rights and freedoms.

1. Right to Life and Security:

The most alarming consequence of negative media portrayals is the increased risk of violence and physical harm faced by LGBTQ+ individuals. Hate speech and dehumanizing language in the media can incite violence and create a climate of impunity for perpetrators. Several documented cases exist where individuals have been attacked, harassed, or even killed due to their perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, often fueled by the demonizing narratives perpetuated in the media.

2. Right to Privacy and Family Life:

Outing campaigns and invasive reporting practices violate the right to privacy of LGBTQ+ individuals, exposing them to social stigma, family rejection, and even physical harm. The fear of being outed by the media forces many to live in secrecy and isolation, depriving them of the right to freely express their identity and form meaningful relationships.

3. Right to Equality and Non-Discrimination:

Discriminatory media coverage reinforces societal prejudices and contributes to the denial of equal opportunities for LGBTQ+ individuals in various spheres of life. This includes discrimination in employment, housing, education, and healthcare, hindering their ability to participate fully in society and achieve their full potential.

4. Right to Health:

The stigmatization of LGBTQ+ individuals has a detrimental impact on their access to healthcare services. Many face discrimination and denial of care due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. This can lead to delayed diagnosis and treatment of illnesses, including HIV/AIDS, as well as mental health issues stemming from social isolation and trauma.

5. Right to Freedom of Expression:

The chilling effect of discriminatory laws and negative media coverage has stifled the voices of LGBTQ+ individuals and their allies. Self-censorship is widespread, as individuals fear being targeted or exposed by the media. This not only limits their ability to advocate for their rights but also deprives society of diverse perspectives and ideas.

6. Right to Freedom from Torture and Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment:

LGBTQ+ individuals are disproportionately subjected to various forms of violence, including physical and sexual assault, arbitrary arrest, and torture. Media representations that dehumanize and demonize LGBTQ+ individuals can indirectly contribute to such abuses by fostering a climate of intolerance and impunity.

THE IMPACT OF MEDIA ON PUBLIC PERCEPTION

Media's influence on public perception of LGBTQ+ individuals in Uganda is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon, encompassing not only traditional media outlets but also the increasingly pervasive role of social media platforms. The narratives disseminated through these channels have profoundly shaped public attitudes, often fueling stigma and discrimination while also, in some instances, fostering understanding and acceptance.

TRADITIONAL MEDIA'S INFLUENCE ON ATTITUDES AND STIGMA:

The dominant narrative in traditional Ugandan media, particularly in tabloids and certain mainstream outlets, has been overwhelmingly negative and dehumanizing towards LGBTQ+ individuals. This narrative has been propagated through:

- **Sensationalized Reporting:** News stories often focus on salacious details, framing homosexuality as a scandalous or immoral lifestyle choice. This approach not only violates the privacy and dignity of individuals but also reinforces harmful stereotypes.
- **Derogatory Language:** The use of derogatory and dehumanizing language, such as "abominable" or "unnatural," is common in media reports. This language not only fuels stigma but also contributes to a climate of intolerance and hate.
- **Linking Homosexuality to Foreign Influence:** Some media outlets portray homosexuality as a Western import, alien to Ugandan culture and values. This framing is often used to justify discrimination and deflect attention from the lived experiences of LGBTQ+ Ugandans.
- **Amplification of Anti-LGBTQ+ Rhetoric:** Media outlets often provide a platform for political and religious leaders who espouse anti-LGBTQ+ views. This amplification of discriminatory rhetoric further legitimizes prejudice and fuels public hostility.

The cumulative effect of this negative media portrayal has been a significant increase in social stigma and discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals. Many face rejection from family and friends, discrimination in employment and housing, denial of healthcare, and even physical violence. The fear of being outed or targeted by the media has forced many to live in secrecy and isolation.

SOCIAL MEDIA'S ROLE IN SHAPING PUBLIC OPINION:

Social media platforms have become powerful tools for both disseminating information and shaping public discourse. In Uganda, social media has played a dual role in relation to LGBTQ+ issues:

- **Platform for Advocacy and Community Building:** Social media has provided a vital space for LGBTQ+ individuals and their allies to connect, share information, mobilize support, and advocate for their rights. It has also allowed for the sharing of positive and empowering narratives that challenge dominant stereotypes.
- **Amplifier of Hate Speech and Misinformation:** Conversely, social media has also been weaponized to spread misinformation, hate speech, and calls for violence against LGBTQ+ individuals. The anonymity and rapid dissemination of information on social media can exacerbate existing prejudices and create an environment of fear and hostility.

The impact of social media on public perception is particularly potent among young people, who are often more active users of these platforms. The constant exposure to negative and discriminatory content can shape their attitudes and beliefs about LGBTQ+ individuals, further entrenching societal stigma.

ADDITIONAL IMPACTS ON PUBLIC PERCEPTION:

Beyond stigma and discrimination, media reporting has also influenced public perception in other ways:

- **Public Discourse:** Media coverage has stimulated public discussion about LGBTQ+ issues, albeit often in a polarized and contentious manner. This increased visibility has both positive and negative consequences, potentially leading to either greater understanding or further marginalization.
- **Policy Influence:** Media influences policy debates and legislative decisions. Negative media portrayals galvanize support for discriminatory laws, while positive coverage creates pressure for reform and protection of LGBTQ+ rights.
- **Mental Health:** The constant barrage of negative media portrayals can have a detrimental impact on the mental health of LGBTQ+ individuals, contributing to anxiety, depression, and other psychological distress.

It is crucial to recognize that the media's influence on public perception is not a one-way street. Public attitudes also shape media coverage, creating a feedback loop that either reinforce or challenge existing prejudices. Therefore, promoting media literacy and critical thinking which is essential in empowering individuals to question biased narratives and form their own informed opinions.

CHALLENGES AND THREATS FACED BY MINORITY GROUPS

The media's role in shaping public perception has a direct impact on the lives and well-being of LGBTQ+ persons in Uganda. The stigmatization and discrimination fueled by negative media portrayals, coupled with the punitive measures of the Anti-Homosexuality Act (AHA), have created a hostile environment where LGBTQ+ individuals face numerous challenges and threats.

SOCIAL OSTRACISM AND FAMILY REJECTION:

One of the most profound impacts of media-induced stigma is the breakdown of social ties and family relationships. LGBTQ+ individuals are often ostracized by their families, friends, and communities due to the prevailing negative attitudes and beliefs about homosexuality. This social isolation can lead to severe psychological distress, including depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation.

TESTIMONY:



My family disowned me after I was outed by a local tabloid in 2011. I lost my home, my support system, and my sense of belonging. It was the darkest period of my life.

Anonymous LGBTQ+ individual

DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING:

LGBTQ+ individuals face widespread discrimination in employment, often being denied job opportunities or fired due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. This economic marginalization exacerbates existing vulnerabilities and perpetuates poverty within the community. Similarly, finding safe and affordable housing is a significant challenge, as landlords refuse to rent to LGBTQ+ individuals or subject them to harassment.

TESTIMONY:



I was fired from my job shortly after the Anti-Homosexuality Act passed in 2023. My employer saw me interviewed in a news story during the Constitutional Court proceedings challenging the Act. I couldn't find work for months and had to rely on the kindness of friends to survive.

Anonymous LGBTQ+ individual

DENIAL OF HEALTHCARE AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES:

The stigma associated with homosexuality also leads to the denial of essential services, including healthcare. LGBTQ+ individuals are denied medical treatment, subjected to verbal abuse by healthcare providers. This discrimination has serious health consequences, including increased vulnerability to HIV/AIDS and other health conditions.

VIOLENCE AND PHYSICAL ASSAULT:

The AHA has created a climate of fear and impunity, emboldening perpetrators of violence against LGBTQ+ individuals. Reports of physical assault, harassment, and even murder have increased since the enactment of the law. Media reporting that dehumanizes LGBTQ+ individuals further incites violence by portraying LGBTQ+ persons as deserving of punishment.

TESTIMONY:



I was attacked by a group of men who accused me of being gay. They beat me and threatened to kill me. I was afraid to go to the police because I knew they wouldn't take me seriously.

Anonymous LGBTQ+ individual

SELF-CENSORSHIP AND PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS:

The constant threat of violence and discrimination has forced many LGBTQ+ individuals to live in secrecy and fear. They may avoid public spaces, refrain from expressing their identities, and self-censor their behavior to avoid detection. This self-imposed isolation can lead to severe psychological distress, including anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder.

The challenges and threats faced by LGBTQ+ individuals in Uganda are a direct consequence of the stigmatization and discrimination fueled by negative media portrayals and the punitive measures of the AHA. It is crucial to recognize the human cost of these discriminatory practices and to advocate for the protection of the rights and well-being of all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

CASE STUDY 1: THE RESURGENCE OF THE ANTI-HOMOSEXUALITY BILL (2022-2023)

The reintroduction and subsequent passage of the Anti-Homosexuality Act (AHA) in 2023 triggered a new wave of media attention and scrutiny on LGBTQ+ issues in Uganda. Media coverage during this period played a significant role in shaping public discourse and influencing the trajectory of the bill.

- **Polarized Coverage:** Media coverage was deeply divided, reflecting the polarized nature of public opinion on LGBTQ+ rights. Some outlets, particularly international media and independent platforms, provided critical analysis of the bill's discriminatory provisions, highlighting its potential impact on human rights and public health. These platforms also amplified the voices of LGBTQ+ activists and human rights defenders, providing a counter-narrative to the government's rhetoric.
- **Spread of Misinformation and Hate Speech:** Conversely, some local tabloids and social media platforms became hotbeds for misinformation and hate speech. False claims about the LGBTQ+ community, such as accusations of child recruitment and the spread of diseases, were widely circulated. This misinformation fueled public fear and hostility towards LGBTQ+ individuals, contributing to a climate of intolerance.
- **Impact on Legislative Process:** The media's intense focus on the AHA undoubtedly influenced the legislative process. The international outcry generated by critical media coverage put pressure on the Ugandan government, leading to some modifications in the final version of the bill. However, the law remains deeply discriminatory and continues to pose a significant threat to LGBTQ+ rights.
- **Consequences for LGBTQ+ Individuals:** The resurgence of the anti-homosexuality debate, fueled by media coverage, had a chilling effect on the LGBTQ+ community. Many individuals reported increased harassment, discrimination, and violence. The fear of being targeted under the new law forced many to go into hiding or flee the country.

This case study demonstrates the media's power to both inform and misinform the public on critical social issues. While some outlets played a crucial role in raising awareness about the discriminatory nature of the AHA, others contributed to the stigmatization and persecution of LGBTQ+ individuals by spreading misinformation and hate speech.

CASE STUDY 2: THE “PARLIAMENTARY AVENUE” RAID (2022)

In October 2022, Uganda police raided an LGBTQ+ shelter located in Kampala, arresting 16 individuals on charges of “carnal knowledge against the order of nature.” This incident garnered significant media attention and served as a microcosm of the challenges faced by the LGBTQ+ community in Uganda.

- **Sensationalized Reporting:** Many media outlets focused on the salacious details of the raid, emphasizing the alleged sexual activities of the individuals arrested. This sensationalized coverage dehumanized the victims and reinforced stereotypes about LGBTQ+ people as immoral and deviant.
- **Lack of Sensitivity and Respect:** Some media reports used derogatory language and misgendered the individuals arrested, further violating their dignity and privacy. This lack of sensitivity and respect for human rights was a blatant violation of journalistic ethics.
- **Impact on Public Perception:** The raid and subsequent media coverage contributed to a climate of fear and intimidation for the LGBTQ+ community. It reinforced the perception that LGBTQ+ individuals are criminals and threats to public order, further justifying discrimination and violence against them.
- **Legal Implications:** The Parliamentary Avenue raid and the media’s portrayal of it had legal implications as well. The accused individuals were subjected to a prolonged trial and faced harsh penalties under the existing anti-homosexuality laws. The media’s role in shaping public opinion and influencing the legal process cannot be ignored.

These case studies highlight the intersection of media, law enforcement, and public opinion in perpetuating discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals. The sensationalized and biased media coverage of the raid not only violated the rights of the victims but also contributed to a hostile environment where LGBTQ+ individuals are seen as legitimate targets for harassment and persecution.

LEGAL AND ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The media's role in reporting on LGBTQ+ issues in Uganda is fraught with legal and ethical complexities, especially in the context of the 2023 Anti-Homosexuality Act (AHA). While media outlets have a responsibility to inform the public and hold power to account, they must also navigate the legal restrictions and ethical obligations that come with reporting on marginalized and vulnerable communities.

LEGAL LANDSCAPE:

The AHA significantly curtails freedom of expression and imposes severe penalties for promoting or "abetting" homosexuality. This has created a chilling effect on media coverage, with journalists and outlets facing potential legal repercussions for reporting on LGBTQ+ issues in a way that could be construed as supportive or sympathetic. The law's vague wording and broad scope have further exacerbated this issue, leaving journalists unsure of what constitutes permissible reporting.

Furthermore, existing media laws and regulations, such as those related to hate speech and incitement to violence, are often selectively enforced, disproportionately targeting those who express views that challenge the dominant narrative on homosexuality. This creates an uneven playing field where anti-LGBTQ+ voices are amplified while pro-LGBTQ+ voices are silenced.

ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

Beyond legal considerations, media outlets have a moral and ethical obligation to uphold human rights and protect the dignity of all individuals, including LGBTQ+ people. This entails:

- **Accuracy and Fairness:** Journalists must strive for accuracy and fairness in their reporting, avoiding sensationalism, stereotypes, and discriminatory language. They should present diverse perspectives and provide context to ensure a balanced and nuanced understanding of complex issues.
- **Respect for Privacy:** Outing individuals without their consent is a grave violation of privacy and can expose them to harm. Journalists must respect the privacy and dignity of LGBTQ+ individuals and avoid practices that could endanger their safety or well-being.
- **Avoidance of Hate Speech:** Hate speech and incitement to violence are not only unethical but also illegal under international and domestic law. Media outlets must refrain from publishing content that promotes hatred or discrimination against any group, including LGBTQ+ individuals.
- **Amplifying Marginalized Voices:** Media outlets have a responsibility to provide a platform for marginalized voices and ensure that diverse perspectives are represented in the public discourse. This includes actively seeking out and amplifying the voices of LGBTQ+ individuals and their allies.
- **Challenging Stigma and Discrimination:** Ethical journalism goes beyond simply reporting facts; it also involves challenging stereotypes, questioning discriminatory practices, and promoting social justice. Media outlets can play a crucial role in combating stigma and discrimination by providing accurate information, fostering empathy, and advocating for human rights.

VIOLATIONS OF MEDIA ETHICS AND LAWS:

Unfortunately, there have been numerous instances where media outlets in Uganda have violated ethical guidelines and legal provisions in their reporting on LGBTQ+ issues. These violations include:

- **Outing individuals without consent:** Several tabloid newspapers have engaged in outing campaigns, exposing individuals to public scrutiny and potential harm.
- **Publishing hate speech and misinformation:** Some outlets have disseminated false information and used derogatory language to dehumanize and stigmatize LGBTQ+ individuals.
- **Amplifying discriminatory voices:** Certain media platforms have given disproportionate airtime to anti-LGBTQ+ voices, allowing them to spread hate speech and incite violence with impunity.
- **Self-censorship and fear of reprisals:** The AHA's chilling effect on freedom of expression has led to self-censorship among journalists, who fear legal repercussions for reporting on LGBTQ+ issues. This has limited the public's access to information and created an environment where discriminatory narratives can thrive.

THE WAY FORWARD:

To address these legal and ethical challenges, a multi-pronged approach is needed:

- **Legal Reforms:** Advocate for legal reforms that protect freedom of expression and decriminalize homosexuality. This would create a more enabling environment for journalists to report on LGBTQ+ issues without fear of reprisal.
- **Strengthening Media Accountability:** Establish independent media regulatory bodies with the power to monitor and sanction ethical violations. This would promote responsible reporting and deter the spread of hate speech and misinformation.
- **Promoting Media Literacy:** Educate the public on media literacy and critical thinking skills to empower them to identify biased or harmful content and demand accountability from media outlets.
- **Supporting Independent Journalism:** Provide financial and logistical support to independent media outlets that are committed to ethical reporting and amplifying marginalized voices.
- **Building Solidarity:** Foster collaboration and solidarity among journalists, human rights defenders, and civil society organizations to advocate for media freedom and protect the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings of this report underscore the urgent need for collective action to address the harmful impact of media on LGBTQ+ individuals in Uganda. A multi-faceted approach is required, involving media organizations, regulatory bodies, civil society, government agencies, and the international community. The following recommendations provide a roadmap for fostering a more ethical, responsible, and inclusive media landscape.

FOR MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS:

1. **Adhere to Ethical Guidelines:** Media outlets must strictly adhere to established ethical guidelines, such as those outlined in the Uganda Journalists' Code of Ethics. This includes prioritizing accuracy, fairness, balance, and respect for human dignity in reporting on LGBTQ+ issues.
2. **Avoid Sensationalism and Stereotypes:** Journalists should refrain from sensationalizing stories about LGBTQ+ individuals or relying on harmful stereotypes. Instead, they should focus on humanizing stories, providing context, and highlighting the diversity of experiences within the community.
3. **Protect Sources and Privacy:** Media outlets must take extra precautions to protect the identity and privacy of LGBTQ+ individuals who may be at risk of harm due to exposure. Confidential sources should be handled with the utmost care, and outing individuals without their consent should be strictly prohibited.
4. **Invest in Training and Education:** Media organizations should invest in comprehensive training programs for journalists on ethical reporting, sensitivity towards marginalized communities, and the legal framework surrounding LGBTQ+ rights. This will equip journalists with the knowledge and skills necessary for responsible and informed reporting.
5. **Promote Diversity and Inclusion:** Media outlets should strive to create a more diverse and inclusive newsroom that reflects the diversity of Ugandan society. This includes hiring LGBTQ+ journalists and providing them with opportunities to share their perspectives and expertise.

FOR REGULATORY BODIES:

1. **Enforce Existing Laws:** Regulatory bodies, such as the Uganda Communications Commission, must consistently enforce existing laws and regulations related to hate speech, incitement to violence, and defamation. This includes holding media outlets accountable for violations and imposing appropriate sanctions.
2. **Develop Clear Guidelines:** Develop clear and comprehensive guidelines for reporting on LGBTQ+ issues that align with international human rights standards and best practices in journalism. These guidelines should be widely disseminated and incorporated into journalism training programs.
3. **Monitor and Evaluate Media Coverage:** Establish mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating media coverage of LGBTQ+ issues to identify patterns of bias, discrimination, or ethical violations. This could involve regular content analysis, public opinion surveys, and engagement with civil society organizations.

FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS:

1. **Advocate for Legal Reforms:** Civil society organizations should continue to advocate for legal reforms that decriminalize homosexuality and protect freedom of expression. This includes challenging discriminatory laws and regulations that restrict media freedom and stifle critical voices.

2. **Provide Support and Resources:** Offer support and resources to LGBTQ+ individuals who have been harmed by media exposure, such as legal aid, counseling, and safe spaces. This will help mitigate the negative impact of media on their lives and well-being.
3. **Engage in Media Monitoring and Advocacy:** Monitor media coverage of LGBTQ+ issues and publicly call out instances of unethical or discriminatory reporting. Engage in dialogue with media organizations to promote responsible reporting and advocate for greater representation of LGBTQ+ voices.

FOR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

1. **Protect Freedom of Expression:** The Ugandan government must uphold its international obligations to protect freedom of expression and ensure that journalists can report on LGBTQ+ issues without fear of reprisal. This includes refraining from using the AHA or other laws to silence critical voices or stifle independent media.
2. **Engage in Dialogue:** Initiate a constructive dialogue with media organizations, civil society, and LGBTQ+ community leaders to develop strategies for promoting responsible reporting and combating discrimination in the media.

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY:

1. **Apply Diplomatic Pressure:** International governments and organizations should continue to apply diplomatic pressure on the Ugandan government to repeal the AHA and uphold its human rights obligations. This includes publicly condemning discriminatory laws and practices and supporting local activists and organizations working to protect LGBTQ+ rights.
2. **Support Independent Media:** Provide financial and technical assistance to independent media outlets in Uganda that are committed to ethical reporting and amplifying marginalized voices. This will help create a more diverse and inclusive media landscape.

MEDIA RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Promoting ethical journalism and responsible reporting is paramount in mitigating the negative impact of media on minority groups. Media outlets wield significant power in shaping public discourse and influencing societal attitudes. With this power comes a profound responsibility to uphold human rights, promote diversity, and ensure accurate and fair representation of all communities.

To foster greater media responsibility and accountability, the following actions are recommended:

- **Establish Independent Oversight Mechanisms:** The creation of an independent media council or ombudsman's office can provide a platform for addressing complaints, investigating ethical violations, and holding media outlets accountable for their reporting practices. This body should have the authority to impose sanctions for breaches of ethical codes and should be accessible to both journalists and the public.

- **Strengthen Media Self-Regulation:** Media organizations should strengthen their internal self-regulatory mechanisms, such as editorial boards and ethics committees, to ensure compliance with ethical guidelines and promote a culture of responsible reporting within their newsrooms.
- **Promote Transparency and Disclosure:** Media outlets should be transparent about their ownership structures, funding sources, and potential conflicts of interest. This transparency can help the public assess the credibility and independence of media reporting.
- **Invest in Media Literacy Education:** Promoting media literacy among the public is crucial in empowering individuals to critically analyze media content, identify biased or harmful narratives, and demand accountability from media outlets. This can be achieved through educational programs in schools, community workshops, and public awareness campaigns.
- **Facilitate Dialogue and Collaboration:** Encourage regular dialogue and collaboration between media organizations, civil society groups, LGBTQ+ activists, and other stakeholders to foster mutual understanding, address concerns, and develop solutions collaboratively.
- **Support Investigative Journalism:** Investigative journalism plays a crucial role in uncovering human rights abuses and holding those in power accountable. Supporting independent investigative journalism can help expose discriminatory practices, challenge official narratives, and promote greater transparency and accountability.

By embracing these recommendations, media outlets in Uganda can contribute to a more inclusive, informed, and respectful society. The media has the power to either perpetuate discrimination or promote understanding. Embracing responsibility and accountability is not only an ethical imperative but also a strategic investment in a more just and equitable future for all Ugandans.

CONCLUSION

This report has illuminated the complex and often troubling relationship between media, public opinion, and the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals in Uganda. The findings underscore the undeniable influence that media narratives wield in shaping public perception and, consequently, the lived experiences of marginalized communities. While some media outlets have sought to promote understanding and challenge discrimination, the dominant narrative has been one of stigmatization, fear-mongering, and outright hostility towards LGBTQ+ individuals. This has fueled prejudice, discrimination, and violence, exacerbating the challenges faced by this already vulnerable community.

The enactment of the Anti-Homosexuality Act in 2023 has further intensified these challenges, creating a legal and social environment that is increasingly hostile to LGBTQ+ individuals. The media's coverage of the AHA and related issues has often mirrored this hostility, with some outlets amplifying discriminatory rhetoric and perpetuating harmful stereotypes. This has not only endangered the physical safety and well-being of LGBTQ+ Ugandans but also undermined their fundamental human rights.

However, the media also possesses the potential to be a powerful force for positive change. By adhering to ethical guidelines, promoting responsible reporting, and amplifying marginalized voices, media outlets can play a crucial role in combating discrimination, fostering understanding, and advocating for the rights of all individuals. The recommendations outlined in this report provide a roadmap for achieving this goal, but their successful implementation requires the collective commitment of media organizations, regulatory bodies, civil society, government agencies, and the international community.

The fight for LGBTQ+ rights in Uganda is far from over. The media has a critical role to play in this ongoing struggle. By embracing its responsibility to uphold human rights, promote diversity, and challenge discrimination, the media can contribute to a more just, equitable, and inclusive society for all Ugandans.

ROW LABELS

BURUNDI

<https://www.africanews.com/2023/03/09/burundis-homosexuality-crackdown-24-people-prosecuted/>

A court in Burundi has charged 24 people with “homosexual practices,” a judicial source and a human rights activist in the East African country, which is waging a crackdown on homosexuals, told AFP. After interrogations which lasted about ten days, 17 men and seven women “were charged with homosexual practices and incitement to homosexual practices by the public prosecutor before being imprisoned in the central prison of Gitega”, the capital, announced Wednesday evening to AFP Mr. Armel Niyongere, the president of ACAT-Burundi, which defends human rights. They will remain in prison until their trial, he added. A judicial source, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed their indictment.

Burundi's homosexuality crackdown: 24 people prosecuted

AFRICA NEWS

9/3/2023

<https://www.africanews.com/2023/03/14/ngos-call-on-burundi-to-release-five-human-rights-defenders/>

A group of human rights NGOs on Tuesday urged the Burundian authorities to release five human rights defenders arrested on charges of rebellion and undermining state security “immediately” and to stop “intimidating” civil society. The activists were arrested by the intelligence services on 14 February as four of them were about to fly to Uganda from the economic capital Bujumbura, and subsequently charged with these offences. The Burundian authorities must immediately and unconditionally release the five human rights defenders arbitrarily arrested” and “drop the baseless charges against them,” Amnesty International, the Burundi Human Rights Initiative and Human Rights Watch (HRW) wrote in a statement, denouncing these proceedings as “intimidating other activists.

NGOs call on Burundi to release five human rights defenders

AFRICA NEWS

14/02/2023

DRC

<https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/news/east-africa/lgbtq-merchandise-raise-controversy-at-drc-mining-conference-4270962>

Controversy erupted at a key mining conference in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) after merchandise said to promote gay, lesbian queer and other special sexual groups were distributed at the venue. The mining conference known as the DRC Mining Week had opened its 18th edition on Wednesday in Lubumbashi, in the south of the country. But the appearance of rainbow-coloured bags on the first day of the conference annoyed some groups. “The promotion of homosexuality is against our morals, our values and our laws. And we won’t let this sham pass!” protested a group calling itself the Civil Society of Lubumbashi, in a statement.

LGBTQ ‘merchandise’ ignite dispute at DR Congo mining conference

THE EAST AFRICAN

15/06/2023

KENYA

<https://nation.africa/kenya/news/politics/journalist-assaulted-as-police-disperse-babu-supporters--4310888>

The Judiciary has since come out to condemn the harassment of journalists covering the arraignment of the MP at Milimani Law Courts. It asked police to uphold proper conduct within court precincts. “We condemn in the strongest terms any harassment of the media in their line of duty, anywhere and particularly within court precincts,” the Judiciary said in a statement released on July 21. “We expect all persons, especially our justice sector partners, to exhibit the highest standards of conduct in our courtrooms and within court precincts. The conduct of all justice actors must at all times promote and uphold the rule of law and build public confidence in the justice system.

Judiciary condemns harassment of journalists covering Babu Owino arraignment

NATION AFRICA

21/07/2023

<https://www.africanews.com/2022/09/29/kenya-bans-movies-with-lgbtq-content-by-streaming-platforms/>

Kenya has banned all movies containing LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer) content. the Kenya Film Classification Board (KFCB) CEO, Christopher Wambua reiterated this in an interview with local media on Friday saying that same-sex films and movies are prohibited in the Kenyan Constitution hence the board will continue its crackdown on such content in the mainstream media. "The country's laws do not allow LGBTQ+ content or even relationships. Even as we rate and classify content, we also consider other applicable laws," Wambua said.

Kenya bans movies with LGBTQ+ content by streaming platforms

AFRICA NEWS

22/07/2023

<https://www.africanews.com/2023/01/11/kenya-murdered-lgbtq-activist-was-suffocated-to-death//>

The Kenya LGBTQ+ activist whose body was found last week in a trunk was smothered, with socks found in his mouth, a government official said Wednesday after an autopsy. The body of Edwin Chiloba, a 25-year-old designer and model, was found on January 4 in a trunk on the side of the road in the Rift Valley in the west of the country. "According to our findings, he died as a result of asphyxiation caused by suffocation," Johansen Oduor told a press conference after the autopsy. "He was suffering from what we call cyanosis. When you look at his fingernails, they were bluish, which indicates that he was lacking oxygen when he died," Johansen Oduor continued, saying that socks were found in the victim's mouth.

Kenya: Murdered LGBTQ activist was suffocated to death

AFRICA NEWS

11/1/2023

<https://www.africanews.com/2023/03/10/kenyan-launches-lgbtq-crackdown-in-schools//>

The new strategy will see the government establish chaplaincies in schools, minister Ezekiel Machogu told senators on Thursday. There are fears the programme could see misinformation about LGBTQ people and same-sex relationships taught in schools. Gay sex remains illegal but anti-gay attitudes have been hardening after last month's ruling by the Supreme Court upholding the gay community's right to register an association. A committee has already been formed to deal with LGBTQ issues in schools, the minister said and suggested its role could include reviewing school literature. It will be headed by an archbishop from the Anglican Church in Kenya.

The Ministry of Education in Kenya has initiated a campaign to address the perceived infiltration of LGBTQ advocacy in schools

AFRICA NEWS KENYA

10/3/2023

<https://www.africanews.com/2023/03/25/lgbtq-community-in-kenya-living-under-fear//>

The recent approval of anti-gay legislation in Uganda set off the alarm in neighbouring Kenya also in the grip of anti-gay sentiment. Last month, Kenya's Supreme Court ruled against a petition seeking to bar LGBTQ lobbying groups, sparking a torrent of condemnation including from the attorney general. Jasmine Nelima is a lesbian woman in Kenya who admits she lives in fear. "The court (Kenya Supreme Court, Ed.) has done a good thing to accept us the way we are and as we walk outside we know the courts acknowledge us but the main issue is that our President has declined to acknowledge the LGBTQ community in Kenya and that makes us live in hiding", she confessed. In Kenya, gay sex remains a crime under colonial-era laws with penalties including prison terms of up to 14 years. "Like now my landlord has given me the notice to vacate his rental house, why? It's because my visitors are my lesbian and gay friends. Not because I am making noise in the plot (Apartment) but because my friends are seen coming in.

LGBTQ community in Kenya living under fear

AFRICA NEWS

25/03/2023

<https://www.africanews.com/2023/05/02/ugandan-lawmakers-pass-new-version-of-tough-anti-gay-bill//>

HEADLINES OF HATE

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Faced with the international outcry, President Yoweri Museveni asked parliamentarians on April 26 to “re-examine” the text, urging them to clarify that “being homosexual” was not a crime but that only sexual relations were. The elected officials heard him on this provision. The new version of the text, consulted by AFP, stipulates that “a person who is presumed or suspected to be homosexual, who has not committed a sexual act with another person of the same sex, does not commit the crime of homosexuality. In this country where homosexuality is illegal, “acts of homosexuality” are still punishable by life imprisonment. This penalty has existed since a law dating back to British colonization. Parliamentarians also maintained, against the advice of the head of state, a provision making “aggravated homosexuality” a capital offence, which means that repeat offenders can be sentenced to death. The death penalty has not been used in Uganda for years.

Uganda's parliament on Tuesday passed an amended version of an anti-LGBT+ law that had sparked outrage from many NGOs and Western governments in which it maintained harsh penalties for same-sex relationships and the “promotion” of homosexuality.

AFRICA NEWS KENYA

22//2023

<https://www.africanews.com/2023/07/18/kenya-on-the-verge-of-tabling-anti-lgbtq-bill-in-parliament/>

With Kenya on the verge of tabling anti-LGBT legislation in parliament, advocacy groups in the US have called for a halt to trade talks between the two countries. Led by MP George Peter Kaluma, a member of opposition politician Raila Odinga's Orange Democratic Movement, the proposed bill would further criminalize same-sex acts with penalties ranging from a suggested minimum of ten years in prison to the death penalty for “aggravated homosexuality”, defined as “engaging in homosexual acts with a minor or disabled person and transmitting a terminal disease through sexual means.” The proposed Family Protection Act would also see a total ban on any activities “that promote homosexuality”, such as wearing flags or emblems of the LGBTQ community. Kenya already criminalizes same-sex acts with penalties of up to 14 years in prison. Kaluma's campaign has horrified advocacy groups, including a coalition in the United States who have called on President Biden to suspend trade talks

Kenya on the verge of tabling anti-LGBTQ bill in parliament

AFRICA NEWS

18/07/2023

<https://www.news24.com/news24/africa/news/kenya-could-follow-uganda-as-east-african-nations-wage-war-on-lgbt-rights-20230625>

Mohamed Ali, a member of Kenya's parliament, denies the existence of gay Africans and claims homosexuality is a Western invention forced on the continent is determined to pass legislation cracking down on LGBTQ individuals and would prioritize it even if he were in intensive care. Kenya, along with Tanzania and South Sudan, is considering enacting anti-LGBT laws similar to Uganda's recently passed draconian legislation, punishing gay sex with imprisonment and even death in some cases. Mohamed Ali doesn't believe gay Africans exist. He says homosexuality is a Western invention imposed on the continent. Openly gay Africans are liars seeking visas to the West or money from rights groups, he adds. Ali is a member of Kenya's parliament. He is desperate to follow neighbor Uganda by unleashing a sweeping legislative crackdown on LGBTQ people. Even if he happened to be sick in intensive care, he would ask to be dragged to parliament to approve it. “I will ask them to take me to vote for that, to kick them out, kick LGBT people out of Kenya completely” he said.

Kenya could follow Uganda as East African nations wage war on LGBT rights

NEWS 24

25/06/2023

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/5050/edwin-chiloba-murder-lgbtq-kenya-africa/>

It was a Sunday afternoon in early January when congregants streamed into the Cosmopolitan Affirming Church (CAC), Nairobi's only LGBT-inclusive church, for a service that would be different from the usual. “As a body of faith, we cannot close our eyes to what's happening around us,” said Caroline Omolo, one of the lead pastors of the church. “Edwin Chiloba was one of us.” Edwin Kiprotich Chiloba, a gay rights activist, fashion designer and model, was found dead on 3 January 2023. Police said he had been strangled and his body stuffed in a metal box, before being dumped by Kipkenyo-Hurlingham road in Kenya's Rift Valley area. Eight days later, government pathologist Johansen Oduor told journalists a post-mortem examination had found Chiloba died of asphyxia, with socks stuffed in his mouth and a piece of his jeans tied around his nose and mouth. In the LGBTIQ community and among human rights defenders, news of Chiloba's violent death triggered strong suspicions that it was a hate crime. A statement was released by Q-Initiative, an LGBTIQ rights organization based in Eldoret, the town on whose outskirts Chiloba's body was found. It urged the Kenyan government to address “the underlying issues which contribute to inequality and heinous crimes against LGBTQ Kenyans”.

Murder of gay activist triggers trauma for Kenya's LGBTIQ community

OPEN DEMOCRACY

12/1/2023

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/5050/kenya-supreme-court-lgbt-gay-rights-organisations-register-backlash/>

At an upmarket coffee shop in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, in late February, I met with three young businessmen to discuss a recent Supreme Court ruling in favour of an LGBTIQ+ rights organisation. All three had come to identify as gay when they were at school together years ago. Now, as they analysed their social media feeds, they concluded that few people were celebrating the court's decision. Most were outraged by it. They discussed the possibility of homophobic attacks, and the man who lived in an uptown neighbourhood offered his home as sanctuary to the others if they felt unsafe. "We are grateful for those who came before us, for the fight they put up. This is a victory that we celebrate," one of the men, Collin, said. "But this fight is definitely far from over, you can see from the reactions that it will be a rough journey to freedom and acceptance," added another, Martin.

A pro-LGBTIQ court ruling in Kenya sparks hope despite a fierce backlash

OPEN DEMOCRACY

9/3/2023

<https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2001467772/supreme-court-gays-and-lesbians-have-a-right-of-association>

The Supreme Court of Kenya on Friday, February 24 ruled that the NGO Board's decision to bar homosexuals from forming recognised groups is discriminatory. The court stated that despite homosexuality being illegal in Kenya, members of the LGBTQ still have a right of association. Deputy Chief Justice Philomena Mwilu, Justice Smokin Wanjala and Justice Njoki Ndung'u ruled in the majority side on the issue.

Supreme Court: Gays and lesbians have a right of association

STANDARD MEDIA KENYA

24/02/2023

<https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/nairobi/article/2001469793/journalists-covering-azimio-protests-attacked-arrested>

Journalists covering the Azimio protest in Kibra, Nairobi, have been attacked by goons and their property stolen. The incident has left one of Citizen TV crew members injured and a mobile phone stolen. The Standard's photojournalist Denish Ochieng says a reporter from an international media house who was in the company of the Citizen TV crew was also caught up in the incident

Journalists covering Azimio protests attacked, arrested

STANDARD MEDIA KENYA

21/07/2023

<https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/news/east-africa/president-museveni-defends-uganda-anti-lgbtq-law-4254402>

Twenty-four hours after the US government led its European allies in attacking Uganda over the new Anti-Homosexuality Act, President Yoweri Museveni has defended his decision to sign the Bill into law, calling on all Ugandans to remain firm. He rallied the country around the law just as the World Bank Group became the latest West-leaning enterprise to signal it may also withhold funding to Uganda because of the law. "The other time when I met you at Kololo, I said you people should be ready for a war. And you cannot fight a war when you are a pleasure seeker, if you like a soft life. So, war is not for soft life," Mr Museveni told MPs attending the ruling party's parliamentary caucus retreat in Kyankwanzi yesterday. A statement released by the Presidential Press Unit, quoted Mr Museveni to have observed that homosexuality is a serious issue with grave consequences for the human race. He is reported to have applauded mps for overwhelmingly voting for the law, acknowledging that they were "fighting for the right cause".

President Museveni defends Uganda anti-LGBTQ law

THE EAST AFRICAN

1/6/2023

<https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/oped/comment/rainbow-flag-divide-is-going-to-emerge-within-east-africa-4172362>

HEADLINES OF HATE

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Going into this week, Uganda already had the most severe anti-homosexuality law in the East African Community, punishing the “unnatural act” with up to life imprisonment. On Tuesday, a fully charged Parliament passed a controversial new law that raised the stakes, providing death as the penalty for “aggravated homosexuality.” By so doing, Uganda set itself apart from an already fairly homophobic East Africa, throwing its lot with Nigeria, Mauritania, Sudan and Somalia as the only countries in Africa where homosexuality is punishable by death.

In the years ahead, a rainbow flag divide is going to emerge within East Africa

THE EAST AFRICAN

25/03/2023

<https://www.voanews.com/a/five-suspects-held-in-murder-of-kenyan-lgbtq-activist/6911654.html>

A court in Kenya says five suspects are being held in connection with the murder of prominent LGBTQ activist Edwin Chiloba, whose mutilated body was found on a roadside last week stuffed in a metal trunk. Kenyan police say they are investigating a possible love triangle as motive for the killing. Rights activists suspect the killing was one in a series of hate crimes in Kenya, where homosexuality is illegal. Among the five suspects arraigned in court in Eldoret Monday was Jacktone Odhiambo, a freelance photographer said to be a longtime friend of the 25-year-old Chiloba, who was a leading activist in Kenya's LGBTQ community.

Five Suspects Held in Murder of Kenyan LGBTQ Activist

VOA NEWS

15/01/2023

<https://www.voanews.com/a/kenyan-gay-rights-activist-found-dead/6906876.html>

NAIROBI, KENYA — Kenyan police are investigating the apparent killing of a gay model and activist. LGBTQ rights groups allege he was the victim of a hate crime. The body of Edwin Chiloba, an LGBTQ activist, was found Wednesday in the western Kenyan town of Kapsaret. Police say the body, which had multiple stab wounds, had been stuffed into a metal box that was left along the side of a road. Now, rights campaigners are raising concerns about the safety of the LGBTQ community in Kenya.

Kenyan Police Investigate LGBTQ Activist's Death

VOA NEWS

6/1/2023

RWANDA

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/lgbtq-rwandan-designer-held-on-forged-passport-claims-4217456>

Moses Turahirwa, 35, was taken into custody on Thursday after sharing a photograph on Instagram of their passport, indicating their gender as female.

LGBTQ Rwandan designer held on forged passport claims

DAILY MONITOR

29/04/2023

<https://www.newtimes.co.rw/article/6311/news/rwanda-recognises-queer-community-in-new-sex-education-book>

Rwanda's Gender ministry, on March 31, launched a Comprehensive Sexuality Education Toolkit, which recognises and promotes education about genderqueer and different sexual orientations. In the new book, titled 'Amahitamo Yanjye', (loosely, 'My Choice'), gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation are explained using new Kinyarwanda terminologies, such as 'abagabogore' and 'igitsina cya gatatu'. The toolkit is an out-of-school material for adolescents and young people aged from 10-24 years, and among other things, it argues that there is no relationship between gender and sex. The book is a joint effort by, among others, the Ministry of Health, Rwanda Biomedical Centre, and Plan International.

Rwanda recognises queer community in new sex education book

NEWTIMES RWANDA

16/06/2023

TANZANIA

<https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/east-africa-news/us-revokes-visa-of-uganda-s-parliament-speaker-over-anti-homosexuality-law-4250844>

The US has revoked the visas of Uganda's Speaker of Parliament, Anita Among, with lawmaker Asuman Basalirwa saying she is the first victim of likely sanctions after the East African nation lawed an anti-LGBTQ legislation.

US revokes visa of Uganda's Parliament Speaker over anti-homosexuality law

THE CITIZEN

29/05/2023

<https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/east-africa-news/us-updates-uganda-travel-warning-over-anti-gay-law-4268520>

The United States said it has updated its travel warning for Uganda following the adoption of draconian anti-gay legislation last month, a move Kampala branded "blackmail".

US updates Uganda travel warning over anti-gay law

THE CITIZEN

13/06/2023

UGANDA

<https://ankoletimes.co.ug/2023/07/21/journalists-attacked-as-fdc-officials-clash-over-party-elections/>

On July 20, 2023, FDC Chairman Ambassador Wasswa Birigwa was blocked from holding a press conference at the party headquarters in Najjanankumbi. He was accused of trying to take over the party EC's responsibilities by suspending elections. A group of over 40 individuals allegedly under the command of FDC President Patrick Amuriat attacked and assaulted journalists present at the party offices. They damaged their equipment and stole three mobile phones. A specific journalist, Ainembabazi Nowamani from New Vision, was severely assaulted, and her iPhone was stolen.

Journalists Attacked as FDC Officials Clash Over Party Elections

ANKOLE TIMES

21/07/2023

<https://capitalradio.co.ug/news/2022-12-21-church-of-uganda-to-separate-from-the-church-of-england/>

Following numerous protests against the promotion of same-sex marriage, the Church of Uganda has announced it will officially break off from the Church of England should the House of Bishops in England pass a resolution to promote same-sex marriage.

The Church of England (C of E) is the established Christian church in England and the mother church of the international Anglican Communion.

Church of Uganda to separate from the Church of England.

CAPITALRADIO

12/21/2022

<https://chimpreports.com/uganda-anti-homosexuality-law-global-fund-unaid-and-pepfar-are-deeply-concerned/>

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), and the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), have expressed concern over President Museveni's signing of the Anti-Homosexuality Bill into law.

Uganda Anti-Homosexuality Law: Global Fund, UNAIDS and PEPFAR are 'Deeply Concerned'

CHIMP REPORTS

29/05/2023

<https://newslexpoint.com/the-church-of-uganda-will-not-deviate-from-bible-marriage-teachings-archbishop-kazimba-mugalu/>

HEADLINES OF HATE

2024

I want to make it very clear that @ChurchofUganda_ will always uphold the Bible's teaching that marriage is between one man and one woman. And that is the God-ordained context for sexual relationships. We DON'T and we WON'T support fornication, adultery, and homosexuality.

Church Of Uganda Will Not Deviate From Bible Marriage Teachings – Archbishop Kazimba Mugalu

NEWSLEXPOINT

12/24/2022

<https://nilepost.co.ug/2022/12/20/kaziimba-urges-parents-to-protect-children-from-promoters-of-homosexuality/>

Archbishop of Church of Uganda Samuel Stephen Kaziimba Mugalu has warned students, parents, and teachers against unscrupulous people who he said are trying to attract children into homosexuality by promising them money and sponsorship.

Mugalu urged parents to watch over their children during the school holidays and spend time with them, and discipline them.

Kaziimba urges parents to protect children from promoters of homosexuality

NEXT MEDIA

DECEMBER 20, 2022

<https://observer.ug/education/76103-guard-learners-against-gay-trends-this-holiday-season-warn-experts>

Last month, former homosexual-turned-anti-gay activist Elisha Mukisa candidly opened up to The Observer how many young learners are recruited into the gay movement. Using his experience as a 17-year-old in 2013, Mukisa said he was lured into the vice through a friend who invited him to a workshop. What started as an enlightenment on human rights later descended into an indoctrination into the gay world.

Guard learners against gay trends this holiday season, warn experts

THE OBSERVER

12/9/2022

<https://observer.ug/news/headlines/75572-how-ugandan-boys-get-into-gay-ranks>

Over the past few weeks, a viral video in which Elisha Mukisa explicitly breaks down the homosexuality network and its exploitation of young people sparked fury and a huge debate on various social media forums.

Homosexuality is illegal in Uganda and is punishable by law under the Penal Code. In the clip, Mukisa, 26, detailed how he was exploited into joining homosexuality as a 17-year-old student through student groups by the NGO Small Minorities Uganda (SMUG).

How Ugandan boys get into gay ranks

THE OBSERVER

10/19/2022

<https://observer.ug/news/headlines/78200-25-students-of-lhubiriha-ss-killed-by-suspected-adf-rebels>

At least 37 students of Lhubiriha secondary school, in Mpondwe, Kasese district in western have been killed by suspected Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) rebels. The school had 63 students in the boarding section. According to information from the school administration, the suspected rebels attacked the school at around 11:30 pm on Friday shortly after the students had returned from the evening preps. Mary Musoki a teacher at the school said the gunmen who also carried other killer objects first stormed the school director's home and demanded money from his wife who was alone at the time. Shortly after, they stormed the male and female dormitories cutting their victims into pieces and shooting them. They later set a section of the school block on fire. Tai Ramadhan, the Bwera division DPC says they are searching for other students who are still missing. By the time of filling this story, security organs led by the UPDF and police had cordoned off the school. In a statement released by the army, 37 bodies have been recovered while 8 students are nursing injuries at Bwera hospital. Another 3 were rescued alive while six were abducted according to army spokesperson Brig Gen Felix Kulayigye. He said that the UPDF and the police are pursuing the suspected rebels towards Virunga national park. The attack on the school brings fresh memories of the 1998 attack on Kichwamba Technical Institute in Kabarole district by ADF rebels. The rebels killed 80 students and also abducted several during the attack. On Monday, more than 100 Congolese nationals entered Mpondwe-Lubiriha Town Council following suspected ADF attacks on local communities. Eight people are reported to have been killed during the attack.

37 students of Lhubiriha SS killed by suspected ADF rebels in Kasese

THE OBSERVER

17/06/2023

<https://observer.ug/news/headlines/78331-one-month-on-anti-homosexuality-law-yet-to-bite>

On May 26, 2023, President Museveni signed the Anti-Homosexuality bill into law, thereby criminalizing LGBT activities. Under the new Anti-Homosexuality Act, it is an offense to groom or traffic children for purposes of engaging them in homosexuality and individuals or institutions which support or fund LGBT rights' activities face prosecution and imprisonment. During debate on the bill, one of the most contentious issues was the purported recruitment of people, especially minors, into gay activities. Emotions ran high, fueled by passionate pleas from both sides of the argument. Supporters of the Act argued that it was crucial to protect the moral fabric of Ugandan society, particularly its youth. Asuman Basalirwa, the architect of the bill, painted a vivid picture of a network that clandestinely seduces young minds into the world of homosexuality. Fueled by these concerns, the Act was passed amid cheers and applause, heralding a new era of strict regulations and penalties for homosexual acts. However, one month into the law, the biggest concern among sexual offenses seems to be the rising cases of defilement and rape.

One month on, Anti-Homosexuality law yet to bite

OBSERVER

28/06/2023

<https://observer.ug/news/headlines/78344-ethiopians-decry-social-media-ban>

Four months into a social media ban, communications businesses and civil rights groups in Ethiopia are feeling the impact. Strict regulations are making it harder for them to reach audiences or verify information. In March, the country blocked access to Facebook, TikTok, Telegram and YouTube nationwide following a disagreement with the country's Orthodox Church, where some religious leaders called for protests. But human rights groups, including Amnesty International, have said the ban violates freedom of expression and goes against Ethiopia's constitution, laws and international treaties. "The restriction further stains the country's already dismal record on media freedom," Flavia Mwangovya, Amnesty's deputy director for East and Southern Africa,

Ethiopians decry social media ban

OBSERVER

30/06/2023

<https://observer.ug/news/headlines/78401-anti-homosexuality-act-starts-to-bite-as-ngos-operate-on-edge-and-inject-drugs>

Before the enactment of AHA, there was hardly a day when the offices of Uganda Harm Reduction Network (UHRN) were not flooded with people. Located in Makindye, UHRN is a popular hub at supporting and addressing issues of people who use and inject drugs (PWUIDs), especially youth. Last week, The Observer tour of the place found it deserted. Twaibu Wamala, the UHRN executive director, told us that the enactment of the AHA has had a significant impact on the operations of UHRN and several other NGOs. It is easy to understand why; with the combination of the "promotion" provision and the "duty to report" provision, the law effectively turns everyone on Ugandan soil into de facto spies for the state. This means that individuals are not only required to report persons engaged in same-sex acts but also individuals who support or encourage homosexuality, including friends, and family members, as well as organizations and establishments that normalize or support homosexuality, such as hotels and landlords renting rooms to same-sex couples.

<https://observer.ug/news/headlines/78415-state-asks-court-to-dismiss-petitions-against-anti-homosexuality-law>

The attorney general has asked the Constitutional court to dismiss three petitions challenging the Anti-Homosexuality Act, 2023 on grounds that they were filed in bad faith. According to AG Kiryowa Kiwanuka, the petitions are not only brought in bad faith but were filed with intentions to destroy and overthrow the constitutional social order by seeking court orders for the protection of an unconstitutional and illegal act of homosexuality.

State asks court to dismiss petitions against Anti-homosexuality law

OBSERVER

6/7/2023

<https://observer.ug/news/headlines/78565-middle-east-consultants-officials-convicted-for-attempting-to-traffic-50-migrant-workers>

HEADLINES OF HATE

2024

The International Crimes Division of the High court has convicted two employees of Middle East Consultants company for attempting to traffic 50 migrant workers. The convicts are Godfrey Kyalimpa, the recruitment and vetting officer, and the general manager, Benon Kunywana. Justice Richard Wejuli Wabwire convicted the duo after entering into a plea bargain with the state, accepting the charges in exchange for a lighter sentence. They were convicted on three charges, which include promoting trafficking and forgery of clearance lists.

Middle East Consultants officials convicted for attempting to traffic 50 migrant workers

OBSERVER

19/07/2023

<https://observer.ug/news/headlines/78576-over-300-students-of-nakanyonyi-ss-hospitalised-after-suspected-poisoning>

More than 300 students at Nakanyonyi secondary school in Mukono district are fighting for their lives after suspected food poisoning. The students developed complications at the Church of Uganda-owned school after being served lunch comprising beans and posho. The affected learners were immediately rushed to various health facilities including Nagalama hospital, Mukono CoU hospital, Mukono General hospital, Kayunga hospital, and Kawolo hospital.

Over 300 students of Nakanyonyi SS hospitalised after suspected food poisoning

OBSERVER

19/07/2023

<https://observer.ug/viewpoint/76278-archbishop-kazimba-homosexuals-are-also-children-of-god>

Since his enthronement in March 2020, Archbishop Stephen Samuel Kazimba has consistently spoken against homosexuality.

Archbishop Kazimba in his Christmas message didn't mince words before a youthful crowd in Mukono on December 12. He said since the Church of England elected an openly gay man, Dr David Monteith as dean of Canterbury, the Church of Uganda which he superintends would be forced to sever ties as they (British) are veering off the right path.

Archbishop Kazimba, homosexuals are also children of God

THE OBSERVER

12/22/2022

<https://observer.ug/viewpoint/78086-anti-homosexuality-act-has-severe-consequences-on-our-public-health>

As a major human rights activist in Uganda, I find myself facing significant challenges following the enactment of the Anti-Homosexuality Act. Our organization has been dedicated to providing crucial medical harm reduction interventions to the LGBTQI community, particularly those who use drugs. These interventions include the provision of medication-assisted treatment (MAT), and other essential HIV/Aids services. However, the passing of the Act has disrupted our work and thrown it into disarray.

Anti-Homosexuality Act has severe consequences on our public health

OBSERVER

6/6/2023

<https://redpepper.co.ug/129967-2/129967/>

Speaker Among has banished the Deputy Attorney General, Jackson Kafuuzi from ever participating in the processing of bills in Parliament, accusing him of being dishonest and waging an attack on Parliament after asking President Museveni not to assent to the Anti-Homosexuality Bill 2023. The Speaker made her verbal artillery during the plenary sitting in response to a letter authored by President revealing his decision not to assent to the Anti-Homosexuality Bill 2023. Museveni premised his decision on the advice given by the Deputy Attorney General, who alleged that Parliament forced him to concede to some clauses in the bill, despite not meeting the legal test.

OUT OF ORDER! Speaker bans deputy AG Kafuuzi from parliament over LGBT bill fallout

RED REPPER

2/5/2023

<https://redpepper.co.ug/homo-bill-fallout-canada-pm-grills-amb-acheng-threatens-to-cut-ties/129592/>

The Canadian government has condemned the recently passed anti-homosexuality bill 2023 that prohibits same-sex activities and now awaits President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni to assent it into a law. Justin Pierre James Trudeau, the Prime Minister, has condemned the law, describing it as despicable, and urged world leaders to reject it, saying it directly violates the rights of LGBTQ communities around the world. "I want to condemn in the absolute strongest terms the despicable law put forward by the Ugandan government discriminating against the LGBTQ communities. Canada understands this is totally against the rights of LGBTQ communities. We will be looking at how to continue with how to support the communities around the world. I called upon leaders around the world and all Common Wealth governments to condemn this despicable piece of legislation," Canadian PM Justin Pierre James Trudeau said while addressing journalists.

LGBT BILL FALLOUT! Canada PM grills Amb Acheng, threatens to cut ties

RED REPPER

28/03/2023

<https://www.africanews.com/2023/06/12/effects-of-ugandan-anti-lgbt-law-emptying-hiv-clinics/>

A resident medical officer at a US-funded clinic, warned that new waves of HIV infections were forming as vulnerable people stayed away from treatment centers, afraid of being identified and arrested under the new laws."The LGBT community in Uganda is on lockdown now," he said. "They don't have preventive services. They cannot access condoms ... they cannot access ARTS (antiretroviral)."

Effects of Ugandan Anti-LGBT law: Emptying HIV clinics

AFRICA NEWS

12/6/2023

<https://www.africanews.com/2023/07/13/iranian-president-accuses-west-of-promoting-homosexuality/>

The Iranian president, Ebrahim Raisi, visited Uganda on Wednesday as part of a diplomatic push to break the country's isolation. In his speech, Raisi criticized western nations accusing them of promoting homosexuality. "Having the culture of establishing and forming a family and at the same time the culture of "genuineness" is another common point between Iran and Uganda. We pay great attention to the issue of establishing families and we believe that it is a fundamental principle. The West is today trying to promote the idea of homosexuality and of course by homosexuality they are trying to end the generation of human beings and at the same time they are acting against the inherence and the nature of human beings I believe that this issue and these strong attacks by the West against the establishment of families and against the culture of the nations is another area of cooperation for Iran and Uganda", said Ebrahim Raisi, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Uganda has recently passed anti-gay legislation to widespread international condemnation. The African visit is the first by an Iranian leader in more than a decade as the country continues under heavy US economic sanctions.

Iranian president accuses west of promoting homosexuality

AFRICA NEWS

13/07/2023

<https://www.dailypressug.com/2022/12/20/archbishop-kazimba-christmas-message-homosexuals-drown-in-seas/>

The Church of Uganda -C.O.U Archbishop, Dr Stephen Samuel Kazimba Mugalu, has spelled doom to the people promoting and enticing children into acts of homosexuality. Kazimba in his Christmas message released on Tuesday cited the gospel scripture in Mathew 18:6 to wish doom for all persons who are engaged in homosexuality, secretly or openly brainwashing children to engage in the same.

Archbishop Kazimba Christmas Message: Homosexuals Drown in Seas

DAILY PRESS

20/12/2022

<https://www.independent.co.ug/church-of-uganda-ready-to-split-from-canterbury-over-same-sex-marriages-kaziimba/>

Church of Uganda-COU will immediately set in motion processes to split from Canterbury, the seat of the Anglican Church worldwide once it officially communicates its support for same-sex marriages.

The Archbishop of the Church of Uganda, the Most Rev. Stephen Kaziimba Mugalu, says that they are only waiting for the official communication from the ongoing meeting of the College of Bishops by the Church of England to decide their next action.

"Homosexuality, lesbianism, trans-gender and other things of the kind...the Church of Uganda is still strong and will always be strong. We can't walk in the same direction as those who have gone astray. It is a process, we are discussing, Bishops are discussing and it will end up in Provincial Assembly where the head of the laity, province, and others will officially make a pronouncement," said Archbishop Kaziimba.

Church of Uganda ready to split from Canterbury over same sex marriages: Kaziimba

INDEPENDENT

12/21/2022

<https://www.kfm.co.ug/news/journalists-demand-apology-from-fdc-over-attack-on-colleagues.html>

Members of the media fraternity are demanding an apology and explanation from the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) leadership over the attack on scribes at its party headquarters in Najjanankumbi on Thursday.

Journalists demand apology from FDC over attack on colleagues

KFM NEWS

21/07/2023

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/anti-gays-law-challenged-before-east-african-court-4285388>

The petitioner says the law is against the treaty establishing the East African Community. The Anti-Homosexuality Act, 2023, recently assented to by President Museveni, has been challenged before the East African Court of Justice in Arusha, Tanzania. Lawyer Hassan Male Mabirizi, who filed the petition before the court's sub registry in Kampala, said the law is against the treaty establishing the East African Community, which calls for adherence to principles of democracy, rule of law, accountability, transparency, and social justice. He is against the entire enactment and assent process of the law. "Your applicant states that the enactment, assent, publication, commencement and provisions of Uganda Anti-Homosexuality Act, 2023, as well as the actions, decisions, directives, orders of the various specified organs, agencies, officials and agents of the state and government of the republic of Uganda, a partner state are unlawful and infringements on the fundamental and operational principles of the community guaranteed under Articles 6(d) and 7(2) of the Treaty for Establishment of the East African Community," reads in part the petition.

Anti-gays law challenged before East African Court

DAILY MONITOR

27/06/2023

https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/children-being-recruited-into-homosexuality-says-kaziimba-4062100?fbclid=IwAR2ZMKcqGBKxkA32COEVq7oPtEUv4Em20c_aleEammUOxHX9IDhm3v28LT0

While closing a three-day annual provincial youth convention at Mukono High School on Monday, Archbishop Kaziimba said the future of Church of Uganda is vested in young people yet many evil minded people and organisations are targeting them to lure them into gay activities.

Archbishop Kaziimba warns youth against homosexuality

MONITOR

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2022

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/curious-case-of-mukisa-a-victim-or-blackmailer--3994292>

Mr Mukisa further revealed that a Ugandan, he only named Hudson, took him to Kenya. Hudson was said to have promised to take Mr Mukisa to Canada. Unbeknown to the latter, the former was reportedly running a homosexual organisation in Uganda and Kenya.

Curious case of Mukisa: A victim or blackmailer?

MONITOR

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2022

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/deputy-speaker-calls-for-probe-on-homosexuality-in-schools-4098242>

The Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Mr Thomas Tayebwa, has said he has received “painful” stories regarding the increase of same sex relationships in schools. *Colleagues, I am getting painful, gruelling stories. When you talk to doctors, you again know how deep it is. Many of the people are dying in silence but it seems our schools have been penetrated completely. Not only schools, it seems recruitment centres are very open. It is extremely painful. We are not completely in charge of our children, he said during plenary yesterday. He added: “I talked to one student personally and he told me that in one of their schools, you cannot move around in the compound at night. He is from a male school, one of the prominent male schools. He told me that, “you fear being grabbed and sodomised?”.

Deputy Speaker calls for probe on homosexuality in schools

DAILY MONITOR

25/01/2023

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/govt-defends-the-anti-gay-law-in-court-4295998>

In response to the petitions, the AG, through a sworn affidavit from Bugiri MP Asuman Basalirwa, the Bill’s mover prior to its presidential assent, explained that the Anti-Homosexuality Act 2023 does not discriminate against individuals but instead criminalizes sexual acts between persons of the same sex. The Attorney General (AG) has requested the Constitutional Court to dismiss the three petitions filed against the Anti-Homosexuality Act 2023, deeming them misconceived and lacking in merit. In response to the petitions, the AG, through a sworn affidavit from Bugiri MP Asuman Basalirwa, the Bill’s mover prior to its presidential assent, explained that the Anti-Homosexuality Act 2023 does not discriminate against individuals but instead criminalizes sexual acts between persons of the same sex.

Govt defends the anti-gay law in court

DAILY MONITOR

7/7/2023

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/journalists-condemn-brutal-attacks-while-at-fdc-offices-4310810>

Mr. Mathias Rukundo, the president of Uganda Journalists Association condemned the attacks and called for the arrest of the suspects as well as the return of the stolen gadgets belonging to journalists

Journalists condemn brutal attacks while at FDC offices

DAILY MONITOR

21/07/2023

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/museveni-muhoozi-face-fresh-icc-torture-claims--4311748>

Mid this month, Mr. Bruce Afran, a lawyer based in Princeton, New Jersey, USA lodged a new petition with the ICC requesting the court to investigate allegations that Ugandan officials, including Uganda People’s Defence Forces (UPDF) commander-in-chief and Uganda President, Gen Museveni, together with his son, Gen Muhoozi Kainerugaba, are implicated in the torture and other abuse meted out against regime opponents in secret detention places.

Museveni, Muhoozi face fresh ICC torture claims

DAILY MONITOR

22/07/2023

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/museveni-signs-tougher-anti-homosexuality-bill-into-law-4250416>

President Museveni has executed his constitutional mandate as prescribed by Article 91 (3) (a) of the 1995 Constitution- and assented to the Anti-Homosexuality Act, 2023,” parliament Speaker Anita Among confirmed on Monday. We have stood strong to defend the culture, values and aspirations of our people as per objectives 19 & 24 of our national objectives and directive principles of state policy,” she added

Museveni signs tougher anti-homosexuality Bill into law

DAILY MONITOR

29/05/2023

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/museveni-uganda-won-t-support-homosexuality--4127004>

HEADLINES OF HATE

2024

The President's remarks, which drew applause from congregants, were in response to pleas by the Church of Uganda Archbishop, His Grace Stephen Kaziimba Mugalu, for the government to join the Church in condemning homosexuality and legislate against it. Luwum was killed in 1977 for what was believed to be his criticism of rights violations during Idi Amin's regime. President Museveni has said Uganda will not embrace homosexuality and the West should stop seeking to impose its views to compel dissenting countries to "normalise" what he called "deviations".

Museveni: Uganda won't support homosexuality

DAILY MONITOR

17/02/2023

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/mwenda-mp-odoi-and-nine-others-ask-court-to-block-implementation-of-anti-gay-law-4251030>

Homosexuality was criminalised in Uganda under colonial laws, but there has never been a conviction for consensual same-sex activity since independence from Britain in 1962. Asuman Basalirwa, the MP who sponsored the Bill, said aid cuts were expected and that Among, the parliament speaker, had already been informed her US visa had been revoked. Hours after Speaker of Parliament, Anita Among announced Monday that President Museveni had signed the controversial Anti-Homosexuality Bill, 2023 into law, 11 activists have petitioned the Constitutional Court seeking to block its implementation. The petitioners who include former Makerere University lecturer of law Prof Sylvia Tamale, journalist and businessman Andrew Mwenda, Makerere University senior lecturer of law Dr Busingye Kabumba, Pan-African feminist activist Solome Nakaweesi and Budama North East MP Fox Odoi-Oywelowo, among others want court to issue a permanent injunction against the implementation of the law.

Mwenda, MP Odoi and nine others ask court to block implementation of anti-gay law

DAILY MONITOR

29/05/2023

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/parliament-red-flags-kasese-s-same-sex-by-law-4099788>

Deputy House Speaker Thomas Tayebwa yesterday slammed officials from the Rwenzori district, saying the "malicious bylaws" they were attempting to enact to reorganise homosexuals and transgender people as minorities contravenes the national laws.

Parliament red flags Kasese's same-sex by-law

DAILY MONITOR

26/01/2023

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/oped/columnists/charles-onyango-obbo/uganda-s-anti-homos-war-isn-t-about-gay-sex-4141692>

In Kenya, too, the anti-gay tirade is rising. It is no accident that it's happening with the start of the Real Housewives of Kenya streaming on Showmax. Few things have unsettled men's world, like the Real Housewives series. Recent weeks have witnessed a new outbreak of war against homosexuality in Uganda. Wherever they can find a microphone, politicians are railing against homosexuals. Ugandan bishops are alarmed about homosexuals overrunning the motherland. Conservative dons at Makerere University have joined in the gay witch-hunt. This call to arms against "gayism" might be puzzling because it is unprovoked. There has been no gay pride parade, no public gay marriage, nothing. Because there are no such obvious triggers, it helps clarify something about the war against homosexuality; it is not about homosexuality. It is a red flag operation, code for a bigger social-cultural war. Homosexuality is its central narrative because it is emotive and a form of sexuality that neatly symbolises all the other forces threatening the good old social order. Sex is, of course, at the core of this war, but not necessarily gay sex. The real culprit is sexual liberation.

Uganda's 'anti-homos' war isn't about gay sex

DAILY MONITOR

1/3/2023

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/oped/columnists/daniel-kalinaki/uganda-has-a-sex-crime-problem-but-gays-are-just-easy-scapegoats-4142708>

Targeting homosexuals and their so-called sponsors deflects from a real problem. To solve the sexual assault crisis facing young Ugandans we need to analyse, not moralise the problem. It is that time of the decade when everyone with a modicum of power in Uganda turns their guns on the gay community. The President has weighed in. The Anglican Church, swiftly moving on from the sex scandal involving its last chief shepherd, has called for fire and brimstone to rain down on the gays. Parliament, which is yet to find time to debate the findings of important inquiries into Uganda Airlines and the National Social Security Fund, says a new Bill will soon be tabled to deal with the matter. Even the Muslims, often on the receiving end of oppression, marched through the streets, prayer beads at the ready, uttering fatwas to the infidels.

Uganda has a sex crime problem, but gays are just easy scapegoats

DAILY MONITOR

2/3/2023

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/oped/commentary/homosexuality-is-an-imperial-cultural-colonialism-tool-4162356>

The West is pushing the homosexual agenda behind the veil of human rights for two reasons; the first is to strip us of our norms, values and identity in a bid to create a single culture for the entire human race so that we can be like the rest of the "free world" indistinguishable from them and therefore easily controllable; the second is to control the growth of an African population which can be a threat to the west when empowered. Unfortunately, the gay agenda will succeed so long as we have no economic freedom in Africa. To begin with, homosexuality is not a European or western idea. It is a human vice which, in fact, was hardly spoken of by our ancestors. History shows that homosexuality existed in our societies even before the muzungu ever stepped in the land of the sun. Some historical sources even accuse a major King in Uganda to have been gay. We neither had laws prohibiting homosexuality nor laws permitting it. What we had were values, social norms which considered gay relationships abominable.

Homosexuality is an imperial cultural colonialism tool

DAILY MONITOR

17/03/2023

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/oped/letters/anti-gay-act-a-demonstration-of-the-will-of-ugandans-4282626>

The passing of the Anti-LGBTQ+ Act in Uganda has sparked varied reactions, with some praising it as a positive development and others venting frustration and anger towards the government. In enacting the new law, Uganda has joined Russia, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Nigeria, Jamaica, Egypt, and Malaysia, which have enacted laws that criminalize LGBTQ+ activities. All these cite cultural, religious, and traditional beliefs as reasons. Uganda's leaders have stood up to be counted among those who are concerned about the values of their country. Bravo!

Anti-gay Act a demonstration of the will of Ugandans

DAILY MONITOR

25/06/2023

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/special-reports/politics-gay-debate-create-chaotic-mix-4022586>

Just like in most African countries, the subject of homosexuality hits a raw nerve in Uganda as anti-homosexuality campaigners insist the act is anything but African, writes Derrick Kiyonga. Little or no attention at all had been accorded to proceedings from the African, Caribbean and Pacific States Parliamentary Assembly until Mr Thomas Tayebwa, the Deputy Speaker of Uganda's Parliament, took the floor and raised two of the most divisive issues in African society—homosexuality and abortion.

Politics, gay debate create chaotic mix

DAILY MONITOR

5/6/2023

<https://www.newvision.co.ug/category/news/kaziimba-urges-youth-to-shun-immorality-149552>

Church of Uganda Archbishop, the Rev. Dr. Stephen Samuel Kazimba Mugalu has urged the youth to shun immorality including cults, homosexuality and corruption.

Kaziimba urges youth to shun immorality

THE NEW VISION

12/13/2022

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HEADLINES OF HATE

2024

<https://dailyexpress.co.ug/2022/10/19/must-read-ugandas-homosexuality-menace-and-how-it-is-eating-up-young-boys/>

According to Uganda's penal code, homosexuality is illegal, but because there's a lot of money uttered into its promotion in the country, it is alarming to note that some elements in police have been compromised to the extent that they either keep aloof about it or in some instances, they deliberately protect the perpetrators to advance this ignominious act.

Uganda's Homosexuality Menace and How It is Eating Up Young Boys

DAILY EXPRESS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2022

<https://nbs.ug/2023/01/ugandan-parliament-on-homosexuality/>

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Ugandan Parliament on Homosexuality

NBS TV

1/24/2023

<https://nilepost.co.ug/2022/11/02/tayebwa-blasts-eu-mps-over-lgbtq-rights/>

A Ugandan delegation in Mozambique led by the deputy speaker Thomas Tayebwa has vowed to oppose plans by pro-gay nations to impose the promotion of homosexuality and abortion as new conditions for trade and aid relationships with the European Union.

Tayebwa blasts EU MPs over LGBTQ rights

NILE POST

NOVEMBER 2, 2022

<https://observer.ug/news/headlines/76852-homosexuality-how-students-get-hooked>

The viral social media post said, "The teacher of Kings College Budo has been sodomizing my son for four years now. My son has problems going to the toilet. I took him to Mulago Hospital because I have a relative there. They found him with STIs commonly found in gay men. (...) My son said, 'Mummy you remember when Mr Isa used to call you (and say) that I am no longer good; that I have become a bad boy; I was refusing to be with him'. What? I asked. 'He wakes up and sleeps on us (sic)."

Homosexuality: How students get hooked

OBSERVER

2/15/2023

<https://observer.ug/news/headlines/76865-museveni-blames-dependent-church-for-rising-homosexuality-in-uganda>

The Church is bestowed with the responsibility of weeding homosexuality out of Uganda after it offered a breeding platform for the Europeans to impose their homosexual beliefs onto Ugandans, President Yoweri Museveni has said.

Museveni blames 'dependent' church for rising homosexuality in Uganda

OBSERVER

2/17/2023

<https://observer.ug/viewpoint/75131-let-parliament-which-has-no-sin-cast-the-first-stone>

In October 2012, the speaker of parliament then, Rebecca Kadaga, trended across local and global news headlines following a spat with the Canadian foreign minister over gay rights at the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The Canadian minister had attacked Uganda's human rights record, alleging persecution of the gay community.

In response, Kadaga rapped him, "...If homosexuality is a value for the people of Canada, they should not seek to force Uganda to embrace it. We are not a colony or a protectorate of Canada."

9/13/2022

OBSERVER

9/13/2022

<https://www.dw.com/en/uganda-demands-probe-into-lgbtq-activities-in-schools/a-64562108>

HEADLINES OF HATE

2024

The Ugandan parliament is investigating what it calls the festering of homosexual activities in schools, amid public outcry. The country is known for its staunch opposition to homosexuality.

Uganda demands probe into 'LGBTQ activities' in schools

DW.COM

JANUARY 31, 2023

<https://www.independent.co.ug/rights-activists-launch-campaign-against-religiophobia/>

For the next three months, human rights activists will be engaged in activities showing how religious institutions can be more inclusive to allow followers of different walks of life to enjoy their freedom of worship, under their campaign dubbed, "Say No to Religiophobia".

Rights activists launch campaign against religiophobia

INDEPENDENT

3/11/2022

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/church-of-england-split-over-gay-vote-obvious--4120832>

The Church of England's General Synod voted by 250 votes to 181 on Thursday to back a proposal by bishops to profoundly change the Church's stance on homosexuality.

Church of England split over gay vote 'obvious'

THE DAILY MONITOR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2023

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/continue-preaching-against-homosexuality-among-tells-clergy-3953684>

Much as the country has the anti-homosexuality law, there is still need to continue reminding people on what the holy teaching says, according to Ms Among.

The speaker's appeal was contained in her speech delivered on Sunday by the Minister of Gender, labor and social development, Betty Amongi, during a fundraising for the construction of St. Kizito Catholic Parish Paya in Tororo District.

Continue preaching against homosexuality, Among tells clergy

MONITOR

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/don-t-treat-homosexuals-in-our-facilities-says-maj-gen-takirwa-4114502>

"Don't use our health facilities to treat homosexuals, someone comes with pampers leaking and wants treatment because he made a decision as if he didn't have brains. No. No. This is too much and unacceptable," Maj Gen Takirwa said

Don't treat homosexuals in our facilities, says Maj Gen Takirwa

THE DAILY MONITOR

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 07, 2023

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/leaked-report-shows-intent-to-criminalise-gay-activities-4120836>

The government should "comprehensively criminalise" activities that promote homosexuality in the country and lay down stringent requirements for registration of civil society organisations, a leaked report reveals.

Leaked report shows intent to criminalise gay activities

THE DAILY MONITOR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2023

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/museveni-uganda-won-t-support-homosexuality--4127004>

The President's remarks, which drew applause from congregants, were in response to pleas by the Church of Uganda Archbishop, His Grace Stephen Kaziimba Mugalu, for the government to join the Church in condemning homosexuality and legislate against it.

Museveni: Uganda won't support homosexuality

THE DAILY MONITOR

HEADLINES OF HATE

2024

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2023

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/ncdc-denies-promoting-homosexual-content-4030188>

Officials from National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC) have denied claims of development partners funding homosexuality-themed content in 2020 and 2021 when the Covid-19 pandemic was at its peak.

NCDC denies promoting homosexual content

MONITOR

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2022

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/religious-leaders-to-return-anti-gay-bill-to-parliament-4125868>

The Archbishop of Church of Uganda, Samuel Kaziimba Mugalu, who doubles as the chairperson of the IRCU, urged all religions to open centres to provide counselling and support to people who could have been involved in homosexuality.

Religious leaders to return anti-gay Bill to Parliament

THE DAILY MONITOR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2023

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/the-story-of-a-young-ugandan-gay-couple-1466596>

The Sunday before last, Val Kalende listened quietly as her pastor's sermon digressed into a soft tirade against homosexuals. "We may even have one in our midst," the cleric told a congregation of about 50 born-again Christians.

The story of a young Ugandan gay couple

MONITOR

1/25/2021

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/oped/commentary/the-anti-gay-lobby-is-back-4026152>

Whichever way you see it, this moral framing strategy is not innocent and is caught within the global web of religious fundamentalism and its nexus capitalism.

The anti-gay lobby is back

MONITOR

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2022

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/oped/commentary/what-should-we-make-of-defence-of-homosexuals--4130184>

It is as if all organisations doing human rights work are engaged in this 'promotion' of homosexuality.

What should we make of defence of homosexuals?

THE DAILY MONITOR

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2023

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/oped/letters/jacob-oulanyah-wanted-justice-3771204>

Listening to these valid celebrations of life, I could not settle the unease at the back of my mind. As the speeches carried on, I itched with discomfort on the other end of the Zoom session, the image of Oulanyah presiding over the passing of the anti-homosexuality law in 2013 still seared at the back of my head.

Jacob Oulanyah wanted justice

MONITOR

TUESDAY, APRIL 05, 2022

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/oped/letters/why-we-might-be-promoting-homosexuality-unknowingly-4132826>

In recent media overflows, especially social media forums, we have had several videos going viral of students, teachers and pupils in different learning institutions involving themselves in nasty behaviors of homosexuality.

HEADLINES OF HATE

2024

Why we might be promoting homosexuality unknowingly

THE DAILY MONITOR

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2023

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/special-reports/politics-gay-debate-create-chaotic-mix-4022586>

Just like in most African countries, the subject of homosexuality hits a raw nerve in Uganda as anti-homosexuality campaigners insist the act is anything but African

Politics, gay debate create chaotic mix

MONITOR

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2022

<https://www.ntv.co.ug/ug/news/national-identity-tayebwa-vows-to-oppose-homosexuality-4004870>

The Ugandan delegation at the ongoing 61st session of the Organization of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States Parliamentary Assembly has vowed to oppose plans by pro-gay nations to impose the promotion of homosexuality and abortion as new conditions for trade and aid relationships with the European Union.

NATIONAL IDENTITY: Tayebwa vows to oppose homosexuality

NTV UGANDA

TUE NOV 1, 2022

<https://www.parliament.go.ug/news/6240/we-oppose-acp-eu-agreement-homosexuality-tayebwa>

According to Tayebwa, the agreement contains clauses promoting homosexuality and abortion, a practice he said Uganda will vehemently oppose.

"We have discovered that with the Post Cotonou agreement, there are hidden clauses concerning human rights. Clauses to do with sexuality, promotion of LGBT/homosexuality and clauses to do with abortion," he said.

We oppose the ACP-EU agreement on homosexuality- Tayebwa

PARLIAMENT NEWS

11/1/2022

<https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/news/east-africa/ugandan-mps-move-to-save-children-from-lgbtq-4111032>

Last week, Uganda's Deputy Speaker of Parliament Thomas Tayebwa popped the lid on the widely known, but rarely talked about, issue of homosexuality in Uganda, saying schools have been the target of pro-gay activists seeking acceptability in the country. He directed the government to probe the issue and "save the children" as schools open.

Ugandan MPs move to 'save children from homosexuality'

THE EAST AFRICAN

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 04 2023

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A total of 26 officials are named in the petition, which was filed a week or so ago, on July 11 with the ICC in The Hague, Netherlands. Alongside it are sworn statements reportedly recorded by more than 200 individuals – all of whom claim to be victims of the alleged crimes

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GRAND TOTAL

