

**SUBMITTED**  
**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW - Session 12:**  
A Guide for Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Advocates  
FOR HAGABA RICHARD-DIRECTOR- PARTICIPATORY ACTION FOR RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE-UGANDA

## **SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS**

In Uganda, lgbt rights abuse, violence/discrimination and persecution is a growing problem that cannot be ignored. 90.1% of all those abused are gays and lesbians, and this is just for the reason that they are simply gays and lesbians, and based on community negative attitudes towards them. An unfavorable culture and religious beliefs that their activities are outrageous for such members to live in society, are leading to violent initiation rites and the use of state security organs to persecute and imprison LGBT's. These cruel acts, meant to get rid of the sexual minorities and their activities, exacerbate the problem and limit the members and activists' competence to protect and defend themselves against their aggressors.

LGBT's in the community continue to live under fear because of the terror in the community system inflicted on them, in spite putting some hold on the anti-homosexuality bill that was going to be passed in the parliament of the republic of Uganda. Many cases of LGBT rights abuse remain unreported and even when they are reported no justice is administered because they are considered outcasts in the community. In some instances many LGBT members have been pushed to the point of eliminating themselves from the society fleeing the country to safe environments in European countries, and others have chosen to commit suicide, because they can not be accepted in the community and they have been denied the opportunity to enjoy their rights as citizens of the country. These are the poor LGBT members who can not afford their way out. Lgbt suicide cases are steadily rising we are experiencing 4 cases that occur in a month and such cases are very difficult to notice since they are not reported.

In 2009, over 40 Lgbt members' rights were abused. In 2010, the number was over 60. According to PARDI Field Reports, it is projected that the number of abuse and persecution will keep rising from time to time, Hence there is a need to eliminate the LGBT rights violence in the

### **The main problems facing LGBT's in Uganda:**

The main problem facing LGBT in Uganda is the denial of their rights, and especially the right of freedom to live as LGBT's. They suffer from social and cultural abuse, persecution and murder, both at their homes and outside their homes within the communities they live in. Lack of proper health services, diseases such as HIV/AIDS, marginalisation in decision-making processes, early marriages, stigmatisation, discrimination leading to isolation leading to suicide, poverty, denial by their family members, illiteracy and lack of access to quality education. There is an increased number of school drop-outs as a result of being expelled from school simply because they are lgbt members. Lack of free association with other local community members, frequent condemnations from religious groups.

## **The recent Anti-homosexuality Bill in Uganda**

In Uganda, the Anti-Homosexuality Bill, if enacted, would broaden the criminalization of homosexuality by introducing the death penalty for people who have previous convictions, are HIV-positive, or engage in same sex acts with people under 18 years of age. The Bill also includes provisions for Ugandans who engage in same-sex sexual relations outside of Uganda, asserting that they may be extradited for punishment back to Uganda, and it includes penalties for individuals, companies, media organizations, or non-governmental organizations that support LGBT rights.

The private member's Bill was submitted by MP David Bahati in Uganda on 14 October 2009. Homosexuality is currently illegal in Uganda—as it is in many sub-Saharan countries—punishable by incarceration for up to 14 years. The proposed legislation in Uganda, however, has been noted by several news agencies to be inspired by American evangelical Christians. A special motion to introduce the legislation was passed a month after a two-day conference was held where three American Christians asserted that homosexuality was a direct threat to the cohesion of African families. The Bill, the government of Uganda, and the evangelicals involved have received significant international media attention and criticism from Western governments, some of whom have threatened to cut off financial aid to Uganda. In response to the attention, a revision was introduced to soften the strongest penalties for the most egregious offenses to life imprisonment.

Intense international reaction to the Bill caused President Yoweri Museveni to form a commission to investigate the implications of passing the Bill. In May 2010 the committee recommended withdrawing it, but it remains under discussion in parliament as of January 2011.

### **Our planned intervention as PARDI-Uganda referring to the Situation**

Every LGBT member has a right to protection as per the United Nations Human Rights Treaties, and as monitored under the aegis of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Nevertheless, many LGBT's in Uganda are exposed to violence, persecution and discrimination within their community by community members. This kind of continuous treatment has extended the cycle of LGBT abuse in society. The most common forms of

violence against LGBT in Uganda include the use of physical force or corporal punishments, gang violence, discrimination, murder, arrests, verbal assault and non-verbal threats, expulsion from schools, denial of community respect and of other social community service, among others. All of these types of abuse can eventually lead to psychosocial problems as they create a stigma and cause the abused to feel severe anger, hurt, hatred, sadness, fear and shame. Abuse also causes the LGBT members to lose self-esteem and self-confidence, which affects their social life performance. In extreme cases the abuse and discrimination has led to suicide among LGBT's in Uganda. Therefore, PARDI-Uganda has taken the initiative to address the problem, in line with the Human Rights Foundation's initiative of Living Without Fear. PARDI Uganda would like to be more engaged in this area by directly supplementing its efforts with those of other civil society organizations (CSOs) to curb violence against the LGBT community. This project attempts to promote LGBT-friendly safe environment for vulnerable women and men, all

LGBT's in particular, in the hope of creating an enabling, effective, safe and friendly environment that will foster Living without Fear.

**PARDI** will contribute to the solution and have an impact on LGBT's and their families in the following ways:

1. Empower LGBT's, to develop the capacity and confidence to speak and act out against violence, bring concerns to the attention of the duty bearers and influence policy to support the elimination of violence and discrimination against them in the society.
2. Contribute to the promotion of LGBT rights through increased reporting of acts of discrimination and abuse against LGBT's to the relevant duty bearers.
3. Prepare and engage LGTBTS and their families to interact with stake holders and participate effectively in anti-violence activities, proceedings and programmes.
4. Lead to a significant reduction in LGBT violence in schools and families as a result of attitude and habit change from intensified awareness and advocacy campaigns.
5. Create a platform and common voice for LGBT's to share experiences and develop an action plan for the elimination of violence and discrimination against them in the community
6. Increase the participation of LGBT communities and families in activities and events focused on violence and discrimination against them,
7. Enable teachers, parents, families and children to learn non-violent approaches to allow these LGBT school members stay and study freely and safely in their respective schools.
8. Create opportunities for an open dialogue between LGBT's and non LGBT Community members, parents and their LGBT member children as well as peers to discuss issues of non-violence and discrimination.
9. Give LGBT members the skills necessary for survival and self protection against acts of violence and discrimination

So we will help prevent and stop violence in schools and communities. The outcomes of the best practices and lessons learnt will help inform any future PARDI Uganda intervention designed to promote the LGBT-friendly safe environment concept, and to combat abuse / discrimination, the use of force and corporal punishment. School LGBT students, parents, families, communities, Human Rights protection organizations, law enforcement organs and policy makers will be challenged to take action against violence and discrimination in societies which, in the long run, will promote the creation of a safe, LGBT-friendly environment. This will enable the provision of quality basic services and opportunities for life-long Living Without Fear.

*Our aim is to achieve the indications bellow*

- 1- a significant reduction in the prevalence of violence/persecution on LGBT's by at least 20% in the targeted communities
- 2- increase in the community awareness/knowledge on the effects of violence and rights of LGBT in the target communities by 30%.

3- The development of safe LGBT communities, through the established rights-sensitive approaches geared towards recognizing and promoting the adoption and enforcement of preventive measures against LGBT violence in all target communities. Development to be realised in atlist 4 out of every targeted 5 communities in the district,

4- Increased LGBT, families and community's participation in "safe LGBT" promotion programmes as well as access to response and support mechanisms. Here we expect more than 25 participative families out of every targetd 30 families with in a given community

5- More support for LGBT's who have been harmed by violence/abuse and discrimination and empower them to play an active and leading role in the curbing violent acts within their communities. Support increase from 15% to 40%

6- Reduction of violence among Lesbians , since they are also very sensitive to gender based violence. We have 3 lesbians experiencing such violence among every 5 of them so we expect this to reduce to at list 1 among every five or to completely eliminate the gender based violence among lesbians

7- Acquisition of psychosocial support and satisfaction among LGBT's harmed by acts of violence, abuse and discrimination so as to encourage and promote their rights and also have a safe environment to live in. This will be realised through the numerous trainings in psychosocial support dierectli targeting the LGBT members and through our counseloers providing such support in every area we target, we have a program to increase the number of lgbt counselloers to 3 at every village level.

8-Equipment of skills and increased knowledge of all stake holders on matters concerning the respect and protecting the LGBT rights and also lengthen their lives. The stake holders here will also achieve capacity building in the areas of protecting LGBT's. Lifting the literacy levels from 11% to al list over 30%

9- Media programs will boost and increase community participation in supporting, respecting and observing the rights of LGBT's in the community hence a free and safe environment for LGBT members, local televisions like BUKEDE TV, WBS TV and local News papers like the Redpepper, and the Observer among others will be very instrumental in increasing awareness among all stake holders involved.

### **In conclusion thefore:**

We are the voices of the many persecuted LGBT members in Uganda and given the situation at hand, our organisation, directed by my self would like to have an opportunity to further, raise awareness of the many human rights violations experienced on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity in Uganda. Meanwhile to also obtain an opportunity to highlight our

concerns, strengthen alliances, foster positive developments, build support, and make concrete recommendations for change hence create a safe and secure LGBT community in Uganda