Uganda
Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review:
The Death Penalty

Submitted by The Advocates for Human Rights,

a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1996

Foundation for Human Rights Initiative

and

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

for the 54th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
January 2027

Submitted 17 July 2026

The Advocates for Human Rights (The Advocates) is a volunteer-based non-governmental organization committed to the impartial promotion and protection of international human rights standards and the rule of law. Established in 1983, The Advocates conducts a range of programs to promote human rights in the United States and around the world, including monitoring and fact finding, direct legal representation, education and training, and publications. The Advocates is the primary provider of legal services to low-income asylum seekers in the Upper Midwest region of the United States. In 1991, The Advocates adopted a formal commitment to oppose the death penalty worldwide and organized a death penalty project to provide pro bono assistance on post-conviction appeals, as well as education and advocacy to end capital punishment. The Advocates currently holds a seat on the Steering Committee of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty.

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty is a membership-based global network committed to strengthening the international dimension of the fight against the death penalty. Established in 2002, its ultimate objective is to obtain the universal abolition of the death penalty. To achieve its goal, the World Coalition advocates for a definitive end to death sentences and executions in those countries where the death penalty is in force. In some countries, it is seeking to obtain a reduction in the use of capital punishment as a first step towards abolition.

The Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) is an independent, non-governmental advocacy organization based in Kampala, Uganda, established in December 1991. It works to enhance human rights observance, promote the rule of law, and advocate for vulnerable populations through civic education, legal aid, and legislative research.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report addresses Uganda's compliance with its international human rights obligations with respect to the death penalty. The report examines significant challenges Uganda faces in upholding those obligations, including in relation to torture, military jurisdiction over civilians, enforced disappearances, gender-based violence, freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, detention conditions, and legal aid.

2. Uganda recently expanded the use of military courts to try civilians, in direct contravention of constitutional and international human rights standards. The Uganda People's Defence Forces (Amendment) Act, which expands military jurisdiction over civilians, highlights that lawmakers are dissolving judicial safeguards such as habeas corpus and fair trial rights.

3. The Anti-Homosexuality Act of 2023 fuels discriminatory practices, expands the scope of capital offenses, and has intensified violence and harassment targeting LGBTIQ+ people.

4. Legal aid remains inaccessible for many people, and authorities have failed to enact a national legal aid policy and law, citing budgetary constraints. More broadly, the judiciary remains vulnerable to political interference, security forces continue to commit torture and enforced disappearances with impunity, and authorities systematically violate the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

I. IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS

Acceptance of International Norms

Status of Implementation: Not Accepted, Not Implemented

5. In its third-cycle UPR in 2022, Uganda noted 10 recommendations regarding the ratification of, or accession to, the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, or OP2.[1] To date, Uganda has not made any progress toward ratification of OP2.

Awareness raising and dissemination

Status of Implementation: Not Accepted, Not Implemented

6. In its third-cycle UPR, Uganda noted Uruguay's recommendation to step up awareness-raising campaigns on the death penalty and public debates on the topic with a human rights-based approach.[2]

7. Several civil society organizations lead campaigns to raise awareness of human rights concerns relating to the death penalty and to promote alternatives. The Foundation for Human Rights Initiative and the Uganda Coalition on the Abolition of the Death Penalty lead such advocacy activities annually.[3] The government, however, does not support these efforts. Ugandan authorities have not created a national public awareness-raising strategy

on the death penalty or capital punishment reform or supported civil society efforts in that regard.

Death penalty

Status of Implementation: Noted, Not Implemented

8. In its third-cycle UPR, Uganda noted all 20 recommendations it received concerning the death penalty.[4] To date Uganda has not implemented any of these recommendations.

9. The Ugandan Penal Code contains eight sections that authorize the death penalty.[5] In addition to crimes in which the person accused of the offense committed an intentional killing, the Penal Code permits courts to impose the death penalty for treason and offenses against the state, rape, defilement of a minor, detention with sexual intent, kidnapping or detaining with intent to murder, robbery with a deadly weapon, and smuggling with a deadly weapon.[6]

10. Additionally, the 2002 Anti-Terrorism Act and the 2005 Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces Act establish separate grounds for the use of the death penalty. The Anti-Terrorism Act authorizes the death penalty for any convicted act of terrorism, aid connected to an act of terrorism, or establishment of a terrorist organization.[7] The People's Defence Forces Act permits the death penalty for seventeen distinct military law offenses.[8]

11. Following a number of legal challenges, the President signed the Anti-Homosexuality Act of 2023 into law and the Constitutional Court subsequently upheld it.[9] The Anti-Homosexuality Act authorizes the use of the death penalty for "Aggravated Homosexuality."[10]

12. Uganda last executed a civilian in 1999 and last executed someone in the military in 2005.[11] Nonetheless, Uganda does not have an official moratorium on executions,[12] and in 2018, President Yoweri Museveni announced that Uganda could resume executions.[13]

13. According to Amnesty International, Ugandan courts handed down at least two death sentences in 2024 and none in 2025; by the end of 2025 at least 104 people were known to be under sentence of death.[14] According to the Uganda Prison Services, 93 individuals—including two women—were on death row as of 11 June 2026.[15]

14. In April of 2026, the Ugandan High Court sentenced Christopher Okello Onyum to death—the court's first death sentence since 2024.[16] The case is currently in the appeals process.[17] In accordance with the Constitutional Court's 2009 ruling in *Attorney General* v. *Susan Kigula et al.*, if the President does not sign a death warrant to carry out the execution within three years, authorities will automatically commute the sentence to life imprisonment.[18]

Prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment

Status of Implementation: Not Accepted, Not Implemented

15. In its third-cycle UPR, Uganda noted two recommendations regarding the prohibition of torture: to implement existing torture-related legislation and protocols, and to enhance efforts to guarantee proportionate use of force by security forces.[19] Uganda has failed to implement these recommendations.

16. In February 2023, local media and opposition supporters reported that security agencies had detained and tortured National Unity Platform supporter C.M., leading to his death.[20]

17. Ugandan authorities continue to use torture and other ill-treatment against actual and perceived government opponents.[21] On 7 January 2025, a soldier violently arrested E.K., a human rights lawyer involved in multiple public interest cases, as E.K. entered the courtroom where he was representing K.B., an opposition leader.[22] Soldiers took him to an unknown location and tortured him for several hours,[23] after which a court summarily sentenced him to nine months in prison without giving him any opportunity to defend himself.[24]

18. According to Amnesty International, on 27 April 2025, unidentified armed men forcibly abducted E.M., the body guard of National Unity Platform party leader and presidential candidate Robert Kyagulanyi (Bobi Wine).[25] The President's son, Muhoozi Kainerugaba, claimed responsibility for the abduction and torture on social media but later deleted the post.[26] Unknown men held E.M. until 5 May, when Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces officers took him to Masaka Court.[27] The justice minister reported that E.M. showed signs of torture.[28] E.M.'s attorney reported that authorities had subjected E.M. to electrocution.[29] He remained in detention at the end of 2025, facing charges of aggravated robbery and assault arising out of an alleged incident in 2024.[30]

19. A May 2026 report by the American Bar Association's Center for Human Rights reported concerns that authorities have subjected environmental human rights defenders to torture, inhuman and degrading treatment, and enforced disappearances.[31] Several human rights defenders have filed a lawsuit alleging that police officers beat them, hit them with gun butts and handcuffs, kicked them in the head, and sprayed them with tear gas.[32]

Conditions of detention

Status of Implementation: Partially Accepted, Partially Implemented

20. In its third-cycle UPR, Uganda supported two of three recommendations related to conditions of detention.[33]

21. A 2025 Uganda Human Rights Commission report identified a number of problems relating to detention conditions, including overcrowding, inadequate staffing, the mixing of children with adults, poor access to clean and safe water, and inadequate sanitation and hygiene.[34] The report also noted that detention facilities had made some progress, including by improving human rights committees in prison, improving registration and records management, and completely phasing out of the bucket system and replacing it with waterborne toilets.[35]

22. In April 2026, officials from the Uganda Prisons Services reported that the prison occupancy rate stands at 345 percent, with detention facilities accommodating 80,110 people in spaces meant to hold 23,104 people.[36]

23. The May 2026 American Bar Association report documented "consistent reports of poor detention conditions, including overcrowding, inadequate food, lack of medical care, and physical abuse by both police and other detainees, suggesting these are not isolated incidents but part of a broader pattern."[37]

Administration of justice and fair trial

Status of Implementation: Partially Accepted, Not Implemented

24. In its third-cycle UPR, Uganda supported three of four recommendations to strengthen access to justice and reform and strengthen the judicial system.[38] Uganda also noted two recommendations to adopt the legal aid policy bill.[39]

25. The Committee against Torture in 2022 observed that Uganda's judiciary is vulnerable to political interference and lacks independence.[40] In its Concluding Observations, the Committee encouraged Uganda to ensure that the judiciary aligns with international standards.

26. Amnesty International has documented concerns about authorities' use of military courts to target government critics and opposition leaders. In January 2025, the Supreme Court ruled that the practice of trying civilians in military courts violated the Constitution, but President Museveni has suggested he will defy the court's order to transfer cases to ordinary courts. According to Amnesty International, these military courts "open possibilities of a flurry of human rights violations, including coerced confessions, opaque processes, unfair trials and executions."[41]

27. The May 2026 American Bar Association report concluded that Ugandan authorities use pretrial detention "as a tool of intimidation rather than a measure of last resort," with courts denying "bail multiple times without substantive justification."[42] The report found that courts allow prosecutors to initiate proceedings with insufficient evidence and delay the criminal process in violation of the right to a fair and timely trial.[43]

28. An in-depth study of Uganda's legal system published in April 2025 concluded that "a pronounced gap persists between the normative promise embedded in" the constitutional guarantees to the right to a fair trial and that right's "consistent realization within institutional practice."[44] This study also concluded that "[t]he absence of a publicly funded legal aid scheme for constitutional matters, combined with intricate procedural rules, effectively excludes vulnerable populations from meaningful participation in constitutional adjudication. . . . [R]obust legal aid frameworks are essential to bridge the socio-economic divide that currently inhibits marginalized litigants from effective participation in constitutional processes."[45] The author calls for lawmakers to urgently enact the Legal Aid Bill "to codify a state obligation to provide legal assistance, particularly in public interest and rights-based constitutional petitions. The current ad hoc framework—largely dependent on under-resourced NGOs and *pro-bono* efforts—lacks the sustainability and coverage necessary to fulfil the constitutional promise of equality before the law."[46]

Freedom of opinion and expression

Status of Implementation: Not Accepted, Not Implemented

29. In its third-cycle UPR, Uganda noted nine recommendations related to freedom of opinion and expression.[47] Since the third-cycle UPR, Uganda has intensified its crackdown on freedom of expression. Security forces have subjected peaceful protesters to violence, detention, and harassment, particularly in the context of the 2026 Presidential Election.

Multiple human rights organizations observe that these actions reflect a pattern of suppression that extends beyond individual incidents to a systematic effort to silence political dissent.[48]

Peaceful assembly/freedom of association

Status of Implementation: Partially Accepted, Not Implemented

30. In its third-cycle UPR, Uganda[49] noted 12 of 13 recommendations concerning the right to peaceful assembly and the right to freedom of association, supporting only Ghana's recommendation to "[c]ontinue to reinforce measures that guarantee the rights of citizens to peaceful demonstration and freedom of expression." Uganda has not made progress toward implementing these recommendations.

31. Law enforcement has targeted the political opposition, meeting rallies with excessive force, arbitrary arrests, torture, and other ill-treatment. These human rights violations are not limited to people and organizations that oppose the death penalty; they disproportionately affect supporters of the National Unity Platform. Human Rights Watch reports that, in the weeks leading up to Uganda's 2026 Presidential Election, security officers reportedly beat and arrested hundreds of people during opposition rallies, while kicking and slapping journalists who attempted to cover the events.[50] The sustained suppression of the right to peaceful assembly and association closes the democratic space needed for civil society to advocate effectively for human rights reform, including abolition of the death penalty.[51]

Gender-based violence and violence against women

Status of Implementation: Partially Accepted, Partially Implemented

32. In its third-cycle UPR, Uganda supported 15 of 22 recommendations relating to gender-based violence, domestic violence, and violence against women.[52]

33. In 2022, the Committee against Torture recommended that Uganda ensure that authorities thoroughly investigate all cases of gender-based violence, prosecute alleged perpetrators and hold them accountable, and ensure all victims receive redress. The Committee further recommended that Uganda institute mandatory training for all justice officials and law enforcement personnel on the prosecution of gender-based violence, and compile data on the number of complaints, investigations, and prosecutions of gender-based violence.[53]

34. The Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) and PRI-Uganda report that the main crime for which women are sentenced to death in Uganda is murder, often in the context of gender-based violence.[54] Research indicates that a significant number of women sentenced to death for murder in Uganda maintain that the homicide occurred during an active episode of abuse — whether in self-defense, during a confrontation, or accidentally. Uganda has the tenth highest rate of intimate partner violence in the world, yet maintains a very low conviction rate for such offenses. Approximately 25% of murders committed by women in Uganda are directed at a domestic partner.[55]

35. This information is consistent with global data published by the Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, recognizing that "[m]ost women have been sentenced to death for the crime of murder, often in relation to the killing of family members in a context of

gender-based violence."[56] In Uganda, there is at least one reported case in which a woman was sentenced to death for killing her abuser.[57] This case suggests that when courts sentence women to death for killing another person, they ignore gender-based violence and the imbalance in power dynamics between an accused woman and her abusive intimate partner, spouse, or other family member.[58] Women imprisoned in Uganda for committing offenses against life (i.e., murder, assault, or manslaughter) have typically experienced prolonged domestic violence at the hands of an abuser (partner, spouse, or another family member). Domestic violence is therefore an important part of the context for homicides that women commit.[59]

36. *Uganda* v. *Kamyuka Ivan* articulates the elements of self-defense to include: (1) an attack on the accused person or close relative; (2) reasonable belief that the person being attacked was in imminent danger of death or serious bodily harm; (3) belief that it was necessary to use force to repel the attack; and (4) reasonable belief that the force used was necessary to prevent or resist the attack.[60]

37. People charged with homicide against an intimate partner can and do invoke self-defense, but women who kill following a *history* of abuse have not had ready access to the legal claim of self-defense. Women often cannot prove that an actual threat existed at the moment they used responsive force. Women subjected to protracted abuse at the hands of a stronger intimate partner may wait until the abuser is asleep or otherwise incapacitated before acting in self-defense. Consequently, courts view their response as unreasonable. Moreover, the requirement of apprehension of death or grievous bodily harm disregards the reality of severe but non-physical domestic violence.[61] Ugandan law does not recognize intimate partner violence as a stand-alone defense to homicide.[62]

38. In February 2022, Uganda adopted a Training Manual on Gender Responsive Adjudication for Judicial Officers and the Judicial Training Institute launched the manual soon thereafter.[63] Authorities have not made training mandatory and have not implemented the Committee against Torture's 2022 recommendation to institute mandatory training for justice officials and law enforcement personnel on gender-based violence.[64]

39. Limited information is publicly available about people on death row in Uganda. As mentioned above, as of June 2026, two women were on death row.[65] The decline from six women in 2021[66] and eleven in 2016[67] suggests that authorities are increasingly commuting death sentences to life imprisonment under the *Kigula* framework.

40. There is no publicly available evidence of a woman receiving the death penalty in recent years, nor are there publicly available gender-disaggregated statistics on capital crime charges. The most recent high-profile case of a woman convicted of murder in Uganda was F.N., convicted of killing a four-year-old girl in 2023. The prosecution sought the death penalty, but the court ultimately sentenced her to life in prison.[68]

41. Psychiatrists and psychologists collaborating with Penal Reform International interviewed 32 women at Luzira Women's Prison, including women on death row. PRI found that 53% of the women had a mental health disorder, including schizoaffective disorder (18%) and Bipolar 1 disorder (12%). PRI confirmed that many women in the prison had committed crimes against intimate partners and that such crimes often stem from traumatic experiences and can lead to anxiety disorders.[69]

Human rights defenders

Status of Implementation: Not Accepted, Not Implemented

42. In its third-cycle UPR, Uganda noted all 14 recommendations it received concerning protections for human rights defenders.[70] In 2025, the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders reports that the government of Uganda had intensified oppressive practices that posed danger and severe threat to Uganda's democracy and fundamental rights.[71]

43. According to ProtectDefenders.eu, on 30 December 2025, authorities arrested Dr. S.B., a prominent human rights defender and the Executive Director of the Center for Constitutional Governance, after raiding her home. They subsequently charged her with "unlawfully obtaining or disclosing personal data" and questioned her about social media posts that criticized the government and the electoral process.[72]

44. ProtectDefenders.eu further reports that in January 2026, the National Bureau for Non-Governmental Organizations (part of the Ministry of Internal Affairs) suspended at least seven human rights organizations on the basis of unspecified "intelligence information" and alleged violations of national security law and the NGO Act. The suspension requires the organizations to cease all operations and freezes all bank transactions connected to the organizations. Among the suspended organizations are the Center for Constitutional Governance, the National NGO Forum and the National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders.[73]

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender and intersex persons (LGBTI)

Status of Implementation: Not Accepted, Not Implemented

45. In its third-cycle UPR, Uganda noted all 20 recommendations it received relating to discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.[74]

46. Since the 2022 UPR, Uganda has adopted an Anti-Homosexuality Act. In October 2019, Uganda announced plans for a bill that would impose the death penalty on individuals who engage in consensual same-sex conduct.[75] In 2023, the Ugandan Parliament passed the bill,[76] which criminalized the act of "identifying as a homosexual" and required that citizens report such individuals to the authorities.[77] The bill extended an existing ban on consensual same-sex sexual conduct by banning the "promotion of homosexuality."[78] The bill authorized the death penalty for acts of "aggravated homosexuality."[79]

47. "Aggravated homosexuality" includes same-sex sexual activity: (i) involving a minor; (ii) involving a person living with HIV; (iii) involving a parent or guardian of the person against whom the offense is committed; (iv) involving a person having authority or control over the person against whom the offense is committed; (v) with a person that has a disability; (vi) where the offender is a habitual offender; or (vii) involving the offender's use of any drug or substance, with intent to stupefy or overpower the victim, in order to have same-sex sexual relations.[80] Consent of the other party is not a defense.[81]

48. In April 2023, President Museveni sent the bill back to Parliament, requesting that Parliament address three key concerns: (i) the bill was too vague about what was being criminalized and should instead focus on the "act of homosexuality," rather than identifying as homosexual; (ii) the provision that created a duty to report homosexuality to Ugandan authorities created constitutional contradictions; and (iii) another provision improperly focused on the premises where same-sex conduct takes place.[82] President Museveni did not request that Parliament amend or remove the provisions authorizing the death penalty.

49. In May 2023, Parliament passed an amended version of the bill, accommodating some of President Museveni's requests.[83] Later that month, President Museveni signed the amended bill into law, despite pressure from other governments and from human rights organizations to issue a veto. The Anti-Homosexuality Act of 2023 does not provide for the mandatory death penalty, but it authorizes the death penalty for "aggravated homosexuality."[84] In 2024, the Constitutional Court upheld the Anti-Homosexuality Act.[85]

50. In 2023, as Parliament began deliberating about the legislation, local groups reported that officials and private parties had stepped up attacks and discrimination targeting members of the LGBTIQ+ community.[86] These attacks included beatings, sexual and psychological violence, evictions, blackmail, termination of employment, online harassment, and denial of health care based on perceived or real sexual orientation or gender identity.

51. In August 2023, officials brought the first charge of aggravated homosexuality under the new law. Officials charged a 20-year-old man who was "found half naked" with a 41-year-old man. Police released the 41-year-old the same day, after they found him to be a non-consenting victim because of his "mental status."[87] After almost a year in custody, prosecutors dropped the charges against the other man "upon finding that the accused [was] of unsound mind after a long detention on remand."[88] The coauthors have not identified any other aggravated homosexuality cases.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

52. The coauthors of this stakeholder report suggest the following recommendations for the Government of Uganda:

Death penalty

- Abolish the death penalty and replace it with penalties that are fair, proportionate, and consistent with international human rights standards.
- In the interim:
    - Establish an immediate formal moratorium on executions.
    - In collaboration with civil society, undertake a national public awareness-raising campaign on the death penalty and its alternatives, including relevant human rights concerns.
    - Amend the Penal Code and other laws to eliminate the death penalty as a potential punishment for any offense that does not entail an intentional killing by the person accused of the offense.

    - Commute the death sentences of all people currently on death row to life imprisonment or lesser sentences, consistent with the *Kigula* framework.
    - Amend the Anti-Homosexuality Act of 2023 to eliminate the death penalty for "aggravated homosexuality," and in the interim issue prosecutorial guidance to bar authorities from bringing charges under this provision.
- On an annual basis, publish comprehensive information about all people under sentence of death, charged with capital crimes, sentenced to death, and executed, disaggregated by sex/gender, disability, date of offense, date of conviction, crime of conviction, relationship to any codefendants or victims, age at the time of first marriage, highest level of educational attainment, current location, and status of any legal proceedings or requests for pardon or clemency.
- Promptly enact the Legal Aid Bill and establish a funded national legal aid policy, ensuring that persons facing capital charges have access to competent legal representation from the earliest stages of detention through all appeals.
- Recognize intimate partner violence as a mitigating factor in sentencing for homicide, and introduce a defense framework that accounts for the context of sustained gender-based violence and coercive control dynamics, even in situations where the abuser is not posing an imminent threat at the time of the lethal conduct.
- Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.

Other issues

- In collaboration with civil society, adopt a plan of action to ensure effective implementation of the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act, including by establishing an independent oversight mechanism.
- Take immediate and effective measures to end torture and other ill-treatment by security forces, including by: (a) conducting prompt, impartial, and transparent investigations into all credible allegations of torture, including election-related allegations and the ongoing detention of political opponents; (b) prosecuting and sanctioning perpetrators, including people in positions of command responsibility; and (c) ensuring that victims have access to effective remedies.
- In collaboration with civil society and the Uganda Prisons Services, adopt a plan of action to implement the recommendations of the 2025 repot of the Uganda Human Rights Commission regarding detention conditions.
- Take urgent steps to address severe prison overcrowding, including by accelerating the use of non-custodial alternatives to pretrial detention, separating children from adults, improving access to clean water and sanitation, and adequately resourcing the Uganda Prisons Service.

- Implement the Committee against Torture's 2022 recommendations concerning the judiciary.
- Strengthen the independence of the judiciary by ensuring that judicial appointments, tenure, and discipline are free from executive interference, and take concrete steps to align judicial processes with the UN Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary.
- Repeal or amend the Uganda People's Defence Forces (Amendment) Act to remove expanded military jurisdiction over civilians and restore civilian court primacy.
- Issue a directive to ensure that any judge who denies a request for bail provides substantive justification for the denial on the record.
- Immediately cease the use of excessive force against peaceful protesters and journalists, release all individuals detained solely for exercising their rights to freedom of expression or peaceful assembly, and amend or repeal any policies or legislative provisions that unduly restrict those rights.
- Implement the Committee against Torture's 2022 recommendations concerning gender-based violence.
- In collaboration with civil society, create a training program to implement the Training Manual on Gender Responsive Adjudication for Judicial Officers and mandate that all judicial officers undergo that training, prioritizing judges who hear capital cases.
- Ensure that all women in prison, particularly women under sentence of death, have timely and regular access to psychiatric care and treatment, including medications and psychotherapy.
- Lift the January 2026 suspensions of non-governmental organizations and direct the National Bureau for Non-Governmental Organizations to limit suspensions to circumstances in which an independent tribunal has determined that the organization has committed fraud or a serious criminal act.
- Repeal or substantially amend the Anti-Homosexuality Act of 2023 to bring it into conformity with Uganda's international human rights obligations, and in the interim cease all prosecutions under the Act and release anyone who has been charged or sentenced under the Act.
- In collaboration with civil society organizations, develop an action plan to reduce discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.
- Direct the Human Rights Commission to undertake an independent investigation into allegations that law enforcement has committed violence against members of the LGBTIQ+ community and to publish a report of the findings, including recommendations for relevant governmental actors.

[1] Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Uganda*, (4 April 2022), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/50/11, ¶ 125.9 Fully implement the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Luxembourg); .18 Adopt a de jure moratorium of capital executions and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, with a view to fully abolishing the death penalty (Italy); .19 Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Nepal); .20 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Cabo Verde, Paraguay); .21 Establish a moratorium on the application of the death penalty, with a view to its eventual abolition, and consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Latvia);.22 Consider the abolition of the death penalty and the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Armenia);.23 Establish a formal moratorium on the application of the death penalty, with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Australia); .24 Abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Estonia); .117 Step up awareness-raising campaigns on the death penalty and public debates on the topic with a human rights based approach, including in Parliament, with a view to making possible its definitive abolition and the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, as soon as possible (Uruguay); .119 Abolish the death penalty, commute existing death sentences to proportionate punishments and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Iceland).

[2] Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Uganda, (4 April 2022), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/50/11 ¶ 125.117 Step up awareness-raising campaigns on the death penalty and public debates on the topic with a human rights based approach, including in Parliament, with a view to making possible its definitive abolition and the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, as soon as possible (Uruguay).

[3] Foundation of Human Rights Initiative. Also available online at: https://www.fhri.or.ug/.

[4] Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Uganda*, (27 January 2022), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/50/11/Add.1. ¶ 125.18 Adopt a de jure moratorium of capital executions and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, with a view to fully abolishing the death penalty (Italy); .21 Establish a moratorium on the application of the death penalty, with a view to its eventual abolition, and consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Latvia); .22 Consider the abolition of the death penalty and the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Armenia); .23 Establish a formal moratorium on the application of the death penalty, with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Australia); .24 Abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Estonia); .106 Establish a moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to abolishing it (Costa Rica); .107 Reduce the number of capital crimes, with a view to implementing a moratorium on the death penalty (Cyprus); .108 Abolish the death penalty in law (France); .112 Adopt a formal moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to its full abolition, both in practice and in law, for all cases and under all circumstances (Portugal); .113 Commute all death sentences, with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Sierra Leone); .114 Commute death sentences and establish an official moratorium on its application for all crimes, as a first step towards its legal abolition (Spain); .115 Abolish the death penalty and commute all death sentences to alternative sentences (Switzerland); .116 Abolish the death penalty and replace it with a sentence that is fair, proportionate and in compliance with international human rights standards (Ukraine); .117 Step up awareness-raising campaigns on the death penalty and public debates on the topic with a human rights based approach, including in Parliament, with a view to making possible its definitive abolition and the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death

penalty, as soon as possible (Uruguay); .118 Abolish the death penalty and accelerate the improvement of the judicial, police and prison systems, including by reducing pretrial detention (Holy See); .119 Abolish the death penalty, commute existing death sentences to proportionate punishments and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Iceland).

[5] Committee Against Torture, Concluding Observations on the Second Periodic Report of Uganda, (December 6, 2022), U.N. Doc. CAT/C/UGA/CO/2, ¶ 39.

[6] Uganda, *Penal Code Act*, Chapter 128, Articles 23, 111, 116, 123, 172, 226, 267, and 299.

[7] Uganda, *Anti-Terrorism Act, 2002*, Chapter 120, Articles 7, 8, and 9.

[8] Uganda, *Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces Act*, Chapter 330, Articles 118, 119, 120, 121, 125, 126, 127, 128, 130, 131, 132, 135, 144, 148, 149, 150, and 151.

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[13] The Advocates for Human Rights, Foundation for Human Rights & The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Uganda's Compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: Suggested List of Issues Relating to the Death Penalty, ¶ 4 (May 2, 2022); *Museveni: Uganda may reintroduce executions*, BBC (January 19, 2018), https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-42746172.

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[19] Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Uganda*, (27 January 2022), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/50/11/Add.1. ¶ 125.9 Fully implement the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Luxembourg); .120 Enhance efforts to guarantee a proportionate use of force by security forces and prevent torture and other ill treatment (Italy).

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[31] American Bar Association Center for Human Rights, *Fair Trial Violations in Uganda's Crackdown on Environmental and Climate Activism Against the EACOP Pipeline and Other Oil and Gas Projects*, May 2026, at 14-15, https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/human_rights/eng-uganda-fair-trial-violations-eacop-pipeline-report.pdf.
[32] American Bar Association Center for Human Rights, *Fair Trial Violations in Uganda's Crackdown on Environmental and Climate Activism Against the EACOP Pipeline and Other Oil and Gas Projects*, May 2026, at 15, https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/human_rights/eng-uganda-fair-trial-violations-eacop-pipeline-report.pdf.
[33] Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Uganda*, (27 January 2022), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/50/11/Add.1. ¶ 125.262 Continue efforts to strengthen the justice system, including juvenile justice, and take measures to reduce prison overcrowding (Qatar); .124 Redouble its efforts to create awareness among prison staff and detainees of their human rights and obligations (Burundi); .118 Abolish the death penalty and accelerate the improvement of the judicial, police and prison systems, including by reducing pretrial detention (Holy See).
[34] *UHRC releases disturbing detention report for eastern Uganda*, The Independent (June 25, 2025), https://www.independent.co.ug/uhrc-releases-disturbing-detention-report-for-eastern-uganda/
[35] *UHRC releases disturbing detention report for eastern Uganda*, The Independent (June 25, 2025), https://www.independent.co.ug/uhrc-releases-disturbing-detention-report-for-eastern-uganda/; *MPs raise concerns on prisoners' conditions despite infrastructure improvements*, Parliament of the Republic of Uganda (January, 28, 2025), https://www.parliament.go.ug/news/3533/mps-raise-concerns-prisoners-conditions-despite-infrastructure-improvements.
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[38] Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Uganda*, (27 January 2022), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/50/11/Add.1. ¶ 125.96 Establish measures to combat police harassment and guarantee access to justice (Mexico); .155 Continue efforts to strengthen the rule of law and access to justice (Tunisia); .156 Continue efforts to reform the judicial system and ensure its independence (Libya); .262 Continue efforts to strengthen the justice system, including juvenile justice, and take measures to reduce prison overcrowding (Qatar).

[39] Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Uganda*, (27 January 2022), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/50/11/Add.1. ¶ 125.154 Speed up the adoption of the legal aid bill (Russian Federation); .158 Enact the national legal aid policy bill, as well as the witness protection bill and the transitional justice policy bill (Austria).
[40] Committee Against Torture, Concluding Observations on the Second Periodic Report of Uganda, (December 6, 2022), U.N. Doc. CAT/C/UGA/CO/2, ¶ 17.
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[44] Mugamba, Elemegious, Access to Justice and Fair Trial Guarantees in Uganda's Constitutional Court: A Doctrinal and Institutional Analysis (April 16, 2025). Available at SSRN: https://ssrn.com/abstract=6052357 or http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.6052357.
[45] Mugamba, Elemegious, Access to Justice and Fair Trial Guarantees in Uganda's Constitutional Court: A Doctrinal and Institutional Analysis (April 16, 2025). Available at SSRN: https://ssrn.com/abstract=6052357 or http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.6052357.
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[47] Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Uganda*, (27 January 2022), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/50/11/Add.1. ¶ 125.129 Guarantee the right to freedom of expression and association, including participation in electoral processes (Mexico); .130 Ensure the respect of the right to freedom of expression, the press, association and peaceful assembly (Spain); .132 Respect freedom of expression online, including by ending the practice of enforcing Internet shutdowns and taxing the use of social media (Canada); .133 End the intimidation and harassment of domestic and international journalists by State authorities and provide a free and safe operating environment for the media (Canada); .134 Remove all obstacles to the right to freedom of expression and media freedom (Estonia); .135 Ensure freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly and that representatives and supporters of political parties, the media and civil society are not restricted from exercising those rights (Finland); .136 Ensure respect for freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, in particular by putting an end to human rights violations perpetrated against members of the political opposition, civil society organizations and human rights defenders (France); .139 Protect freedom of expression, freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association, by adapting the laws restricting those freedoms to international standards and by combating impunity for attacks targeting journalists, human rights defenders and peaceful political actors, in line with target 16.10 of the Sustainable Development Goals (Switzerland); .141 Take concrete steps to protect the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and ensure that human rights defenders, civil society actors, political parties, journalists and the media can operate freely and independently without fear of reprisals (Norway).
[48] Amnesty International, *The State of the World's Human Rights*, (New York, United States: Amnesty International Publications, 2025), 374-75; The Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Uganda: Ongoing Harassment of 27 Students at Kyambogo University in Kampala, FIDH and the World Organisation Against Torture, May 6, 2025, https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/uganda-ongoing-harassment-of-27-students-at-kyambogo-university-in.
[49] Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Uganda*, (27 January 2022), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/50/11/Add.1. ¶ 125.129 Guarantee the right to freedom of expression and association, including participation in electoral processes (Mexico); .130 Ensure the respect of the right to freedom of expression, the press, association and peaceful assembly (Spain); .131 Promote an open civic and political space and uphold the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly by repealing all laws and policies that restrict the activities of human rights defenders (Australia); .135 Ensure freedom of expression, association and peaceful

assembly and that representatives and supporters of political parties, the media and civil society are not restricted from exercising those rights (Finland); .136 Ensure respect for freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, in particular by putting an end to human rights violations perpetrated against members of the political opposition, civil society organizations and human rights defenders (France); .137 Create a safe environment in which to exercise the rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression, aligning the legislation with international law and preventing attacks and intimidation against human rights defenders, journalists and civil society actors (Italy); .139 Protect freedom of expression, freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association, by adapting the laws restricting those freedoms to international standards and by combating impunity for attacks targeting journalists, human rights defenders and peaceful political actors, in line with target 16.10 of the Sustainable Development Goals (Switzerland); .141 Take concrete steps to protect the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and ensure that human rights defenders, civil society actors, political parties, journalists and the media can operate freely and independently without fear of reprisals (Norway); .143 Improve the legal and policy framework for ensuring the freedom of peaceful assembly and protecting civic space, in accordance with international human rights standards (Republic of Korea); .144 Lift ongoing suspensions of the operations of civil society organizations to contribute to promoting and protecting freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association (USA); .145 Ensure the full enjoyment of the freedom of assembly and freedom of expression, as per its international human rights commitments (Austria); .146 Continue to reinforce measures that guarantee the rights of citizens to peaceful demonstration and freedom of expression (Ghana); .152 Allow for more legitimate participation of the opposition in elections, including by guaranteeing freedom of peaceful assembly, of expression and of association (Bahamas).

[50] Human Rights Watch, *Uganda's President Museveni Declared Winner in Elections Amid Repression*, (January 20, 2026).

[51] Amnesty International, *Uganda: Authorities subjecting opposition supporters to "brutal campaign of repression" ahead of elections*, January 5, 2026, Uganda: Authorities subjecting opposition supporters to "brutal campaign of repression" ahead of elections - Amnesty International.

[52] Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Uganda*, (27 January 2022), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/50/11/Add.1. ¶ 125.203 Provide safe abortion services for women and girls and legal protection for victims of sexual and gender-based violence (Iceland); .209 Take measures to combat all forms of violence and discrimination against women and children, including domestic violence, harmful practices and child labour, and promote the full enjoyment of the right to education (Italy); .214 Enhance efforts to combat all forms of gender-based violence, including domestic and sexual violence (Ukraine); .215 Take measures to ease access to justice, including for victims of sexual and gender-based violence (Cyprus); .223 Strengthen systems to assist survivors of sexual violence, especially girls and young women, and facilitate their access to medical, economic, legal and psychosocial services (Mexico); .224 Continue its measures to combat gender-based violence and harmful traditional practices (Nepal); .225 Continue to mainstream gender into development planning and ensure an inclusive and multi-sectoral approach to addressing gender-based violence (Philippines); .226 Enhance support on survivors of sexual gender based violence, especially girls and young women on referral systems (Kenya); .227 Make further efforts to mainstream the issue of gender across sectors and establish accountability mechanisms on sexual and gender-based violence (Republic of Korea); .228 Strengthen the legal framework to address gaps around sexual harassment, marital rape, child marriage, the definition of rape and consent and evidentiary and procedural protections for survivors, among other areas (Slovenia); .229 Continue to strengthen measures in combating violence against women and girls and provide legal protection for victims of sexual and gender-based violence (South Africa); .230 Take all necessary measures, both in law and in practice, to combat violence against women and domestic violence, as well as child, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation and other harmful practices (Latvia); .231 Prioritize financial resources for gender-based violence programming (Timor-Leste); .232 Strengthen legislative and policy frameworks to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence, and improve access to justice and support for survivors (Australia); .234 Strengthen sexual and gender-based violence referral systems to help support victims, in particular with their access to medical, economic, legal and psychosocial services (Belgium); .235 Provide legal protection to victims of sexual and gender-based violence by increasing the number of emergency shelters (Cabo Verde); .237 Eradicate child marriage and take concrete measures to combat discrimination and violence based on gender, including sexual violence (Cost Rica); .238 Implement additional measures to address violence against women and domestic violence, making available mechanisms for the protection of, and access to justice and effective reparation for, victims of violence against women and domestic violence (Dominican Republic); .239 Strengthen efforts to address violence against women and children and against

all persons on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity, including measures to prevent violence and support survivors (Fiji); .240 Amend the Sexual Offences Act of 2021 to ensure that it is compliant with international human rights standards (Finland); .241 Improve access to justice for victims of gender-based violence (Germany); .242 Implement the law that prohibits female genital mutilation and increases financing programmes against gender-based violence and domestic violence (Poland).

[53] Committee Against Torture, *Concluding Observations on the Second Periodic Report of Uganda*, (December 6, 2022), U.N. Doc. CAT/C/UGA/CO/2, ¶ 28.

[54] World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Global mapping of women under sentence of death, 2022, https://worldcoalition.org/document/data-mapping-women-on-death-row/.

[55] Diana Peel, *'We Just Die Quietly': Women's Pathways from Domestic Violence to Death Row in Uganda*, Women & Criminal Justice, March 24, 2026, Full article: 'We Just Die Quietly': Women's Pathways from Domestic Violence to Death Row in Uganda.

[56] See the Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide (The Alice Project), Judged for more than her crime: A Global Overview of Women Facing the Death Penalty, September 2018, p.4. Also available online at: https://deathpenaltyworldwide.org/publication/judged-more-than-her-crime/.

[57] Tanya Murshed, affiliated with Evolve, Interview with the Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, Mar. 18, 2015.

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[62] Diana Peel, *'We Just Die Quietly': Women's Pathways from Domestic Violence to Death Row in Uganda*, Women & Criminal Justice, March 24, 2026, Full article: 'We Just Die Quietly': Women's Pathways from Domestic Violence to Death Row in Uganda.

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[65] Immam Sadiq Taremwa, *Prisons Confirms 93 Inmates on Death Row, Says no Executions Since 1999*, NilePost, June 11, 2026, Prisons Confirms 93 Inmates on Death Row, Says No Executions Since 1999.

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[68] Patrick Luwagga, *Woman Sentenced to Life in Prison for Sacrificing Landlord's 4-year-old Daughter*, Ugandanz, October 21, 2023, Woman Sentenced to Life in Prison for Sacrificing Landlord's 4-Year-Old Daughter » Ugandanz News Website.

[69] PRI report forthcoming.

[70] Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Uganda*, (27 January 2022), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/50/11/Add.1. ¶ 125.105 End arbitrary detention and enforced disappearances, drop politically motivated charges and investigate allegations of State harassment and violence against civil society and human rights defenders (Ireland); .131 Promote an open civic and political space and uphold the right to freedom of

expression and peaceful assembly by repealing all laws and policies that restrict the activities of human rights defenders (Australia); .136 Ensure respect for freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, in particular by putting an end to human rights violations perpetrated against members of the political opposition, civil society organizations and human rights defenders (France); .137 Create a safe environment in which to exercise the rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression, aligning the legislation with international law and preventing attacks and intimidation against human rights defenders, journalists and civil society actor (Italy); .138 End the intimidation and harassment of human rights defenders, civil society organizations and journalists and ensure that they can exist and operate freely and independently (Netherlands); .139 Protect freedom of expression, freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association, by adapting the laws restricting those freedoms to international standards and by combating impunity for attacks targeting journalists, human rights defenders and peaceful political actors, in line with target 16.10 of the Sustainable Development Goals (Switzerland); .140 Protect human rights defenders, civil society actors and journalists (Luxembourg); .141 Take concrete steps to protect the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and ensure that human rights defenders, civil society actors, political parties, journalists and the media can operate freely and independently without fear of reprisals (Norway); .142 Ensure the protection of human rights defenders, journalists, members of the opposition and other civil society actors, allowing them to carry out their work freely (Spain); .147 Take immediate measures to ensure that civil society organizations, human rights defenders and journalists can operate in a safe environment and free from acts of intimidation or reprisals, and that all such complaints are duly investigated, including through the revision of the restrictive provisions of the Penal Code (Uruguay); .148 Investigate thoroughly, transparently, independently and effectively allegations of attacks against human rights defenders, civil society actors, bloggers, journalists and others before, during and after the 2021 presidential election and hold those responsible to account (Belgium); .149 Continue efforts towards the adoption of the bill on human rights defenders (Cote d'Ivoire); .150 Work on specific legislative measures to end the harassment of human rights defenders, civil society actors and journalist (Estonia); .151 Adopt the human rights defenders protection bill (Ireland).

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[72] ProtectDefenders.eu, *Uganda: Human Rights NGOs Suspended and Defenders Targeted Ahead of General Elections*, 28 Jan. 2026, https://protectdefenders.eu/uganda-human-rights-ngos-suspended-and-defenders-targeted-ahead-of-general-elections/.

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[74] Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Uganda*, (27 January 2022), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/50/11/Add.1. ¶ 125.77 (Malta); .78 (Mexico); .79 (Norway); .80 (Portugal); .81 (Portugal); .82 (Spain); .83 (USA); .84 (Uruguay); .85 (Argentina); .86 (Australia); .87 (Luxembourg); .88 (Canada); .89 (Chile); .90 (Dominican Republic); .91 (Ecuador); .92 (France); .93 (Iceland); .94 (Ireland); .239 Strengthen efforts to address violence against women and children and against all persons on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity, including measures to prevent violence and support survivors (Fiji); .240 Amend the Sexual Offences Act of 2021 to ensure that it is compliant with international human rights standards (Finland).

[75] The Advocates for Human Rights, Foundation for Human Rights & The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty*,* Uganda's Compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: Suggested List of Issues Relating to the Death Penalty, ¶ 10 (May 2, 2022).

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[78] Aditi Bhandari, *Uganda's anti-gay bill is the latest and worst to target LGBTQ Africans*, REUTERS, April 7, 2023, https://www.reuters.com/graphics/UGANDA-LGBT/movakykrjva/.

[79] Aditi Bhandari, *Uganda's anti-gay bill is the latest and worst to target LGBTQ Africans*, REUTERS, April 7, 2023, https://www.reuters.com/graphics/UGANDA-LGBT/movakykrjva/.

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passes-anti-homosexuality-bill-intl/index.html; The Anti-Homosexuality Bill of 2023, Bills Supplement to The Uganda Gazette No. 16, Volume CXVI (March 3, 2023). Also available online at: https://www.jurist.org/news/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2023/03/Anti-Homosexuality-Bill-2023.pdf.

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[82] Natasha Kahungi, *Uganda Parliament passes anti-homosexuality bill with president's amendments*, JURIST LEGAL NEWS & RESEARCH SERVICES, May 2, 2023, https://www.jurist.org/news/2023/05/uganda-parliament-passes-anti-homosexuality-bill-with-presidents-amendments/.

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