



## INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS

Mr. Y.K. Museveni  
President of the Republic of Uganda  
State House  
P.O. Box 25497  
Kampala  
UGANDA

25 February 2014

### Re: your signing of the Anti-Homosexuality Bill

Dear Mr Museveni,

The International Federation of Health and Human Rights Organizations (IFHHRO, [www.ifhhro.org](http://www.ifhhro.org)) has taken notice, with grave concern, of your signing of the Parliamentary Bill against Homosexuality, which means that homosexuality is criminalized and further stigmatized in your country.

As an organization of health professionals for human rights, we deeply deplore your decision on several grounds. In the first place we believe that the bill is in sharp contradiction with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), which Uganda has signed and therefore is party of. The Covenant refers to sexual orientation in Art 2, para 1 (non-discrimination) and 26 (equality before the law). ICCPR Jurisdiction (i.a. Toonen vs. Australia, 1994) clearly stresses that sexual orientation falls within the Covenant.

In the second place, we have been informed that your decision to sign the bill was (also) advised by a commission including medical doctors, with the opinion that homosexuality is learned behavior and a danger to public health.

Especially as an organization of health professionals, we deplore such an advise, since it is totally against evidence-based medicine and against internationally accepted medical policies.

The World Medical Association, in its Statement on Natural Variations of Human Sexuality (*Adopted by the 64<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, Fortaleza, Brazil, October 2013*), "asserts that homosexuality does not represent a disease, but rather a natural variation within the range of human sexuality.

The WMA condemns all forms of stigmatization, criminalization and discrimination of people based on their sexual orientation."

We therefore are deeply concerned about the consequences of this bill, which, given the above mentioned arguments, places Uganda outside of the community of countries that respect human rights in its full understanding and that respect modern, evidence-based medicine.

We therefore urgently request that steps will be taken to recall this bill and make sure that Uganda returns to the Rule of Law, that also applies to homosexuals.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Adriaan van Es' with a horizontal line underneath.

Adriaan van Es, MD, secretary IFHHRO

cc. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, Minister of Health, Uganda,  
Dr. Elioda Tumwesigye, Ministry of Health, General Duties  
Dr. Mungherera, President Uganda Medical Association  
Dr. Otmar Kloiber, Secretary General, World Medical Association  
Mr. Dennis Odwe, AGHA, Kampala, Uganda  
Uganda Medical Workers Union  
International Council of Nurses  
The Lancet  
Human Rights Watch

**Members:** Action Group for Health, Human Rights& HIV/Aids (AGHA, Uganda) , Association Jeunesse pour la Paix et la Non violence (AJPNV, Chad), Aman-saulyk (Kazakhstan), Association for Victims of Repression in Africa (AVRA, DRC), Centre for Enquiry into Health and Allied Themes (CEHAT, India), Commonwealth Medical Trust (UK), Doctors for Human Rights (UK), EDHUCASalud (Peru), Global Initiative on Psychiatry - Tblisi (Georgia), Harvard Program on International Health & Human Rights, Health and Human Rights Foundation (Bangladesh), Independent Medico-Legal Unit (IMLU, Kenya), International Aids Society (Switzerland), Johannes Wier Foundation (NL) , Medici per i Diritti Umani, Palestinian Physicians for Human Rights, Physicians for Human Rights (PHR, USA), Physicians for Human Rights (Israel), Physicians for Social Justice (Nigeria), Save Congo (DRC), Zimbabwean Association of Doctors for Human Rights

**Observers:** Amnesty International, British Medical Association (BMA) , International Council of Nurses (ICN), Turkish Medical Association, World Medical Association (WMA), International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA), International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) , IPAS, Norwegian Medical Association – NMA, Uganda Medical Workers Union, South African Medical Association (SAMA), People's Health Movement (PHM)

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