



## Civil Society Coalition on Human Rights & Constitutional Law

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### GUIDELINES TO INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS ON HOW TO OFFER SUPPORT AFTER THE RECENT PASSAGE OF THE ANTI HOMOSEXUALITY BILL BY THE UGANDAN PARLIAMENT AND THE PRESIDENT OF UGANDA'S COMMITMENT TO ASSENT TO THE BILL.

February 19, 2014

#### Introduction

Dear Partners, friends and colleagues,

We thank you for all the support you have accorded the Civil Society Coalition on Human Rights and Constitutional Law (CSCRCL) in its fight against the Anti Homosexuality Bill (the Bill) over the years. We specifically thank you for the support since the Parliament of Uganda passed the Bill on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2013.

Unfortunately, we received troubling confirmation on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014 from State House that President Yoweri Museveni Kaguta of the Republic of Uganda has agreed to sign the bill into law. We are not sure when he actually intends to sign the bill but from our calculations, he has until the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February to do so. Again if he does nothing by the end of 23<sup>rd</sup> February, the law presumes his assent and then all the Speaker of Parliament needs to do is to table the Bill before parliament and it becomes law. With a Speaker who has clearly shown her determination to make this Bill law, we believe she will do this as soon as the days run out.

So either way, we have a limited period within which to act and if the Bill passes we need to support actions that oppose the new law.

These guidelines are intended to guide international partners on how to support the CSCRCL at this important stage.

#### Ways in which you can support the LGBTI community.

- 1) **World Wide demonstrations.** We call upon all partners, friends and allies to organize worldwide demonstrations in different cities around the world now and or in the event that this bill is passed in its current form.
- 2) Call on Multinational companies that have businesses in Uganda to go public about their concerns on the bill and their future economic engagements in Uganda.
- 3) Issue statements condemning the passage of the Bill and calling upon the President NOT to sign it into law. We need the Government to know that they shall not get away with their actions. We need to know and compile organizations that can support people from Uganda in case things get

worse and they have to get out of the country and seek asylum elsewhere.

LGBTI people or people doing work around LGBTI rights are liable to being arrested if the Bill comes into force Call for your governments to issue travel advisories on Uganda.

- 4) Call for your governments to 'recall' ambassadors back to their respective Capitals for at least one week for strategic consultations on how to move forward when dealing with Uganda and Nigeria in regards to the two draconian laws. This will give the Ugandan government food for thought.
- 5) Get foreign leaders in foreign governments to say something about the bill as they have not come out strongly as it was expected.
- 6) Get celebrities to say something against the Bill/Act. We need more voices that Ugandans recognize and revere socially to speak out against this bill being passed into Law.
- 7) Get more international Aid groups especially those responding to HIV/AIDS work to say something for example: USAID, Pefar, CDC, Global fund etc.
- 8) Engage with any non-LGBTI partner organizations in Uganda that you may collaborate with or whom you fund to issue statements condemning the passage of the AHB and its implications to the work of Non Governmental Organizations.(NGOs).Remind them how this Bill is going to further shrink NGO spaces and is bound to affect the work they are doing.
- 9) Draw international public attention to issues such as corruption, human trafficking, nodding disease in northern, land-grabbing, as well as the suppression of media freedom and civil society space, the Public order management Bill so that attention shifts to where it properly belongs; in the best interests of the country's population as a whole. We need to step up public criticism to other negative trends in Uganda and remind the world that this bill is still being used as a tool to divert attention from the
- 10) Getting religious leaders to issue statements encouraging tolerance and respect for human rights for all. Vatican, Church of England etc.
- 11) Contribute physical, financial, or technical support to the Coalition and the LGBTI community as well as the exposed Human Rights Defenders working on LGBTI rights who are likely to begin to be arrested and charged. Financial and technical support for challenging the Bill in the constitutional court and the East African Court of Justice when it becomes law.
- 12) The question of cutting Donor AID has arisen. We want to make this very clear. We don't support AID cuts because of the detrimental effects this will have on our national budget that supports all Ugandans. However we cannot influence foreign policies of donor countries whose citizen's demand that tax payer's money not be sent to countries that don't respect Human Rights in general.

**For More information Contact:**

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