

Rt Hon Edward Ssekandi
Speaker,
The Parliament of Uganda
1 March, 2010

**RE: PETITION FROM AIDS SERVICE PROVIDERS, SPIRITUAL MENTORS
AND COUNSELLORS CALLING FOR THE REJECTION OF THE ANTI-
HOMOSEXUALITY BILL, 2009**

We the undersigned are delivering this petition to you as concerned Ugandans who are deeply troubled about the Anti-Homosexual Bill, 2009.

In the interests of safer, healthier, more peaceful, and more prosperous lives for ALL Ugandans; we as AIDS Service Providers, Pastors and Spiritual Mentors of ALL Ugandans are calling for the withdrawal of this Bill from Parliament.

The diverse views about issues relating to sexuality notwithstanding; we the undersigned are united about issues relating to sexuality and gay rights, we are united in opposing this bill because (if passed into law) it threatens the health, peace and well being of Ugandan citizens and goes against the Uganda Constitution which promises freedom from discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, color, ethnic origin, tribe, birth, creed or religion, social or economic standing, political opinion or disability.

Hon Speaker, we are all potential victims of this draconian bill:

- * This is a bill that requires various members of community, family members, service providers and spiritual mentors to “spy” on one another. This would obstruct religious leaders, doctors, counselors and other service providers in their essential roles and facilitate political and religious witch-hunts and false accusations against real or perceived enemies.
- * It is a bill that seeks to silence academics, students, human rights activists and NGOs and to undermine the pivotal role of the media to report freely on any issue.
- * If this bill is passed, many of us could face violence, prison and even death, simply for the care, compassion and pastoral services we provide.

In our well considered opinions; this Bill is not about protecting Ugandan culture and traditions as it purports. On the contrary it is violating our cultures, traditions and religious values that teach against intolerance, injustice, hatred and violence.

Hon Speaker, we need laws to protect people, not ones that will humiliate, ridicule, persecute and kill them en masse.

We therefore are calling on you and Hon Members of Parliament to reject this bill and the hatred, intolerance, self-righteousness and violence that it promotes.

Respectfully yours,

CONCERNED SERVICE PROVIDERS, SPIRITUAL MENTORS AND CONSELLORS,
UGANDA