



NEW YORK
CITY BAR

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VIA EMAIL AND FAX

February 18, 2014

His Excellency Yoweri Museveni
President of Uganda
State House Nakasero
P.O. Box 24594
Kampala, Uganda

Dear President Museveni:

I write on behalf of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York (“Association”) to urge you not to sign the Anti-Homosexuality Bill (the “Bill”) that was passed by Parliament on December 20, 2013,¹ and to return it to Parliament for reconsideration. The Association believes that the Bill threatens the fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (“LGBT”) and Ugandan organizations that support LGBT rights.

The Association reiterates its profound opposition to the Bill as expressed in our letters to you of February 16, 2010 and December 19, 2012, which are attached. As set forth in our previous letter of February 16, 2010, the Association believes that the Bill violates the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda and Uganda’s obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights. Uganda must adhere to the rule of law in accordance with its legal obligations. In addition, Parliament did not pass the Bill in accordance with its rules of procedure since it was passed without a quorum.²

The criminalization of homosexuality and organizations that support LGBT rights, the exclusion of LGBT people from full and equal participation in Uganda’s democracy, and the

¹ See BBC NEWS, *Ugandan MPs pass life in jail anti-homosexuality law* (December 20, 2013) available at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/world-africa-25463942>.

² See Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum-Uganda (HRAPF), *Parliament Passes the Anti-Homosexuality Bill 2009* (December 20, 2013) available at <http://www.hrapf.org/news-events/parliament-passes-anti-homosexuality-bill-2009>.

draconian penalties in the Bill (including life imprisonment) run counter to fundamental human rights principles. Although the Association acknowledges your efforts to carefully study the Bill,³ for the reasons stated above, we urge you not to sign it and return it to Parliament for reconsideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Carey Dunne

cc: Hon. Amama Mbabazi
Prime Minister

Hon. Kahinda Otafire
Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs

Hon. Simon Lokodo
Minister of State for Ethics and Integrity
Directorate for Ethics and Integrity Office of the President

Hon. Sam Kutesa
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Hon. Mary Karoro Okurut
Minister of Gender, Labor, and Social Affairs

Hon. Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga
Speaker of the Parliament

Hon. Med S.K. Kaggwa
Chairperson
Uganda Human Rights Commission

Hon. Dr. Richard Nduhuru
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uganda to the United Nations

Hon. Commissioner Navanethem Pillay
High Commissioner
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

³ See Mail & Guardian, *Museveni mulls anti-gay law in Uganda* (January 17, 2014) available at <http://www.mg.co.za/article/2014-01-16>.

Hon. Commissioner Dupe Atoki
Chairperson of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights