

Fòs Feminista Alliance Letter in Response to the *Anti-Homosexuality Bill* in Uganda



May 2nd, 2023

Dear President Museveni,

We write to you as Fòs Feminista: International Alliance for Sexual and Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice representing more than two hundred organizations worldwide, to urge you to not assent to any version of the Anti-Homosexuality Bill that the Ugandan parliament passed on March 21, 2023. We strongly oppose the Anti-Homosexuality Bill, which is a brutal attack on the people of Uganda and contributes to a global setback for human rights, gender equality, and public health in Uganda.

The Anti-Homosexuality Bill instills fear, insecurity, and violence. LGBTQI people across Uganda have already suffered direct and indirect attacks because of passage of the legislation. This includes blackmail, social exclusion, fear of attending health clinics, and violence.

Criminalization of individuals based on their identity is not only a violation of human rights, but also an affront to public health. Countries across Africa that criminalize LGBTQI people have a *higher prevalence of HIV* compared to countries that do not criminalize people for their sexual and gender identity. Discriminatory laws and policies like the Anti-Homosexuality Bill halt progress on public health efforts like HIV and AIDS, end lives, and ultimately *harm the entire society*.

As Global South-led organizations, we do not want to see you codify attacks on LGBTQI people brought to our communities through colonization. Around the world, countries are repealing archaic colonial policies that inspire violence against LGBTQI people. *Angola, Botswana, Cook Islands, Gabon, Lesotho, São Tomé and Príncipe, Seychelles, and Singapore*, and have all recently repealed colonial-era measures attacking LGBTQI people in acts of national sovereignty. Additionally, some countries like Bolivia, Fiji, and *South Africa* have taken further steps with their respective constitutions by prohibiting unfair discrimination on the grounds of gender identity and sexual orientation. Under your leadership, Uganda has the potential to emulate these rights too.

The Anti-Homosexuality Bill curtails Uganda's democratic efforts by inhibiting civil society organizations from equally and meaningfully participating in civic and political spaces. The shrinking of civil society and scapegoating of intentionally marginalized communities like LGBTQI people is not only a symptom of backsliding democracies and authoritarian governments but a core component of it. If signed, the Anti-Homosexuality Bill threatens all Ugandan civil society organizations working at the nexus of health, human rights, and democracy, impeding their work to advance social change, including to uphold the right to health in Uganda.

We urge you, President Museveni, to not assent to any version of the Anti-Homosexuality Bill and instead take action to prohibit discrimination and violence against LGBTQI people.

As a transnational connector of feminist movements and organizations, we call on you to ensure that all people in Uganda, including LGBTQI people, have the support, information, and services they need to make their own choices about their bodies, sexuality, and lives.

Sincerely,

ANFAM

Anis - Institute of Bioethics

Asociación Chilena de Protección de la Familia - APROFA

Asociación Civil de Planificación Familiar - PLAFAM

Asociación Coordinadora de la Mujer

Asociación Panameña para el Planeamiento de la Familia - APLAFA

ASTRA Network on SRHR

Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir - Colombia

Centro de Asesoría y Acompañamiento de las Mujeres, Siempre Viva

Centro Ecuatoriano para la Promoción y Acción de las Mujeres - CEPAM Guayaquil

CIES

Corporación Miles

Diverse Voices and Action (DIVA) for Equality

Education as a Vaccine - EVA

Fòs Feminista

Foundation for Women and Family Planning

Fundación Halũ Bienestar Humano

Generation Initiative for Women and Youth Network - GIWYN

INCODESI

Kenya Sex Workers Alliance

Lesbianas y Feministas por el Derecho a la Información - Línea aborto Chiapas

Mujeres Indígenas por CIARENA

Odara Instituto da Mulher Negra

PROFAMIL Haiti

Red de Mujeres Afrolatinoamericanas, Afrocaribeñas y de la Diáspora

Red de Acceso al Aborto Seguro - REDAAS

The YP Foundation

Women for a Change

Women for Women's Human Rights - WWHR

Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights - WGNRR

Women's International Network for Guatemalan Solutions - WINGS

FOS FEMINISTA

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PLAFAM
Asociación Civil de Planificación Familiar

cies
SALUD SEXUAL - SALUD REPRODUCTIVA
SALUD INTEGRAL

anfam
ASOCIACIÓN PARA EL APOYO
DE LA NUEVA FAMILIA EN
NICARAGUA

APLafa
ASOCIACIÓN PANAMEÑA PARA
EL PLANEAMIENTO DE LA FAMILIA

WGNRR
WOMEN'S
GLOBAL NETWORK
FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

PROFAMIL

CENTRO DE ASesorIA Y ACOMPAÑAMIENTO PARA LA AUTODIDAXIA
MUJERES SIEMPRE VIVA

CIARENA A.C.
Elaboro productos para la
concepción, embarazo,
parto, lactancia, puerperio,
menstruación y menopausia

Odara
INSTITUTO DA MULHER NEGRA

anis
Instituto de bioética

wfac
Cameroon

**coordinadora
de la
mujer**

REDAAS
RED DE ACCESO AL ABORTO SEGURO
ARGENTINA

CD Católicas por el
Derecho a Decidir
Colombia

SOMOS
MJES

ACOMPAÑAMIENTO FEMINISTA
LÍNEA ABORTO CHIMPAS

CEPAM
GUAYAQUIL
DESDE 1983

Construyendo a lado con
nosotras (aborto)
Mujeres del Sur de México
Apoyo emocional, acompañamiento
y de la Decisión

DIVA
DIVERSE VOICES AND
ACTION FOR EQUALITY

KESWA

GIWYN
Generation Initiative For
Women And Youth Network

Education as a Vaccine

YP the yp foundation
feminist · intersectional · rights based