

---

# Human Rights Council

Distr.: General  
23 May 2011

Original: English

---

MUNSA XVI

30 November – 2 December 2011

Agenda item 2

## Providing Protection to Homosexuals in Developing Nations

### Report of the Chair

#### I. Statement of the Problem

1. In developing and developed nations alike, homosexuals are discriminated against based on their sexual orientation. It is seen as a taboo in some developing nations due to tribal and cultural backgrounds. Prejudice and ignorance play a part in discrimination to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) people. The goal of the Human Rights Council is to protect human rights violations of all peoples. The LGBT community has undergone harassment and abuse to the point where some chose to take their own lives.

2. Currently, eighty countries around the world have laws that make homosexuality a criminal offense. Some fine or imprison homosexuals. Homosexuality is punishable by death in Sudan, Iran, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Nigeria, Somalia, and Yemen. Some countries have only recently taken to criminalizing homosexuality in their governments while, in recent years, other countries have been taking huge steps in legalizing same-sex unions.

3. If nothing is done to help the homosexual community the current situation of imprisonment, fines, penal labour, and death will continue. Countries that are making progress in the LGBT community could also regress and criminalize homosexuality once again.

#### II. History of the Problem

4. In Uganda, there is an anti-homosexuality bill that was introduced in October of 2009 and authored by David Bahati. This bill wouldve made homosexuality punishable by death. It was on the table for debate in May 2011, but wasnt addressed due to a technicality that stalled Parliament (Huffington Post). Parliament adjourned without any plans to finish what was started because there isnt a Cabinet (It had dissolved for the end of the Eighth Parliament).

Bahati faced a lot of opposition toward the bill; He ended up dropping punishment for failure to report a gay person to the police. Online petitions to stop the bill had a total of 1.6 million signatures. Now the bill has been shelved. If it resurfaces it will have to be written as a new bill and go through parliamentary process again. Homosexuality was criminalized in Uganda before the bill came about; Gays and lesbians could face up to 14 years in prison. Uganda is not alone: thirty-eight out of fifty-three African countries have criminalized sexual relations between same-sex partners. It is largely viewed in Africa that homosexuality is un-African and was brought to Africa by developed countries. These views have been in place since Africa was under colonial rule laws criminalizing sodomy were established. Other countries like Iran and Syria feel the same way.

5. The United Nations General Assembly convened in November of 2010 to vote on a resolution that reiterated the duties of nations to protect the right to life of all peoples. It emphasized the killings of people based on discriminatory background ( street children, human rights defenders, members of ethnic, religious, and linguistic minority communities, and sexual orientation). Benin, a country in Western Africa, proposed an amendment that excluded sexual orientation from the resolution and this amendment passed, despite the protest of nearly all European nations, North America, most of South America, and Israel. The majority of the countries that voted for the amendment were African countries.

6. Countries such as India and South Africa have eliminated their laws against homosexuality. Ending Acts of Violence and Related Human Rights Violations Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, is a United States declaration that calls on governments to take special steps to end acts of violence, criminal sanctions, and related human rights violations committed against individuals because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. (The New American). The declaration was introduced at the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva on March 28th, 2011.

### **III. Potential Solutions**

- Calling for anti-gay countries to eliminate their laws criminalising homosexuality
- Educating the public about who homosexuals are by homosexuals, in order to change the views people have toward them.
- The spread of online resources like Avert and the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, and Intersex Association that are there to answer peoples questions about homosexuality.

### **IV. Position and Research Tips**

7. Delegates should consider the following questions when reseaching the topic:
- Is your country pro-gay or anti-gay?
  - What laws does your country have regarding homosexuals?
  - What have citizens and the government done for or against homosexuals in your country?

#### **Useful Web Sources**

- <[www.un.org](http://www.un.org)>
- <<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/>>
- <[www.avert.org](http://www.avert.org)>

## V. Note to Delegates

Hello delegates and welcome. Thank you for being a part of MUNSA XVI. It is my pleasure to be your chair for the Human Rights Council. I hope you take this topic as seriously as I am. I must stress that as a delegate you need to stay as true to your country's position as possible. I understand that your country may have different views than you regarding this topic and it can be difficult to stay true to its beliefs. I am looking forward to hearing your position papers and ideas. Happy researching.

Renee Salem

## References

- [1] "Human Rights Council ." *OHCHR*. Web. 08 May 2011. <<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/>>.
- [2] "Homophobia, Prejudice and Attitudes to Gay Men and Lesbians." *AIDS and HIV Information from the AIDS Charity AVERT*. Web. 08 May 2011. <<http://www.avert.org/homophobia.htm>>.
- [3] *ILGA - International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans And Intersex Association*. Web. 08 May 2011. <<http://ilga.org/ilga/en/index.html>>.
- [4] "David Kato Murdered." *Gay Rights Uganda*. Web. 08 May 2011. <<http://www.gayrightsuganda.org/index.php/component/content/article/79-david-kato-murdered>>.
- [5] "Gay Rights in Developing Countries: Discrimination Encouraged by Western Christians." *Humanist NewsWire*. Web. 08 May 2011. <<http://www.humanistnewswire.com/2010/05/gay-rights-in-developing-countries.html>>.
- [6] "Missionaries of Hate." *Current TV: Official Site*. Web. 08 May 2011. <[http://current.com/shows/vanguard/92468669\\_missionaries-of-hate.htm](http://current.com/shows/vanguard/92468669_missionaries-of-hate.htm)>.
- [7] "Obama Calls on UN to Support Homosexual Rights." *The New American*. Web. 8 May 2011. <<http://www.thenewamerican.com/index.php/culture/family/6858-in-another-concession-to-gay-lobby-president-calls-on-un-to-support-homosexual-rights>>.
- [8] "UN General Assembly Votes To Allow Gays To Be Executed Without Cause." *The New Civil Rights Movement - A Journal Of News Opinion On Gay Rights Marriage Equality*. Web. 08 May 2011. <<http://thenewcivilrightsmovement.com/un-general-assembly-votes-to-allow-gays-to-be-executed-without-cause/politics/2010/11/20/15449>>.
- [9] Forces, Afghan Security. "Thor Halvorssen: United Nations: It's Okay to Kill the Gay." *Breaking News and Opinion on The Huffington Post*. Web. 08 May 2011. <[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/thor-halvorssen/united-nations-its-okay-t\\_b\\_787024.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/thor-halvorssen/united-nations-its-okay-t_b_787024.html)>.
- [10] Machirori, Fungai. "Homosexuality in Africa: The Tension between Human Rights and Normative Values." *Consultancy Africa Intelligence*. Web. 8 May 2011. <[http://www.consultancyafrica.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=274&Itemid=187](http://www.consultancyafrica.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=274&Itemid=187)>.

- [11] “The Love That Still Dare Not Speak Its Name.” *The Independent*. Web. 08 May 2011. <<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/the-love-that-still-dare-not-speak-its-name-1863913.html>>.
- [12] “The Antihomosexuality Bill. 2009.” Web. 8 May 2011. <<http://wthrockmorton.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/anti-homosexuality-bill-2009.pdf>>.
- [13] “Uganda’s Anti-gay Bill – Stopped!” *Avaaz - The World in Action*. Web. 22 May 2011. <[https://secure.avaaz.org/en/uganda\\_stop\\_homophobia\\_petition/?slideshow](https://secure.avaaz.org/en/uganda_stop_homophobia_petition/?slideshow)>.
- [14] Throckmorton, Warren. “What’s Next for Uganda’s Anti-Homosexuality Bill? (UPDATE).” *Breaking News and Opinion on The Huffington Post*. Web. 22 May 2011. [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/warren-throckmorton-phd/whats-next-for-ugandas-an\\_861282.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/warren-throckmorton-phd/whats-next-for-ugandas-an_861282.html).