



**SAFETY BRIEF**  
**ON THE ON-GOING TARGETED MASS**  
**RAIDS ON LGBTIQ PERSONS IN**  
**UGANDA**



# Community Safety Notice on Escalating Targeted Raids and Arrests of LGBTIQ Persons

Over the past two weeks, there has been a deeply concerning increase in targeted mass arrests of **LGBTIQ** persons in Uganda. These arrests have taken place in spaces known to be frequented by the community, including LGBTIQ-friendly bars, community gatherings, and homeless shelters. Since the beginning of February, at least four coordinated raids have been reported. Survivors and witnesses have documented serious human rights abuses during arrest and while in police custody, including physical assault and beatings, denial of food and medical care, refusal of access to legal representation, coercion to make statements, and the use of forced anal examinations. These actions are unlawful, degrading, and constitute cruel and inhuman treatment.

Community members are reminded that the **Anti-Homosexuality Act** remains in force and continues to be used maliciously to target LGBTIQ persons, justify arbitrary arrests, and facilitate intimidation and extortion. In light of the heightened risk, all community members are strongly advised to exercise extreme caution. Avoid overcrowded spaces, particularly bars, clubs, and large social gatherings, and refrain from attending community parties or events where proper security precautions are not clearly in place. Limit in-person gatherings where possible, avoid sharing event details publicly or on social media, and remain alert to unfamiliar individuals seeking information or attempting to gain trust quickly.

Particular care should be taken regarding shelters and other safe spaces. Shelter locations should not be disclosed to unverified individuals, and photos, videos, or live location sharing from shelters should be avoided. New shelter applicants should be carefully verified through trusted referrals, and knowledge of shelter locations should be restricted strictly to essential and trusted persons. Community members are also encouraged to practice digital safety by minimizing sensitive information



stored on phones, avoiding discussions of shelter locations or plans over unsecured communication channels, and being mindful of what personal items are carried at any given time.

We also continue to caution the community on the use of known Queer dating apps or random social media hook-ups which have continued to be infiltrated by blackmailers who work closely with authorities to arrest, brutalise and extort victims. Video verification of people before you meet them could be helpful but also paying critical attention to any possible red flags. We advise you meet people at your own terms and in spaces you feel safe and secure.

In the event of an arrest, individuals are encouraged to remain calm, avoid resistance, and remember their right to remain silent. No one should be forced to sign statements under pressure, and access to legal representation should be requested immediately. Where possible, community members should memorize or safely store contact details of trusted lawyers and human rights defenders. At this time, collective vigilance, discretion, and mutual care are essential. Community members are encouraged to check in on one another quietly, share safety information only through trusted and secure channels, and report arrests or abuses to trusted human rights organizations when it is safe to do so. The current pattern of raids is targeted and ongoing, and prioritizing safety is critical.

**In case of an emergency and need for legal representation.  
Feel free to reach out to our lawyers under the Toll-free contact:  
+256200905037 or through the already existing reporting structures  
from our partners like HRAPF.**

*You are not alone, and your lives and dignity matters.*