

Championing health and human rights with community-led partners to respond to the HIV pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa.

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## Statement regarding Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Bill 2023

The Stephen Lewis Foundation is deeply concerned about the Ugandan parliament's passage on March 21 of Anti-Homosexuality Bill 2023. The bill is an unconscionable violation of the human rights of LGBTIQ people in Uganda.

We join our Ugandan LGBTIQ partners in calling for President Museveni to withhold his consent of the bill. In addition, we call on the international community to act in solidarity with Ugandan LGBTIQ communities.

If signed into law by President Museveni, the anti-homosexuality bill (AHB) would criminalize the existence of LGBTIQ people in Uganda and strip them of access to housing, health, legal protection, justice, and social services.

In addition, the AHB would significantly undermine the HIV response in the country. Uganda has shown significant leadership on HIV in the past; however, if President Museveni gives his assent to the bill, he will make it impossible for Uganda to meet its HIV prevention and treatment targets, and will put the health of LGBTIQ individuals at greater risk.

Echoing the messages of our partners in Uganda, we urge the Government of Canada and governments around the world to call on President Museveni not to give his assent to this bill.

Further, we ask our peers in the funding community — foundations, international non-governmental organizations, and bilateral and multilateral funders — to communicate to their LGBTIQ and allied partner organizations in Uganda that the funder will allow maximum flexibility in how project funds are used in the coming months and will automatically extend any deadlines that may be upcoming.

Finally, we urge leaders, community members, and activists around the world to recognize that the passage of the anti-homosexuality bill in Uganda and the hateful and fear-based rhetoric surrounding it are deeply linked to the homophobia and transphobia that we see increasing around the world.

We must follow the lead of LGBTIQ Ugandans in responding to the AHB. We all have a responsibility to actively counter homophobia and transphobia. An attack on LGBTIQ rights anywhere affects people everywhere.

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