

President Ajay Banga  
World Bank Group  
1818 H Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20433 USA

June 15, 2023

Dear President Banga,

As activists committed to inclusive economic development from around the world, we write to you to urge your proactive leadership to ensure that the World Bank takes specific, concrete and timely actions in response to Uganda's abhorrent Anti-Homosexuality Act.

The sweeping provisions of this new law paralyze any hope for shared prosperity for all Ugandans and will cause grave harm to the World Bank's operations in the country. As the world's most important institution addressing poverty and ending economic inequality, it is a critical time for the World Bank to live up to its own stated commitments.

We write to underscore the position of Uganda's Convening for Equality (CFE) which has urged the World Bank to take action, including by stopping payment on current loans to Uganda and suspending future lending in Uganda until the law is struck down by the Constitutional Court. We also urge that such World Bank action be made public.

Such decisive action is necessary given Board-mandated policies that govern the World Bank. For example, the Environmental and Social Framework requires that countries ensure that "adverse impacts do not fall disproportionately on the disadvantaged or vulnerable, and they are not disadvantaged in sharing any development benefits and opportunities resulting from the project." The World Bank Directive on Addressing Risks and Impacts on Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Individuals or Groups and the Good Practice Note on Non Discrimination: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) require that the Bank assess, mitigate and avoid exclusion and discriminatory impact based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Furthermore, such actions are necessary in order to send a strong message to several other countries currently considering similar discriminatory legislation that the World Bank will live up to its own values and rhetoric and will comply with its own policies regarding the importance of inclusivity as a driver of economic development.

We appreciate the [World Bank's statement issued on May 31](#) in which it said that Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Act is "not consistent with the values of non-discrimination and inclusion that the institution upholds." But we remain concerned about the absence of follow-up actions by the World Bank after this condemnatory statement. Thus far in response to Uganda's 2023 law, the World Bank has NOT stated what range of possible actions it may take in the face of such a deeply discriminatory law that plainly violates its policies or clearly stated that a review will be conducted to determine a course of action in response to the new law. This must be remedied immediately.

This new law in Uganda will profoundly negatively impact many aspects of the lives of Ugandans as well as World Bank operations. Provisions which require mandated reporting to police of anyone suspected of having committed "the offense of homosexuality" (or any offense in the Act) and criminalize "promotion of homosexuality" violate basic rights to privacy, free expression, freedom of association as well as access to essential social services. World Bank staff and anyone working on World Bank-funded projects could be caught by these provisions of the law, among others. The law drives marginalized people away from needed services and actively mandates state sponsored discrimination and violence against real or perceived LGBTIQ people in all areas of livelihood – from employment, to housing, to health care and education.

In response to a similar law in Uganda in 2014, the World Bank [announced a delay of a USD 90 million loan to Uganda's healthcare sector](#) explicitly because of concerns for discrimination in the wake of that law. Then World Bank President Jim Kim also [wrote an op-ed](#) in which he stated that discrimination is bad for economies, as well as for societies and individuals. In 2018, in Tanzania the World Bank suspended all missions to the country, explicitly due to discrimination against LGBTI people.

We request a commitment to stop current and future lending to Uganda as long as the law remains in force. We look forward to your determined leadership in this important time.

Sincerely,

Unify Movements, Global  
Accountability International, South Africa and Sweden  
Accountability Lab Nepal  
Action Against AIDS Germany  
Adhara/Sevilla Checkpoint, Spain

Africa Center for International Law and Accountability, Ghana  
Africa Japan Forum  
Africa Queer Network, Uganda  
Africa Rainbow Family, UK  
African Services Committee, USA and Ethiopia  
AIDS-Fondet (the Danish AIDS Foundation)  
All Out, Global  
Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention, Canada  
AMATE, El Salvador  
Association For Promotion of Sustainable Development, Global  
Arms to Lean On (ATLO), Kenya  
AVAC, Global  
Bank Information Center (BIC), Global  
Campaign against Homophobia, Germany  
Campaign for Affordable Trastuzumab, India  
Center for Popular Democracy, USA  
Centre for Popular Education and Human Rights (CEPERHG), Ghana  
CHISA, Malawi  
Consolation East Africa, Kenya  
Council for Global Equality, USA  
Creme De La Creme House of Fame Foundation, Nigeria  
Deutsche Aidshilfe, Germany  
Developing Families Together, Ethiopia  
Delhi Network of Positive People (DNP+), India  
Dignity Canada Dignité, Canada  
East African Network of AIDS Service Organisations (EANNASO), Tanzania  
East Africa Trans Health & Advocacy Network (EATHAN), East Africa  
Equality Access to Health and Rights Initiative, Nigeria  
Equally Unique Initiative, Kenya  
F&M Global Barometers, USA  
ForumCiv, Sweden  
Foundation Earth, USA  
Freeblock13 Kakuma, Kenya  
Freedom and Roam Uganda  
FRI, Norway  
Friends of the Global Fight, USA  
Fundación Iguales, Chile  
galck+, Kenya  
Global Alliance for LGBT Education (GALE), Global  
Global Action for Trans Equality (GATE), USA

Global Interfaith Network For People of All Sexes, Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities and Expressions, South Africa  
GBGMC, The Netherlands  
Global Black Gay Men Connect, Global  
Global Fund Advocates Network, Global  
Global Fund for Community Foundations, Global  
Global Justice Now, UK  
Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+), Global  
God Adores You, Zimbabwe  
Grandmothers Against Poverty and AIDS, South Africa  
Hands of Hope, Zimbabwe  
Health GAP, Global  
HIV Justice Network, Global  
HIV Legal Network/ Réseau juridique VIH, Canada  
HIV/AIDS People Alliance of Kenya  
Hope Alive Health Awareness Initiative (HAHAI), Nigeria  
House of Our Pride, Eswatini  
House of Rainbow, Global  
Housing Works, Inc., USA  
Human Rights Campaign, USA  
ICASO, Global  
Immigration Equality, USA  
Indonongo, The Netherlands  
Initiative for Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights Awareness (ISRHRA), Nigeria  
Institute of Allergy and Clinical Immunology of Bangladesh (IACIB)  
International Association of Providers of AIDS Care, USA  
International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW) Kenya  
International Council of AIDS Service Organisations (ICASO), Global  
International IDAHO committee, Global  
Interfaith Diversity Network of West Africa, Ghana  
International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) World, Global  
International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) Europe  
Intersex Canada  
Intersex Community of Zimbabwe  
Journalists for Human Rights, Global  
Justice is Global, USA  
Kaleidoscope Trust, UK  
KP Consortium, Kenya  
Latu Human Rights Foundation, Zambia

Lesbian and Gay Federation in Germany (LSVD)  
Let's Walk Uganda  
LGBT+ Denmark  
LGBT+ Family Coalition, Canada  
Manodiversa Bolivia  
Micro Rainbow, UK  
Minority Defenders Forum, Organization, Uganda and Kenya  
Minority Womyn in Action, Kenya  
Miss Star International, Global  
Mosaic MENA, Lebanon  
Most at Risk Young Mothers and Teenage Girls living with HIV Initiative (MOYOTE),  
Kenya  
MPact Global Action, Global  
MusicWorks, South Africa  
Namibia Diverse Women's Association (NDWA)  
National Harm Reduction Coalition, USA  
Nebula Fund, Global  
Negem Lela Ken New HIV Positive women Support Organization (NLK), Ethiopia  
Office against Discrimination and Racism, and for Intersectionality (ODRI), Global  
OutRight International, Global  
Ozanne Foundation, Global  
Page blanche pour ton histoire, Gabon  
Pan Africa ILGA, South Africa  
Picture Youth Group Organization, Kenya  
Planned Parenthood Global  
Positive Vibes Trust, Namibia  
PREKURSOR Foundation for Social Policy, Poland  
PrEP4All, USA  
Prevention Access Campaign, Global  
Pride at Work Canada/Fierté au travail Canada  
Public Citizen, USA  
Queer Collective, Kenya  
Rainbow of Africa Foundation, Ghana  
Rainbow Railroad, Global  
Rainbow Sunrise Mapambazuko, DRC  
Reaching Out Winnipeg, Canada  
Recourse, The Netherlands  
Red Trans de Bolivia  
Release, UK  
ReportOUT, Global

Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, USA + Global  
Sangram, India  
Schwulenberatung Berlin, Germany  
Sex og Politikk (International Planned Parenthood Federation), Norway  
Sophiatown Community Psychological Services, South Africa  
Space for Marginalised Groups in Diversity in Zimbabwe Trust  
Stephen Lewis Foundation, South Africa  
Stepping Stones International, Botswana  
Stonewall, UK  
STOPAIDS, UK  
Swaziland Positive Living, Eswatini  
The Enchanté Network, Canada  
The People's Matrix, Lesotho  
Trans Noah Alliance, Uganda  
Transgender Law Center, USA  
Treatment Action Campaign, South Africa  
TUSC Concepts, Kenya  
UK Community Advisory Board  
Umtha Welanga, South Africa  
Unibambusiness, Belize  
Utopia\_BXL, Belgium  
WACI Health, South Africa  
Watu Center for Health and Advocacy (WACHA), Kenya  
Wem Integrated Health Services, Kenya  
Western Kenya Pride  
Wiceceka Community Support Organization, Rwanda  
Wide Horizon Hospice, South Africa  
Women Initiative for Sustainable Empowerment and Equality (WISE), Nigeria  
Women Of Faith In Action, Uganda  
Womens International League for Peace and Freedom Canada  
Workplace Pride Foundation, Global  
Youth and Women for Change in Eswatini  
Zambia Key Populations Consortium

**CC:**

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