

President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni
Republic of Uganda
Kampala, Uganda

27th of February 2014

Your Excellency,

In December 2012 the Swedish Mission Council and the Christian Council of Sweden sent you a letter regarding the proposed legislation to restrict the rights of homosexuals and to penalize acts by homosexuals, legislation which would create suspicion and discord within families and communities.

It is with the greatest concern we have now received the news that the “Anti-Homosexuality Act” has been signed into law. Discrimination against or punishment of people because of their sexual orientation should never be tolerated. We want to reiterate what we stated in our previous letter: the legislation contradicts not only basic human rights and principles of international law, but also Christian faith. There are different views on the issue of homosexuality within the Christian community worldwide, as also in Sweden. We believe that all people are created and loved by God, and that God intends us to reflect that love in our relations with our fellow human beings. There should therefore be no difference between us in our understanding that our common Christian faith can in no way sanction or allow the alienation and violence which this bill is already inciting against people simply on the grounds of their sexual orientation. Protection from discrimination, persecution or punishment on the grounds of sexual orientation is a basic human right.

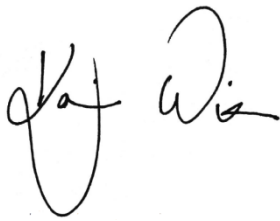
We represent two organizations in which most of the Churches in Sweden are members. The Christian laws of love given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ command us to love everyone. For us tolerance and a never-ending struggle for the human rights and the dignity of every human being is part of our mission as Christian organizations. Punishment, discrimination, stigmatization and state-sanctioned victimization contradict those values that we as Christian organizations uphold. As Christians we must follow Christ and stand on the side of the oppressed and the marginalized. We want to stretch out our hands to the vulnerable.

Your Excellency,

We plead with you as a self-professed Christian to use your political power to immediately initiate a process to repeal the "Anti-Homosexuality Act". We urge you to ensure that no more people in your country are stigmatized, persecuted or punished simply due to their sexual orientation.

We continue to pray to God to bless the people of Uganda and we wish you well.

On behalf of the Christian Council of Sweden and the Swedish Mission Council,



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