



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN®

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

June 2, 2014

Mr. President:

In February 2014, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni signed into law legislation criminalizing homosexuality. You spoke clearly and eloquently against this law, and the Administration began reviewing our relationship with Uganda. I appreciate the complexity of our relationship with Uganda. The issues of governance, food security, humanitarian assistance, and the precedent that this review sets are intertwined and complicated. Nevertheless, more than three months since the enactment of this law, I respectfully ask that you direct the Administration's interagency review to begin issuing immediate, concrete results that will illustrate the United States's commitment to protecting human rights in Uganda.

President Museveni must understand that there will be continuing and long term political and economic consequences to state-driven homophobia. An immediate demonstration of significant consequences, moreover, will put other leaders who are considering similar bills on notice that enacting anti-LGBT laws will effect their country's relationship with the United States. A further review that incorporates Nigeria, Russia, and Brunei – countries that recently passed heinous anti-LGBT laws – is also imperative to signal to the world that these consequences are not directed solely towards Africa.

Delay is putting lives at risk. A recent report published by Ugandan activists entitled "From Torment to Tyranny" details how violence against LGBT Ugandans has increased. They are losing their property, homes, and income. And the psycho-social impact of the law on LGBT Ugandans is pervasive, including noted cases of suicide and suicide attempts.

As a result, LGBT Ugandans are forced to once again live in the shadows. We must give brave LGBT Ugandans hope. The world is waiting for action, and on behalf of the Human Rights Campaign's 1.5 million members and supporters nationwide, I ask that you direct your Administration to begin taking immediate steps to hold the Ugandan government accountable.

Sincerely,

Chad Griffin
President

Cc: Honorable John F. Kerry
Ambassador Susan Rice