

21 February 2014

The Hon Julie Bishop MP
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

Uganda Anti-Homosexuality Act

I write to ask for your action to use all efforts with the Ugandan Government to repeal draconian anti-gay laws.

Constituents and LGBTI advocates have contacted me about their serious concerns with this legislation, asking that Australia play an active role opposing the laws. I understand that the Anti-Homosexuality Act punishes acts of homosexuality with prison terms that can include life in prison. Earlier versions of the bill would have imposed a death penalty.

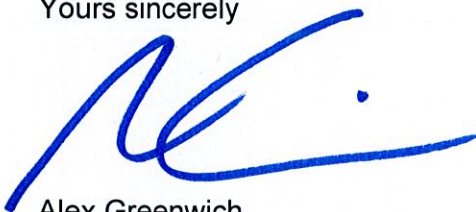
The Anti-Homosexuality Act makes it a crime to 'promote' homosexuality, which could include offering HIV counselling or simply expressing tolerance and acceptance. It makes it a crime punishable by five years in prison for renting an apartment to an LGBT person and not informing on your tenant to authorities. Families and friends will be at risk of criminal sanctions for not reporting someone they suspect to be gay. This law will make it impossible for any lesbian or gay person to get a job or a home.

These laws are outrageous and contradict commitments to human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the fair treatment principles of the 1995 Ugandan Constitution.

Australia should express clear and public opposition against laws that undermine basic human rights obligations and promote violence, abuse and discrimination. I ask that the Australian Government work with the Ugandan Government and international community to build a tolerant, inclusive and just society in Uganda.

Could you please publicly oppose Uganda's draconian anti-gay laws and inform me what action you will take?

Yours sincerely



Alex Greenwich
Member for Sydney

