



Press Release

26 February 2014
For immediate release

“Anti homo law” in Uganda must be internationally condemned and sanctions effective

The recent signing into law of a highly homophobic law in Uganda, by its President now means that Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transexuals (LGBT) can be imprisoned for life, and relatives and friends can be imprisoned for many years for failing to inform the police about them. The effects of this brutal law became immediately obvious as the day after this measure became law, when one of Uganda's tabloid newspapers published details of 200 gay men.

Uganda now has one of the most repressive anti-LGBT laws anywhere in the World. Rainbow Rose urges the EU and EEA and member states to take the following action against Uganda to make it clear that this sort of discrimination is unacceptable;

- To condemn the government of Uganda in the strongest terms for this action
- To impose economic sanctions on Uganda aimed at consumers of luxury goods but not at aid for the poor such as food
- To limit EU aid under some conditions, such as the respect of minorities including LGBT people
- To suspend all governmental aid, and send aid only through NGOs
- To freeze any assets of the President of Uganda and all members of the Ugandan government held in EU/EEA accounts
- To ensure that all LGBT asylum-seekers from Uganda are treated fairly and with respect and that none are returned to Uganda under any circumstances
- To ban the sale of any weapons or equipment that could be used for torture or surveillance to Uganda

Rainbow Rose does support the statement made by Hannes Swoboda (President of S&D Group in the European Parliament) *"The European Union's development aid commitments to Uganda will not change immediately but we will consider the formal sanctions at our disposal, including visa and travel bans for officials involved with the Anti-Homosexuality Act and launching consultations to suspend the Cotonou trade agreement with countries such as Uganda and Nigeria which adopt homophobic laws. EU development aid should be redirected to ensure that EU money reaches the most vulnerable without government-imposed discrimination.*

"We won't let entire groups be persecuted and jailed simply for who they are; no one's human rights are to be toyed with."¹

Ends

For further information email: contact@rainbowrose.eu or call: +32 495 16 1005

¹ Full Press release can be found [here](#) on S&D website

Notes for editors:

1. Rainbow Rose is the network for the LGBT groups of the socialist, social democratic and labour parties across Europe.
2. Rainbow Rose is affiliated to the Party of European Socialists and works with the Progressive Alliance of Socialist and Democrats in the European Parliament
3. You can find more about Rainbow Rose on [Facebook](#) or its [website](#)