

Uganda Joint Christian Council

Special Committee Recommendations on the Anti-Homosexuality bill. 2009

INTRODUCTION

We take this opportunity to extend our appreciation to the presidential and legal affairs committee of the Parliament of Uganda and Parliament as a whole for the work being done in the service of our country. We thank the Committee for considering UJCC as one of the stakeholders to make a contribution to this Bill. We consider this an important gesture of commitment on the part of the Parliament to involve a broad spectrum of the Ugandan population, including faith-based organizations such as ours to participate in the decision making and legislative process of Parliament.

We consider the Anti-Homosexuality Bill of 2009.

We note the object of this Bill is to establish a comprehensive consolidative legislation to protect the traditional family by prohibiting;

- i) Any form of sexual relations between persons of the same sex and;
- ii) The promotion or recognition of such sexual relations in public institutions and other places through or with the support of any Government entity in Uganda or any non-governmental organization inside or outside Uganda. It also aims at strengthening the nations capacity to deal with emerging internal and external threats to the traditional heterosexual family and to protect the children and youth of Uganda who have become vulnerable to sexual abuse and deviation, as a result of cultural changes, uncensored information technologies, parent less child development settings and increasing attempts by homosexuals to raise children in homosexual relationships.

We have the following comments and recommendations to make;

1. Definition of "Authority"

- a. It should be reformulated to include police, military or anyone or institution related to security.

2. Aggravated Homosexuality

- a. S.3 provides for aggravated homosexuality. Under S.3 (2) it is stated that a person who commits the offense of aggravated homosexuality shall be liable on conviction to suffer death.

UJCC is against the death penalty but stands for life imprisonment of 20 years. The death penalty is so severe and yet many of these are victims of sodomy. The bill should take care of victims of sodomy. We are of the opinion that the penalty should be 20 years in a rehabilitation facility. Rehabilitation to be given by Faith-based organizations in partnership with government subject to review should be included.

- b. Focus must be clearly on the two protected classes of children and the handicapped. To avoid ambiguity other sections of offenders such as people with HIV/AIDS, abuse of authority, repeat offenders must be clearly interpreted where the victims are ***children*** or the ***handicapped***.