



LAST HOPE REFUGEE ASSOCIATION LIMITED

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Report on human rights violations against trans refugees in refugee camps in Uganda.

Period :October 2024 – November 2025

Organization :Last Hope Refugee Association (LHRA)

Introduction :

Last Hope Refugee Association (LHRA) is a community-based organization founded and run by transgender women refugees living in the Nakivale refugee camp in Uganda. Created in response to the extreme vulnerability of transgender people within the Ugandan asylum system, LHRA is dedicated to advocating for, protecting, providing psychosocial and moral support, and upholding the dignity of refugees facing violence, discrimination, social exclusion, and the risk of death because of their activism and sexual orientation.

Since its inception, LHRA has established itself as one of the leading community-based organizations protecting trans and sex worker refugees in Nakivale. Its existence reflects the resilience and commitment of survivors of violence who, despite adverse conditions, have chosen to organize themselves to protect their community and provide concrete support to the most vulnerable.

Last Hope Refugee Association (LHRA) carries out essential activities, including:

- Documentation of human rights violations suffered by trans refugees; - Psychosocial assistance and mental health support;
- Assistance to trans and sex-workers living with HIV/AIDS and capacity building on prevention and protection;
- Emergency accommodation and material assistance to survivors of violence; Referral to medical, legal and humanitarian services; Community awareness-raising on dignity, diversity, and human rights; Advocacy with humanitarian institutions for the protection of sexual and gender minorities;
- Relocation of trans activists and refugee members in danger to a safer area;
- Capacity building for trans and sex worker people on human rights and Ugandan laws.

Our work is based on a community-based, inclusive approach that is sensitive to the specific realities of trans-refugees living in camps. LHRA works in partnership with local, national, and international organizations to ensure a coordinated response to the risks our members face daily.

In a hostile legal context, marked by the criminalization of homosexuality in Uganda and by a rise in social violence, LHRA often constitutes the only space of safety, listening and support for refugees rejected by their families, their communities of origin and sometimes by the humanitarian system itself.

We continue our mission with determination: to protect lives, promote dignity, and defend the fundamental rights of every LGBTQI+ refugee in Nakivale, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

1. Executive Summary

During the period covering October 2024 to November 2025, LHRA documented **297 serious human rights violations** directed against trans-refugees in Nakivale. The main threats include physical assaults, sexual violence, forced evictions, denial of access to medical care, death threats, excommunication, extortion and arbitrary arrests. Transgender people, gay men, lesbian women and refugees living with HIV have been particularly targeted.

Despite a hostile environment and very limited resources, LHRA provided psychosocial assistance, emergency interventions, community training, and accompanied several survivors to medical and legal services.

The situation remains critical. Protection for trans and sex worker refugees in the camp remains virtually non-existent, and the risks of daily violence and impunity are alarming.

2. Context

Uganda remains one of the most dangerous countries for LGBTQI+ people. The 2023 anti-homosexuality law has intensified persecution, harassment, and institutionalized violence.

In the Nakivale camp, social stigma, homophobic attitudes, extreme poverty, and the lack of adequate protection mechanisms expose trans refugee to serious risks on a daily basis. It must be said, without mincing words, that all this suffering has been exacerbated by the anti-homosexuality law in force in Uganda since 2023. Every day, every moment of life, this shameful law claims victims.

LHRA, a community organization created by transgender refugees, intervenes to protect, assist and document these violations, while advocating for the dignity and safety of its members.

3. Methodology

This report provides a detailed overview of the violence and human rights violations suffered by LGBTQI+ refugees because of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression in and around the Nakivale refugee camp in Uganda. It highlights physical and verbal abuse, psychological violence, institutional discrimination, forced evictions, stigmatization, excommunication in churches and mosques, public insults, and denials of access to

care, as well as cases of assassinations, death threats and recurring intimidation targeting people whose only "fault" is to exist outside of imposed heterosexual and cisnormative standards.

The data contained in this report was documented with courage, selflessness, and a profound sense of duty by the human rights defenders of Last Hope Refugee Association. These activists, themselves trans-refugees, risk their safety daily to protect, support, and give a voice to victims of violence. Their work involves not only gathering testimonies but also providing psychosocial support, referrals to medical care, emergency assistance, and advocacy to ensure minimum protection for those targeted.

To ensure rigorous and reliable data collection, several methods were used, including:

- Confidential interviews with survivors and witnesses;
- Written and photographic documentation where possible and safe;
- Medical reports and injury certificates;
- Direct observations made by our community teams; Internal records of complaints registered by Last Hope Refugee Association; Cross-referrals with other organizations
- present on the ground when relevant; Continuous monitoring of cases to assess the evolving situation of survivors;

This process was conducted in an extremely hostile environment, where victims often hesitate to come forward for fear of reprisals, where institutional protection mechanisms remain weak or non-existent, and where systemic discrimination reduces opportunities for access to justice and essential services due to the anti-homosexuality law in force in Uganda.

This report therefore aims not only to inform, but also to raise awareness, alert, and mobilize. It serves as an advocacy tool for the dignity, safety, and fundamental rights of trans-refugees living in and around Nakivale. It powerfully reminds us that each testimony gathered represents a human life shattered or threatened, but also an act of resistance, a courageous voice that refuses to be silenced.

We hope that this document will help raise the profile of these realities, encourage more inclusive humanitarian action, and mobilize support to protect those living at the intersection of violence, exile, and discrimination.

Sources of collection

- Confidential individual interviews; internal
- community complaint registers; field visits by
- LHRA community leaders; direct observations
- Anonymized medical reports when available

Boundaries

- Fear of reprisals

- Lack of reliable official complaint mechanisms;
- security risks for witnesses and our volunteers; lack
- of resources for thorough investigations

SOME IMAGES OF ACTIVITIES

Moral re-armament on Trans-refugee community and their experiences and testimonies to survive under the AHA 23 law.



Photo taken after the Moral Re-Armament workshop



Photo taken during the Moral Re-Armament workshop



Photo workshop on HIV awareness



Photo taken during the capacity-building workshop on Ugandan laws in Kabingo



Family photo after the Kabingo workshop on capacity building regarding Ugandan laws



Awareness photo about taking ARVs regularly



Free medical consultation for LHRA members



Following the free consultation for LHRA members by Dr. Buchaguzi Kabemba



Following the free consultation for LHRA members

4. General Statistics

Total number of violations recorded: **303 cases**

Type of violation: A few illustrative cases

1. Assassination

No.	Location (where village)	Neighborhood (camp)	Date (When)	Nature of violence	Gender of the victims	Author	Factual sequence of events
1	Sudan	Nakivale	January 19 2025		Transgender	Unknown naked	<i>Sunday, January 19, 2025, will forever be etched in our memories as a day of horror and mourning for the LGBTQI+ refugee community in Uganda. On that day, the unthinkable happened: the atrocious murder of Vicaire Muganza Pierre. (The name is not fictitious).</i> <i>Vicaire, a transgender woman, was a Congolese refugee born on July 7, 1996. She was found dead, her throat tragically cut, in her own home in the Soudan neighborhood of the Nakivale camp in the Isingiro district of Uganda.</i> <i>She lived there in a relationship with Mr. Mulibwa Baziye François, who was also an active member of Last Hope Refugee Association "LHRA".</i> <i>It is essential to emphasize that this act</i>

							<i>This despicable act was not a bolt from the blue. For before this heinous crime, Vicaire Muganza Pierre had already been the target of numerous threats, received both verbally and through anonymous calls and messages on his phone—threats directly linked to his identity and sexual orientation. His murder is the tragic culmination of a climate of fear and hostility that the LGBTQI+ community experiences daily.</i>
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2. Physical assaults

No.	Location (where) village	Neighborhood (camp)	Date (When)	Nature of violence	Gender of the victims	Author	Factual sequence of events
1	Sudan	Nakivale	April 24 2025	Physical	Transgender	Band of the person born unknown ues	<i>In the village of New Hope, a quiet evening turned into a nightmare for Pierre Wilson (fictitious name).</i> <i>Pierre and his friend were sitting by the roadside, chatting quietly, when a group of people suddenly appeared. For no reason, they began insulting and hitting them. Their hateful shouts could be heard: "To the homosexual devils!"</i> <i>Pierre was brutally beaten. He suffered serious injuries to his right eye and lip. These marks clearly demonstrate the brutality of the attack. A photograph taken afterward confirms the violence he endured.</i> <i>Pierre wasn't attacked for what he had done, but simply because he is gay. This attack shows how much harm hatred and intolerance can still do today in refugee camps.</i>
2	Sudan	Nakivale	June 10 2025	Physical	Transgender	Band of the person born unknown ues	<i>Mr. John Kamanda (fictitious name) was violently attacked in the village of Sudan while walking with his partner. A group of individuals attacked them without provocation, beating him with extreme brutality.</i> <i>John was seriously injured: part of his left ear was cut off, and his lower lip was almost</i>

							<i>Torn in two. Her face was covered in blood, evidence of the violence of the attack.</i> <i>People of goodwill quickly rushed him to the hospital, likely saving his life. A photo taken after the attack bears witness to this terrible assault, motivated by hatred and intolerance.</i>
3	Kashojwa	Nakivale	22 December 2024	physical	Transgender	<i>A band of the young people people Muslim man</i>	<i>A transgender person named Johnson Fikiri (fictitious name) was violently attacked. A group of young refugees attacked her, injuring her left leg and right arm. According to witnesses, the attackers were young Muslim men. They accused Johnson of being part of an association defending homosexuals. The attack was very violent, and a photo taken afterward provides proof of this.</i>
4	New Hope	Nakivale	March 2025	Physical and sexual		<i>Band of the person born unknown ues</i>	<i>Rose Adeline (fictitious name), aged 15, is the daughter of Charles Bora (fictitious name), an activist of the Last Hope Refugee Association. One evening, while fetching water from Lake Nakivale, she was attacked by a group of young refugees. The assailants slapped her and attempted to rape her. Fortunately, some kind-hearted people intervened in time and rescued her.</i> <i>During the attack, the assailants insulted her, shouting that she was "the daughter of the homosexual devil". They also said that Rose Adeline had to "pay for her father's sins".</i>
5	New Hope	Nakivale	May-June 2025	Violence psychology that / moral	Gay	<i>unknown us</i>	<i>Every week for a month, unknown individuals dumped large quantities of human excrement in Mr. Charles Bora's yard at night. These acts demonstrate the hatred and constant threats this family faces because of Charles Bora's commitment to defending the rights of homosexual and transgender people.</i>
	New Hope	Nakivale	July 2025	Violence psychology that / moral	Gay	<i>Unknown naked</i>	<i>The following month, for several nights, unknown individuals threw stones at the roof of Charles Bora's (fictitious name) house. During this same period, several villagers...</i>

6							<i>complaints to the village chief (chairman), demanding that Charles Bora be expelled from the village. They accused him of promoting homosexuality.</i>
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3. Sexual Violence

No.	Location (where) village	Neighborhood (camp)	Date (When)	Nature of violence	Gender of the victim	Author	Factual sequence of events
1	New Hope	Nakivale	November 2024	Violence sexual	Trans woman	Unknown US	<i>That day, a truly unfortunate one, in the early evening, Miss Divine Uhuru (a pseudonym) went to Lake Nakivale to fetch water. The water fountains had been dry for two days. Suddenly, three men surprised her, gagged her, and dragged her into a dark corner. The assailants argued over who would be the first to rape her. Their quarrel attracted the attention of a passerby who, intrigued, shone his flashlight on the scene. At that moment, while the victim had already been undressed, the perpetrators fled.</i>
2	Kashojwa B	Nakivale	August 2025	Violence sexual	Transman	known	<i>That evening, Mr. Gabriel Lengeri (a pseudonym) simply wanted a cold beer. Sitting calmly in a bar, he got up to go to the restroom when two men abruptly dragged him into one of the small stalls. There, the assailants violently raped him, holding a knife to his forehead. During the attack, they told him they wanted to "find out" whether he was a woman or a man. Before fleeing, they threatened to call the police if he dared to speak.</i>

4. Verbal aggression

No.	Location (where) village	Neighborhood (camp)	Date (When)	Nature of violence	Gender of the victims	Author	Factual sequence of events
1	New Congo	Nakivale	November 2024	Violence verbal and psychology that	Lesbian	A band of the women homophobes du	<i>On that day, Miss Brigitte Kaya (fictitious name) had gone to Lake Nakivale to draw water, as the Camp's water fountains were dry.</i>

						<i>camp</i>	<i>A group of women then confronted her and began hurling insults at her. They called her a "dirty woman," a "disciple of Lucifer," accusing her of being the source of the misfortunes plaguing refugees in Uganda. To make matters worse, these women spilled the water she had just drawn. Alerted, her family members rushed to her aid.</i>
2	<i>New Congo</i>	<i>Nakivale</i>	<i>December 2024</i>	<i>Violence verbal and psychology that</i>	<i>Transgender</i>	<i>A band of the women refugees homophobes</i>	<i>Mr. Bahati Kaziri (fictitious name) found himself surrounded by a group of women from the market. They insulted him, pointed at him, and even tried to tear off his clothes to check if he was a man or a woman. Two Fortunately, bisexual people, members of our association, intervened and managed to bring him to safety.</i>
3			<i>FEBRUARY 2025</i>	<i>Violence verbal and psychology that</i>	<i>Transgender</i>	<i>Unknowns</i>	<i>Mr. Clément Muhoza was tending his garden when he was suddenly attacked by three masked individuals who identified themselves as defenders of Islamic law and anti-homosexuality. They began by hurling insults at him, describing him as the devil incarnate. The assailants then recited a lengthy prayer cursing all LGBTQI+ people worldwide, asking God to rid the world of homosexuals, just as in Sodom and Gomorrah.</i>
4	<i>New Kigali</i>	<i>Nakivale</i>	<i>August 2025</i>	<i>Violence verbal and psychology that</i>	<i>Transgender</i>	<i>Unknowns</i>	<i>Two members of the LGBTQI+ community, Christophe and Kami (fictitious names), refugees in Nakivale, were going to a shop to buy food when a group of young teenagers suddenly surrounded them, loudly jeering. The two men tried to They tried to move away, but the teenagers followed them, shouting, "Here are the homosexuals we were looking for, the ones who bring misfortune!" A few adults then joined the group, repeating the same insults. The village chief had to intervene to prevent them from being lynched.</i>

5. Eviction and termination of lease agreements without notice

No.	Location (where) village	Neighborhood (camp)	Date (When)	Nature of violence	Gender of the victim	Author	Factual sequence of events
1	Sweswe	Kyaka II	September 2025	Discrimination we founded on orientation sexual	Lesbian	known	Madame Claudine Apendeki (fictitious name) was selling peanuts on the street corner when a group of young boys from the neighborhood knocked everything over as they passed by, claiming that she was selling peanuts tainted by the indecency of homosexuals.
2	Karitima	Rubondo	August 2025	Discrimination based on orientation sexual	Transgender	Known	That evening, Mr. Jules Uruma had simply invited a friend over to chat. But a few hours later, his landlord came to inform him of the immediate termination of his lease, without any notice. He ordered him to leave the premises at once, threatening to call the police if he refused. The landlord made it clear that he did not want homosexuals in his home and that, in his opinion, the law Ugandan law forbade it.
3	Bokere	Kyaka II	November 2025	Discrimination we founded on orientation sexual	Lesbian	known	After being publicly insulted by a group of women who called her a "damned lesbian, a disciple of Lucifer," in front of her landlord, Miss Hodari Kabaruze (a pseudonym) returned home that evening. Her landlord then came to see her and asked her numerous questions to determine if she was indeed a lesbian. Hodari asked him what that had to do with her lease. But instead of answering, the landlord immediately evicted her, declaring that a Muslim could not "harbor a devil in his house."

6. Relocation of activists in danger

No.	Location (where) village	Neighborhood (camp)	Date (When)	Nature of violence	Gender of the victim	Author	Factual sequence of events
1	Karitima	Rubondo	November 2025	violence based on there discrimina tion	Transgender	Known	Human rights activist Pascal Pondamali was accused by his neighbors, to the village chief, of promoting homosexuality. The village chief then summoned him to inform him that he had to leave the village. The organization Last Hope Refugee

							<i>The association therefore sought new accommodation for him in a safer village.</i>
2	Kakoni	Kyaka II	April 2025	Violence based on the genre (GBV – Gender-Based Violence)	Lesbian	Unknown naked	<i>Miss Espérance Watukalusu was attacked daily by her neighbors because her clothing and behavior were not those of a woman but of a man. The neighbors brought men to harass her and even forced her to have sex with them. Another night, unknown individuals scattered leaflets threatening her with death if she did not leave the village. The organization then relocated the victim to another camp.</i>

7. Refusal of medical care

No.	Location (where) village	Neighborhood (camp)	Date (When)	Nature of violence	Gender of the victim	Author	Factual sequence of events
1	Nyarugugu	Nakivale	July 2025	Exclusion to care medical	Transgender	Band of the sero positive	<i>Mr. Jean Jacques, who is HIV-positive, was sitting on a bench like all the other patients waiting his turn to receive antiretroviral therapy when a woman pointed at him and told the other patients that he belonged to the trans-community. One of the patients immediately told the others to kill him and went outside to get stones and pieces of stick to hit him. It was at this moment that a healthcare worker asked him to leave.</i>
2	Juru	Nakivale	August 2025	Discrimination to care medical	Lesbian	known	<i>Suffering from a high fever, Miss Eveline Furaha went to a health center for treatment. But upon arrival, the nurse told her that the center was not for homosexuals, whom she accused of bringing shame and misfortune to the community.</i>

8. Excommunication of churches and mosques

No.	Location (where) village	Neighborhood (camp)	Date (When)	Nature of violence	Gender of the victims	Author	Factual sequence of events
1	New Congo	Nakivale	August 22 2025		Lesbian	THE committee pastoral of	<i>Ms. Claudine Ilunga (fictitious name) was invited by the committee of pastors of her church to explain her apartment at</i>

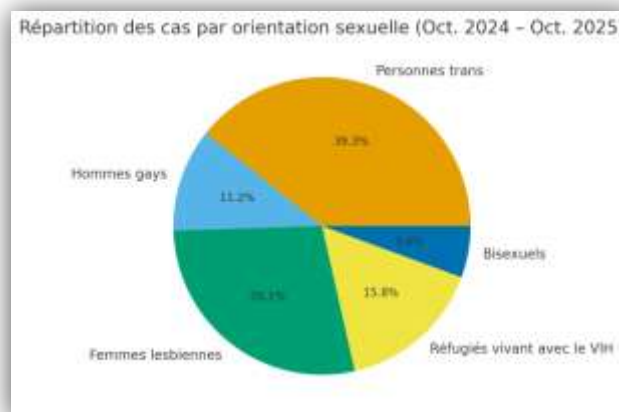
				<i>Violence psychology that / moral</i>		<i>the church</i>	<i>trans refugee group in her capacity as a devout Christian. The committee stated that it had evidence of her membership in the LGBTQI refugee community. The committee informed the woman that homosexuality is forbidden by the Bible and church doctrine. The pastor immediately issued her a letter of excommunication followed by a formal ban on her setting foot in the church.</i>
2	<i>New Hope</i>	<i>Nakivale</i>	<i>October 2025</i>	<i>Violence psychology that / moral</i>	<i>Bisexual</i>	<i>THE committee pastoral of the church</i>	<i>Mr. Frederick Osango (a pseudonym) had taken in his partner, who had been threatened by homophobes in his village. They now live together. When members of his church learned that he had sheltered his partner, he was summoned. The Pastoral Committee issued him a letter of excommunication and a formal prohibition against participating in church activities. The announcement was read aloud in church before all the congregation.</i>
3	<i>New Congo</i>	<i>Nakivale</i>	<i>10 September 2025</i>	<i>Violence psychology that / moral</i>	<i>Lesbian</i>	<i>The committee pastoral of the church</i>	<i>Glorious Judith has been in a relationship for three years. Her neighbors reported them to the village chief for practicing homosexuality. The village chief asked the pastor to excommunicate Glorious Judith. A letter of excommunication was delivered to her, followed by a public announcement at the church.</i>
4	<i>Sudan</i>	<i>Nakivale</i>	<i>November 2025</i>	<i>Violence psychology that / moral</i>	<i>transgender</i>	<i>Imam</i>	<i>Mr. Aboubacar Ismaël (fictitious) was the victim of a campaign of humiliation and threats within the Nakivale refugee camp, following a public intervention by the Imam. Mr. Aboubacar had decided to move in with his partner, who was experiencing housing difficulties.</i> <i>The mosque's Imam took advantage of a sermon before the congregation to publicly denounce Mr. Ismaël. The Imam presented him to the entire community as "the representative of the devil" in the Nakivale camp, stating clearly that he practices homosexuality and promotes these pagan practices. Since this public denunciation, Mr. Aboubacar has been living under a...</i>

							constant pressure of humiliation and threats. He is now called by his peers by the insulting nickname "Kafri" (meaning "uncircumcised" or "infidel"), isolating and stigmatizing the victim within his community.
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Total number of cases recorded by sexual orientation from October 2024 to November 2025

- Transgender people: 119 cases;
- Gay men: 34 cases;
- Lesbian women: 85 cases;
- sex workers living with HIV: 48 cases;
- Bisexuals: 17 cases

Total number of cases recorded:303



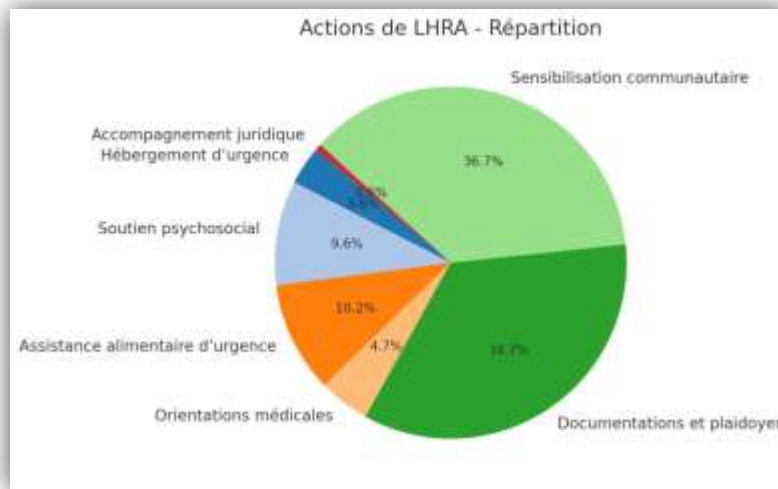
Comparative table of observed case trends

No.	October 2023 – November 2024		October 2024 – November 2025	Gap	Tendency
	Nature of violation	Number of breach	Number of violations		
1	Assassination	1	1	0	At the same point
2	Physical assault	40	71	31	Upward
3	Sexual violence	25	55	30	Upward
4	Verbal aggression	31	66	35	Upward
5	Eviction and termination of lease agreements without notice	17	33	16	Upward
6	Relocation of activists in danger	14	30	16	Upward
7	Refusal of medical care	21	36	15	Upward
8	Excommunication of churches and mosques	5	11	6	Upward
	Total	154	303	149	The cases have tendency to double

7. LHRA Actions

- **Emergency accommodation:**31
- beneficiaries **Psychosocial support:**84
- survivors **Emergency food assistance:**89
- cases **Medical guidelines:**41 survivors

- **Documentation and advocacy:**303 cases recorded
- **Community awareness:**10 sessions, 320 participants
- **Legal support:**5 cases supported
- **Capacity building for trans-people on human rights and Ugandan law:**
4 workshops



8. Challenges 2024-2025

- Lack of institutional protection;
- physical risks to our members;
- insufficient financial resources
- The authorities lack a clear role in protecting the trans-refugee community. They are forced to remain silent and inactive in the face of anti-homosexuality laws and the fear of being denounced by extremist religious groups (Muslim and Christian) and all sorts of homophobes.
- Strong self-censorship among victims due to fear of being exposed.
- The organization managed the reception of 87 new transgender asylum seekers from the DRC. This influx generated major challenges in the following areas:
 - **Integration and Legal Protection:**The lack of knowledge of Ugandan anti-homosexuality legislation necessitated immediate intervention to mitigate legal risks.
 - **Housing and Food Security:**The inability to provide adequate accommodation and food for the entire group.
 - **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support:**The urgent need for mental health support to address cases of depression, alcohol abuse, and **four suicide attempts** reported within this group.

9. Recommendations

To the camp authorities and humanitarian agencies

- Urgent implementation of dedicated protection mechanisms

- Mandatory anti-discrimination training for camp staff. Rapid response to violence complaints.

To partners and donors

- Providing emergency support for trans refugees; increasing mental health resources
- Strengthening the capacity of organizations led by transgender refugees.

To advocacy networks

- Documenting violations of trans and sexworker refugees rights at the international level.
- Supporting urgent relocation cases to save the lives of innocent people in danger.

10. Acknowledgement :

- We sincerely thank you **HRAPF** for its vital partnership in setting up a two-day training session on the anti-homosexuality law, thus ensuring the safety and information of newcomers.

11. Conclusion

The period from 2024 to 2025 confirmed a significant deterioration in the security of trans and sex worker refugees in Nakivale and the surrounding area. Cases of violations doubled compared to the period from 2023 to 2024, rising from 154 cases to 303 in 2024-2025. Despite this, their resilience and community solidarity remain strong. LHRA will continue to defend the lives, dignity, and fundamental rights of every member of the trans-refugee community, with the hope of building a safer and more humane environment.

Done at Nakivale, on November 25, 2025

Repaired by:

Name: Laurent Shabombo

Position: Founder and Executive Director

Approved by:

Name: Ntaundi Amuli

Position: Chairperson Board of Directors