

With support from



# Evidence For Justice

Documenting Violence, Discrimination, And The Impact Of The  
Anti-Rights Movement On Trans And Gender-Diverse Persons  
In Uganda

The Evolving Terrain of Rights, Resistance, and Risk for Transgender  
and Gender-Diverse Persons in Uganda

Fem Alliance Uganda 2025

<https://linktr.ee/femallianceuganda>

# Table of Contents

Acknowledgement	3
Executive Summary	4
<b>Chapter 1 Back Ground</b>	5-18
Historical and Social Context	
Emergence and Growth of the TGD Movement	
Shifting Social Attitudes.	
Legal and Policy Environment	
Historical Legal and Policy Context	
Current Legal Framework.	
Criminalization and Legal Risks.	
Progressive Legal Interventions.	
Study Objective.	
Study Questions.	
Conceptualization.	
<b>Chapter 2 Methodology</b>	19-21
Study Design.	
Study Methodology.	
Data Collection Methods And Tools.	
Data Management and Analysis.	
Ethical Considerations and Security Notes	
<b>Chapter 3</b>	22-34
Demographics of study participants.	
The state of Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons.	
Emergence and Growth of the Transgender and gender-diverse (TGD) Movement	
The Legislative and Social Backdrop.	
Impacts on Access to Funding for Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons Organizations.	
Impact on Access to Healthcare for Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons.	
Effect on Livelihoods: Access to Shelter and Basic Income.	
Safety and Security Concerns.	
Elements of Resilience, Allyship, and Support Systems.	
Mapping Allies of Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons in Uganda.	
Effective Responses for Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons and Donors.	
Identity and Incidents of Discrimination.	
Barriers to Social Services, and Livelihood.	
Support Systems and Coping Strategies.	
Community Organizing and Vision.	
Personal Experiences of Violence and Threats.	

# Table of Contents

CHAPTER 4 : CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	
Strengthening Documentation and Research.	
Legal and Policy Reform..	
Community Empowerment and Safety.	
Public Awareness and Education.	
Health and Well-Being.	
International Solidarity and Support	
Monitoring and Evaluation.	
Addressing the Anti-Rights Movement	
Recommendations to Ugandan Media on Reporting	
Discrimination and Human Rights Violations of	
Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons.	
Gender Diverse Persons.	35-39
Use Respectful and Accurate Language.	
Center Human Rights and Dignity.	
Prioritize Safety and Consent	
Provide Context and Background.	
Amplify Transgender and Gender Diverse Voices.	
Challenge Misinformation and Myths.	
Promote Positive and Constructive Narratives.	
Engage in Ongoing Training and Reflection.	
APPENDIX	
APPENDIX I: Lived Stories.	
APPENDIX II: Inception Report Presentation.	
APPENDIX II: Data Collection Tool	
APPENDIX IV: Lived Stories Toolkit	
Contact Information	40
	41-42
	43

# Acknowledgment

To the Brave and Resilient Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons who participated in this study, we appreciate your resilience.

The 5 data collectors who supported the data collection team (Sheebah Ntaate, Mumbya Katende, Ruby, Ariana Mutoni, Jay Brodrick Otita) who interacted with the Brave and Resilient Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons who participated in this study

To the team at Fem Alliance Uganda led by Jay Mulucha and Muyira Tasha Sandra for the support and leadership accorded to the team during this process.

To the Co-Consultants Bakshi Asuman and Daisy Tuzo for being a guide on the side and leading this process

# Executive Summary

This report presents findings of the study to Evidence For Justice: Documenting Violence, Discrimination, And The Impact Of The Anti-Rights Movement On Trans And Gender-Diverse Persons In Uganda - The Evolving Terrain of Rights, Resistance, and Risk for Transgender and Gender-Diverse Persons in Uganda. The study was commissioned by Fem Alliance Uganda. The report highlights the extent to which a strong, radical, conservative-fueled backlash particularly in Uganda has put Transgender and Gender-Diverse Persons in Uganda persons' lives in danger and increased the risk of Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons being collectively pushed back in the closet and opening the channels of violence wider.

The report highlights the Status and Effects of Anti-Homosexuality Laws/Bills, The Anti-Gender/Anti-Rights Movement on Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons in Uganda and the laws, policies and anti-gender movements have impacted Access to Funding for Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons Organizations, Access to Healthcare for Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons, Effect on Livelihoods: Access to Shelter and Basic Income, Safety and Security Concerns.

This report is organized into four chapters. Chapter one is the introduction and background to the study, including the objectives of the study. Chapter two highlights the methods that were used in the selection of research sites, study participants, and data collection, management, and analysis. It also highlights the challenges faced during the research process and how they were overcome. Chapter three presents the findings of the study. Chapter four focuses on the major conclusions and recommendations.



**Jay Mulucha**

# CHAPTER 1

## Back Ground



This chapter explains the genesis of how over recent decades, Transgender and gender-diverse (TGD) persons in Uganda have, become increasingly visible, resilient, and organized. The researchers build the rationale of their evolving movement that has made significant strides not only in social acceptance and visibility but also in legal and policy frameworks. However, these gains have been met with an intensifying backlash driven by conservative, religious, and political forces, resulting in a heightened risk environment for TGD persons. In this context, the act of documenting violence and discrimination becomes both a tool of empowerment and a measure of resistance. This analysis explores the social, political, and legal contexts shaping the lives, rights, and risks of TGD persons in Uganda today



## Historical and Social Context

The struggle for rights and recognition among TGD persons in Uganda is relatively recent but marked by remarkable tenacity. From the 1990s onwards, and especially in the past two decades, there has been the formation of grassroots organizations, the creation of safe spaces, and the emergence of advocacy networks. These efforts have facilitated improved community cohesion, resource sharing, and collective action. The movement has fostered a sense of identity and pride among TGD persons, allowing for more open self-expression and greater visibility

The Trans Gender and Gender Diverse Movement has grown and have a strong presence through the following organizations

- Tranz Network Uganda (TNU): This is a national, not-for-profit umbrella organization that supports and coordinates other transgender and gender diverse persons' organizations in Uganda.
- Transgender Equality Uganda (TEU): TEU works to promote awareness of trans women and transgender sex workers, advocating for their human, health, and economic rights.
- Fem Alliance Uganda (FEMA): Established in 2012, FEMA is a lesbian, bisexual, trans, and gender diverse organization that emerged from a perceived gap in addressing the specific needs of these communities in Uganda.
- Freedom & Roam Uganda (FARUG): Founded in 2003, FARUG is dedicated to human rights for lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LBTIQ) people in Uganda, working to raise awareness and challenge stigma.
- Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG): SMUG is a broader LGBTQ+ advocacy group in Kampala that works to protect and promote the human rights of all LGBTQ+ Ugandans, including transgender individuals.
- Key Populations Uganda (KPU): A support organization focusing on sexual health, safety, and community mobilization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and sex worker communities.
- Trans Youth Initiative-Uganda (TYI-Uganda): This group focuses on the rights and well-being of rural transgender youth, particularly in western Uganda. Their initiatives include advocacy, research, holistic health services, and artivism to combat stigma and marginalization.
- Rainbow Mirrors Uganda (RMU): Founded in 2015, this youth-led NGO supports and advocates for young transgender women and sex workers through leadership development and community-building programs
- The Uganda Key Populations Consortium (UKPC) is an advocacy platform for key population-led organizations in Uganda. Formed in 2018, it aims to unite key population representatives to advocate for their health, human rights, and socio-economic justice, particularly in response to shrinking resources and civic space.

# Shifting Social Attitudes

Social progress has been uneven and hard-won. TGD persons in Uganda challenge deeply entrenched societal norms surrounding gender and sexuality. Traditional conceptions of gender are reinforced by cultural, religious, and patriarchal values, making nonconformity a source of stigma, isolation, and, too often, violence. Yet, the increased organization of TGD groups, the visibility of openly trans and gender-diverse leaders, and alliances with human rights organizations have created incremental shifts in public discourse. Youth, urban populations, and some segments of civil society have shown a greater willingness to engage with questions of gender diversity.



# Legal and Policy Environment

## Historical Legal and Policy Context

### Historical Legal and Policy Context

Uganda's legal system is largely derived from British colonial law, which instituted strict prohibitions against same-sex relations and set the stage for post-independence criminalization of sexual and gender minorities. The Penal Code Act of 1950, imported from colonial rule, criminalizes "carnal knowledge against the order of nature," a provision interpreted to target sexual minorities broadly, including transgender persons whose lived identities challenge rigid binary gender norms.

For decades, these colonial statutes were left largely unchallenged and embedded in the legal consciousness of the nation, reinforcing public and state-sanctioned discrimination. There were no provisions for the recognition of gender identity, and protective frameworks for sexual orientation or gender identity/expression were entirely absent.

### Current Legal Framework

The legal climate in Uganda remains highly oppressive for transgender and gender diverse individuals. The following are key statutes and policies currently affecting human rights:

# Laws and Policies under enforcement

## Penal Code Act (Cap 120)

This law continues to criminalize “unnatural offences” under sections 145–148, carrying severe penalties including imprisonment. Though often invoked to target gay men, the ambiguity of the law’s language allows for its application towards any person perceived as gender non-conforming or transgender, resulting in arrests, harassment, and denial of services.

## The Anti-Homosexuality Act (2014, 2023)

The 2014 Anti-Homosexuality Act, though later annulled on procedural grounds, sought to expand criminalization to include life imprisonment for “aggravated homosexuality” and to criminalize the “promotion” of homosexuality. In 2023, a revised version was enacted, intensifying penalties and broadening the scope to criminalize organizations and individuals perceived to support Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons rights. The law’s vague language means that transgender and gender diverse persons are at risk, as any deviation from gender norms can be construed as “promotion” or “association.”

## NGO Act (2016)

This law regulates civil society organizations and has been used to interfere with or shut down organizations advocating for transgender and gender diverse rights. By instituting broad powers of deregistration, the state can target groups working on sexual orientation and gender identity issues, further curtailing advocacy and support for affected communities.

## Uganda's 2014 HIV and AIDS Prevention and Control Act

-It aims to control the spread of HIV through prevention and control measures, but its implementation and impact on key populations (such as sex workers, people who inject drugs, and men who have sex with men) are complicated by ongoing issues of stigma, discrimination, and restrictive legal frameworks.

## Equal Opportunities Commission Act, 2007 (EOC Act),

which aims at eliminating discrimination and inequalities against any group of persons on grounds such as sex, age, tribe or health status and to take affirmative action in favour of such groups.

## The Second National Health Policy

Promoting Peoples' Health to Enhance Socio Economic Development (2010) The National Health Policy has as its goal 'a good standard of health for all people in Uganda in order to promote healthy and productive

## The National Policy Guidelines and Service Standards for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (2012)

This policy provides direction to actors involved in planning, promoting and providing services in respect of sexual and reproductive rights.

## National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan

The purpose of the National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan (NSP) is to guide the implementation of the national response to HIV and 'to align key HIV and AIDS interventions to the key drivers of the epidemic

# Laws and Policies under enforcement

## Uganda HIV Testing and Counselling Policy

The goal of the HIV Testing and Counselling (HCT) Policy is to help reduce HIV transmission by enabling people to know their HIV status and to improve their quality of life by linking them to prevention, care, and treatment and support services

## Medical and Dental Practitioners

-Code of Professional Ethics (2013) (Derived from the Medical and Dental Practitioners Act of 1998) The Code of Professional Ethics exists to promote and maintain the highest standard of ethical behavior among medical practitioners

## The Essential Medicines List

-This was developed to guide the procurement of safe, efficacious, and cost-effective medicines for public health institutions, reflecting the health needs of the population and recommendations from health workers.

## Public Order Management Act (2013)

-Though nullified by the constitutional court, it is important to note that while it does not explicitly target gender diverse persons, this law severely restricts public assembly and expression. In practice, it is used to suppress Pride events, transgender health and rights workshops, and other gatherings that support sexual and gender minorities, preventing advocacy and collective organizing.

# Laws and Policies under development

**Sexual Offences Bill (2021)** This bill aimed to consolidate offences relating to sexual conduct but included expanded criminalization of “unnatural offences,” reinforcing provisions already present in the Penal Code and replicating discriminatory aspects of the Anti-Homosexuality Act. Although parts of the bill were removed following public outcry, the legislative push signals a continued political interest in enshrining discrimination.

**Uganda National Family Policy of 2021 to 2030** The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development seeks to publish this policy to guide definitions and engagements with families. The focus on the family as the basic unit of society is commendable but the challenge comes in the definition of a family. The definition of a family in this policy is drawn from Christianity and largely based on the existence of a marriage. Uganda is a secular state according to our constitution and many of her people do not subscribe to Christianity which leaves them out of the policy, more so the definition of marriage is limited to marriage between people of the opposite sex leaving out gender non-conforming individuals and same sex couples this violates the principle of non-discrimination that guides human rights and yet the policy claims to be based on human rights. Allowing such a policy to pass means allowing the discrimination of sexual minorities and other religions when it comes to fulfilling the right to found a family.

**Uganda's Marriage Bill 2024:** Is a proposed bill, not yet enacted law, that aims to modernize and consolidate Uganda's marriage laws by ensuring equal property rights for spouses, establishing a National Marriage Register for transparency, and standardizing various forms of marriage like customary, Islamic, and Christian unions. Key provisions include equal recognition of both financial and non-financial contributions to matrimonial property, a mandatory national register for verifying marital status, and penalties for demanding return of spousal gifts. The bill also proposes mandatory pre-marital counseling but falls short when it only mentions marriage should be among biological men and women thus discriminating transgender and gender diverse persons.

- The Human Assisted Reproductive Technology Bill, 2023, is a proposed private member's bill in Uganda aimed at regulating fertility treatments like IVF and surrogacy by providing a legal framework for their use, designating a regulatory body, and establishing standards for fertility centers and banks.
- The National Life and Health Education Framework: This is aimed at providing a framework for conducting sexuality education in Uganda.

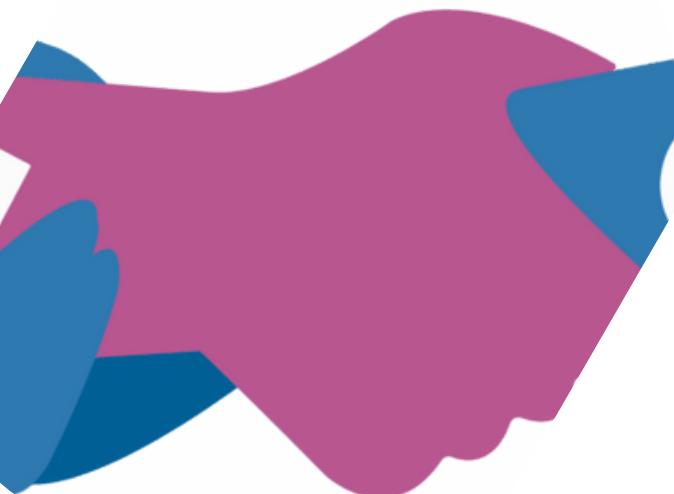
**Non-recognition of Gender Identity;** Ugandan legal and administrative systems do not allow for the legal change of gender markers on identity documents. This creates barriers in accessing healthcare, education, housing, and employment, as transgender individuals are forced to disclose their gender history or are denied essential services due to documentation mismatches. The lack of legal recognition increases exposure to violence, as individuals are frequently “outed” by official documents.

**Healthcare Policy and Practice** There are no specific healthcare guidelines for transgender and gender diverse persons. The absence of gender-affirming healthcare policies, combined with widespread discrimination in the health sector, means transgender people often cannot access necessary medical care, including hormone therapy and mental health support. In some cases, healthcare workers have reported or denied care to transgender patients for fear of prosecution under anti-LGBTQ+ laws.

## Criminalization and Legal Risks

Despite progress, the legal framework in Uganda remains largely hostile to TGD persons. Same-sex relations are criminalized under colonial-era laws, and the legal system does not recognize gender diversity outside the binary norm. Recent legislative developments, such as the introduction and passage of anti-LGBTIQ+ bills, have further criminalized the lives of TGD individuals, making their very existence a matter of legal risk. This criminalization is not unique to Uganda but is reflected across much of the African continent, where gender and sexual minorities are frequently subject to arbitrary arrest, extortion, and harassment.

### Progressive Legal Interventions



Despite these challenges, the Ugandan Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons movement has won important legal victories. Through strategic litigation and advocacy, activists have challenged forced anal examinations, the closure of LGBTIQ+ organizations, and police harassment. Courts have, on occasion, affirmed the rights to association, privacy, and freedom from torture, providing glimmers of hope and tools for further mobilization. However, these victories remain precarious and often provoke strong counter-reactions from conservative forces. Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons in Uganda have become stronger and better organized in the past few decades, resulting in major progress both socially and in the courts. However, even in the successes that the movement has achieved thus far, a strong, radical, conservative-fueled backlash particularly in Uganda has put LGBTIQ+ persons' lives in danger and increased the risk of Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons being collectively pushed back in the closet and opening the channels of violence wider. Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons remain largely illegal and criminalized in many African countries.

# Growth of The Anti-Rights Movement

In East African countries such as Uganda, restrictive new laws cast a negative ripple effect. Uganda is not an outlier, and Africans still face more anti-LGBTIQ+ laws than their peers in many other parts of the world. "In recent decades, there has been a confluence and re-framing of multiple long-time anti-rights movements under the banner of a global "anti-gender" movement which attempts to codify and enforce the concept that biological sex represents the "natural" order while gender is an invention and an "ideology." This framework is weaponized by conservative, radical political and religious groups in furtherance of ongoing strategies to attack human rights and self-determination, deny climate science, and promote authoritarianism. There have been and continue to be enormous financial resources flowing to the said anti-rights movements and the institutions that support them, leveraged into acceleration across global regions and yielding both the attrition of human rights infrastructures and the increasing rise of authoritarianism.

Related movements and campaigns oppose gender equality and equity, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), the human rights of LGBTI persons, and various other goals and values of progressive and feminist movements." It is on this backdrop that Fem Alliance Uganda seeks the services of a short-term consultant(s) to document the status and effects of the already enacted and looming law, anti gender/anti-rights movement on LGBTIQ+ persons and subsequently LGBTIQ+ organizing in Uganda.

The efforts of the anti-rights are reinforced by patriarchal systems, negative social norms and values, institutionalized homophobia and transphobia which drive discrimination, bias, and unequal power relations. The recent attacks by the opposition have revealed some of the underhand tactics that they deploy to undermine rights to bodily autonomy, safe abortion, LGBTQI+ rights, access to contraception and sexuality education. The trends reveal that the anti-rights groups are now actively; funding and grooming politicians in exchange for anti-gender, anti-SRHR pledges, creating local chapters of global opposition organizations and platforms such as Human Life International, Family Watch International in Uganda, and Empowered Youth Coalition. They are launching online and physical attacks against activists who advocate for gender and reproductive justice, spreading false information about reproductive and gender rights on both social media and mainstream media, weaponizing former members of the reproductive rights movement and deploying them as moles and whistle blowers. They are also heavily mobilizing public support through platforms such as churches, mosques and tertiary institutions.

This conservative backlash has made life more dangerous for TGD Ugandans. Public "anti-gender" campaigns, the outing of activists, and the spread of misinformation have increased the likelihood of mob violence, family rejection, and loss of employment or housing. The anti-rights movement seeks not only to maintain but to deepen the marginalization of TGD persons, pushing them further into invisibility and vulnerability

## Study Objective

# Objective

The main objective of the study was to document the status and effects of the already enacted and looming law, anti gender/anti-rights movement on Transgender and Gender Diverse persons and subsequently Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons organizing in Uganda.

# Study Questions

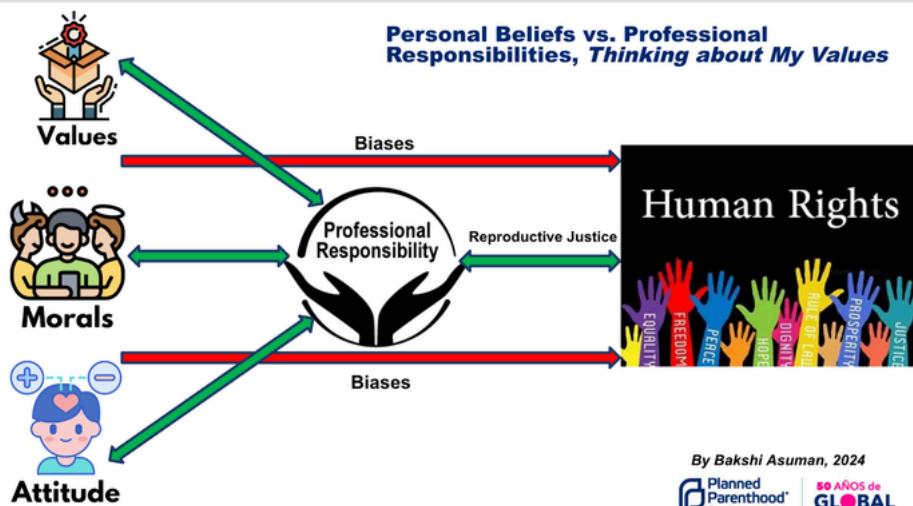
The study was guided by the following questions as stated below

1. What are the impacts on access to funding for Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons organisations?
2. How have recent developments impacted access to healthcare for Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons?
3. How are livelihoods – including access to shelter, basic income – affected?
4. How has the situation affected the safety and security of the Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons in Uganda?
5. What are the elements of resilience, allyship, support system etc within Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons communities in this context?
6. Identify and map out allies of the Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons in the region.
7. How can the Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons in Uganda – along with donors – respond most effectively to current trends?



# conceptualization

This study adopted the the framework of "Personal Beliefs vs Professional Responsibilities: Thinking about My Values" by Bakshi Asuman and PP Global (2024) as described below in figure 1.1



The framework "Personal Beliefs vs Professional Responsibilities: Thinking about My Values" by Bakshi Asuman and PP Global (2024) is designed to help professionals navigate situations where their personal convictions come into conflict with their ethical duties at work. It emphasizes the importance of self-reflection and critical thinking, drawing from ethical theories such as deontology, utilitarianism, virtue ethics, and care ethics to guide decisions. The model highlights the need to identify and clarify both personal and professional values, consider the effects on all stakeholders, explore possible solutions—from strict adherence to professional codes to seeking accommodations—and reflect on outcomes for personal growth. Recognizing that such tensions can be challenging and sometimes irreconcilable, the framework provides practical tools for resolving dilemmas across fields like healthcare, education, business, and social work, promoting ethical behavior, adaptability, and ongoing development while acknowledging the complexities and limitations inherent in real-world practice.

# CHAPTER 2

# Methodology

## Study Design

The following study design was explored to understand the Status and Effects of Anti-Homosexuality Laws/Bills, The Anti-Gender/Anti-Rights Movement on Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons in Uganda

Prior to data collection the research team conducted an inception meeting to discuss the scope of the situation analysis and research objectives. The meeting clarified the methodological approach and be an instrumental platform for establishing common ground on the research methodology, identification of the respondents, sampling techniques and coordination of field logistics.

## Study Methodology

In undertaking this research, the research team used qualitative data collection methods and content analysis methods to inform learning and adaptation for project implementation. The research team uses a purposive sample of participants to collect primary data from key stakeholders through a semi-structured interview – either in person, via telephone or Zoom - and a desktop review of secondary data sources including but not limited to representatives from organisations working within Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons movement. The research team triangulated data to enhance the validity and reliability of the findings. Primary data sources were identified based on relevance to research questions and likelihood of being able to supply accurate and relevant information. Interview transcripts were cleaned and stored on a password-protected Google Drive site, so that only those working on the report will access it.

The research team conducted a thorough analysis of secondary data sources such as websites, reports, national and regional agendas, policies, legal frameworks, case studies, relevant social media channels, online articles and existing resources and documents from Fem Alliance on this topic. The research team built upon their own confidential existing mapping to provide a visual mapping of the opposition groups/individuals in terms of location with focus on Uganda and their connections in-country, regionally and globally in the form of a political analysis in relation to the of Anti-Homosexuality Laws/Bills.

The research specifically had a legal and policy analysis of the previous, current and being developed policies and laws that limit the attainment of human rights of the Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons in Uganda.

After the conclusion of the primary and secondary data analysis, the research team developed their own findings, conclusions and recommendations going forward.

# Data Collection

# Methods And Tools

The data collection tools only employed qualitative methods and tools of data collection. The methods and tools including:



**1** Review of Documents: Key national and global documents were reviewed to obtain secondary data on the Status and Effects of Anti-Homosexuality Laws/Bills, The Anti-Gender/Anti-Rights Movement on Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons in Uganda.

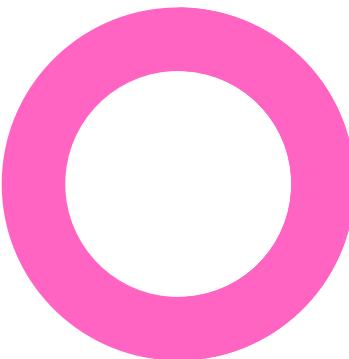
**2** Key Informants Interviews: Key Informant Interviews (KII) were conducted with key leaders from the Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons. These included

- Leaders of Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons
- Paralegals
- Responders and Human Rights Violations Documentation Teams .

Key Informant Interview Guides were used to conduct the interviews with a different set of respondents.

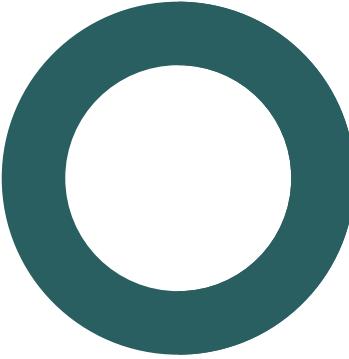
**3** Documentation of Lived Stories: 5 leaders from the Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons were interviewed to capture incidences that have affected their day-to-day life, How these incidences affected access to social services, health care services, and livelihood? And how they managed to overcome these incidences, what is your support system

## Data Management and Analysis



Data were analyzed using thematic content analysis (Gibbs, 2007). We developed a separate codebook for each type of participant using deductive codes based on the interview guides. Each interview was transcribed and translated were required. Researchers then separately coded each transcript of each type (IDI and FGD) in Atlas-ti (version 8). The findings were discussed and key themes repeatedly developed. Data matrices with illustrative quotations were generated from the coded data for each participant/group and each theme (Miles & Huberman, 1994)

## Ethical Considerations and Security Notes



Verbal consent was sought from the respondents before the interview. Explanations about the purpose of the study and the expected outcomes were made before each interview. The respondents were also allowed to comment at the end of each interview to capture their concerns. To protect interviewee confidentiality, all transcripts uploaded to the password protected Google Drive site did not include names, and participants will not be quoted by name in the report. The inclusion of the organizational affiliation of participants may compromise the confidentiality of participant feedback. To protect the privacy of the interviewees, a list of respondents will not be provided in this report, however, a description of the person to give background on expertise was provided.

# CHAPTER 3: Study Findings

This chapter describes the verdicts of our investigation on Evidence For Justice: Documenting Violence, Discrimination, And The Impact Of The Anti-Rights Movement On Trans And Gender-Diverse Persons In Uganda The Evolving Terrain of Rights, Resistance, and Risk for Transgender and Gender-Diverse Persons in Uganda. Additionally, it triangulates these experiences from the existing literature and evidence on how Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons have been affected by the anti-rights movements.

## Demographics of study participants

This summary caters to the Five (5) Data Collectors (who were comprised of 2 Transwomen, 2 Trans Men and 1 Gender Diverse Person) that supported in collecting of data for which the majority of the participants 78 percent are transgender persons and 22 percent gender diverse persons. Seveneten (17) people were based in Rwenzori Region, Twenty Six (26) based in Kampala Metropolitan and Five (5) based in Eastern Uganda.

## The state of Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons

Transgender and gender-diverse (TGD) persons in Uganda have, over recent decades, become increasingly visible, resilient, and organized. Their evolving movement has made significant strides not only in social acceptance and visibility but also in legal and policy frameworks. However, these gains have been met with an intensifying backlash driven by conservative, religious, and political forces, resulting in a heightened risk environment for TGD persons. In this context, the act of documenting violence and discrimination becomes both a tool of empowerment and a measure of resistance. This analysis explores the social, political, and legal contexts shaping the lives, rights, and risks of TGD persons in Uganda today.

# Emergence and Growth of the Transgender and gender-diverse (TGD) Movement

The struggle for rights and recognition among TGD persons in Uganda is relatively recent but marked by remarkable tenacity. From the 1990s onwards, and especially in the past two decades, there has been the formation of grassroots organizations, the creation of safe spaces, and the emergence of advocacy networks. These efforts have facilitated improved community cohesion, resource sharing, and collective action. The movement has fostered a sense of identity and pride among TGD persons, allowing for more open self-expression and greater visibility.

Social progress has been uneven and hard-won. TGD persons in Uganda challenge deeply entrenched societal norms surrounding gender and sexuality. Traditional conceptions of gender are reinforced by cultural, religious, and patriarchal values, making nonconformity a source of stigma, isolation, and, too often, violence. Yet, the increased organization of TGD groups, the visibility of openly trans and gender-diverse leaders, and alliances with human rights organizations have created incremental shifts in public discourse. Youth, urban populations, and some segments of civil society have shown a greater willingness to engage with questions of gender diversity.

Despite progress, the legal framework in Uganda remains largely hostile to TGD persons. Same-sex relations are criminalized under colonial-era laws, and the legal system does not recognize gender diversity outside the binary norm. Recent legislative developments, such as the introduction and passage of anti- Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons bills, have further criminalized the lives of TGD individuals, making their very existence a matter of legal risk. This criminalization is not unique to Uganda but is reflected across much of the African continent, where gender and sexual minorities are frequently subject to arbitrary arrest, extortion, and harassment.

# Status and Effects of Anti-Gender/Anti-Rights Movements and Laws on Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons and Organizing in Uganda

Uganda has, in recent years, become a focal point in the discourse on human rights, particularly regarding sexual and gender minorities. The intensification of anti-gender and anti-rights movements—manifested through both enacted and proposed laws—presents an urgent challenge to the rights, safety, and livelihoods of Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons individuals, especially Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons. This section explores the status and effects of these adversarial movements, the resultant legal and social climate, and the resilience and strategies employed by Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons communities and their allies.

## The Legislative and Social Backdrop

The social and legislative context in Uganda has long been shaped by deeply entrenched conservative values and political rhetoric. Laws such as the Anti-Homosexuality Act and related policies have codified discrimination, emboldening anti-gender movements and further marginalizing Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons persons. The growing influence of religious and political actors, coupled with international anti-rights campaigns, has also played a significant role in curtailing progress towards gender equality and bodily autonomy. The legal environment not only criminalizes same-sex relations but, increasingly, any advocacy or support for gender diversity and Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons rights. This has translated into a hostile climate for both individuals and the organizations that seek to support them.

# Impacts on Access to Funding for Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons Organizations

One of the most immediate consequences of anti-gender/anti-rights movements is the significant reduction in access to funding for organizations serving Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons. International donors, fearing legal reprisals or reputational risks, may redirect or withdraw support. Domestic fundraising is also stifled by social stigma and legal constraints.



01

## Increased scrutiny

02

## Donor

### hesitancy:

external donors may hesitate to support Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons causes in Uganda, concerned for the safety of grantees and the legality of their financial transactions.

03

## Resource

### redirection

Funds that might otherwise support advocacy, health, and empowerment initiatives are often diverted towards legal defense, emergency relocation, or simply keeping organizations operational.

04

## Impact on

### sustainability

The lack of secure funding undermines long-term planning, staff retention, and program continuity, threatening the existence of vital community organizations.

# Impact on Access to Healthcare for Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons

Healthcare access for Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons in Uganda is severely affected by the prevailing anti-rights climate. Barriers are multifaceted, involving legal roadblocks, social stigma, and direct hostility from healthcare providers.

## 01 Fear of disclosure

Many Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons avoid seeking healthcare for fear of being outed, discriminated against, or reported to authorities.

## 02 Healthcare provider bias

A lack of sensitization among medical professionals often results in denial of gender-affirming care, mistreatment, or humiliation in healthcare settings.

## 03 Resource scarcity

The few clinics and organizations offering trans-inclusive services operate under threat, and may have to close or limit services due to funding cuts or legal pressure.

## 04 Impact on mental health

The compounded effect of legal and social discrimination leads to increased rates of depression, anxiety, and other mental health challenges among Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons.

# Effect on Livelihoods: Access to Shelter and Basic Income

Livelihood insecurity is a pressing issue for Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons in Uganda. The intersection of legal discrimination and social stigma limits access to housing, employment, and basic financial stability.

## Eviction and homelessness

Landlords, fearing legal repercussions or social backlash, often refuse housing to openly Transgender or Gender Diverse tenants. Reports of evictions and denial of shelter are commonplace

## Economic precarity

The combined effects of job loss, housing insecurity, and lack of social safety nets push many into informal or precarious work, further exposing them to risk and exploitation.

## Employment discrimination

Many employers are unwilling to hire Transgender or Gender Diverse individuals, and those who are employed may experience harassment, unfair dismissal, or underpayment.

## Safety and Security Concerns

Personal safety is a daily concern for Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons in Uganda. The tightening grip of anti-gender movements and laws has emboldened both state and non-state actors to perpetrate acts of violence and intimidation.

- **Threats and violence:** Physical attacks, arbitrary arrests, blackmail, and mob violence are all on the rise. Many survivors are reluctant to seek help due to fear of secondary victimization by authorities.
- **Police abuse:** Law enforcement is frequently complicit in harassment, detention, and extortion, rather than providing protection.
- **Digital security risks:** Online spaces, once considered safer for organizing and self-expression, are increasingly subject to surveillance and cyber harassment.



## Elements of Resilience, Allyship, and Support Systems

Despite immense adversity, Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons communities in Uganda demonstrate remarkable resilience, resourcefulness, and solidarity.

**Community networks:** Informal support systems, safe houses, crisis funds, peer counseling provide vital lifelines for those at risk.

**Knowledge sharing:** Organizations and individuals disseminate information about legal rights, safety planning, and mental health resources.

**Alliances with other movements:** Partnerships with feminist, human rights, and HIV advocacy groups help to amplify voices, pool resources, and build public empathy for Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons causes.

**International solidarity:** Cross-border collaborations offer technical support, emergency assistance, and platforms for advocacy at regional and global levels.

## Mapping Allies of Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons in Uganda

In this hostilities-laden landscape, allies—both within and beyond national borders—are instrumental in supporting Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons.

**Feminist organizations:** Many feminist groups, though themselves targeted, provide legal, psychosocial, and material support to Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons persons.

**Human rights defenders:** Regional and international human rights organizations monitor violations, apply diplomatic pressure, and offer safe refuge when possible.

**HIV and health advocacy groups:** These organizations maintain inclusive health services and advocate for the right to health for all, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation.

**Diplomatic missions and some religious leaders:** While religious opposition is strong, some faith leaders and foreign diplomats offer quiet but significant support, including safe spaces and advocacy.



# Effective Responses for Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons and Donors

Faced with ongoing threats, both Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons and their allies, including donors, must adopt adaptive, strategic responses.

## **Flexible funding models**

Donors can provide rapid response funds, core support for resilience, and resources for legal defense and emergency relocation.

## **Security and wellness**

Investment in mental health care, safety planning, and digital security training is crucial

## **Capacity strengthening**

Building the leadership, advocacy, and organizational skills of grassroots Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons groups ensures sustainability and autonomy.

## **Advocacy and storytelling**

Supporting strategic litigation, public education, and documentation helps shift harmful narratives and create space for positive change.

## **International advocacy**

Leveraging regional and global human rights mechanisms can pressure the Ugandan government and amplify local voices.

## **Solidarity and intersectional organizing**

Fostering alliances across social justice movements strengthens collective power and promotes a more inclusive vision of rights and equality

# Identity and Incidents of Discrimination



Most of the transgender and gender diverse persons journeys have been punctuated by numerous incidents that have deeply affected his well-being. Administrative processes, such as changing identification details, have been fraught with obstacles and suspicion.

- *On legal recognition: "Changing my identification details has been a nightmare. When I tried to change my name, I was treated like a criminal; at one point I even had to deal with Interpol police."*
- *On security and public harassment: "At office gates and security checkpoints, I have been told to undress so they can 'confirm' if I am a man or a woman. In social places, I am harassed, forced to undress, and accused of impersonation."*

Some of the Transgender and Gender Diverse persons physical safety has been threatened on multiple occasions, with experiences of assault and humiliation even in settings meant to offer care and support.

- *On healthcare discrimination: "When I went to a public hospital for treatment, I faced discrimination despite policies that are supposed to protect people. Health workers gossiped and said things like, 'homosexual persons are followed by tragedy.'*

At home, one of the transgenders family has reacted harshly to his identity, resulting in feelings of isolation and fear:

- *On family threats: "My family has threatened to poison or kill me because they believe I am shaming them."*

Community stigma extends to public spaces, with violations of privacy and reputation

- *On public ridicule: "People take my photos and share them in WhatsApp groups to ridicule me and accuse me of promoting homosexuality. Even neighbors who once showed interest in giving me opportunities later avoided me, perhaps out of fear of being seen as promoters of homosexuality."*

# Barriers to Social Services, and Livelihood

Most of the Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons face significant barriers to employment and economic stability due to systemic discrimination against transgender people in Uganda. Despite holding a degree, his academic qualifications are under his former, or “dead,” name, which creates an additional hurdle when seeking formal employment.

In their own words:

- *“I have no job. Even though I have a degree, it is under my dead name, which makes it very difficult to find employment.”*
- *“Employers discriminate against me, and I cannot meet my basic needs. I have no funding, no work, and my quality of life is very hard.”*

Their experience reflects a broader pattern of marginalization, where identity documentation and societal prejudice combine to limit opportunities and impact the daily realities of many transgender people.

While some clinics which 'queer-friendly', they are often under-resourced and lack the very services we need as Transgenders. This leaves us with a terrible choice: risk our safety and dignity by going to a government or private hospital where discrimination and stigma are rampant, or forgo the essential healthcare we need. This fear is a major barrier to getting tested for HIV, picking up medication, or receiving counseling services, and it puts our community's health at great risk.

The rejection most of the Transgender and Gender Diverse persons faced at home extended to their ability to access essential services and opportunities. One of the TGDs education was abruptly ended, and their dream of attending university was cut short. At one shelter, one of the TGDs fell ill but was not provided with assistance for transportation to a health facility. They eventually made her way from Northern Uganda to Kawempe, uncertain of what lay ahead.

One of the TGDs found themselves needing to present as more feminine so as to find employment, but these were thwarted by discrimination; potential employers questioned her gender identity, dismissed her, or assumed she was gay. She was unable to secure work within organizations or outside the transgender community, making her early days in the shelter particularly challenging. Over time, however, they have built friendships and sought advice on survival from others in the community, slowly reconstructing her sense of agency





## Support Systems and Coping Strategies

*When asked how he manages to navigate and overcome these incidences of discrimination, One of the transgenders emphasizes the critical role of community, trusted friends, and mental health support.*

- ❖ *"I avoid unsafe social spaces and instead spend time with queer friends who know my identity. It feels safer."*
- ❖ *"I also lean on family and friends who accept me."*
- ❖ *"I see therapists when I can find those who don't charge and talk to other trans community members."*

This approach to community-based resilience highlights the importance of safe spaces and affirming relationships in the lives of transgender individuals, particularly in environments where public acceptance is limited.

We have managed to be resilient by leaning on the strong friendships we have built after losing connections with our families. These friendships have become our support system, giving us strength and a sense of belonging. In addition, I have participated in community gatherings that bring us together, helping us stay united, share experiences, and support one another during difficult times.

### Community Organizing and Vision

*In addition to seeking support, Some of the TGDs have taken proactive steps to create change and foster solidarity:*

*They share:*

- *"I even started an organization for trans men. We don't have funding, but we carry a vision of helping ourselves and other trans people in the community."*
- *"Despite the threats, the accusations, and the fear, I try to keep going by holding on to that vision."*

While resources and external support remain scarce, their efforts to build an organization for trans men reflect resilience and commitment to collective upliftment, even in the face of adversity.



*"While our organization was not a direct beneficiary of USAID funding but the recent cuts have created a devastating "domino effect" that has profoundly impacted our work and the community we serve. The withdrawal of USAID, which was a major funder for many of our peer partner organizations, has led to a significant collapse of the funding ecosystem for transgender and gender-diverse initiatives in Uganda plus also as Community Leader this has also limited resources to reach community members since many DICs closed".*

# Personal Experiences of Violence and Threats

Some of the interviewees recount being personally attacked physically describing in vivid detail the kind of public and targeted aggression that Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons individuals have faced.

The first incident took place in broad daylight, around 3pm:

*"I was heading home. At a junction, a man came out of nowhere. At first I thought it was a joke. He said, 'We know you.' I asked, 'Do you know me?' He said, 'You know you.' He came with so much energy, and I realized it was serious. He demanded reasons why I dress like this, why I date the people I date, why I date the same gender. He pulled my shirt. I don't know where I got the strength, but I made noise. I was near the barracks, and luckily, I had friends who were soldiers. One came and chased the man away. But it shook me. He wanted to strangle me. To this day, I never use that route. When I pass there with a friend, I am reminded of what happened. It made me feel small and unsafe, because people know me now, and yet someone could attack me openly, with everyone watching, and no one defended me."*

This incident, like many others, left lasting psychological scars and a constant sense of vulnerability. The lack of intervention from bystanders compounded the trauma.

Another deeply disturbing encounter occurred in a public place ,a supermarket:

*"One day, I was in a supermarket I always go to. People there know me. A soldier, an intelligence officer, pointed at me and said, 'Aren't you one of the people pushing the Kasese bylaw?' He stood up and accused me of forcing things on people. I stayed quiet, but he kept insulting me, saying they will kill us, they will arrest us. He pulled out a pistol, creating drama in the supermarket. People watched, but no one defended me or asked him what I had done. I was breaking inside, but I tried to be strong. I thought, I am here to shop, and I will shop. But I stopped going to that supermarket after that."*

# Conclusion & Recommendations

Uganda stands at a critical crossroads in the fight for equality and justice for transgender and gender-diverse persons. The ongoing and intensifying anti-rights movement poses profound challenges, not only to individuals whose identities fall outside binary norms but also to the broader project of human rights. Violence, discrimination, and marginalization have become alarmingly systematic, affecting the lived realities of trans and gender-diverse Ugandans in ways that threaten their safety, dignity, and fundamental freedoms. In this context, the importance of "Evidence For Justice: Documenting Violence, Discrimination, And The Impact Of The Anti-Rights Movement" cannot be overstated. Below are comprehensive recommendations aimed at activists, policy makers, international partners, and civil society, designed to inform and guide effective responses in the evolving terrain of rights, resistance, and risk.

## Strengthening Documentation and Research

Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons Community	Policy and Opinion Leaders	Donor and Global Community
Comprehensive Data Collection: Develop standardized tools to collect quantitative and qualitative data on incidents of violence, discrimination, and the effects of anti-rights legislation.	Protection of Confidentiality: Prioritize the safety of respondents and researchers by implementing robust data security protocols and anonymizing sensitive information.	Investment in Community-Led Research: Allocate funding and resources to empower transgender and gender-diverse communities to lead documentation initiatives, ensuring narratives reflect lived realities and diverse experiences.
Regular Publication and Dissemination: Issue periodic reports and policy briefs to inform stakeholders and the public, increasing visibility and accountability.	Intersectional Approaches: Ensure documentation captures intersecting risks faced by trans and gender-diverse persons based on class, ethnicity, disability, or HIV status.	

# Legal and Policy Reform

Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons Community	Policy and Opinion Leaders	Donor and Global Community
Advocacy for Legal Protections: Campaign for the repeal or amendment of laws criminalizing gender diversity, such as the Anti-Homosexuality Act and other anti- Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons policies.	Policy and Legal Dialogues: Foster constructive dialogues between community and government officials to advance inclusive policies and human rights protection for all citizens, regardless of gender identity.	Advocacy for Legal Protections: Campaign for the repeal or amendment of laws criminalizing gender diversity, such as the Anti-Homosexuality Act and other anti- Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons policies.
Strategic Litigation: Support test cases and legal actions that challenge discriminatory laws and policies, setting precedence for protecting trans rights.		International Human Rights Mechanisms: Utilize regional and international human rights bodies to hold the Ugandan government accountable for rights violations.
Legal Literacy and Support: Develop accessible materials and training sessions for trans and gender-diverse communities about their legal rights and avenues for redress.		

# Community Empowerment and Safety

Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons Community	Policy and Opinion Leaders	Donor and Global Community
Safe Spaces and Support Networks: Create and sustain safe physical and virtual spaces where trans and gender-diverse persons can access peer support, mental health care, and legal assistance.		Capacity Building: Provide leadership development, advocacy training, and resource mobilization support to strengthen community resilience.
Emergency Response Systems: Establish rapid response teams and emergency hotlines for individuals facing imminent threats or violence.		
Community-Led Advocacy: Encourage grassroots mobilization and storytelling initiatives to amplify voices often silenced by stigma or fear.		
Allies and Partnerships: Build coalitions with feminist, disability, youth, and other human rights movements to foster intersectional solidarity.		

# Health and Well-Being

Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons Community	Policy and Opinion Leaders	Donor and Global Community
Mobile and Remote Services: Expand outreach through mobile clinics and telemedicine, particularly in rural areas where trans persons face additional barriers.	Access to Healthcare: Pass policies that ensure non-discriminatory, gender-affirming, and holistic healthcare services, including HIV prevention and treatment, mental health, and reproductive health.	Research on Health Outcomes: Support ongoing studies on the specific health needs and barriers faced by trans and gender-diverse communities in Uganda.
Mental Health Support: Increase access to counseling, peer support groups, and trauma-informed care for individuals affected by violence and discrimination.	Training for Healthcare Providers: Develop and implement training programs for medical professionals on trans-competent care, confidentiality, and respectful engagement.	

# International Solidarity and Support

Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons Community	Policy and Opinion Leaders	Donor and Global Community
Partnering with Global Organizations: Strengthen links between Ugandan activists and international human rights organizations to share resources, expertise, and platforms for advocacy.		Research on Health Outcomes: Support ongoing studies on the specific health needs and barriers faced by trans and gender-diverse communities in Uganda.
Protection for Human Rights Defenders: Advocate for international mechanisms to safeguard trans activists who are targets of harassment, violence, or arbitrary detention.		Funding and Grants: Mobilize international and regional funding streams to support local initiatives, capacity building, and emergency interventions.
		Diplomatic Pressure: Encourage foreign governments and embassies to raise trans rights concerns in their bilateral relations with Uganda.
		Global Campaigns: Integrate Uganda's trans and gender-diverse issues into international campaigns and days of action, amplifying local voices on global stages.

# Monitoring and Evaluation

Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons Community	Policy and Opinion Leaders	Donor and Global Community
Impact Assessment Tools: Develop mechanisms to track progress, effectiveness, and gaps in advocacy, services, and legal reform.	Include indicators in different reporting tools that reflect Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons in Uganda	Amplify reports from Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons from Uganda
Community Feedback: Regularly solicit input from trans and gender-diverse Ugandans to ensure interventions remain responsive and relevant.		
Transparency and Accountability: Share results and lessons learned with stakeholders, donors, and beneficiaries to foster trust and continuous improvement.		
Adaptive Strategies: Be prepared to modify approaches in response to shifting political, legal, or social contexts.		

## Addressing the Anti-Rights Movement

Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons Community	Policy and Opinion Leaders	Donor and Global Community
Counter-Disinformation Efforts: Monitor the spread of false narratives and misinformation propagated by anti-rights actors, and proactively correct the record through reliable channels.	Access to Healthcare: Pass policies that ensure non-discriminatory, gender-affirming, and holistic healthcare services, including HIV prevention and treatment, mental health, and reproductive health.	Research on Health Outcomes: Support ongoing studies on the specific health needs and barriers faced by trans and gender-diverse communities in Uganda.
Documentation of Harms: Maintain detailed records of human rights violations and abuses to support future legal action and advocacy.	Training for Healthcare Providers: Develop and implement training programs for medical professionals on trans-competent care, confidentiality, and respectful engagement.	
Engagement with Law Enforcement: Advocate for accountability, training, and reforms within police and security forces to reduce impunity and improve protection of vulnerable groups.		

# Recommendations to Ugandan Media on Reporting Discrimination and Human Rights Violations of Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons

The media plays a crucial role in shaping public perceptions, influencing policy, and promoting human rights. In Uganda, transgender and gender diverse persons often face significant discrimination and human rights violations. As such, it is vital that media professionals approach coverage of these issues with sensitivity, accuracy, and a commitment to upholding the dignity and rights of all individuals. The following recommendations are intended to guide Ugandan media outlets in responsibly reporting on discrimination and human rights violations affecting transgender and gender diverse communities.

## Use Respectful and Accurate Language

- Always use individuals' chosen names and pronouns. When in doubt, ask politely.
- Avoid derogatory, sensationalist, or stigmatizing language when describing transgender and gender diverse persons.
- Familiarize yourself with appropriate terminology and stay updated on evolving language within the LGBTQ+ community.

## Center Human Rights and Dignity

- Frame stories about transgender and gender diverse persons within the context of universal human rights.
- Highlight the impact of discrimination, violence, or legal barriers on individuals and communities.
- Ensure that coverage does not perpetuate stereotypes or reinforce existing prejudices.

## Prioritize Safety and Consent

- Obtain informed consent before identifying or interviewing transgender and gender diverse individuals, especially in contexts where their safety may be at risk.
- Protect sources' anonymity when necessary to prevent potential harm or retaliation.
- Be mindful of the potential consequences of media exposure for vulnerable individuals.

## Provide Context and Background

- Include relevant legal, social, and cultural context when reporting on discrimination or rights violations.
- Cite reputable sources, such as human rights organizations, for statistics and expert commentary.
- Explain the broader impacts of discrimination on mental health, access to services, and community well-being.

## Amplify Transgender and Gender Diverse Voices

- Feature the perspectives and experiences of transgender and gender diverse persons themselves, not only third-party commentary.
- Seek out activists, advocates, and organizations for insight, analysis, and recommendations.
- Avoid tokenism by ensuring diverse representation beyond a single voice or story.

## Challenge Misinformation and Myths

- *Fact-check all information carefully, especially when reporting on sensitive topics such as medical care, legal status, or cultural beliefs.*
- *Address and correct common misconceptions or false information that may contribute to stigma or discrimination.*
- *Educate audiences with evidence-based information and resources.*

## Promote Positive and Constructive Narratives

- *Highlight stories of resilience, achievement, and advocacy within transgender and gender diverse communities.*
- *Showcase efforts to promote inclusion, equality, and human rights, both in Uganda and globally.*
- *Avoid focusing solely on victimhood or trauma, which can reinforce negative perceptions.*

## Engage in Ongoing Training and Reflection

- *Invest in regular diversity, equity, and inclusion training for journalists and editors.*
- *Reflect on editorial policies and practices to ensure they align with human rights standards and ethical journalism.*
- *Encourage open dialogue and continuous learning about LGBTQ+ issues within media organizations.*

# APPENDIX I: Lived Stories

## APPENDIX II: Inception

### Report Presentation

## APPENDIX II: Data Collection

### Tool

#### SECTION 1: Introductions

Note: Thank them for being part of the discussion. Introduce yourself as working with a team from Fem Alliance. Then give a summary of the verbal consent below and allow each one of them to introduce themselves thereafter.

*Summary of the verbal consent*

*Dear Participant,*

*You have been selected to participate in this research Evidence For Justice: Documenting Violence, Discrimination, And The Impact Of The Anti-Rights Movement on Trans and Gender-Diverse Persons in Uganda.*

*The Data collection and lived stories are being collected by and for the community to support us in telling the stories of the impact of the anti-rights movement.*

*Taking part in this discussion is voluntary, and what we shall discuss today shall be kept confidential and only used for purposes of collecting Evidence For Justice: Documenting Violence, Discrimination, And The Impact Of The Anti-Rights Movement on Trans and Gender-Diverse Persons in Uganda*

*You are free to take part in this discussion, but should you feel like you want to leave at any point, you are free to do so. If you have any questions about the study, raise them now or should you need any further information about what we are doing, you can contact Fem Alliance representative] using the number we shall provide at the end of our discussion. We would also like to inform you that we shall be recording the discussion, just for the purposes of us capturing everything that we might miss out when taking notes. The interview will take about 30-45 minutes, and your participation or refusal to participate in this interview will not affect the services you receive in any way. If you agree to provide information to the researcher under the conditions of confidentiality set out on this form, please register on the registration sheet.*

*Note:*

1. *Make sure the recording device is switched on prior to the start of the interview.*

*Ice breaker*

2. *Shall we start by introducing ourselves? (Let the participants introduce themselves; they can use their pseudo names, gender identity, place of residence, and what they do)*

## SECTION 2: Evidence For Justice

- What recent incidents - social, including friends, family or political, including campaigns, elections or legal, including passing of the AHA have affected your day-to-day lives
- How has your organization been affected by the funding cuts by USAID, Global Fund etc. to the Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons in Your Community?
- Can you share some challenges Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons are facing while accessing health care services like ART, PrEP, Condoms, HIV Testing, Counselling Services, Lubricants, among others?
- How are livelihoods – including access to shelter, basic income – affected?
- How has the situation affected the safety and security of Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons in Uganda? Have you experienced any attacks or know people who have experienced attacks, including stigma and discrimination
- Share some examples of how you and the fellow community members have managed to be resilient, and what support system do you have to support you?
- Identify and map out allies of the Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons in the region.
- How can the Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons in Uganda – along with donors – respond most effectively to current trends?

### Conclusion

Thank you very much once again for taking part in this discussion.

We promise to use the information you have shared to serve you better as Fem Alliance.

Note: Thank them for being part of the discussion. Introduce yourself as working with a team from Fem Alliance. Then give a summary of the verbal consent below and allow each one of them to introduce themselves thereafter.

## APPENDIX IV: Lived Stories Toolkit

### SECTION 1: Introductions

*Note: Thank them for being part of the discussion. Introduce yourself as working with a team from Fem Alliance. Then give a summary of the verbal consent below and allow each one of them to introduce themselves thereafter.*

#### Summary of the verbal consent

Dear Participant,

*You have been selected to participate in this research Evidence For Justice: Documenting Violence, Discrimination, And The Impact Of The Anti-Rights Movement On Trans And Gender-Diverse Persons In Uganda*

*Taking part in this discussion is voluntary and what we shall discuss today shall be kept confidential and only used for purposes of collecting Evidence For Justice: Documenting Violence, Discrimination, And The Impact Of The Anti-Rights Movement On Trans And Gender-Diverse Persons In Uganda*

*You are free to take part in this discussion but should you feel like you want to leave at any point, you are free to do so. If you have any questions about the study, raise it now or should you need any further information about what we are doing, you can contact Fem Alliance representative] using the number we shall provide at the end of our discussion. We would also like to inform you that we shall be recording the discussion, just for the purposes of us capturing everything that we might miss out when taking notes. The interview will take about 30-45 minutes and your participation or refusal to participate in this interview will not affect the services you receive in any way. If you agree to provide information to the researcher under the conditions of confidentiality set out on this sheet form, please register on the registration sheet.*

#### Note:

1. Make sure the recording device is switched on prior to the start of the interview.

#### Ice breaker

2. Shall we start by introducing ourselves? (Let the participants introduce themselves, they can use their pseudo names, gender identify, place of residence, what they do)

### SECTION 2: Evidence For Justice

- Can you tell me about an incident either at work, home, or any social environment that has affected you because of your identity
- How have these incidences affected your day-to-day life
- How have these incidences affected access to social services, health care services, livelihood
- How have you managed to overcome these incidences, what is your support system?

### Conclusion

Thank you very much once again for taking part in this discussion. We promise to use the information you have shared to serve you better as Fem Alliance.



# Contact

This report may be cited for  
Advocacy , academic and  
professional purposes .

- 📍 Kampala Uganda
- 📞 +256 779 890 890
- ✉️ femauganda@gmail.com
- 👉 <https://linktr.ee/femallianceuganda>