



STATEMENT ON UGANDA'S CONSTITUTIONAL COURT RULING ON UGANDA'S ANTI-HOMOSEXUALITY ACT 2023

On 3rd of April 2024, the Constitutional Court of Uganda upheld the constitutionality of the Anti-Homosexuality Act 2023. The court only nullified Sections 3(2)(c), 9, 11(2)(d) and 14 of the Anti-Homosexuality Act, 2023 for contravening the Constitution of Uganda, 1995 in the Consolidated Constitutional Petition Nos. 14, 15, 16 & 85 of 2023 Hon. Fox Oywelowo Odoi & 21 others Vs Attorney General & 3 Others. The nullified Sections had criminalised the letting of premises for use for homosexual purposes, the failure by anyone to report acts of homosexuality to the Police for appropriate action, and the engagement in acts of homosexuality by anyone which results into the other person contracting a terminal illness.

The Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE) has taken note of the decision of the Ugandan Constitutional Court to uphold the Anti Homosexuality Act 2023 inspite of declaring some of the provisions in the Act unconstitutional. As a Feminist and Women's Rights Organization committed to promoting the rights of women and girls in all their diversity and without discrimination, we wish to state that in our view; the Anti-Homosexuality Act 2023 goes against the basic tenets of international human rights law and Uganda's 1995 Constitution.

We believe in the right of all women to live free of patriarchal oppression and discrimination and in the freedom of choice and bodily autonomy, and integrity so long as in the exercise of one's rights there is no infringement on the rights of others.

We wish to reiterate and affirm our stand on the universality, interdependence, and indivisibility of rights. We further affirm our stand on the rights of all women as human rights. The Anti-Homosexuality Act 2023 not only violates the rights of women and girls that are diverse but also undermines efforts to create a more inclusive and equitable society for all.

We therefore call on the Government of the Republic of Uganda to respect the rights of all its citizens and repeal discriminatory laws that undermine women's integrity, personhood and autonomy and; perpetuate violence, harm, injustice and inequality.