



THE HON JULIE BISHOP MP

Minister for Foreign Affairs

The Honourable Sam Kahamba Kutesa
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Kampala
REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

Honourable Minister

I would like to raise Australia's serious concerns with Uganda's *Anti-Homosexuality Bill*, which was signed into law on 24 February 2014. While Australia respects Uganda's sovereignty, we are concerned that the 24 February law undermines a number of human rights, including the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly, and the prohibition of discrimination. These rights are enshrined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which Uganda has ratified, and reflected in Uganda's Constitution. Australia believes that human rights should be respected without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Australia has raised these concerns with Uganda, including with you, on a number of occasions since the law was introduced to Parliament in 2009. I call now for Uganda to reconsider the law and to exercise the utmost restraint in its enforcement.

I hope that the friendly relationship between Australia and Uganda can continue to prosper.

Yours sincerely



Julie Bishop

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