



## Uganda - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Wednesday 18 December 2013

### Information on NGOs in Kampala working for gay rights

*IRIN News* in December 2013 states:

“Gay rights activists opened Uganda's first clinic for LGBTI people in the capital, Kampala, in May 2012 - an act fiercely criticized by the government. Despite the high prevalence of HIV among MSM and FSW - 13.7 percent and 33 percent respectively, according to the 2008-2009 Crane Survey of high-risk groups in Uganda - the government has not included these groups in its national strategy to fight HIV because homosexual activity and prostitution are illegal” (*IRIN News* (9 December 2013) *Outrage, scepticism at Uganda U-turn on LGBTI clinics*).

In December 2013 the *Inter Press Service* notes:

“At an unremarkable office on Bukoto Street in the Ugandan capital, Kampala, health workers and civil society activists attend a regular meeting to offer information and advice on living with HIV and AIDS. What is unusual is that these information sessions cater to a group of around 50 transgender women. The ‘Come Out Post-Test Club’, as the group calls itself, was established early this year as a safe space and advocacy group for trans women sex workers living with HIV. The club's executive secretary, Bad Black, says it is helping to fill a desperately needed gap in support services” (*Inter Press Service* (16 December 2013) *Sexual Minorities Fight for Health Services In Uganda*).

This article also mentions:

“...Spectrum, an NGO providing HIV and AIDS education and prevention for MSM in and around Kampala...” (*ibid*).

A report published in October 2013 by the *Centre for Constitutional Rights* notes:

“...Sexual Minorities Uganda, an umbrella organization located in Kampala, Uganda, which represents the interests of its constituent member organizations in advocating for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people (“LGBTI”) in Uganda...” (*Centre for Constitutional Rights* (October 2013) *Sexual Minorities Uganda v. Scott Lively*).

A report issued in June 2012 by *Amnesty International* notes:

“Police have raided a human rights workshop attended by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) activists in Kampala, prompting Amnesty International to reiterate its call on the government to end its targeted harassment of people involved in lawful activities. The workshop, which was organised by the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP) to teach human rights monitoring skills to LGBT activists from Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya as well as

Uganda, was closed down following the police action on Monday” (Amnesty International (19 June 2012) *Uganda: Police close down gay rights workshop*).

An undated document by *Freedom and Roam* notes:

“Freedom and Roam Uganda (FARUG) is a Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LBTI) organization which was established in 2003 by a group of fully fledged lesbians who were constantly harassed, insulted and discriminated by a misinformed society and who were touched by the plight of their sisters and brothers of the same sex orientation. We are a member based, and non registered organization, with a secretariat in Kampala” (Freedom and Roam (Undated) *About Us*).

## References

Amnesty International (19 June 2012) *Uganda: Police close down gay rights workshop*  
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news/uganda-police-close-down-gay-rights-workshop-2012-06-19>  
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Inter Press Service (16 December 2013) *Sexual Minorities Fight for Health Services In Uganda*  
[http://www.iede.co.uk/news/2013\\_3680/sexual-minorities-fight-health-services-uganda](http://www.iede.co.uk/news/2013_3680/sexual-minorities-fight-health-services-uganda)  
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<http://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rwmain?page=printdoc&docid=52a7058c4>  
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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

## Sources Consulted

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