



*Groupe des Douze Plus
A l'Union interparlementaire*

*Group of the Twelve Plus
in the Interparliamentary Union*

Mr Otunnu
Leader of the Ugandan People's Congress
Uganda House
Plot 10 Kampala Rd
P O Box 9206
Kampala
UGANDA

05 April 2012

Dear Mr Otunnu,

We would like to acknowledge and thank the Parliament of Uganda for hosting this 126th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and also extend our heartfelt thanks to the people of Uganda for your wonderful hospitality and contribution to this Assembly.

As guests in your country, as members of the Twelve Plus Group representing parliaments from 46 countries¹, affiliated to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, we wish to take this opportunity to communicate with you as the leader of your political party.

As fellow parliamentarians we ask you as the leader of your political party to use all possible actions and mechanisms to ensure the Anti Homosexuality Bill proposed as a private member's bill by Mr David Bahati, is defeated.

We note that the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda includes these words from Chapter 4 Human Rights and Freedoms:

"21. (1) All persons are equal before and under the law in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life and in every other respect and shall enjoy equal protection of the law."

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Secrétariat des 12+ (F)

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Président : Robert-Denis del Picchia - Chef du Secrétariat : Philippe Bourassé

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On this 50th anniversary of independence in Uganda, we acknowledge that as leaders we are often challenged by the tension between the will of the majority and the needs of minorities and the most vulnerable.

We take inspiration from the Ugandan parliament’s commitment to minorities and human rights through the provision of special conditions to ensure the participation of women, and people with disabilities within your parliament. This is clearly an example of your country’s commitment to safeguarding human rights principles over the rule of the majority. Many of us can learn from this. We respectfully encourage and call upon you to extend this principle to the protection of sexual minorities in their self-determination.

We urge you to work to ensure sexual orientation and gender identity rights in Uganda and that you and the parliamentarians in your party vote against the progression of the Anti Homosexuality Bill when it is next debated so it does not become law in Uganda.

Yours sincerely,

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President of the IPU Twelve Plus Group
Mr Robert-Denis del Picchia



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Mr Hussein
Leader of the Justice Forum
P O Box 3999
Kampala
UGANDA

05 April 2012

Dear Mr Hussein,

We would like to acknowledge and thank the Parliament of Uganda for hosting this 126th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and also extend our heartfelt thanks to the people of Uganda for your wonderful hospitality and contribution to this Assembly.

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As fellow parliamentarians we ask you as the leader of your political party to use all possible actions and mechanisms to ensure the Anti Homosexuality Bill proposed as a private member's bill by Mr David Bahati, is defeated.

We note that the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda includes these words from Chapter 4 Human Rights and Freedoms:

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His Excellency Mr Museveni
Leader of the National Resistance Movement
Plot 10, Kyadondo Rd
Nakasero
Kampala
UGANDA

05 April 2012

Dear Mr Museveni,

We would like to acknowledge and thank you for hosting this 126th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and for opening the Assembly in your role as President. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to you and the people of Uganda for your wonderful hospitality and contribution to this Assembly.

As guests in your country, as members of the Twelve Plus Group representing parliaments from 46 countries¹, affiliated to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, we wish to take this opportunity to communicate with you as the Leader of the National Resistance Movement of Uganda specifically.

As fellow parliamentarians we ask you as the Leader of the National Resistance Movement to use your authority as the leader of your political party to effect the withdrawal of the Anti Homosexuality Bill proposed as a private member's bill by Mr David Bahati, a member of your party, on the basis that it conflicts with your party's constitution, the IPU's mission and vision and our shared commitment to affirming universal human rights.

We recognise that, as President, you cannot intervene in your Parliament's consideration of a private member's bill given the constitution of Uganda. Our request does not compromise this role.

We note however that the constitution of the National Resistance Movement, as amended 19 November 2005 includes these words:

¹ Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom.

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“Whereas the National Resistance Movement restored political stability, respect for human rights, national unity, peace, security, law and order, Constitutionalism and the rule of law”.

This vision is congruent with IPU Article One, para 2 (c), which calls for the IPU to “Contribute to the defence and promotion of human rights, which are universal in scope and respect for which is an essential factor of Parliamentary democracy and development”.

It is clear in your opening speech and indeed, the constitution of your party, that democracy is treasured by yourself and all Ugandan people, as it is by us all. On this 50th anniversary of independence in Uganda, we acknowledge that as leaders we are often challenged by the tension between the will of the majority and the needs of minorities and the most vulnerable.

We take inspiration from your leadership and the Ugandan Government’s commitment to minorities and human rights through the provision of special conditions to ensure the participation of women, and people with disabilities within your parliament. This is clearly an example of your commitment to safeguarding human rights principles over the rule of the majority. Many of us can learn from this. We respectfully encourage and call upon you to extend this principle to the protection of sexual minorities in their self-determination.

Mr Museveni, your leadership of your party has led Uganda to a place of continued growth and prosperity. We urge you to work to ensure sexual orientation and gender identity rights, and that the Anti Homosexuality Bill is withdrawn completely, rather than amended in any way. Only in an equal society can we realise the possibility of universal prosperity that you envisaged in your speech at the Inter-Parliamentary Union’s opening ceremony.

Yours sincerely,



President of the IPU Twelve Plus Group
Mr Robert-Denis del Picchia



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Mr Norbert Mao
Leader of the Democratic Party
Plot 3 William Street
P O Box 7098
Kampala
UGANDA

05 April 2012

Dear Mr Norbert Mao,

We would like to acknowledge and thank the Parliament of Uganda for hosting this 126th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and also extend our heartfelt thanks to the people of Uganda for your wonderful hospitality and contribution to this Assembly.

As guests in your country, as members of the Twelve Plus Group representing parliaments from 46 countries¹, affiliated to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, we wish to take this opportunity to communicate with you as the leader of your political party.

As fellow parliamentarians we ask you as the leader of your political party to use all possible actions and mechanisms to ensure the Anti Homosexuality Bill proposed as a private member's bill by Mr David Bahati, is defeated.

We note that the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda includes these words from Chapter 4 Human Rights and Freedoms:

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We urge you to work to ensure sexual orientation and gender identity rights in Uganda and that you and the parliamentarians in your party vote against the progression of the Anti Homosexuality Bill when it is next debated so it does not become law in Uganda.

Yours sincerely,

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President of the IPU Twelve Plus Group
Mr Robert-Denis del Picchia



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Rt Hon Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga
Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda
Plot 16 – 18 Parliamentary Avenue
Kampala
Uganda

10 avril 2012

Dear Madam Speaker,

We write to you as representatives of the Twelve Plus geopolitical group¹ of the IPU, here in Kampala for the 126th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. We feel we must express our collective concern at the renewed attempt by David Bahati to pass his Anti Homosexuality private member's bill through your Parliament.

We appreciate that there is a dominant African culture and approach to sexual activity which differ from the prevailing cultures in each of our respective countries, but we feel we must let you know what a very negative view will be taken of Uganda's approach to human rights in democracies such as ours which are committed to equal rights for all adults whatever their sexual preference if Mr Bahati succeeds with his bill.

All members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union subscribe to the IPU statutes, of which Article One, paragraph 2 (c) commits them to:

“Contribute to the defence and promotion of human rights, which are universal in scope and respect for which is an essential factor of parliamentary democracy and development.”

As friends of Uganda we want to stand should-to-shoulder with you in fighting inequality, poverty and discrimination, and at the same time encourage Western countries to continue to invest, and further develop aid programmes and tourism.

We are aware that one argument adduced in favour Mr Bahati's bill is that it is based on laws passed by Britain in colonial times. We would respectfully point out that sexual acts between

¹ The Twelve Plus Group is composed of the Parliaments of following countries : Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom.

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two adults males in private were legalised in England and Wales in 1967 – 45 years ago. As far as the threat of the death penalty is concerned, that was dropped by Britain for this activity in 1861. Virtually every member of the Twelve Plus can say the same, and none of us practises the death penalty for any offence.

We would make one further point. It is wholly untrue to suggest that those opposed to this bill are motivated by a desire to “promote” homosexuality. Nothing could be further from the truth. We passionately defend the rights of all societies to protect their culture and their way of life, so long as the exercise of those rights neither persecutes nor harms any section of their community.

We very much hope that you will do all in your power to prevent this private member’s bill from making progress in your parliament to ensure that human rights protections apply to all citizens regardless of race, gender, age, culture, religion, ability, sexual orientation and gender identity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R del Picchia', written in a cursive style.

President of the IPU Twelve Plus Group
Mr Robert-Denis del Picchia



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Dr Kizza Besigye
Chairman of the Forum for Democratic Change
Plot 9 Entebbe Rd
Najjanankumbi
P O Box 26928
Kampala
UGANDA

05 April 2012

Dear Dr Kizza Besigye,

We would like to acknowledge and thank the Parliament of Uganda for hosting this 126th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and also extend our heartfelt thanks to the people of Uganda for your wonderful hospitality and contribution to this Assembly.

As guests in your country, as members of the Twelve Plus Group representing parliaments from 46 countries¹, affiliated to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, we wish to take this opportunity to communicate with you as the leader of your political party.

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President of the IPU Twelve Plus Group
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Mr Ken Lukyamuzi
Leader of the Conservative Party
P O Box 5145 & 1604
Kampala
UGANDA

05 April 2012

Dear Mr Ken Lukyamuzi,

We would like to acknowledge and thank the Parliament of Uganda for hosting this 126th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and also extend our heartfelt thanks to the people of Uganda for your wonderful hospitality and contribution to this Assembly.

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