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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell i Fontelles
on behalf of the European Commission
(26.5.2023)

The EU is leading the call for equality of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-sexual, intersex, and queer (LGBTIQ) persons around the world, as well as by implementing actions supporting LGBTIQ rights as per the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy (2020-2025)¹ and the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy (2020-2024)². The EU continues raising the issue in the multilateral fora and in bilateral meetings and dialogues.

The EU has expressed its deep concerns with the passing of the bill by the Ugandan Parliament and is closely monitoring the process regarding the promulgation of the new Ugandan anti-homosexuality bill. High-level EU officials have raised the issue with the Ugandan Government, Parliament and President. In this dialogue, the EU emphasised that the criminalisation of homosexuality is contrary to the principles of equality and non-discrimination in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights³, and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights⁴.

The EU will continue to use all opportunities of engagement with the Ugandan authorities and civil society, including in the context of its development cooperation and broader partnership, to ensure that all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity, are treated equally. In that perspective, the EU will keep supporting civil society and LGBTIQ defenders.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/system/files/2020-11/lgbtiq_strategy_2020-2025_en.pdf

² https://www.eas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eu_action_plan_on_human_rights_and_democracy_2020-2024.pdf

³ <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

⁴ <https://au.int/en/treaties/african-charter-human-and-peoples-rights>