

EN  
E-001920/2023  
Answer given by Ms Urpilainen  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(6.9.2023)

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

The EU has expressed its deep concerns with the promulgation of the Ugandan Anti-Homosexuality Act. 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 Rights<sup>3</sup>, and the African Charter on Human and People's Rights<sup>4</sup>.

At this moment, the EU considers that a suspension of EU financial support to Uganda would deprive the most vulnerable populations, including LGBTIQ persons, from vital support. Disengagement by the EU would also create gaps which may be further filled by other players who do not share EU values.

Therefore, 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 is stepping up its support to civil society and LGBTIQ defenders, by promoting the universality of human rights and the principle of non-discrimination, and opposing the death penalty, with a specific focus on the protection of people and civil society organisations at risk.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://commission.europa.eu/system/files/2020-11/lgbtiq\\_strategy\\_2020-2025\\_en.pdf](https://commission.europa.eu/system/files/2020-11/lgbtiq_strategy_2020-2025_en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eu\\_action\\_plan\\_on\\_human\\_rights\\_and\\_democracy\\_2020-2024.pdf](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eu_action_plan_on_human_rights_and_democracy_2020-2024.pdf)

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

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