

THE WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.
L'ASSOCIATION MEDICALE MONDIALE, INC
ASOCIACION MEDICA MUNDIAL, INC



The President of the Republic of Uganda
His Excellency Yoweri Museveni
State House
P.O. Box 25497
Kampala
Uganda

By e-mail: press@statehouse.go.ug

February 28th, 2014

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the World Medical Association we write to express our deep concern about the new law in Uganda concerning homosexuality. We would respectfully submit that the notions, science and ethics you relied on were incorrect. Pursuing this pathway will detract from the many advances in healthcare and public policy you have overseen in Uganda and indeed the many inspirational displays of international leadership you have driven on behalf of Ugandans.

As discussed by WMA leaders on Ugandan TV and with the Hon Ruhakana Rugunda, Minister for Health on 24th February, it is worrying that such a law is violating what is now being seen across most of the World community as a basic human right, namely to decide about one's sexual orientation. We do note that this was not the case in the past in many Nations of the world but now is; we hope the legislation in Uganda can reflect international human rights in a short time. It is noteworthy that the amended legislation has seen the unworkable notion of Mandatory Reporting removed.

The heinous crimes of child abuse and paedophilia are abhorrent and totally unacceptable but have nothing to do with sexual orientation but criminal actions.

It is correct to state clearly and unequivocally, we are not aware of any medical reason or 'fault' for bi-sexual or homosexual behaviour. Further, it is highly questionable that homosexuality poses a public health risk. There are sexual behaviours that may be practiced by people that are unwise and unacceptable because they are dangerous – whoever practices them whether homosexual or heterosexual. Such behaviours do result in a "public health risk" classification of homosexual or heterosexual persons in general.

Our Policy statement is attached. As an example of such laws change, in the State of Victoria Australia where penal codes have the same British Colonial tradition, the State has pledged to abolish convictions for consensual adult gay sex (<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-01-13/calls-for-national-abolition-of-gay-sex-convictions/5198118>).

We urge you to reverse this policy.
Sincerely,



Dr. Mukesh Haikerwal AO
Chairman of Council



Dr. Otmar Kloiber
Secretary General