



Speaker of the House of Commons

Dear Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle

6 February 2024

We are alarmed that the Speaker of the Ugandan parliament, Anita Among, is to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Commonwealth in the UK including, we are told, at an event hosted by you in the Houses of Parliament.

Ms Among is one of the architects of Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Act (AHA) 2023, which has been dubbed the 'Kills the Gay's' law.

It is one of the world's harshest anti-LGBT+ laws, with mandatory automatic life imprisonment for consenting same-sex acts, and the death penalty for "serial offenders" and for elderly LGBT+ couples aged 75 and over who have sex.

The AHA stipulates a maximum 20 years jail for promoting homosexuality, advocating LGBT+ equality and organising or financing LGBT+ organisations. It also imposes up to seven years imprisonment for anyone who rents property to persons who commit offences under the legislation. The public have a duty to report to the police anyone who they suspect may violate the AHA and failure to do so where the persons involved are ill, a refugee or elderly, can result in a top sentence of five years jail.

Since the law was enacted last year, local Ugandan groups have documented a rise in anti-LGBT+ hatred and abuse. The Strategic Response Team, a coalition of Ugandan LGBT+ rights organisations, reported in September 2023 that LGBT+ people have experienced "intensified violence and discrimination," including beatings, sexual and psychological violence, evictions, blackmail, loss of employment and denial of access to healthcare on the basis of their perceived or actual sexual orientation or gender identity.

We hope you agree that Anita Among, one of the driving forces behind this draconian legislation, should be barred from entry into the UK and should not be hosted in Parliament.

This is also the view of Ugandan LGBT+ and human rights campaigners. We are supporting their appeal and hope you will too.

Ms Among's presence in the UK would send a terrible signal that Britain tolerates the extreme homophobia of those to advocate the killing of LGBT+ people. There should be no facilitation and collusion with a politician who has blood on her hands.

I hope you can assure me and our Ugandan colleagues that Ms Among will not be welcome in Britain or in our Parliament.

I invite you to make representations to the Home and Foreign Secretaries that Anita Among should be denied entry to the UK on the grounds that she opposes the British values of respect and equality, and that her presence would not be conducive to the public good, harmonious community relations and public order.

Sincere appreciation,

Peter Tatchell

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"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights ..." Article one of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights