

March 4, 2014

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Harper:

The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) is shocked and appalled by the recent signing of the Uganda anti-homosexuality bill in Uganda. The bill, which is now enforceable by law, blatantly violates the human rights of all members of the country's LGBT community and will certainly result in state sanctioned violence, harassment, and persecution. We urge the Canadian government to send a clear message to Ugandan President, Yoweri Museveni, that we oppose this legislation, and call on him to ensure the safety and rights of LGBT citizens of Uganda are respected.

On February 24, President Museveni signed into law legislation which criminalizes same-sex relations in Uganda, providing for life imprisonment for same-sex relationships between consenting adults, and also makes it a crime punishable by a prison sentence not to report gay people. It will be a legal requirement in Uganda for all citizens to turn gay people in to the authorities or face penalties themselves. "Promotion" of homosexuality is also prohibited and it includes penalties for individuals, companies, media organizations, or non-governmental organizations that support LGBT rights.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay denounced the law as a violation of "a host of fundamental human rights". Homosexuals in Uganda are further experiencing an escalation of discrimination and violence which is now being sanctioned by the state. State and police harassment is placing members of the LGBT community in clear danger and is also resulting in the rejection of community members by their families, friends, employers, schools, hospitals, churches, landlords and other service providers in their local community.

We urge the Canadian Government to send a clear message to President Museveni that we oppose this legislation, and call on him to ensure the safety and rights of LGBT citizens of Uganda are respected. We further request that you recall the consulate representative from Kampala to brief him on the serious nature of the issue and the expectations of Canadians.

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This draconian law is creating a crisis situation for LGBT Ugandans. As Canadians we must speak up.

Yours truly,



PAUL MOIST
National President



CHARLES FLEURY
National Secretary-Treasurer

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c.c.: Pam Beattie; Michael Butler; Daria Ivanochko; Kelti Cameron; John Baird, Minister of Foreign Affairs;
Paul Dewar, NDP Foreign Affairs Critic; Uganda High Commission in Canada; Canadian Labour Congress –
International; Canadian Labour Congress, Human Rights