

Christian AIDS Bureau South Africa (CABSA) Statement on Uganda 'Anti Homosexuality' Bill (<http://www.cabsa.org.za/content/cabsa-statement-uganda-anti-homosexuality-bill>)

CABSA dreams of a caring Christian community ministering reconciliation and hope, primarily in a world with HIV and Aids, but also in the midst of brokenness and pain.

In our activities we are guided by our belief in God who is Love (1 John 4:16) and who gave us the Bible to guide us to live according to his love ? a love that casts out fear (1 John 4:17-18). This love was demonstrated by Jesus Christ's life, ministry and sacrifice on the cross.

Knowing that the issue of homosexuality is complex and can be divisive, we pray for wisdom of the Holy Spirit (James 3:17) for Christian leaders and governments.

When considering the proposed ?Anti-homosexuality Bill? in Uganda and loveless responses to homosexuality everywhere, we plead for calm hearts and kind actions. Persecution and demonization of gay or lesbian people will not lead to greater understanding of each other or the issues and will not bring reconciliation and hope.

Compelled by the love of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:14), we believe that it is our responsibility and calling to uphold and restore the dignity and worth of every human being (Gen1:27-28) and to accept people as Christ accepted (Romans 15:7). All followers of Christ are the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12), and if one member suffers, all suffer.

CABSA calls on other Christians, CABSA Friends and Partners, and Churches Channels of Hope facilitators to respond to the issues surrounding homosexuality with love, compassion and understanding. We appeal to all leaders to oppose laws which might diminish the dignity and worth of individuals. True government hears the cries of distress of the poor and the oppressed. Righteous government protect the poor, the marginalised and the needy. A true and righteous government will fight oppressors and oppressive systems and cherish every single person. (Psalm 72:12-14).?