



## INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA BIPHOBIA INTERSEXPFOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA (IDAHOBIT)

### FARUG STATEMENT 2023

For immediate  
release  
17<sup>th</sup>-May-2023

Freedom and Roam Uganda is a place where the struggle for LBQ womxn human rights and dignity intentionally collide. We fiercely promote, demand and protect the rights and wellbeing of LBQ womxn, most of whom are excluded, marginalized and exploited just because they exercise their right to choose whom to love. we love what we do and we work each minute, every day, to put a smile on the faces of our constituency. **Every human being matters as a principle; that it is not just every human being, but every moment; everything we do matters".** We advocate for an environment in which the rights of LBQ womxn are respected and protected. To promote and advocate for equal and quality access to services in non-discriminatory environment. This is the core of our work.

**The International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersex phobia and Transphobia** is day in LGBTIQ history where we raise awareness of LGBTIQ persons human rights violation and stimulates interests in LGBTIQ rights work worldwide. As the theme. **"Together always, United in diversity"** means a powerful call for **INCLUSION**. Embracing Diversity in its Uniqueness.

As Ugandan LBQ womxn community, this day means **SPEAKING AGAINST LESBOPHOBIA**, clustered under the Anti Homosexuality Bill, the environment we are living and working currently is increasingly harsh and unwelcoming, calling for discriminations and violations that are threatening our co-existence and being as the LGBTIQ community.

The **Re passing** of the **Bill** by the Parliament of Uganda has been the biggest example of **DISCRIMINATION** and **STIGMA** against the entire LGBTQIA+ communities, Allies and partners and this hate has been fueled by religious fundamentalist, cultural leaders and media houses who have **OPENLY** expressed **HOMOPHOBIA** and **DISCRIMINATION**.



Here forth, it is important to tackle Homophobia because it comes with heavy impacts on both individual and institutional grounds notwithstanding the repassing of the **Anti-Homosexuality Bill**, a fueler of homophobia that continues to encourage the ongoing physical violence, stalking, blackmails, belittling in form of parading, vandalism, arrests, mob injustices, increased self-hate and internalized homophobia, depression, anxieties resulting into suicidal thoughts, corrective rape, forced marriages, unjustified evictions, online and cyber bullying, outings, family abandonment and loss of employment and livelihood .To the LGBTIQ+ community, this period is no different from the “**COVID 19 LOCKDOWN**’ era. The freedom of expression has been infringed upon limiting access to health, information and general services.

Amidst the harsh environment driven by the Anti Homosexuality Bill, with the rest of the LGBTIQ+ movement, allies and partners in Uganda and worldwide, IDAHOBIT should be celebrated every day and today we continue to challenge Homophobia by commemorating this the **17th May 2023 ,The International Day Against Homophobia Biphobia Intersex phobia and Transphobia**, as a day for **unity, solidarity and resilience**, as the public, it is our duty and position to educate ourselves on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, (SOGIE), we encourage **YOU ALL** to take an active role by spreading LOVE not HATE, Say No to laws and policies that breed **HOMOPHOBIC** environments that foster violations and discrimination against the persons based on their diversities.

**IGNORANCE DEPRIVES US FROM EMBRACING DIVERSITY.  
TOGETHER ALWAYS, UNITED IN DIVERSITY**

**“For God and My Country”**