

# American Psychiatric Association

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July 26, 2011

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Hon. David Bahati  
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Author of the Anti-Homosexuality Bill 2009

Dear Mr. President and Distinguished Colleagues:

I am writing on behalf of the American Psychiatric Association, the medical specialty society representing nearly 38,000 American and Canadian psychiatrists in the United States of America, to express the grave concern of my association about efforts in Uganda to criminalize homosexual behavior. The American Psychiatric Association concluded almost 40 years ago that homosexuality *per se* implies no impairment in judgment, stability, reliability, or general social or vocational capabilities. Over succeeding years of intense scrutiny of these matters, the American Psychiatric Association has concluded that there is no credible scientific evidence that same sex attraction is pathological, chosen, needs "cure," or entails threat to heterosexual families or to children.

The American Psychiatric Association deplores all public and private discrimination against homosexuals in such areas as employment, housing, public accommodation, and licensing, and declares that no burden of proof of such judgment, capacity, or reliability should be placed upon homosexuals greater than that imposed on any other person. Further, the American Psychiatric Association has consistently urged and supported the enactment of civil rights legislation that would offer homosexual citizens the same protections guaranteed to all other citizens. In the view of the American Psychiatric Association, the imposition of severe punishment, and even death sentences, for engaging in homosexual acts between consenting adults would represent an egregious violation of basic human rights.

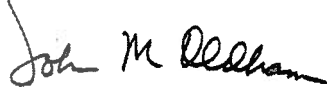
The American Psychiatric Association is particularly disappointed that at least one mental health organization has supported the legislation criminalizing homosexual behavior, citing mental health concepts which are not held in esteem by the majority of the mental health professionals in the global community. The mental



health concepts used to justify discrimination against Ugandan homosexual peoples are contrary to current research and understanding about homosexuality. The American Psychiatric Association urges Uganda to take advantage of the worldwide perspectives and research on this issue and recognize that such contrary views have little scientific credibility.

I therefore write to you to urge that Ugandan citizens be treated equally and fairly regardless of sexual orientation or homosexual behavior between consenting adults.

Most sincerely,



John Oldham, MD, DLF  
APA President

cc: Charles Tuhaise, President  
National Association of Social Workers of Uganda

