

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 788 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY COHEN, BISHOP, B. BOYLE, DAVIDSON, DeLUCA,
DONATUCCI, FLECK, McGEEHAN, MCNEILL, O'BRIEN, QUINN, READSHAW
AND THOMAS, APRIL 14, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, APRIL 14, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging legislative action by the members of the Parliament of
2 Uganda and by the Government of Nigeria to repeal laws that
3 discriminate against same-sex relationships and
4 organizations.

5 WHEREAS, On February 24, 2014, President Yoweri Kaguta
6 Museveni of Uganda signed legislation providing penalties for
7 consensual sexual acts between adults of the same gender; and

8 WHEREAS, The penalties range from incarceration for 14 years
9 for a single offense to life imprisonment for repeated offenses;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The law prescribes imprisonment for failure to
12 report homosexuals and homosexual behavior and for performing
13 same-sex marriages; and

14 WHEREAS, On January 17, 2014, President Museveni described
15 lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) individuals as
16 "sick people who need help"; and

17 WHEREAS, On January 7, 2014, Nigeria, Africa's most populous
18 and politically influential nation, enacted the "Same-Sex

1 Marriage Prohibition Act," which criminalizes same-sex marriage
2 and membership in or support of any LGBT organization; and

3 WHEREAS, Police in the northern Nigerian state of Bauchi
4 recently arrested and allegedly tortured dozens of men suspected
5 of being gay; and

6 WHEREAS, Nigerian President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan publicly
7 committed to alleviating the epidemic of human immunodeficiency
8 virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS),
9 affecting 34 million Nigerians, while simultaneously signing
10 into law the discriminatory and counterproductive legislation;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, HIV-AIDS programs established to assist the Nigerian
13 LGBT community, 17% of which is affected by HIV-AIDS, are now
14 effectively illegal; and

15 WHEREAS, On February 12, 2012, a mob of approximately 50
16 young men attacked people suspected of being gay in a
17 neighborhood in Abuja, the capital of Nigeria, dragging young
18 men from their homes, beating them with nail-studded clubs and
19 whips, and shouting that they were cleansing the community of
20 gays; and

21 WHEREAS, One victim was beaten nearly to death, according to
22 a witness; and

23 WHEREAS, Following the attack, the mob dragged four of the
24 victims to a nearby police station, where the police further
25 beat and insulted them; and

26 WHEREAS, According to Archbishop Desmond M. Tutu of South
27 Africa, "The history of people is littered with attempts to
28 legislate against love or marriage across class, caste, and
29 race. But there is no scientific basis or genetic rationale for
30 love. There is no scientific justification for prejudice and

1 discrimination, ever. And nor is there any moral justification.
2 Nazi Germany and apartheid South Africa, among others, attest to
3 these facts."; therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
5 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge members of the Parliament of
6 Uganda to repeal discriminatory legislation providing penalties
7 for consensual sexual acts between adults of the same gender;
8 and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
10 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Government of Nigeria to
11 repeal prohibitions on same-sex relationships and organizations;
12 and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
14 the presiding officers of each house of Congress, to each member
15 of Congress from Pennsylvania, to His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta
16 Museveni, President of Uganda, to the Speaker of Parliament of
17 Uganda and to His Excellency Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, President
18 of Nigeria.