
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 285 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY WILLIAMS, FEBRUARY 4, 2014

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, FEBRUARY 4, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Condemning the recent passage of legislation in Uganda and
2 Nigeria criminalizing same-sex relationships and
3 organizations, and calling upon the leaders of those nations
4 to repeal and reject those laws as gross violations of
5 lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) individuals'
6 civil rights.

7 WHEREAS, On December 20, 2013, the Parliament of Uganda
8 passed a law that would prescribe life imprisonment for repeated
9 consensual sexual acts between adults of the same gender; and

10 WHEREAS, The Parliament of Uganda also prescribed
11 imprisonment for failure to report lesbian, gay, bisexual or
12 transgender (LGBT) individuals and for performing same-sex
13 marriages; and

14 WHEREAS, On January 17, 2014, Ugandan President Yueri
15 Museveni, who described LGBT individuals as "sick people who
16 need help," returned the legislation to Parliament for lack of a
17 quorum; and

18 WHEREAS, The Parliament of Uganda now has the ability to
19 either vote, with a full quorum, for the hateful legislation or
20 to reject it for its clear violations of basic civil rights; and

1 WHEREAS, On January 7, 2014, Nigeria, Africa's most populous
2 and politically influential nation, also enacted the "Same-Sex
3 Marriage Prohibition Act," which criminalizes same-sex marriage,
4 as well as membership in or support of any LGBT organization;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Police in the northern Nigerian state of Bauchi
7 arrested and allegedly tortured dozens of men suspected of being
8 gay; and

9 WHEREAS, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan publicly
10 committed to alleviating the epidemic of HIV-AIDS, affecting 34
11 million Nigerians, while simultaneously signing into law the
12 discriminatory and counterproductive legislation; and

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

16 WHEREAS, United States Secretary of State John Kerry
17 denounced Nigeria's law for "dangerously restrict[ing] freedom
18 of assembly, association and expression for all Nigerians";
19 therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the Senate equally condemn, in the strongest
21 possible terms, both Uganda and Nigeria for their grave
22 violations of civil rights as pertain to LGBT citizens; and be
23 it further

24 RESOLVED, That the Senate strongly urge the full membership
25 of the Parliament of Uganda to vote down the vile and
26 discriminatory legislation, Ugandan President Yuwari Museveni to
27 veto the bill should it be passed by the Parliament of Uganda
28 once more and President Goodluck Jonathan to repeal Nigeria's
29 equally noxious prohibition on same-sex organizations and
30 relationships.