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UK News

**Ugandan MPs debated anti-gay bill today****World News** MPs in Uganda have been debating a proposed legislation today which would see the execution of gay or bisexual men.

Entertainment Peter Lloyd and Eva Rancho

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Interviews MPs in Uganda have been debating a proposed legislation today which would see the execution of gay or bisexual men.

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Features The controversial Bill was proposed last October by David Bahati, an MP of ruling National Resistance Movement party. Speaking to Reuters, the lawmaker said that the purpose is to promote family values. "Homosexuality is not part of the human rights we believe in", Bahati claimed.

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Events Despite international opposition from European Parliament's condemning resolution yesterday, this legislation would establish harsher punishment on the grounds of sexual orientation such as life imprisonment and death penalty.

Stage

Don't Miss In addition, any Ugandan citizen is obliged to report homosexual people to the Christian authorities, otherwise they would face up to three years in jail.

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Jean Lambert, London's Green Party Member of European Parliament's Intergroup for LGBT rights, said he was "profoundly shocked" and pinpointed the implications this bill involves. "The proposal in the Ugandan Parliament goes against the most fundamental principles of human rights and democracy. It is indefensible to threaten people's lives on grounds of who they are." Lambert also urged the European Union to watch other countries where homophobic laws might be passed as well, like Rwanda, where the penal code is due to criminalise homosexuality and its promotion.

This oppressive law could go further and affect the country's population in their fight against aids, according to Michael Gerson, journalist of the Washington Post. "Uganda is a nation struggling with a 5.4 percent rate of AIDS infection. Laws like this one simply drive men who have sex with men underground. They don't learn prevention.

"They don't get tested for the virus. They don't receive timely treatment. Public health authorities lose an accurate epidemiological picture of the disease, undermining their ability to craft a response", explained Gerson.



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