


Inter-Religious Council of Uganda



Religions for Peace

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

STATEMENT ON THE GROWING SPREAD OF HOMOSEXUALITY AND LGBTQ AGENDA IN UGANDA AND THE URGENCY FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

Kampala. Uganda: The Inter-Religious Council of Uganda has learnt with great concern the growing spread of homosexuality and the LGBTQ agenda in Uganda and the implication it has on the wellbeing of children and families. It is our call to protect and preserve the future of the family institution as well as protect Ugandan children within our religious, cultural norms and practices.

Our sacred books teach that homosexuality and LGBTQ agenda are part of human weakness that must be addressed at a personal level through repentance (**Leviticus 18:22** says ***“You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination.”***

Surah al-A’raaf 7:80-81 also says ***“And remember when Lot scolded the men of his people, saying, “Do you commit a shameful deed that no man has ever done before? You lust after men instead of women! You are certainly transgressors.”***

In the same vein, the holy books instruct us to exercise respect, non-discrimination, compassion and love for all persons. Therefore, we consider persons who indulge in homosexual activities as God’s people in need of our love and compassion.

It has come to our knowledge that our young people have been lured into homosexuality with the promise of money, property and a better future. This has further increased the vulnerability of our young people who are often ill equipped to make informed choices.

We have also noted with concern that there are reading and audio-visual materials in the market with content encouraging same sex relations. Unfortunately, the capacity of parents and teachers has not been well enhanced to address this vice. While we respect other people's cultures, it is important we remain steadfast in upholding the sanctity of the family within our cherished value systems.

We acknowledge the increasing economic hardships and other pressures that affect our families. As religious leaders we encourage Ugandans and especially our young people to stand firm against temptations that may ruin their lives.

Our faiths (Islam and Christianity) and the secular world agree that life in this world is a perpetual struggle. The struggles have to do with daily existential realities but more seriously with our moral and spiritual choices. St Paul reflecting on his experience articulates this struggle very well in Romans 7:15. ***"I don't really understand what I do. For I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate"***. The tendency these days is to normalize every life's struggle into a right. This is wrong!


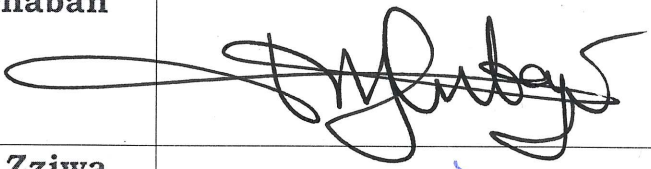
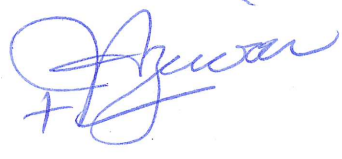
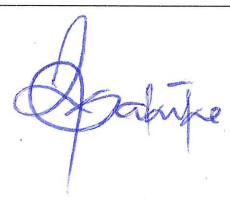
Fellow Ugandans, the world has become so desperate to the extent that one of the means of addressing these struggles is acceptance and accommodation. It is one thing to show love to those struggling and another to accept their struggle as right and more so as their right. The holy books have warned us in these words: "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil."


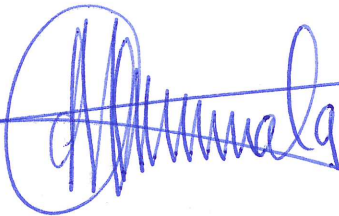

Our responsibility towards the Young people today is to accompany them in their areas of struggle. This might take various forms, creating safe places for conversation regarding their needs, equipping them with appropriate information, empowering them with the word of God, so that they might be guided in their choices, and by parents or guardians providing guidance in the form of consent in critical areas of decision making.

Our places of worship, with their social services will continue to remain open to all persons without discrimination. Furthermore,

we will advocate for the establishment of centers from where individuals with spiritual, emotional, physical and medical needs arising out of homosexual and LGBTQ activities will be supported.

Thank you.

Signed	
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His Eminence Sheikh Shaban Ramadhan Mubaje Grand Mufti of Uganda Co-President, IRCU	
Rt. Rev. Joseph Antony Zziwa Bishop Kiyinda-Mityana Diocese Chairman, Uganda Episcopal Conference Co-President, IRCU	
His Eminence Metropolitan Jeronymos Muzeeyi Archbishop, Uganda Orthodox Church Co-President, IRCU	
Pr. Dr. Moses Maka Ndimukika President Seventh-day Adventist Church in Uganda Co-President, IRCU	

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