

Uganda to criminalize 'wilful' HIV transmission

2 May 2014

Lawmakers in Uganda are set to pass a measure criminalizing the intentional transmission of the virus that causes AIDS.

Lawmaker Betty Amongi, who sits of the [health committee](#) of Uganda's parliament, said Friday that the measure is necessary in this East African country that is seeing a rise in the number of new infections after a period of relative stability.

The measure sets a 10-year jail term for anyone convicted of "wilfully or intentionally transmitting HIV to another person."

Civic groups warn that such a law could be used to justify stigmatization of people infected with HIV.

In Uganda, 7.3 percent of the population has HIV, up from about 6 percent a decade ago.

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APA citation: Uganda to criminalize 'wilful' HIV transmission (2014, May 2) retrieved 14 June 2021 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2014-05-uganda-criminalize-wilful-hiv-transmission.html>

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