



## **STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL INTERSEX AWARENESS DAY 2021**

26<sup>th</sup> October 2021

25 years after a demonstration by intersex people in a bid to urge the medical fraternity to end unwanted genital cosmetic surgeries on intersex children - intersex activists worldwide are still in the race to end the secrecy, stigma, discrimination, and related human rights violations surrounding intersex children and people. We still have a long journey to travel together as a global community in saving and improving thousands of lives of intersex persons and their families but it is also breathtaking to reflect on how far we have come.

We have steadily and successfully continued to facilitate the growth of intersex advocacy voices and subsequent safe spaces nationally and regionally despite the COVID 19 related challenges.

The COVID 19 pandemic continues to reveal and exacerbate existing inequalities and vulnerabilities in societies around the globe. The gains of the intersex movement that we are making together as a global community are at risk and we need to strengthen our resolve to speak out and to keep pushing frontiers to be able to sustain visibility and achieve protection of Intersex people's human rights - particularly in legal, social, and medical settings.

SIPD Uganda re-affirms our commitment to advocate for the following human rights that every intersex person must enjoy:

1. The right to life.
2. The right to privacy, including a right to personal autonomy or self-determination regarding medical treatment.
3. Protection and prohibitions against torture and other cruel inhuman and degrading treatment.
4. The right to physical integrity and/or bodily autonomy.
5. The right of access to information, medical records, peer and other counselling and support.
6. The right to legal recognition.
7. The right to self-determination in gender recognition, through access to official documents.

Governments must act to end the human rights violations, which intersex people face and to fulfill their protection obligations.