



FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE (FHRI)



ANNUAL REPORT 2016
TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

WHO ARE WE?

The FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE (FHRI) is an independent, non-governmental, non-partisan and not-for-profit human rights organisation. Established in 1991, FHRI is legally registered as a nongovernmental organization under the Non-Governmental Organizations Act 2016. It is duly incorporated under the Companies Act, Cap.110 as a body corporate and incorporated under the Trustees Incorporation Act, Cap.165, Laws of Uganda. The organization seeks to enhance the knowledge, respect and observance of human rights and promotes the exchange of information and best practices through training, education, research, legislative advocacy and strategic partnerships in Uganda. FHRI has Observer Status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, is a member of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty and is affiliated to the International Federation of Human Rights Defenders, (FIDH).

FHRI has effectively executed seven strategic plans since its inception in 1991. Each of these programs is based on research, monitoring and documentation of human rights violations, human rights education, legislative advocacy and legal aid service delivery. FHRI has been at the fore of the human rights movement in Uganda in the past 25 years through the publication of action oriented research reports, capacity building programs, treaty reporting to regional and UN treaty bodies, campaigns against torture, the death penalty and impunity, electoral reform, law reform, public interest litigation and provision of legal aid services to the rural and urban poor particularly women and children in hard to reach areas. In addition, FHRI has facilitated the formation of community-based human rights groups, sponsored radio and TV talk shows and human rights centred music, dance and drama and established a Human Rights and Democracy Resource Centre to support program implementation.

In 2016, FHRI marked the final year in the implementation of its 7th Strategic Plan (2012-2016) titled, 'Bridging Rights and Values: Strengthening the Civic and Democratic Culture in Uganda (2012-2016)'. This five -year program which complements the previous 6th Strategic Plan, sought to address the democracy and the human rights deficit in Uganda at the policy, legislative and practice levels. The program linked human rights and civic values and prioritized the use of ICTs in human rights advocacy. Uniquely, the program established and spearheaded a collaborative framework between civil society and the private sector in order to maximize growth. It had three broad focus themes: social accountability, equality and, democratic governance. Gender, child rights, HIV/AIDS, the elderly, PWDs and minority rights are cross cutting issues in research, legal assistance, policy and legislative review.

FHRI is proud to be associated with a number of implementing partners including: Uganda Prisons Service (UPS), Uganda Police Force (UPF), Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), Parliament of Uganda, Uganda Law Reform Commission (ULRC), the Justice Law and Order Secretariat (JLOS), the Judicial Studies Institute (JSI), the Directorate of Public Prosecution (DPP), Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Electoral Commission, National Association of Women Judges in Uganda (NAWJU), Uganda Governance Monitoring Platform (UGMP), Children Justice Initiative (CJI), Uganda Child Rights NGO Network (UCRNN), Coalition Against Torture (CAT), African Centre for Treatment of Torture Victims, (ACTV), Wells of Hope, Uganda Christian Lawyers Fraternity (UCLF), Kabugo & Co. Advocates, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, NGO Coalition for an Effective African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Network Project (EHAHRDP), the Death Penalty Project LTD, FIDH, OMCT, Penal Reform International (PRI), World Movement for Democracy (WMD), Freedom House, World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, International Commission of Jurists (ICJ – Kenya), International Centre for Not for Profit Law (ICNL), the East Africa Civil Society Forum (EACSO), Women Leadership Development (WLEDE), the Simmons College School of Social Work (USA), the University of Wyoming (USA), Drake University (USA), Integrity Action (UK), the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR), Children Education Society (CHESO) and The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) both in Tanzania.

FHRI also supports and works with various community based human rights groups such as: Universal Human Rights Defenders and Activists (UHRDA) in Lugazi, Ssesse Human Rights and Economic Promoters (SHREP), Hope After and During Incarceration (MAC) in Entebbe, Voices of Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Masaka district, Support the Elderly Persons in Uganda in Masaka district, Human Rights Activists and Monitors (HURAMO) in Amuru district, Community Rural Empowerment and Support Organisation in Gulu district and Koboko Civil Society Network, Kamuli District NGO Network (KANENGO), Tororo Civil Society

Development Association, National Human Rights Association of Uganda (NHRA) in Tororo, Rwenzori Peace Bridge for Reconciliation (RPBR) in Kasese district, Masindi District NGO Forum, Kalangala Human Rights Defenders, Kalungu Paralegal Association, Human Rights Defenders Masaka, Kumi Human Rights Initiative (KHRI), Pastoral Women Alliance to Break Cultural Chains (PWABCC) in Kiboga district and Action for Human Rights and Civic Awareness (AHURICA) in Kayunga district. Other groups are Human Rights Target (HRT) in Luwero district, Youth Revival Association (YRA) in Kampala, Lira Women's Peace Initiative (LIWEPI) and Tweweyo drama group in Luwero district.

FHRI also collaborates with a number of civil society organisations including: Human Rights Network (HURINET), Development Network of Indigenous Voluntary Associations in Uganda (DENIVA), Uganda Child Rights NGO Network (UCRNN), National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders (NCHRDs), Citizens Election Watch-IT (CEWIT), Public Interest Law Clinic (PILAC) at the School of Law, Makerere University, Network of Public Interest Litigators (NETPIL), Platform for Labour Action (PLA), Uganda Land Alliance (ULA), Uganda National NGO Forum (UNNGOF), Legal Aid Service Providers Network (LASPNET), Uganda Journalists Human Rights Network (UJHRN), Uganda Parliamentary Press Association (UPPA), Human Rights and Peace Centre (HURIPCE), Uganda National NGO Forum (UNNGOF), Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC), FIDA-Uganda, Uganda Women's Network (UWONET), Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum in Kampala (HRAPF), National Coalition Against the Death Penalty in Uganda, East African Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Refugee Law Project (RLP), Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda (ACCU), the Strengthening Access to Justice – Uganda Chapter (SAJEA), Human Rights Centre Uganda (HRCU), the Citizens Election Observers' Network-Uganda (CEON-U) and, the Citizens' Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU).

Within the framework of the Civil Society-Private-Public Sector Forum (CS-P-PSF), FHRI collaborates with a number of private and public sector institutions including: the National Planning Authority (NPA), National Social Security Fund (NSSF), World Bank, Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU), Crown Beverages Ltd, United Bank for Africa (UBA), Federation of Uganda Employers (FUE), Uganda Local Government Association (ULGA), Uganda Small Scale Industries (USSIA) and Uganda Insurers' Association (UIA).

The University Human Rights Network which was initiated by FHRI in 2006 now has a total of 39 human rights associations including: Busoga University, Ndejje University, International University of East Africa, Livingstone International University, Uganda Martyrs University -Nkozi, Makerere, University Business School, Kampala International University (Kansanga), Bugema University (Luwero), Nkumba University, Kyambogo University, Uganda Christian University (Mukono), Gulu University, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, the Islamic University in Uganda (Kaboja), Cavendish University, Mutesa I Royal University, Bugema University (Mbale), Mountains of the Moon University (Fort Portal), Islamic University IUIU (Mbale), Uganda Pentecostal University (Fort Portal), St. Lawrence University, Kumi University, Busitema University, Uganda Martyrs University (Mbale), Uganda Christian University (Arua), Kabale University, Kuluva School of Nursing (Arua), Tertiary Institutions Students' Association (LASA-Joint), Kampala University (Ggaba), National Technical College Unyama (Gulu), Bishop Stuart University (Mbarara), Mbale School of Clinical Officers, Nyondo Primary Teachers Training College Tororo, Core Primary Teachers' Training College (Bushenyi), Uganda College of Commerce (Tororo), Kampala University (Jinja), Kampala International University (Bushenyi), National Technical College – Elgon and, National Technical College – Bushenyi.

The print and electronic media are key partners. These include: CBS FM, Super FM, Radio One, Radio Simba, KFM, Vision Voice, Sanyu FM, Prime Radio, Capital FM, Radio Sapientia, Voice of Teso, Dembe FM, Top Radio, Power FM, Joy FM, Radio West, Radio Buddu, Radio Equator, Kiboga Radio, Kalangala Community Radio, Voice of Africa, BBC, UBC, WBS, NTV, NBS, Urban TV, Top TV, Record TV, Aljazeera, Radio Dockbells, Turkish News, SBC, Radio France and Deutsche Welle among others.

Newspapers that have supported the campaign include: The New Vision, Daily Monitor, The Weekly Observer, Bukedde, The East African, Reuters, The Independent Magazine, Red Pepper, among others.

FHRI receives financial support for its programs from foundations, individuals and donor agencies that have interest in the promotion and protection of human rights.

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The Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) is grateful to the following development partners that have supported the implementation of our 7th Strategic Plan (2012-2016) in 2016.

- British High Commission/UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)
- Citizens Elections Watch with Information Technology (CEW-IT)
- Democratic Governance Facility (DGF)
- Danish Family Planning Association (DFPA)
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- European Union (EU)
- Freedom House under the USAID Rights and Rule of Law Program (RRL)
- National Endowment for Democracy (NED)
- National Democratic Institute (NDI)
- Penal Reform International (PRI)
- USAID – Supporting Access to Justice, Fostering Equity and Peace (SAFE)
- UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR)

FOREWORD



Rev. Dr. John Kateeba

Dear Friends,

It is a well-established practice that the Board of Directors of the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) presents an Annual Report. The Annual Report is an important accountability tool to our members and partners. The report documents key achievements of the organisation and provides a financial and human resource analysis for the year just ended.

2016 was an important year in the history of the Foundation. FHRI marked 25 years of human rights activism in Uganda. FHRI has grown from an organisation implementing just one single - track program to one that implements a multi-issue program with a national focus. The organisation has distinguished itself in the area of human rights, electoral democracy and governance; has contributed to standard setting; nurtured upcoming human rights defenders; invested in the development of literature on human rights and; contributed to strengthening the capacity of state and non- state actors in the field of human rights. Internally, the organisation has continued to learn and to grow. Systems development has been prioritised, staff development was undertaken, governance and leadership strengthened and partnerships nurtured.

These achievements, however, could not have been registered if it were not for the support of our friends in the struggle. The FHRI membership must be acknowledged for the selfless support extended and interest shown to FHRI. The Patron, Trustees and Board of Directors, past and present, are recognised for the exemplary leadership they have exhibited. Our peers within the sector, with whom we crusade for rights; the Government of Uganda and; the numerous State institutions that we have worked with to pursue this noble cause; Our development partners deserve special mention and last but not least, the victims of human rights abuse without whom the mission could be irrelevant.

At 25 years, the expectations of stakeholders and the general public are high. The organisation has had the unenviable task of living up to them. In this respect, we pledge to uphold our motto. We should not tire. We shall continue to work for a just society.

*FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY
'Together We Can Make A Difference'*

Rev. Dr. John Kateeba
Chairperson, FHRI Board of Directors

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016



**Dr. Livingstone
Sewanyana**

Being an election year, FHRI ensured that human rights remained high on the 2016 general elections agenda through her research, legislative advocacy, civic education and access to justice campaigns.

This strategic focus was informed by FHRI's 7th five year Strategic Plan titled, 'Bridging Rights and Values: Strengthening the Civic and Democratic Culture in Uganda (2012-2016)'. The campaigns were implemented through several Actions namely; Research, Advocacy and Lobbying, Legal Services, Civic Education, the Paralegal Advisory Services Program (PAS), the Citizens Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU) and the Citizens Election Observers Network Uganda (CEON-U). Key outputs registered include thematic human rights reports, alternative treaty reports, policy briefs, opinion survey reports, memoranda and petitions, as well as Public Interest Litigation (PIL) cases and legal aid services.

Through research and monitoring, FHRI published 1 issue human rights report titled; 'Human Rights and Elections in Uganda (2016): A Call for Action', which was launched on 27th June 2016 at Imperial Royale Hotel, Kampala. Amidst the election frenzy, the report buttressed the public discourse on elections by providing a well-documented human rights audit of the 2016 general elections. Reaching over 1 million people in 36 districts through simultaneous radio talk shows on Mega FM, Gulu (North), Eastern Gate FM, Bugiri (East), Radio West, Mbarara (West) and Buddu FM, Masaka, (South), the public called the government to action – pinning the Uganda police for partisan approach during elections.

In 2016, FHRI contributed significantly to Uganda's 2nd periodic review under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process. At the conclusion of the review, 7 of the recommendations proposed by FHRI during this review process were adopted by the UN States parties to the UNHRC and accepted by the Government of Uganda. These recommendations relate to improving access to justice (use of excessive force by security agencies, enforcement of the Anti Torture Act, accountability of law enforcement officials, enactment of the Legal Aid Policy and bill) and, the respect for the right to freedoms of expression, association and assembly that call for the amendment of the Public Order Management Act, 2013, the Non-Governmental Organisations Act, 2016 and electoral reforms).

The acceptance of these recommendations by the Government of Uganda is an important indicator towards more responsive and rights - based governance. This achievement is attributed to FHRI's intense and consistent lobbying of UN State parties at the UPR pre-session held in October 2016 in Geneva; the bilateral meetings held with 6 permanent missions in Geneva including Norway, Canada, Czech Republic, The Netherlands, The United States and The United Kingdom in October 2016; coupled with its convening role of the Uganda National Stakeholders' Forum on the UPR, Civil and Political Rights Cluster.

The transitional justice campaign under the Research and Advocacy component focused on land rights in Amuru district for former Internally Displaced Persons

(IDPs) through policy advocacy in Lamogi and Pabbo sub-counties. At the peak of land disputes in the district, FHRI's preliminary interventions brought to the fore the plight of former/returning IDPs particularly women and children.

Action 2 - Legal Services: which seeks to promote access to justice for poor and vulnerable persons in Uganda is implemented through a 4 pronged approach: provision of legal aid services, the death penalty campaign; the Rights Rule of Law program and; the Paralegal Advisory Services program (PAS).

For the very first time, FHRI opened field offices in the districts of Kalangala and Wakiso in order to deepen its legal services, ensure constant presence and, ease access to on spot legal services and duty counsel services for the most vulnerable particularly women. The field offices are hosted by the Magistrates Court in Kalangala and Chief Magistrate's Court in Wakiso.

As a result of this increase in legal aid outlets, the number of victims of human rights abuse assisted by FHRI increased in comparison to 2015, from 1,047 clients (543 men and 504 women) to 1,542 (775 men and 767 women). Secondly, the increase has also been evident in the number of remedies accessed by victims of abuse ranging from releases on bail and bond, maintenance and custody orders, recovery of property and, fast tracking of cases. Similarly, during the year, more indigent workers, single mothers and orphans were assisted to secure compensation for loss as entitlements during this period to the tune of UGX 101,444,198 in favor of FHRI's clients.

The appointment of FHRI as Court Annexed Mediators by the Chief Magistrates in Wakiso and Kalangala has also contributed to this performance. Given the backlog of cases and undue delays experienced by litigants within the justice system, this new role positions FHRI in both magisterial areas to strategically contribute to the timely and fair delivery of justice. For example, in Wakiso, out of the 67 files allocated to FHRI

by the Magistrate for this purpose, 8 were successfully concluded. A number of testimonies of gratitude from clients and the Justice Law and Order officials have been recorded which attest to this.

Outside the planned activities, the escalating election violence in 2016 prompted the FHRI Legal Aid Unit in collaboration with the Citizens Election Observer Network -Uganda (CEON-U) and the Legal Aid Service Providers Network (LASPNET) to assemble a rapid response legal team to provide on spot legal assistance to victims of election violence. The response team, through a call center set up at Hotel Africana on 18th and 19th February 2016, assisted a total of 370 callers (349 male and 21 female) across the country. The legal officers provided legal advice to callers in cases of unlawful arrest and detention of voters. The team also alerted the Uganda Police and the Uganda Electoral Commission of potential violence triggers such as cases of alleged vote stuffing, voter bribery and, missing names on the National Voter's Register that had been reported to the call center.

The USAID Rights and Rule of Law program, which promotes access to justice through strategic litigation, has seamlessly complemented FHRI's interventions. After 7 years in limbo, the Supreme Court petition on the right to bail cited as; Foundation for Human Rights Initiative vs. Attorney General (Constitutional Appeal No. 3/2009), was finally heard by the Supreme Court on 11th October 2016. If decided in our favor, the outcome is key to enhancing access to justice and protecting the enjoyment of the right to bail in Uganda. Judgment will be on notice.

Through the National Paralegal Advisory Service (PAS) hosted by FHRI, suspects both in police custody and prisons can access paralegals (50) or social workers (57) who make access to justice a reality. Presently, PAS covers 61% of the prison population in 58 districts of Uganda. In 2016, PAS secured the release of 33,694 suspects (29,075 men and 4,619 women). Of these 538 were released on mandatory bail, 1,102 through

“FHRI is the only legal aid service provider in the entire Kalangala district. This role is so important particularly for us in JLOS. We are able to execute our mandates more effectively and efficiently. Speaking for my self, before you came, I acted as the legal aid service provider, the mediator and sometimes the adjudicator/judge in these same cases. This was because poor and vulnerable people needed to be helped so that their rights are not trampled on. On some occasions, this was a serious conflict of interest. Now that you are here, I can now refer most of these cases to you for advice and mediation. This has freed up my time to concentrate on my mandate. We are slowly improving our efficiency and effectiveness because of this.”

- His Worship Timothy Lumunye, Magistrate Grade 1, Kalangala, 9th December 2016.

mediation/diversion, 7,243 on court bail, 16,714 on police bond, 1,795 received community service orders and, 6,302 were juveniles. The Community Legal Volunteer (CLV) program in Busia also registered some results. The program assisted a total of 8,768 community members (4,251 men and 4,517 women) through legal sensitisation, mediation, legal representation, legal advice and, through radio talk shows.

FHRI's campaign against the death penalty is yet another intervention that contributes to access to justice. This initiative seeks to progressively limit the application of the death sentence to eventual abolition. In 2016, the priority action was advocacy for the enactment of The Law Revision (Penalties in Criminal Matters) Misc. Amendment Bill, 2015. This bill seeks to reduce the number of offences punishable by the sentence of death in Uganda from 28 to one.

Although the Government of Uganda rejected the UPR recommendations calling for the passing of The Law Revision (Penalties in Criminal Matters) Misc. Amendment Bill, 2015, there has been modest progress registered towards the planned targets. For instance, The Law Revision (Penalties in Criminal Matters) Miscellaneous Amendment Bill, 2015, was saved by the 9th Parliament and subsequently maintained on the Order Paper. The members of the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee (LPAC) prioritised the bill and conducted public consultations on the same. On 23rd March 2017, FHRI together with her partners presented a position paper before the committee on the bill—making a case for life imprisonment with parole.

The positive ripple effect of the 2005 Susan Kigula ruling on the application of the death sentence continues— in effect upholding the right to life and promoting access to justice for vulnerable death row inmates. For example, to date, no executions have been carried out since 2003. Mitigation hearings have been concluded further reducing the death row population from 211 (200 men & 11 women) at the beginning of 2016, to 170 (163 men and 7 women) as at 12th January 2017. So far, 42 death row inmates (26 male and 16 female) have been released.

Owing to the sustained campaign, public support for the death sentence has also declined from 53% in 2013 to 36% in 2016. On a related note the Government of Uganda abstained from voting when a call for votes on the sixth UN Moratorium on the death penalty was made during the United Nations General Assembly in December 2016. This is the second time in a row

that Uganda has abstained. Having consistently voted against the resolution in the past, this presents an opportunity for FHRI to further the campaign.

Lastly, stemming from the positive impact of the Susan Kigula ruling and the subsequent campaign for a fair and appropriate sentencing regime, FHRI was appointed by the Chief Justice of Uganda, Hon Bart Katurebe to the Sentencing Guidelines Committee in order to develop Guidelines for noncapital offences and formulate a Practice Directive in this respect. The Hon. Principal Judge chairs the Committee. The guidelines have been completed. These guidelines when applied will ensure consistency and fairness in sentencing in Uganda.

The Civic Education Action component is designed to enhance human rights and civic awareness in order to increase the demand for political and public accountability. Under this Action, FHRI held the 9th Inter-University Human Rights competition at Ndejje University on 4th and 5th March 2016. Under the theme, 'Towards democratic consolidation in Uganda; counting the gains', the competition was attended by 456 students (240 male: 216 female). The Irish Ambassador to Uganda, H.E Donal Cronin and Ms. Sophie Racine the Component Manager, Rights, Justice and Peace, Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) flagged off and closed the event. In their final assessment, the panel of expert judges noted the improvement in the quality of research and the appreciation of the concept of human rights and democracy.

Makerere University emerged the overall winner while Makerere University Business School (MUBS) took the prize for the the best researched paper. This paper by Ms Destiny Gladys Chaiga titled, 'Our labour skills don't meet job market needs', was published in the Daily Monitor on 5th April 2016. Impressed by their performance, the winners were hosted to a reception by the Irish Ambassador H.E Donal Cronin at his residence on 14th April 2016 in Kampala.

It is not in dispute that the Civic Education Action through the University outreach program is building a social movement of young human rights defenders. The support has accelerated the growth of the student human rights movement by: enhancing knowledge on human rights among the students and sustained student activism for social change.

There has been a significant increase in the growth of human rights clubs in the University Human Rights

Network - from 32 in 2014 to now 39 in 2016. The district coverage of the network has also expanded from 9 districts in 2012 to 20 districts in 2016. These include, Kampala, Mukono, Wakiso, Luweero, Mbale, Tororo, Gulu, Mpigi, Jinja, Iganga, Kumi, Arua, Bushenyi, Kabarole, Soroti, Kabale, Lira, Mbarara, Fort-Portal and Mpigi.

The growth in numbers is matched with the increase in individual membership at the university human rights club level. Each of the clubs has registered a 50% increase in the number of new and active members. Owing to this growth, there has been an increase in the number of indirect beneficiaries of student led human rights education/outreach programs. This trickle down effect has increased the voices calling for accountability and respect for human rights – with some students taking up leadership positions in their communities to further the cause.

In 2017, the University Human Rights Network will be commemorating its 10th anniversary since its establishment. In commemoration of this milestone, FHRI will introduce an Annual Human Rights Award at Uganda Martyrs University Nkozi in 2017. The Award will be presented to the best performing human rights student at every graduation ceremony in a bid to motivate young Human Rights Defenders.

FHRI's campaign on the rights based approach to eradicating extreme poverty implemented under the Civic Education Action was piloted in 2016. This budding campaign was informed by FHRI's thematic report on Human Rights and Poverty published in December 2015. It is anticipated that this initiative which is implemented in two districts, Namutumba and Bugiri will inform actions to be replicated in other districts in order to accelerate the integration of the HRBA into poverty eradication strategies.

In an effort to expand space, and deepen citizen voices in the 2016 elections, the Citizens Coalition for Electoral Democracy (CCEDU) rolled out two campaigns. The 'Topowa' campaign – aimed at mobilising Ugandans to participate in the electoral process and cast their vote and the 'Basobola' campaign –intended to mobilise support for women candidates in the run up to the 2016 general elections. A post project evaluation conducted by the International survey firm IPSOS in 2016, reports that 48% of the 67.61% voters in the 2016 general elections were influenced by CCEDU's Topowa campaign.

Relatedly, FHRI was host to a unified, inclusive and comprehensive electoral observation network – the Citizens Election Observers Network – Uganda (CEON-U). Under this framework, 200 long- term and 700 short- term observers were recruited and deployed. 2 pre-election observation reports were released by CEON-U and the final one titled, 'General Elections 2016: Revisiting the Democracy Construct', on 30th June 2016. The CEON-U initiative was complemented by an election observation mission deployed by FHRI in partnership with Women Leadership Development (WLEDE) in October 2015 to observe the extent of women's participation in the 2016 general elections. Within this partnership, 3 election observation reports have been published and disseminated amongst stakeholders.

On 12th March 2016, FHRI together with 7 members of the CEON-U including FIDA U, Chapter Four Uganda, HURINET, CCG, Kituo Cha Katiba, LASPNET and Transparency International, filed Civil Application No. 3 of 2016 seeking to be admitted as amici curiae in Presidential Election Petition No. 1 of 2016 in the Supreme court matter between Rt. Hon Amama Mbabazi as the petitioner and Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, Electoral Commission and the Attorney General as Respondents. The motion was premised on the fact that the Applicants observed the presidential and parliamentary elections through CEON-U and were in possession of valuable information that would offer a unique contribution to the resolution of the issues before the court. Although FHRI and its counterparts were not admitted as such, the Supreme Court ruling delivered on 31st March 2016 acknowledged CEON-U's role in the 2016 general elections drawing attention to the recommendations in the CEON-U reports. The CEON-U program successfully wound up on 30th June 2016.

Being a human rights watch dog, FHRI took a stand and condemned a number of human rights excesses perpetrated by state and non –state actors, in effect, drawing public attention to and protecting people at risk of injustice and abuse. Appearing over 123 times on over 30 international and national media outlets, over the year, FHRI spoke out against the following in 2016: abuses of rights of prisoners, police brutality surveillance and interception of communication by the state, voter bribery, the ineffectiveness of government poverty eradication programs; formation of militia groups, harassment of journalists and media freedoms, condemnation of the use of preventive detention and, NGO office break-ins.

At the organisational level, FHRI entered into exciting thematic partnerships in order to improve its effectiveness. Some of these were with the Danish Family Planning Association (DFPA) on the respect for Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights on the island district of Kalangala; the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) and the Standing Committee on Human Rights Affairs in Parliament - on the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA); the International Justice Mission (IJM) and Buganda Youth Council - on access to justice and joint legal rights outreach programs; Freedom House, Public Interest Law Clinic (PILAC), Judicial Studies Institute (JSI), Uganda Christian University (UCU) and Chapter Four - on

strategic litigation; the Ministry of Gender and Social Development - on the Youth Lively Program (YLP) and the HRBA, the Kampala Boda Boda Association and Mindset Uganda - on civic education.

For easy reference, FHRI adopted the use of policy briefs in order to support more targeted advocacy, deepen engagement with government and secure sound results. FHRI strengthened inter-linkages between each of the FHRI Actions in program implementation. Similarly, gender much like children and youth remained cross cutting issues in research, legal assistance, civic education and, the voter education campaigns.

These achievements notwithstanding, the organisation faced a number of challenges.

First, Government's rejection of some of the recommendations arising from its review during the UPR process in November 2016 presents new challenges for FHRI in as far as the campaign on the abolition of the death penalty and freedoms of expression, association and assembly are concerned. The need to reflect on new and effective approaches to counter the negative trend is apparent.

The problems of case backlog within the judicial system still persist - frustrating a number of nonstate actor efforts geared towards improving access to justice for the poor and vulnerable. However, the inauguration of a case backlog committee by the Chief Justice of Uganda in November 2016 provides an opportunity for stakeholders to re-engage on the matter. FHRI and other players presented their views on this issue on 21st November 2016 during the public hearings.

At the institutional level, for the very first time in its history, FHRI was unable to convene the 2016 Annual General Meeting (AGM) for its members due to financial limitations. A proposal to hold the meeting every 2 years was adopted by the FHRI Board of Directors on 17th December 2016. This will be presented to the members in 2017 for approval.

Lastly, FHRI has been pre-occupied with a rigorous strategic planning and development process of her 8th Five-Year Strategic Plan (2017 – 2021). Several drafts have benefited from feedback from our partners and the FHRI Board of Directors during validation and FHRI Board of Directors meetings. The final Strategic Plan titled, 'Between Rhetoric and Practice: Bridging the Democracy Divide in Uganda', will be published in August 2017.

As FHRI commemorates 25 years of human rights activism in Uganda, special thanks go to our wide network including our Patron, Trustees, membership, management, staff, Board of Directors, development partners, peers and beneficiaries. We rededicate ourselves to the cause of human rights in Uganda and beyond and reassure Ugandans of our determination to resist any injustice.



'Together We Can Make A Difference'

Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana

Executive Director

EU Human Rights Defender Award Winner, 2015 &

Africa Human Rights Defender Award Winner, 2013

CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS

The key highlight of the year was the February 2016 general elections. With an unprecedented turn up of 65% of registered voters, President Y.K Museveni garnered 60.6% of total votes cast, securing the mandate that would see him rule Uganda for 35 consecutive years.

That said, it is not in dispute that the 2016 general elections were sharply contested. The government's failure to consider popular electoral reforms and the re-occurrence of electoral irregularities such as ballot stuffing, voter bribery, partisan policing, the formation of the state backed vigilante groups also known as 'crime preventers', media repression leading to self censorship and, the unlawful detention of political opponents and use of tear gas to disperse political rallies, were some of the major grievances. In the case of Amama Mbabazi v Yoweri Kaguta Museveni & the Electoral Commission, a petition that was filed to challenge the 2016 presidential election, the Supreme Court expressed its dissatisfaction with the government's failure to implement the electoral reforms it had recommended, 5 years earlier, adding its voice to that of the over 1,800 international and local election observers.

The President's election victory came on the heels of having assented to the contentious NGO Act in January 2016. Although it underwent several improvements during the public consultations in Parliament, the Act's notorious spirit of increasing government's control over NGOs and levying unfathomable penalties on those that carry out a loosely-defined "act which is prejudicial to the interests of Uganda or the dignity of the people of Uganda", was strengthened with the Presidential assent.

Away from the elections, a revealing survey conducted in 2016 highlighted the flaws related to accessing justice in Uganda. According to the survey report authored by The Hague Institute for the Innovation of Law, 9 out of 10 Ugandans required access to some form of justice system in the last 4 years. Unfortunately, their needs were not met. The report also indicates that 30% of the entire population, a population that receives no justice at all, was comprised of the most vulnerable segments including, low income earners, the unemployed, women, the elderly, persons with low education levels and, those living in rural areas.

The 2016 report of the case backlog committee which was appointed by the Chief Justice of Uganda in November 2016 illustrates similar challenges.

In 2016, Uganda's rights and rule of law terrain remained blurred. For instance, the 2016 Freedom House Index indicated that Uganda falls in the 'not free' category due to increased violations of the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly; particularly for political activists, human rights defenders and journalists. Also, the 2016 Ibrahim Index of African Governance recorded deterioration in accountability (- 4.4), adherence to the rule of law (-11.4) and the protection and promotion of human rights (- 3.8). The World Justice Rule of Law Index also ranked Uganda 98th out of 102 countries assessed, in observing and upholding the rule of law. This index was corroborated by the 2016 Fragile State Index under which Uganda was reported as the 23rd most fragile state out of 178 countries that were assessed.

The 2016 Fragile State Index identified politicisation of the judiciary, the violation or uneven protection of basic rights, and corruption, as the major threats to the Constitution, undermining public confidence in government institutions. The high rates of poverty remained insurmountable obstacles to access to justice. Moreover, during the year, there was an escalation of land grabbing, conflicts and evictions of the poor whose livelihoods are dependent on farming. As a result, a section of Ugandan society turned a blind eye to the challenges that Uganda faces and chose to focus on their economic and personal survival. They disengaged from confronting issues of significant political and human rights concerns, such as government attempts to muzzle the freedoms of expression, association and assembly through repressive laws.

On a positive note, during the year, the JLOS Annual Performance Report, 2015/2016 provided evidence of an improvement in judicial independence and

effectiveness in the last 2 years. Noteworthy, was the case backlog reduction from 36% in 2014 to 25% in 2016. Another beacon of progress with JLOS is the Uganda Law Reform Commission. Tasked with making recommendations for systematic improvement and review of the existing laws, the Commission undertook several commendable actions to review laws/bills that have a bearing on the enjoyment of rights such as the Employment Act, 2006, the Marriage and Divorce Bill, 2009 and the Prisons Act, 2016.

The campaign against the death penalty registered some success. There has been respect of the Supreme Court's ruling in the case of Kigula, leading to the abolition of the mandatory death penalty, review of death sentences through mitigation hearings, and the acceptance that a delay of 3 years to execute an inmate is unconstitutional. Mitigation hearings have decreased the number of inmates on death row from 623 in 2009 to 170 by the end of 2016. Judicial activism has also generated human rights responsive decisions such as a shift towards the abolition of the death penalty, and strengthened the framework for pre-trial detention.

In 2016 Uganda underwent the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review before the UN Human Rights Council. Of the 226 recommendations made by UN State parties, Uganda accepted 143, noted 65 and left 18 pending. While the Government's delegation led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Sam Kutesa, highlighted the progress the country had made in the field of human rights, judging from the outcome of the UPR process, there seems to be limited political will to protect and enhance civic space and freedoms. This is reflected in the recommendations that did and did not carry the support of the government of Uganda following the assessment. For instance, recommendations relating to the amendment of restrictive laws such as the Public Order Management Act, 2013 (POMA) and the Non-Governmental Organisations Act, 2016 (NGO Act), as well as recommendations relating to reducing

offences attracting the death penalty and other steps towards the abolition of the death penalty, did not enjoy the support of the Government of Uganda. Even more alarming was the lack of support from the Government towards recommendations relating to arbitrary arrests of opposition politicians and combatting violence and discrimination of minorities, directly contradicting constitutional rights and guarantees.

Lastly, Uganda played an important role in providing a 'safe haven' to people fleeing conflict in the Great Lakes Region. The United Nations High Commission for Refugee (UNHCR), reports that 113 million people have been displaced all over the world.

21.3 million of this number are refugees, half of whom are children. Uganda was host to 940,800 refugees most of who came from South Sudan, Rwanda, Somalia Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi - making it the top refugee hosting country in Africa, and the 5th in world behind Turkey, Pakistani, Lebanon and Iran. As such, the government must be applauded for its progressive refugee policy, which encourages co-existence among refugees and host communities. However, the influx of refugees into Uganda has triggered new challenges, as host and refugee communities compete for resources. Access to services such as education, health and security call into question how best to guarantee the dignity of refugees, while at the same time maintaining the obligations to the host communities. During the year, Civil society organisations were thus called upon to respond to these challenges.

The next 5 years will shape the future of the country, arguably, irreversibly. On one hand, if Uganda continues to trek the path of a subdued population, the implications will bind generations to come. FHRI's new Strategic Plan (2017-2021) has been developed against this backdrop. Within this framework, FHRI will continue to formulate strategies to confront some of these challenges.



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PROGRAM

ACTIONS

2016 was the 5th and final year in the implementation of FHRI's 7th Strategic Plan, titled: *Bridging Rights and Values:*

Strengthening the Civic and Democratic Culture in Uganda (2012 -2016)

I. PROGRAM ACTIONS

2016 was the 5th and final year in the implementation of FHRI's 7th Strategic Plan, titled: *Bridging Rights and Values: Strengthening the Civic and Democratic Culture in Uganda (2012 -2016)*

OBJECTIVES

The Program has 7 strategic objectives:

1. To monitor and document human rights practices in order to promote dialogue and respect for human rights and democratic development of Uganda.
2. To promote sustainable access to justice for the poor and vulnerable groups in Uganda.
3. To promote the sharing of best practices in the administration of justice in the Great Lakes region.
4. To enhance the capacity of democratic structures with knowledge on legal rights, procedures, remedies and civic obligation.
5. To promote electoral democracy in the run up to the 2016 general elections.
6. To promote leadership development among human rights defenders in the Great Lakes region.
7. To strengthen the institutional capacity and sustainability of FHRI.

ACTIONS

This program has three broad focus themes: social accountability, equality and democratic governance. These themes are executed under 7 Actions:

- Action 1: Research, Advocacy and Lobbying
- Action 2: Legal Services
- Action 3: Civic Education
- Action 4: External Services
- Action 5: Special Projects
 - i. The Paralegal Advisory Services Program (PAS)
 - ii. Citizens Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU)
 - iii. Citizens Election Observers Network, Uganda (CEON-U)
- Action 6: Partnerships/Networking
- Action 7: Organizational Development

The 2016 Annual Report highlights each of these Actions, the activities carried out thereunder and the progress towards achieving the anticipated results. The report also highlights the corresponding challenges.

ACTION **1** RESEARCH, ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING

FHRI has a 25-year track record of human rights monitoring, reporting and documentation. Issue-based human rights reports are published periodically and contribute to policy formulation and human rights debates in Uganda and the global stage. The Action also includes routine monitoring of detention centres, reporting to treaty bodies, policy and law reform, and, a campaign on victim - centred transitional justice policies.

Objective

The Action seeks to influence policy and practice change through human rights research, advocacy and lobbying.

Implementation

The Action has five components:

1. Issue-based human rights reports
2. Treaty reporting
3. Advocacy and lobbying
4. Routine monitoring
5. Policy and law reform

Planned Activities

The following activities were planned in 2016: publication of two issue-based human rights reports, on human rights and the 2016 general elections in Uganda, and another on Pre-trial detention in Uganda; regional radio talk shows to disseminate findings from the reports; participation in Uganda's second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR); participation in the 59th session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR); advocacy for strengthened human rights protection and promotion in Parliament; routine monitoring visits to detention centres; and submission of memoranda to select parliamentary committees in light of proposed bills.

1. ISSUE-BASED HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS

Issue-based Report on Human Rights and Elections

The report titled 'Human Rights and Elections in Uganda (2016): A Call for Action', was published and launched on 27th June 2016 at Imperial Royale Hotel, Kampala, by Dr. Uchenna Emelonye, Country Representative of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

The report presents the findings of an eight-month inquiry into the human rights situation during the 2016 election period. It focuses on the legal framework in place for protecting human rights in the context of an election, documents human rights violations throughout the election period, and engages in a comparative analysis of past elections in 2006 and 2011.

500 copies of the report were printed and disseminated to the Electoral Commission, Ministry of Justice and



FHRI was hosted on five simultaneous radio talk shows in Gulu, Mbale, Mbarara, Masaka and Kampala on 27th June 2016 to disseminate and debate the findings from the report.

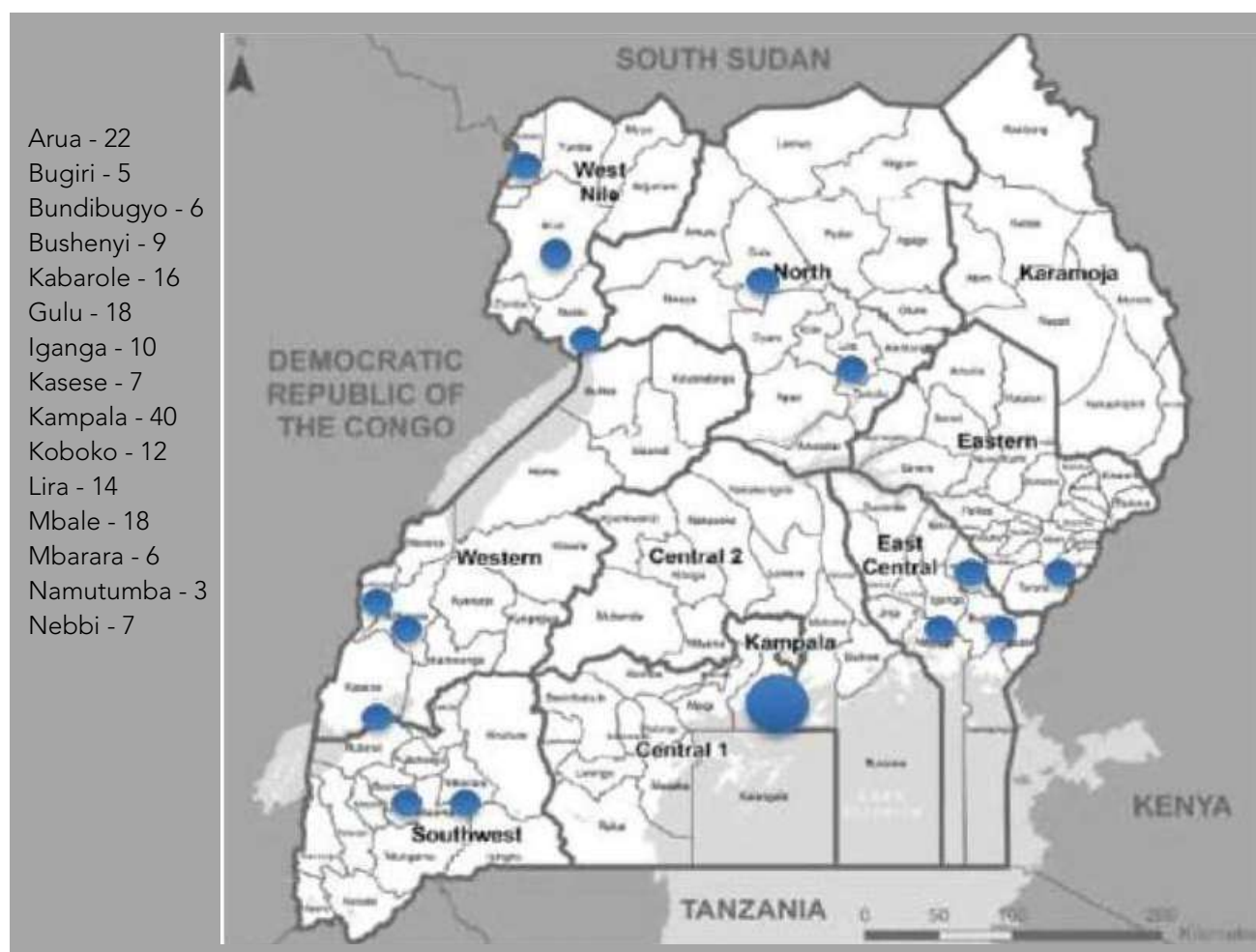


The report attracted further media coverage from: WBS NTV, NTV Website, Delta TV, Radio One FHRI website, CCEDU Website, DGF website, ACME Uganda website, Uganda Radio network, the New Vision and The Observer.

Constitutional Affairs, Parliament, Judiciary, Uganda Police Force (UPF), Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces (UPDF), Uganda Law Reform Commission (ULRC), Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), Uganda National Library, political parties, development partners, civil society organisations, academia and the media.

Issue-based Report on Pre-trial Detention in Uganda

In 2016, FHRI conducted over 190 interviews with key stakeholders including with civil society actors, academia, government officials, prison officials, police officers, state attorneys, lawyers, magistrates, inmates and suspects, among others. Based on the literature review and interviews conducted, FHRI published the report on pre-trial detention in Uganda in 2017.



Map indicating the geographical areas where research on pre-trial detention in Uganda was conducted.

2. TREATY REPORTING

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

In-country UPR pre-session - September 2016 In 2016 Uganda underwent the second cycle of Uganda's Universal Periodic Review before the UN Human Rights Council. Within this context, civil society organisations in Uganda participated in an in-country pre-session workshop on the UPR of Uganda from 30th August - 1st September 2016. The workshop took place at Fairway Hotel in Kampala. UPR Info convened the workshop with the support of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and Human Rights Network – Uganda (HURINET-U).

FHRI spearheaded the preparation of the report under the civil and political rights cluster which was submitted to the UNOHCHR as part of the stakeholders' report to be discussed in Geneva during Uganda's review. FHRI jointly compiled similar reports with CIVICUS on civil society space in Uganda and the NCHRD-U on the protection of HRDs in Uganda.



*In his statement
he addressed issues relating to
the right to life (death penalty), freedom
from torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading
treatment or punishment, freedoms of
expression, association and assembly,
detention and access to justice, and
electoral democracy.*



Pre-session UPR 26 - Geneva, October 2016

Following the in-country session, FHRI participated in a series of pre-session UPR 26 activities organised by UPR Info from 5th - 7th October 2-16 in Geneva as follows:

- FHRI participated in a training organised by UPR Info on 4th October 2016 at Centre International de Conference Genève on effective advocacy methods for civil society organisations engaging in the UPR.
- On 5th October 2016, FHRI's Executive Director, Dr Livingstone Sewanyana was one of the 6 panelists from Uganda's civil society who participated in Uganda's pre-Session in Geneva, Switzerland. He presented a statement on constitutionalism, rule of law and human rights, addressing progress made since Uganda's previous UPR assessment in 2011, challenges that remain and proposed recommendations for the upcoming review. In his statement he addressed issues relating to the right to life (death penalty), freedom from torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, freedoms of expression, association and assembly, detention and access to justice, and electoral democracy.
- Following Uganda's pre-session, FHRI also held bilateral meetings with the following permanent missions in Geneva: Norway, Canada, Czech Republic, The Netherlands, United States and United Kingdom. During these bilateral meetings, FHRI shared a compilation of civil and political rights achievements, challenges and proposed advance questions and recommendations, This report and key recommendations were also shared with 38 other missions that FHRI was unable to meet in Geneva.
- FHRI disseminated the outcome of the pre-session widely to the media, on social media and the FHRI website. Several media houses covered the engagement, including Bukedde radio, CBS, NTV, Radio One, and New Vision.

UPR Working Group Session 26 - Uganda is reviewed on 3rd November 2016, Geneva

FHRI observed the Uganda's review during the UPR Working Group Session 26 in Geneva. FHRI's observations were widely disseminated in the media.

CSO UPR Strategy Workshop - November 2016, Uganda

Following the review, FHRI played an active role, in the organisation of the 'CSO strategy workshop on the sustainable implementation of UPR recommendations' which took place between 28th November and 2nd December 2016 at Silver Springs Bugolobi. During this meeting, FHRI coordinated the civil and political rights cluster in developing implementation plans with respect to the recommendations that were adopted by government during the UPR.

“

*'Of the 226
recommendations
made by UN State parties,
Uganda accepted 143,
noted 65 and left
18 pending.'*

”



Above: Dr Livingstone Sewanyana (in red tie) presenting a statement on constitutionalism, rule of law and human rights during Pre-Session UPR 26 on Uganda, at the Centre International Conférence de Genève, 5th October 2016.



... FHRI's campaign on the introduction of a certificate of human rights compliance for all bills tabled in Parliament as a means to strengthen human rights compliance of bills.



AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS (ACHPR)

Participation in the 59th ACHPR Session

In order to raise awareness and dialogue at the regional level on the human rights situation in Uganda, FHRI participated in the 59th Ordinary Session of the ACHPR that took place from 21st October to 4th November 2016, The Gambia.

On 25th October, during the session on the Special Mechanism of the Special Rapporteur of Expression and Access to information, FHRI presented a statement on the state of the Right of Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Uganda, calling upon the Government of Uganda to withdraw the Communications (Amendments) Bill, 2016.

The statement also informed the participants of FHRI's campaign on the introduction of a certificate of human rights compliance for all bills tabled in Parliament as a means to strengthen human rights compliance of bills.

Further still, during the session, FHRI participated in the session organised by the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC), a side event organized by CIVICUS on civil society space in Africa, an event organised by the National Human Rights Institutions, and a side event organized by Defend Defenders on freedom of association and assembly in the sub-region.

Lastly, in the course of the session, FHRI submitted its views to the ACHPR on the zero draft Principles and

Operational Standards for the Policing of Assemblies by Law Enforcement Officials in Africa and the draft Guidelines on Freedom of Association and Assembly in Africa authored by the Commission.

3. ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING

Staff Training on Policy Briefs

A one-day staff training on the development of policy briefs was conducted on 24th March 2016 at the Human Rights House. Prof. Christopher Mbazira, Coordinator of the Public Interest Law Clinic (PILAC) at the School of Law, Makerere University, conducted the session. 14 staff members attended the training.

Advocacy for the Introduction of a Certificate of Human Rights Compliance in Parliament

In order to strengthen human rights compliance of bills tabled in Parliament, FHRI advocated for the amendment to the Rules of Procedure of Parliament in order to introduce a certificate of human rights compliance for all bills tabled in Parliament. On 13th September 2016, FHRI presented a position paper before the Parliamentary Committee on Rules, Privileges and Discipline (Rules Committee) on the proposal. The meeting was chaired by the Chairperson of the Rules Committee, Hon. Ongalo Obote.

Civil Society Solidarity Mission and Public Dialogue with Civicus

World Alliance for Citizen Participation (CIVICUS) together with FHRI, organised a civil society solidarity mission between 18th - 20th July 2016 ahead of the Uganda's 2nd cycle UPR review in November 2016.



Training of MPs on a Human Rights-Based Approach organised by UHRC and FHRI on 17th November 2016 at Imperial Golf View Hotel in Entebbe.

The objectives were to:

- Appreciate the civic space related challenges faced by civil society in Uganda and;
- Discuss possible frameworks for collaboration between national and international CSOs with the aim of addressing restrictions on civic space.

As part of the solidarity mission, on 19th July, FHRI and CIVICUS jointly convened a public dialogue on the state of civil society in Uganda. The public dialogue was attended by 32 participants (18 men and 14 women) from civil society, Uganda Police Force (UPF), Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), Uganda Law Reform Commission (ULRC), Democratic Governance Facility (DGF), Freedom House, British High Commission and the US Embassy in Kampala.

Training Workshop for MPs on the Human Rights-based Approach

FHRI in collaboration with the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), organised a training session for members of the Committee on Human Rights Affairs on applying the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA).

The training session took place at Imperial Golf View Hotel in Entebbe on 17th November 2016. A total of 18 MPs and 7 parliamentary support staff attended the training.

Similarly, on 8th December 2016, FHRI organised a workshop for the Committee on Human Rights Affairs of Parliament at Imperial Royale Hotel, Kampala, on the outcome of the Uganda' review under the UPR process. The workshop was chaired by the Chairperson of the Committee and attended by 13 members of the Committee (6 women and 7 men).

4. ROUTINE MONITORING

In 2016, the FHRI research team routinely inspected a total of 46 detention centres. The purpose of the inspections was to assess conditions and practices against international human rights standards on the treatment of suspects and inmates. As a follow up, FHRI held meetings with Uganda Prisons Service and Uganda Police Force in order to discuss findings and cause corrective action.

Meeting with Uganda Prison Services (UPS)

The meeting with the UPS on 25th November 2016 was attended by Mr. Akena Samuel, Director of Prisons in charge of Correctional Services; Mr. Apollo Ankunda, Senior Superintendent of Prisons in charge of Remand Prisoners; and Mr. Robert Munanura, Commissioner of Prisons in charge of Custodial Service, Safety and Security.

Detention centres inspected by FHRI in 2016

Prisons

No.	Name of Prison	Date visited	Region
1	Koboko Prison	1 st August 2016	West Nile
2	Arua Prison	2 nd August 2016	West Nile
3	Arua Wo men Prison	2 nd August 2016	West Nile
4	Nebbi Prison	3 rd August 2016	West Nile
5	Gulu Main Prison	4 th August 2016	West Nile
6	Gulu Women Prison	4 th August 2016	Northern
7	Pece Prison	4 th August 2016	Northern
8	Lira Prison	5 th August 2016	Northern
9	Lira Wo men Prison	5 th August 2016	Northern
10	Ivukula Prison	22 nd August 2016	Northern
11	Bugiri Prison	23 rd August 2016	Mid East
12	Iganga Prison	24 th August 2016	Mid East
13	Mbale Prison	25 th August 2016	Mid East
14	Mbale Women Prison	25 th August 2016	Midwest
15	Bubukwang Prison	12 th September 2016	Midwest
16	Foit Portal Prison	13 th September 2016	Midwest
17	Fort Portal Women prison	13 th September 2016	Midwest
18	Ruimi Prison	13 th September 2016	Midwest
19	Ibuga Prison	13 th September 2016	Midwest
20	Mubuku Prison	14 th September 2016	Western
21	Bushenvi Prison	15 th September 2016	Western
22	Mbarara Prison	16 th September 2016	Western
23	Mbarara Women Prison	16 th September 2016	Central
24	Luzira Women Prison	13 th December 2016	

Police

No.	Station	Date visited	Region
1	Kabalagala Pol ice Station	14 th July 2016	KMP
2	Katwe Police Station	1 st August 2016	KMP
3	Old Kampala Police Station	26 th July 2016	KMP
4	Kawernpe Police Station	25 th August 2016	KMP
5	Koboko Police Station	1 st August 2016	West Nile
6	Arua Police Station	2 nd August 2016	West Nile
7	Nebbi Police Station	3 rd August 2016	West Nile
8	Gulu Police Station	4 th August 2016	Northern
9	Lira Police Station	5 th August 2016	Northern
10	Jinja Road Police Station	5 th August 2016	KMP

No.	Station	Date visited	Region
11	Bugiri Police Station	23 rd August 2016	Eastern
12	Mbale Police Station	25 th August 2016	Eastern
13	Iganga Police Station	26 th August 2016	Eastern
14	Bundibugyo Police Station	12 th September 2016	Western
15	Fort portal Police Station	13 th September 2016	Western
16	Kasese Police Station	14 th September 2016	Western
17	Bushenvi Police Station	15 th September 2016	Western
18	Mbarara Police Station	17 th September 2016	Western

4 Remand Homes

18 Police stations

24 Prisons

Meeting with the Uganda Police Force (UPF)

The meeting with the UPF on 6th December 2016 was attended by Assistant Inspector General of Police Mr. Edward Ochom, Deputy Director Human Rights and Legal Services, Ms. Christine Nanding, Assistant Commissioner of Police Mr. Wafana Simon Peter, Assistant Commissioner, Mr. Police Okalany J. William, Senior Superintendent of Police, Ms. Balaba Allen, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Mr. Mulinda Robert, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Mr. Owona Isaac, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Ms. Nairuba Diana and, Assistant Superintendent of Police Mr. Ofwono James.

5. POLICY AND LAW REFORM

The policy and law reform component examines the compliance of laws and policies with international standards. In 2016, FHRI compiled and presented to parliament, three position papers on the: Human Rights (Enforcement) Bill, 2015, the Uganda Communications (Amendment) Bill, 2016 and, on the introduction of a certificate of human rights compliance for all bills tabled in Parliament. All three were presented before the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee, the Human Rights Committee and the Rules and Privileges Committee.

Outside parliament, FHRI made submissions on the Sexual Offences Bill, 2016, the draft Human Rights Defenders Protection bill, 2016, the Marriage and Divorce Bill, 2009 and, the draft Faith Based Policy, 2016.

Outcomes

FHRI's human rights advocacy efforts during Uganda's UPR 2nd review in November 2016 were greatly enhanced. As a result, 7 out of the 31 recommendations proposed by FHRI during this review process were adopted by the UN States parties and accepted by the Government of Uganda. These recommendations

relate to improving access to justice (use of excessive force by security agencies, enforcement of the anti Torture Act, accountability of law enforcement officials, enactment of the Legal Aid Policy and bill) and, the respect for the right to freedoms of expression, association and assembly (amendment of the Public Order Management Act, 2013, amendment of the Non-Governmental Organisations Act, 2016 and electoral reforms). The 7 recommendations adopted exceeded FHRI's target of 5. The acceptance of these recommendations by the Government of Uganda is a positive milestone towards realizing outcome 1 as well as an optimistic indicator towards more responsive and rights based governance.

At the practice level, the routine inspections in prisons and police conducted by FHRI resulted into corrective actions. For instance, the meeting with the UPF and UPS led to the release of 4 suspects who had been held in police custody beyond the Constitutional 48-hour rule; 5 cases of suspects who had been held on remand for over a year in Arua and Fort-Portal prisons were cause-listed while, corrective action was taken after FHRI brought to the attention of Ms. Christine Nanding, Deputy Director Human Rights and Legal Services, UPS, the misuse of the juvenile detention facilities in Arua Police.

Challenges

Civic space and freedoms continue to narrow in Uganda. This is evident in the recommendations that did not enjoy the support of the Government of Uganda following the UPR assessment on 3rd November 2016. For instance, recommendations relating to amendment of restrictive laws such as the Public Order Management Act, 2013 (POMA) and the Non-Governmental Organisations Act, 2016 (NGO Act), did not enjoy the support of the Government of Uganda.

ACTION 2 LEGAL SERVICES

The Action promotes sustainable access to justice and advocates for best practices in the administration of justice through a three track approach: provision of legal aid services to poor and vulnerable persons, the campaign against the death penalty and, capacity building for the judiciary. Through these interventions, FHRI has assisted over 10,000 victims of human rights violations, contributed to jurisprudence on the death penalty, and through the partnership with the judiciary, promoted judicial independence and integrity.

Objective

The Action seeks to promote access to justice for poor and vulnerable persons in Uganda.

Implementation

The Action has three components:

1. Legal aid assistance
2. The Death Penalty campaign
3. The Rights and Rule of Law (RRL) program.

Planned Activities

In 2016, the activities planned under the legal aid unit included pro-bono legal aid services to at least 1,180 vulnerable and poor persons, 8 legal aid camps in the districts of Wakiso, Kiboga, and Kalangala reaching 1,500 clients, 4 legal rights awareness sessions in the districts of Wakiso and Kalangala reaching 800 community members, 2 capacity building training sessions in land matters for 100 local leaders of Wakiso and Kalangala and, legal assistance to 200 clients through a toll free line.

1. LEGAL-AID ASSISTANCE

Through the provision of a range of services including, legal representation, legal advice, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and legal and human rights awareness programs, the Legal Aid Unit assisted a total of 1,542 victims of human rights abuse (775 men and 767 women) in 2016.

Legal Assistance to Walk-in Clients, Legal Aid Camps, FHRI Field Offices and the Toll Free Facility

Out of the 1,542 clients, 458 clients (250 males and 208 females) walked into FHRI offices for assistance while 1,084 were assisted through our interventions at the Kalangala office; Wakiso Duty Counsel Scheme (DCS), legal aid camps and the toll-free facility.

From figure 1, 29% of the clients walked into FHRI premises seeking legal assistance while 71% were assisted through the legal aid camps, the Kalangala office, the Wakiso DCS and the toll free facility.

In total, eight (8) legal aid camps were run in 2016 in the following districts:

- Wakiso (16th -18th March 2016)
- Kiboga (22 nd -24th March 2016)
- Wakiso (23 rd -26th May 2016)

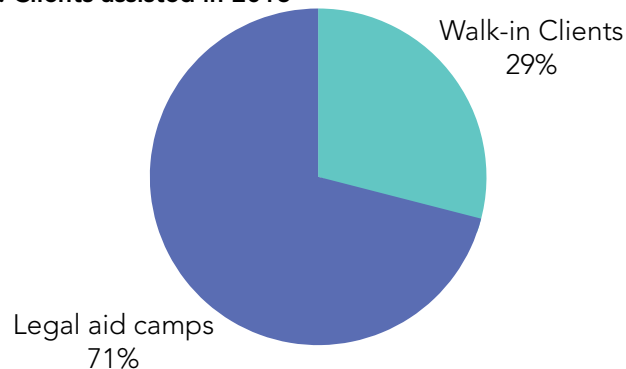
- Kalangala (29th May -2nd June 2016)
- Kalangala (22th -25 th August 2016)
- Wakiso (30th September 2016)
- Kalangala (23 rd – 27th October 2016)
- Wakiso (28th – 30th November 2016)

In 2016, the unit handled matters relating to land, civil, domestic, criminal and commercial disputes as illustrated in the graph below. When disaggregated per case, land related cases formed the bulk of cases at 36 % followed by civil cases at 23 %. The completion rate was put at 47 %.

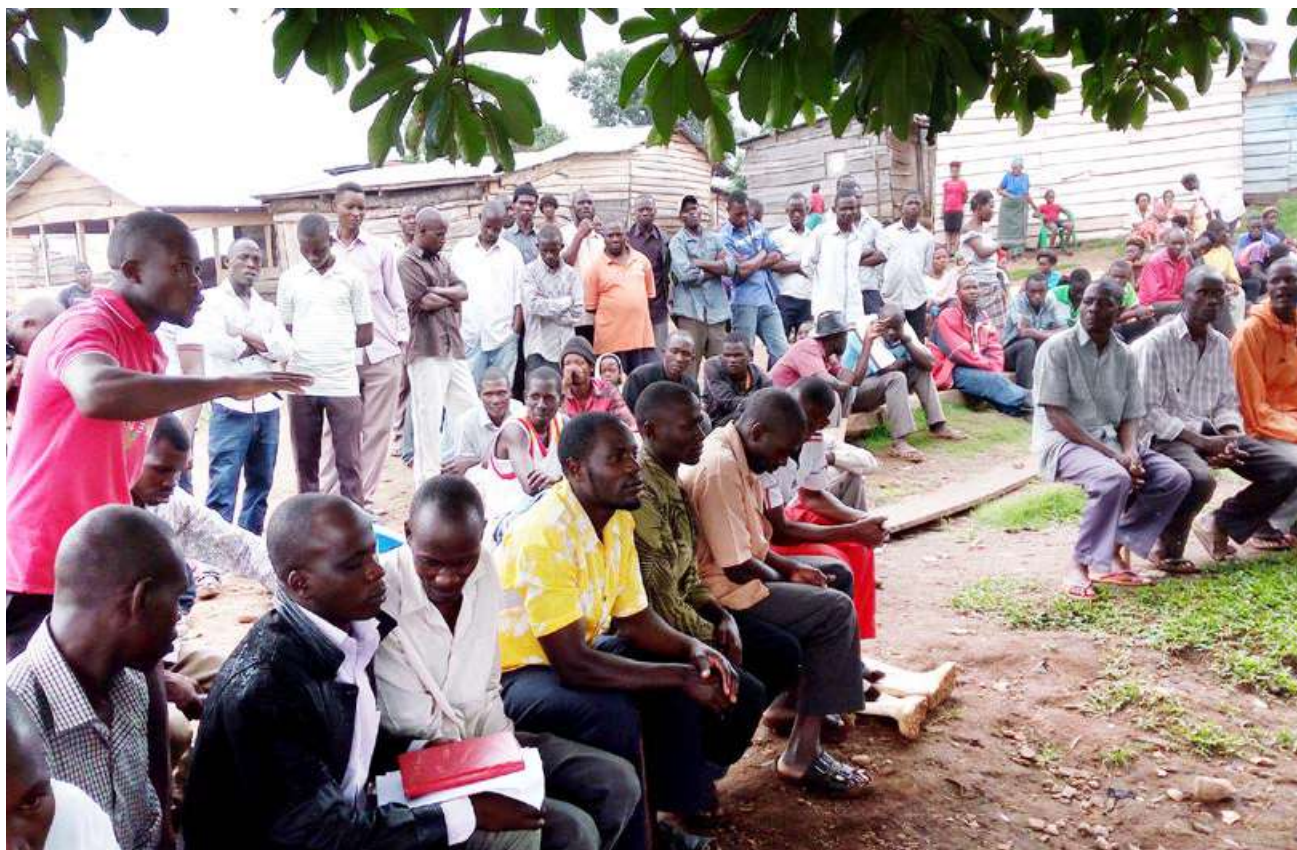
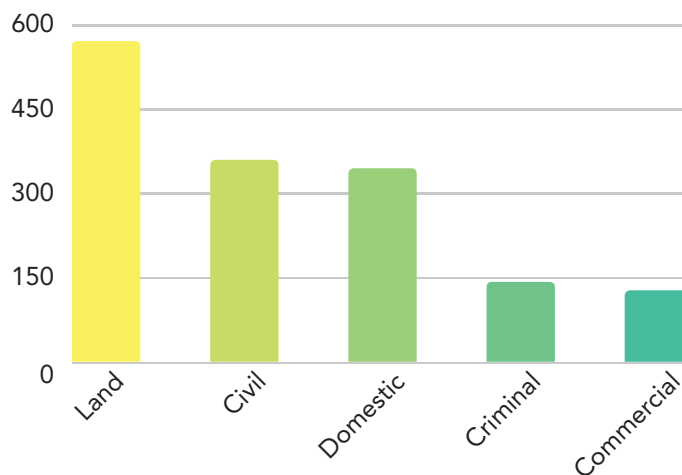
Graph 1: Nature of cases registered by the Legal Aid Unit

Land: 570
Civil: 359
Domestic: 344
Criminal: 142
Commercial: 127

Fig 1: Clients assisted in 2016



Graph 1: Nature of cases registered in 2016



Above: Residents pose questions during a legal aid camp organized in Kyagalanyi landing site, Kalangala district on 23rd August 2016.

Opening Up of the Kalangala Office and the Wakiso Duty Counsel Scheme

In order to ease the provision of legal aid services in the districts of Wakiso and Kalangala, FHRI for the very first time opened up field offices. Both offices are located at the Chief Magistrate's courts of Kalangala and Wakiso.

Legal Rights Awareness Sessions on Land Rights and Radio Programs

Eight sessions on land rights were conducted concurrently with the legal aid camps in the districts of Kiboga, Kalangala, and Wakiso reaching a total of 2,479 community members (1,369 men and 1,110 women). Three radio talk shows on land matters and gender based violence were supported to promote legal and human rights awareness on radio Ssesa in Kalangala district.

Capacity Building for Local Leaders on Land Rights

Two capacity building training sessions were run for local leaders in Wakiso district on land matters. Overall, 246 leaders (130 male and 116 female) were trained. The capacity building sessions aimed at enhancing the capacity of local actors in responding to land matters effectively.

Toll Free Facility

The toll-free line (0800100016) assisted a total of 660 callers in 2016 (510 males and 150 females). The incoming calls received were 660. Of these 426 of the calls were follow up calls while 234 called in with inquiries. This facility has supported FHRI's rapid response mechanism to human rights violations.

Call Centre - Elections 2016

Lastly, the escalating election violence during the reporting period prompted the FHRI Legal Aid Unit in collaboration with CEON-U and LASPNET to assemble a rapid response legal team to provide immediate legal assistance to victims of election violence.

The response team, through a call center set up at Hotel Africana on 18th and 19th February 2016, assisted a total of 370 callers (349 male and 21 female) across the country. The legal officers provided legal advice to callers in cases of unlawful arrest and detention of voters.

Partnerships and Coalitions

- The Legal Aid Program participated and supported the legal aid camps organised in celebration of Buganda Youth Day at Kasana, Luweero District held on 3rd November, 2016.
- The Legal Aid Unit was active in legal aid camps organised by International Justice Mission (IJM) held in Mukono district on 24th November, 2016.
- The Unit partnered with Senninde Foundation, a Community Based Organization based in Wakiso district, in the provision of legal aid and rights awareness.

Outcomes

In 2016, FHRI's legal aid work resulted in the release of 36 suspects from detention. Further, the legal aid team was able to secure 42 maintenance orders and 12 custody orders from court for children living with single parents. Recovery of 47 properties and compensation worth UGX 101,444,198 /- on behalf of poor women, men and vulnerable workers who were unable to access terminal benefits, workman's compensation and non-payment of wages were part of the achievements recorded during the year.

The appointment of FHRI as Court Annexed Mediators by the Chief Magistrates in Wakiso contributed to the success of the program in 2016. Given the backlog of cases and undue delays experienced by litigants

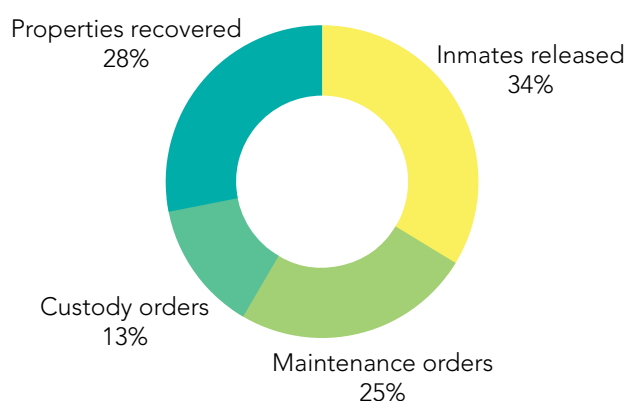


Chart 1: Nature of remedies accessed by clients in 2016

within the justice system, this role has positioned FHRI strategically in both magisterial areas to contribute to the timely and fair delivery of justice.

A TESTIMONY FROM ONE OF THE BENEFICIARIES OF LEGAL SERVICES

My name is Mutyaba, aged 43 years and I am resident of Kisimbiri zone, Wakiso Town Council, Wakiso district. I live and stay with my family of 8 in the said area, having obtained it as a bequest granted to me in the will of my late father. However, for the past four years, I have not had any peaceful enjoyment of my home due to one of my siblings who has always contested the share given to me. He has always brought land brokers to my home with threats of selling it off on top of threatening my family with arrests. Despite several attempts at mediation by our family elders, which always ended in my favor, he has not relinquished his claims. On 20th January 2015, this gentleman brought a fence and put it around my home denying my family access.

On 20th January 2015, this gentleman brought a fence and put it around my home denying my family access.

I went to the police station and I was advised to get rid of part of the fence in order for me to access my home. When I did that, he went to another police station and reported a case of malicious damage to property and criminal trespass. I was arrested and detained at Wakiso Police station for three days. One of my brothers Haruna was being represented by FHRI in a case, which was in court, and he brought my matters to their attention.

I was pleasantly surprised when I met a lawyer from FHRI upon being brought to court. He successfully applied for bail and upon being released; he advised me that there was need to institute a civil action to further protect my property. They helped me in instituting a civil case where we obtained a temporary injunction stopping any person from interfering with my stay on the land until disposal of the suit fully. They continued to represent me in the criminal matter throughout the trial (Wakiso MPI/13/CR/Co/124/15) and on the 29th of August 2016 I was fully acquitted of all charges against me by the Wakiso Chief Magistrate's court. I am so thankful and surprised that even us poor people can get someone to stand for us in accessing fairness in the mighty courts of law. I am very optimistic that even the ongoing civil case will end in my favor.

Challenges

Hard to reach districts like Kalangala islands have peculiar challenges associated with physical access to justice. Given that 95.2% of the district is covered by water, high transport costs to the main island, where most justice and security sector institutions are located, are deterrent and unsustainable for both the clients seeking justice and for the legal aid service providers like FHRI.

2. THE DEATH PENALTY CAMPAIGN

The project advocates for the progressive abolition of the death penalty and the implementation of humane alternatives through research, advocacy, networking, and capacity building. The campaign against the death penalty has registered positive results. The precedent set by FHRI's Susan Kigula Supreme court ruling has had a multiplier effect including mitigation hearings for prisoners on death row leading to the commutation of death sentences to life imprisonment and reduction in the number of the death row inmates.

Objective

The overall goal of the campaign is to advocate for the progressive abolition of the death penalty and implementation of humane alternatives.

Implementation

The campaign is implemented through:

1. Legislative advocacy for the enactment of the Law (Revision Penalties in Criminal Matters) Miscellaneous Amendment Bill 2015.
2. Legal assistance to prisoners on death row.
3. Global advocacy within the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP).

Planned Activities

The following activities were planned for 2016: Legislative advocacy for the enactment of the Law (Revision Penalties in Criminal Matters) Miscellaneous Amendment Bill 2015; As part of the advocacy, FHRI planned to organise a stakeholders consultative meeting, a parliamentary task-force meeting, commemoration of the World Day Against the Death Penalty and, conduct an opinion poll. Other activities planned include prisons visits to death row section in Luzira upper prison and, global advocacy within the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

With the aim of restricting the application of the death penalty and reform of penal laws that provide for the death sentence in Uganda, a series of actions were undertaken to advocate for the enactment of the Law (Revision Penalties in Criminal Matters) Miscellaneous Amendment Bill 2015 (the bill). The objective of the bill is to enforce the Susan Kigula ruling by amending the Penal Code Act, Cap 120, the Anti-terrorism Act 2002 (Act No. 14 of 2002) and, the Uganda Peoples Defence Forces Act 2005 (Act No. 7 of 2005), which provide for mandatory death sentences. The bill also proposes a reduction in the number of offences that attract the death penalty in Uganda.

1. LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY FOR THE ENACTMENT OF THE LAW (REVISION PENALTIES IN CRIMINAL MATTERS)

Stakeholders' Consultative Meeting

In order to sensitise stakeholders on The Law (Revision Penalties in Criminal Matters) Miscellaneous Amendment Bill 2015 and deliberate on strategies to fast track its enactment, FHRI convened a half day stakeholders' consultative meeting on 27th January 2016 at Serena Hotel. 43 participants (22 women and 21 men) from civil society, Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF), Uganda Prisons Service (UPS), Directorate of Public Prosecution (DPP), MPs, academia and ex-death row inmates attended the consultations.

Parliamentary Task-force Meeting

In order to fast track the bill in the 9th Parliament, a task force meeting was held at the Parliament of Uganda on 11th March 2016. The meeting was attended by 11 taskforce members including the 4 MPs championing the bill - Hon. Alice Alaso, Hon. Fox Odoi, Hon. Paul Mwiru and Hon. Medard Ssegona; Hon Jova Kamateeka the Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee and representatives from Uganda Joint Christian Council, Uganda Prisons Service, Uganda Law Reform Commission, the Assistant Clerk to the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee, Principal Legal Counsel and FHRI.

Capacity Building Forum on The Law (Revision Penalties in Criminal Matters) Miscellaneous Amendment Bill 2015

On 15th March 2016, a one-day capacity building forum on the bill was convened by FHRI at Hotel Africana. In his remarks, Dr Livingstone Sewanyana, the Executive Director of FHRI, welcomed the bill as a positive step towards the progressive abolition of the death penalty. He noted that ever since the Supreme Court ruling in the Susan Kigula appeal, the campaign has continued to enlist broader support. Similarly, Hon. Justice Dr Benjamin J. Odoki, retired Chief Justice of the Republic of Uganda noted that although the death penalty is a controversial issue, there is a progressive shift towards its abolition.

Also present at the forum was Hon. Alice Alaso Asianut, Soroti Woman Member of Parliament (MP), who provided an update on the position of the bill in Parliament. She noted the challenges likely to confront the bill in parliament and emphasised the need for alliance building from within. Other MPs who attended the forum included Hon. Medard Lubega Seggona, Busiro County East - Wakiso District; Hon. Angelline Osegge, Woman MP, Soroti District and Hon. Stephen Ochola, Serere County - Serere District.

Other presenters at the forum were Dr. Brian Kalenge, lecturer Faculty of Law, Uganda Christian University, who highlighted the Worldwide trends towards abolition, Mr. Solomon Kirunda, Principal Legal Counsel, Parliament of Uganda, who explained the technical provisions of the bill, and Ms. Aliyo Natukunda, Superintendent, Uganda Prisons Service, who presented the UPS's perspective on the death sentence. On their part, the ex-death row inmates who attended the forum including Mr Patrick Lwanga Zizinga and Mr Evans Gabula shared their experiences on death row, describing the sentence as inhumane and cruel.

The forum was attended by 57 participants (25 women and 32 men) including, parliamentary staff, the Uganda Prison Service, the Uganda Law Reform Commission, academia, human rights defenders, civil society organisations and the media.

“ Similarly, Hon. Justice Dr Benjamin J. Odoki, retired Chief Justice of the Republic of Uganda noted that although the death penalty is a controversial issue, there is a progressive shift towards its abolition. ”



Front row, L-R, 6th from the left: Hon Alice Alaso, Hon Justice Dr.Benjamin Odoki, Rtd Chief Justice of Uganda, Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, Executive Director FHRI, Hon Medard Seggona, Ms. Leah Ssepuya, British High Commission and, Dr. Brian Kalenge, Dean Faculty of Law, Uganda Christian University (Front Row-extreme right).

Consideration of The Bill by the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee (LPAC)

On 8th April 2016, FHRI and her partners appeared before the LPAC on 8th April 2016 and presented a memorandum of their views on the bill. The partners included; Mr. Patrick Zizinga, an ex-death row inmate, the Uganda Prisons Services and the Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC).



The FHRI team (on the left side) before the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee (LPAC) of the 9th Parliament of Uganda on 8th April 2016.

Dialogue on the bill continued throughout the year. On 10th May 2016, the Centre for Policy Analysis under the Parliament Watch Uganda initiative organised a public dialogue on the death penalty. Ms Lucy Peace Nantume, the Right to Life Project Manager was part of a panel that discussed the bill.

Commemorating the World Day Against the Death Penalty in Uganda

On 10th October 2016, FHRI joined the rest of the world to commemorate the 14th World day against the death penalty under the theme "Death Penalty in Uganda. Justice vs Vengeance".

Various activities were supported during the period including, prison visits, media advocacy through press releases, radio talk shows, newspaper articles and on social media. The commemoration events commenced on 6th October 2016 with solidarity visits to both the male and female condemned sections of Luzira prison. FHRI was in the company of the European Union Ambassador H. E Kristian Schmidt and the Chargé d' affaire at the French Embassy in Kampala, Mr Lionel Vignacg.

On 10th October 2016, a half-day commemoration event was held at the Human Rights House, Nsambya where the theme of the day and death penalty, in general, were highlighted in the various speeches, testimonies of ex-death row inmates and, voices of the children of imprisoned parents. The event was graced by H.E Kristian Schmidt, Hon. Jovah Kamateeka, Chairperson of the Human Rights committee in Parliament and representatives of EU member states, the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF), UPS, exdeath row inmates and children from Wells of Hope Ministries. A total of 90 pro-abolition activists (53 men and 37 women) attended the event.



H.E. Kristian Schmidt, Head of the EU Delegation in Uganda (standing in the front in grey suit) addressing death-row convicts in Luzira Prison on 6th October 2016.



3rd from left: Ms. Sheila Muwanga, FHRI, H.E. Kristian Schmidt (c) and Mr. Lionel Vignacg (2nd left) together with the women on death row at the Luzira Women Prison on 6th October 2016.

“ *Uganda is kind, your country is peaceful now, why are you still keeping the death penalty?* ”

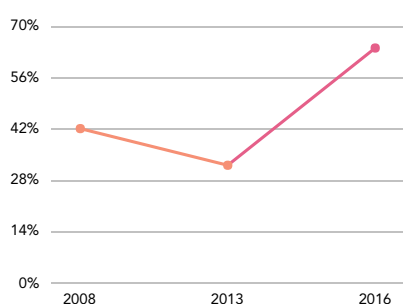
H. E. Kristian Schmidt, Head of Delegation of the European Union to Uganda on 10th October 2016.



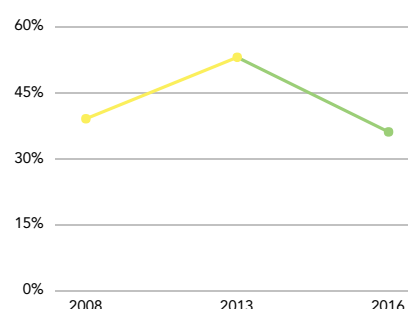
Opinion Poll on the Death Penalty

To support the legislative advocacy work, FHRI commissioned an opinion poll in September 2016, to gauge the public opinion on the application of the death penalty in Uganda. The results from the poll conducted by IPSOS-Social Research and Corporate Reputation Specialists indicate that overall, 64% of Ugandans do not support the death sentence for capital offences. This is a giant leap from only 32% in 2013.

The results also indicate that public support for the punishment has gone further down currently standing at 36%.



Graph 1 : Support for abolition of death penalty in Uganda



Graph 2 : People against abolition of death penalty in Uganda

2. LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO PRISONERS ON DEATH ROW

Prison Visits

Routine visits to prisoners on death row in Luzira Upper Prison were conducted in order to update current statistics on death row and map out the emerging access to justice issues for advocacy. During the year, FHRI conducted 10 prison visits bringing to light the disheartening access to justice challenges faced by death row inmates awaiting trial before military courts. The problems of inordinate delays (over 10 years without trial or waiting for appeals) particularly due to missing files was brought to the attention of the Defense Counsel of the General Court Martial, Ms. Patra Asha by FHRI for fast tracking.

3. INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY THROUGH THE WCADP

FHRI is a member of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty. Under this umbrella, FHRI participated in various activities during the year including, a training session on the death penalty (on 17th and 18th April 2016 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania) ; three steering committee meetings (on 15th and 16th April 2016 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on 21st June 2016, in Oslo, Norway from 2nd - 3rd December 2016 in Paris, France); the World Congress Against the Death penalty (21st - 23rd June, 2016, Oslo, Norway) and; jointly submitted a stakeholder report on the death penalty in Uganda with The Advocates for Human Rights, Parliamentarians for Global Action and, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, before the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, within the context of Uganda's 2nd UPR in November 2016.



Steering committee members of the WCADP after the meeting in Paris on 3rd December 2016



Ms. Lucy Peace Nantume, Right to Life project Manager, FHRI (in red t-shirt) together with participants from Africa at the 6th World Congress in Oslo, Norway in June 2016.

Outcomes

The positive ripple effect of the 2005 Susan Kigula judgment on the application of the death sentence continues. In 2016, on account of mitigation, the death row population further decreased from 211 (200 men & 11 women) to 170 (163 men and 7 women) as at 12th January 2017. A number of death row inmates including Ms. Susan Kigula have been released as a result of the mitigation hearings.

The advocacy aimed at fast tracking the enactment of the Law Revision (Penalties in Criminal Matters) Miscellaneous Amendment Bill, 2015 paid off when the bill received prominence during Uganda's UPR in November 2016 in Geneva. Although it did not enjoy the support of the Government, the impetus to continue the advocacy work has been created.

Back home, in sharp contrast to Government's position in Geneva, a notable outcome in the period was the increase in support for the abolition of the death sentence amongst Ugandans. The results from the opinion poll commissioned by FHRI indicate an increase in the number of pro-abolitionists. For a 25-year campaign, this trend is positive. The results from the survey are an invaluable and authoritative tool that will support the evidence based advocacy for the enactment of the bill in 2017.

Similarly, the trend within the judiciary is encouraging. Judicial activism has generated human rights responsive decisions such as a shift towards the abolition of the death penalty. Worth mentioning is Hon Justice Owiny Dollo's land mark ruling delivered on 26th May 2016 while sentencing the convicted terrorists for the 2010 Kampala bombing. In here, he reiterated the inefficacy of the death sentence in assuaging victims and giving closure to the indelible pain caused by the terrorists.

Lastly, the appointment of FHRI by the Chief Justice of Uganda, Hon Bart Katurebe onto the Sentencing Guidelines Committee speaks volumes of FHRI's positive impact on this issue. Once rolled out, the Sentencing Guidelines will ensure consistency and fairness in sentencing in Uganda in criminal matters.

“ *Terrorism and murder, ruthlessly committed in Kyadondo Rugby Club and Ethiopian Village Restaurant must correspondingly attract severe punishment. I however do not believe that the death sentence would really assuage the victims and give closure to the indelible pain that the society has suffered on the account of terrorist and murderous acts ...*

An excerpt from Hon Justice Owiny Dollo's ruling delivered on 26th May 2016.

”

Challenges

The Government of Uganda's rejection of the recommendations relating to the application of the death penalty during the November 2016 UPR process, presents new challenges for FHRI in as far as the campaign is concerned. The need to reflect on new and effective approaches to counter the negative trend is apparent.



Front row: 4th from left is Ms. Susan Kigula, (in blue and white) with FHRI staff during her courtesy visit to the Human Rights House, Nsambya on 9th February 2016. Susan Kigula was released on 22nd January 2016.

3. RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW

The USAID Rights and Rule of Law (RRL) Program implemented in partnership with Freedom House (US) seeks to promote the rule of law and protection of human rights in Uganda. The 3-track approach of the program seeks to catalyse change in the judiciary, civil society and the media. FHRI leads implementation of the component on strengthening judicial independence. This component also includes the use of strategic litigation as a tool for upholding the rule of law.

Objective

To strengthen the capacity and independence of the Judiciary in order to reach decisions that uphold human rights.

Implementation

The component includes the use of strategic litigation and capacity building as tools for legal reform.

Planned Activities

The activities planned under the Rights and Rule of Law program in 2016 were: a strategic litigation review meeting, a Training of Trainers program for judicial officers in human rights, technical support and advocacy for Public Interest Litigation (PIL) cases and, capacity building sessions for FHRI staff.

i. STRATEGIC LITIGATION REVIEW MEETING

On 2nd May 2016, a strategic litigation review meeting was convened to deliberate on FHRI' Public Interest case before the Constitutional Court that is challenging excessive long prison sentences (Foundation for Human Rights Initiative vs. Attorney General, (Constitutional Petition No. 3 of 2015).

During the meeting, law students from Uganda Christian University (UCU) and from the Public Interest Law Clinic of the School of Law, Makerere University (PILAC) presented their legal opinions on the case. They were critiqued by Mr. Ladislaus Rwakafuzi Managing Partner, M/S Rwakafuzi and Co. Advocates and Ms. Dorothy Nanduga Senior Partner M/S DN Kabugo & Co. Advocates who are legal counsels for the petitioner.

The meeting, was hosted at the Human Rights House, Nsambya, was attended by 31 participants: 6 law students from PILAC, 18 law students from UCU; Mr. Ladislaus Rwakafuzi; Ms. Dorothy Kabugo Nanduga; Dr. Josephine Ndagire, Director Legal Services, FHRI; Ms. Caroline Obbo, Legal Associate, FHRI; Ms. Editor Asiimwe, Legal Associate, FHRI; Mr. Isaac Kugonza, Legal Intern FHRI and Mr. Phillip Kasimbi, Legal Intern, FHRI.

ii. TRAINING OF TRAINERS (TOT) FOR JUDICIAL OFFICERS IN HUMAN RIGHTS

In partnership with the Judicial Studies Institute (JSI), the Rights and Rule of Law program conducted a 3-day Training of Trainers (ToT) for judicial officers from 23rd – 25th November 2016 at Protea Hotel, Kampala. The training was designed to strengthen the technical capacity of JSI through the establishment of a pool of human rights trainers within the judiciary. The themes that were interrogated included: gender, human rights principles, rights of marginalised groups and, election petitions.



The training was designed to strengthen the technical capacity of JSI through the establishment of a pool of human rights trainers within the judiciary.





Justice Remmy Kasule (with microphone) discussing elections during the TOT on 23rd November 2016 at Protea Hotel, Kampala

The resource team comprised of reputable experts including, Dr. Zahara Nampewo, a women's rights expert; Hon. Justice. Prof. Lillian Tibatemwa - Ekirikubinza, an expert on gender; Prof. Christopher Mbazira, an expert in human rights; and Dr. Kyohairwe Stella, an expert in adult training. Justice Remmy Kasule, Court of Appeal; Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, Executive Director, FHRI; Mr. Twinobusingye Severino and Mr. Luganda Alex, both, Advocates of the High Court constituted a panel that discussed the challenges in resolving parliamentary elections.

Eighteen judicial officers (11 women and 7 men) participated in the training from the following duty stations; Makindye, Nabweru, Arua, Kasangati, City Hall, Buganda Road, Masaka and Mengo. The Judicial officers comprised 3 High Court Judges, 5 Deputy and Assistant Registrars, 3 Chief Magistrates, and 7 Grade One Magistrates.

iii. TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION CASES

The use of courts to advance human rights is an established advocacy tool in various jurisdictions around the world. In 2016, the Rights and Rule of Law program provided technical support to three cases; Foundation for Human Rights Initiative vs Attorney General (Constitutional Petition No. 53 of 2011) which challenges the prosecution of citizens with treason and terrorism for participating in peaceful demonstrations; Foundation for Human Rights Initiative vs Attorney General (Constitutional Petition No. 3 of 2015) which challenges inordinate periods of pre-trial detention and life imprisonment and; Foundation for Human Rights Initiative vs Attorney General (Constitutional Petition No. 3 of 2009) which seeks interpretation on the parameters of judicial discretion in a bail application.

FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE VS. ATTORNEY GENERAL (CONSTITUTIONAL PETITION NO. 53 OF 2011)

The Petition challenges the prosecution of citizens with treason and terrorism for participating in peaceful demonstrations.

- **On 20th January 2016:** Conferencing for the petition was scheduled. However, the Attorney General requested for more time to file affidavits in rebuttal in response to FHRI supplementary affidavits filed in October 2015.
- **On 20th June 2016:** DN Kabugo & Co. Advocates counsel for the Petitioners filed a notice with the Registrar of the Constitutional Court requesting for new conferencing dates.
- **On 8th September 2016:** Conferencing for the petition took place. Both the Petitioner and Respondent were present. The Attorney General was given 1 week to peruse and reply the Petitioner's rejoinder without fail. The matter was fixed for 20th September 2016 for final conferencing.
- **On 20th September 2016:** Both the Petitioner and Respondent were present in court. The Attorney General had filed a reply to the petitioner's conferencing notes. The matter was fixed for final conferencing before hearing on 5th October 2016.
- **On 5th October 2016:** Conferencing was concluded and the hearing date before the Constitutional court would be on notice.

FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE VS. ATTORNEY GENERAL (CONSTITUTIONAL PETITION NO. 3 OF 2015)

The Petition challenges inordinate periods of pre-trial detention and life imprisonment

- During the year, supplementary affidavits from witnesses who testified in the FHRI landmark PIL case – Susan Kigula & 417 Others vs Attorney General SCCA 63/06 [2006] KALR, were drafted to further strengthen the case with testimonies from experts who have either worked with prisons or have expertise in psychiatry.
- **On 14th January 2016:** FHRI filed scheduling notes. Unfortunately, the Attorney General did not file scheduling notes. FHRI submitted an application for new conferencing dates in the Registry of the Court of Appeal on 22nd February 2016.
- **On 1st April, 2016:** M/S Rwakafuzi & Co. Advocates counsel for the Petitioners, filed a notice with the Registrar of the Constitutional Court requesting for new conferencing dates. Conferencing for the petition took place on 8th September 2016 before the Constitutional Court. Both the Petitioners and Respondent were in court.
Unfortunately, the Attorney General had not yet responded to the application filed in court by the Petitioners to en-join FHRI as a party to the petition. Parties were requested to follow up on the consent to the application and amend the petition. The Attorney General was requested to submit a reply to amend the petition after the said consent is filed in court. The matter was fixed for 7th November 2016 for the hearing of the application. On the said date, the application for leave to amend the petition was heard and granted by the court.
- **On 12th December 2016:** The matter came up for conferencing inter-party. The Attorney General requested time to respond to the amended petition. The court requested the Attorney General to file her reply by 27th January 2017 and asked FHRI to provide a response for the same by 10th February 2017.
- The matter was adjourned to 16th February 2017 to finalize the conferencing.

FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE VS. ATTORNEY GENERAL (CONSTITUTIONAL APPEAL NO. 3 OF 2009)

The Petition seeks interpretation on the parameters of judicial discretion in a bail application.

- **On 14th January, 2016:** the Supreme Court summoned FHRI legal representatives – M/S DN Kabugo & Co. Advocates and M/S Lukwago & Co. Advocates to a pre-hearing of the petition. The purpose of the prehearing was to agree on the hearing dates and the format for the presentation during proceedings. Hon. Lady Justice Dr. Kisakye – Kitimbo JSC presided over the hearing.
- **On 3rd March 2016:** The Supreme Court ordered the Attorney General to file and serve her submissions

in reply by 10th March 2016. This followed the Attorney General's failure to show up in court for the pre-hearing held on January 14, 2016, and the first hearing on 25th February 2016.

- **On 19th April 2016:** The Supreme Court Registrar issued an order directing the Attorney General to file written submissions within 7 days from the date of issuance of the order. The order was served on DN Kabugo & Co. Advocates with directives to file rejoinders to the respondent's submissions within three (3) days. A letter was written by the lawyers on 26th July 2016 bringing the above position to the court. The Executive Director FHRI also raised related concerns in the matter with the Attorney General (Hon. William Byaruhanga) in an official letter.
- The Supreme Court fixed the case for hearing on 11th October 2016. The Attorney General was directed by the court to file his written submissions in the appeal before the hearing date.
- **On 11th October 2016:** Both parties finalized, with the submissions, and the judgement is on notice. At the hearing phase of Constitutional Appeal No. 3/2009 on 12th October 2016, the Chief Justice castigated the A.G for mishandling the case.



*This is a gross neglect of duty.
Do your work, it helps us do our work and
get your house in order.*

Chief Justice, Hon. Bart Katureebe, 11th October 2016



iv. ADVOCACY ON PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION CASES (PIL)

With a wealth of experience in handling PIL cases, on 1st August 2016, Ms. Maria Kaddu Busulwa, Director Legal Services, FHRI, Ms. Ntanz Rosabella, Project Officer, FHRI and Ms. Irene Okurut, Partner, D.N Kabugo & Co. Advocates met with Mr. Nicholas Opio, Executive Director, Chapter Four to explore strategies for fast tracking of FHRI's PIL cases some of which had stalled for more than two years. Out of the deliberations, it was agreed that FHRI develops a comprehensive advocacy strategy targeting particularly Court Registrars, development partners, JLOS and the media.

v. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR FHRI STAFF

Following the Organisational Capacity Assessment exercise conducted by AKIJUL Consultants in December 2014, FHRI adopted an Institutional Strengthening Plan (ISP) in 2015. The ISP prioritizes five thematic areas for capacity strengthening including, monitoring and evaluation, fundraising and donor relations, external communications, safety and security and advocacy. The ISP guides institutional strengthening and results based planning, budgeting, program review and reporting.

Within this framework, 3 capacity building sessions were conducted for FHRI staff on; developing an advocacy strategy on 12th February 2016, facilitated by Ms. Jill Kyotuheire, Freedom House Advocacy Specialist; Monitoring and Evaluation on 9th March 2016 facilitated by Mr. Janani Luwum, Freedom House Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist and; fundraising and donor relations from 22nd – 23rd September, 2016 and facilitated by Ms. Barbara Musoke Ntambi, Communication Specialist, Democratic Governance Facility (DGF).

Outcomes

The training of trainers on human rights provided judicial officers with a unique and interactive space that allowed for knowledge exchange and sharing of experience amongst peers. 100% of the participants reported that they had gained knowledge on the basic principles of human rights, rights of marginalized social groups, gender dynamics and knowledge in resolving election petitions.

Challenges

The time taken to dispense off public interest matters by the courts in Uganda has brought into question the effectiveness of strategic litigation in Uganda in as far as the right to a prompt remedy is concerned. Secondly, PIL cases require heavy financial and human resource investments. For a non profit organisation like FHRI, this is unsustainable.

ACTION 3 CIVIC EDUCATION

The activities under this Action are designed to promote participatory decision making for effective service delivery, build capacity of community based human rights groups to effectively monitor and report human rights violations and to build a cadre of passionate and knowledgeable human rights defenders.

As offshoots of this Action, the community based groups and university human rights associations have been hailed by beneficiaries and stakeholders as sustainable structures for building civic activism.

Objective

To enhance human rights and civic awareness in order to increase the demand for political and social accountability.

Implementation

The Action is implemented through one major activity – Public Outreach, with three sub- components:

1. Students' leadership forums
2. Campaign to eradicate poverty using the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA)
3. Civic society strengthening.

Planned Activities

The following activities were planned for 2016: the 9th Inter- University Human Rights Competition; 5 leadership seminars; one baseline survey assessing the status of application of the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) in the Youth Lively Hood Program (YLP) in the districts of Namutumba and Bugiri; a national level validation meeting to validate the findings of the baseline survey and outreaches; publication of a Policy brief and, radio talk shows.

1. STUDENTS LEADERSHIP FORUMS

In 2007, FHRI kick started its University outreach program. The human rights seminars targetting university students culminated into the formation of University human rights clubs. These structures which were embraced in 7 universities, expanded into a network of University Human Rights Clubs whose membership now stands at 39 University human rights clubs.

The 9th Inter-University Human Rights Competition

One of the key activities of the University Human Rights Network is the annual Inter-University Human Rights Competition. In 2016, the competition was hosted by Ndejje University in Luweero district on 4th and 5th March 2016 under the theme 'Towards democratic consolidation in Uganda: counting the gains.' 456 students (240 men: 216 women) from twenty-two (22) Universities and Institutions of Higher Learning in Uganda attended the event.

The Chief Guest, H. E. Donal Cronin, the Irish Ambassador to Uganda applauded the event, reiterating its relevance and timeliness. He acknowledged FHRI's efforts in creating such spaces for students to debate on issues of public interest in Uganda. He pledged his support towards the same and extended an invitation to the winners of the competition - with whom he would at a future date -engage on the human rights situation in Uganda.

On the same occasion, Prof. Eriabu Lugujjo, the Vice Chancellor of Ndejje University extended his appreciation to FHRI for the opportunity accorded to Ndejje University to host the 9th edition of the competition. In his

remarks, he challenged the youths to think outside the box and be the architects of their future. He encouraged them to be analytical, flexible, inquisitive, proactive, and tolerant. He encouraged the students to use the knowledge and opportunities that the event afforded them.

On his part, Dr Livingstone Sewanyana, the Executive Director of FHRI extended his deep appreciation to Ndejje University for hosting the competition. In the same breath, he acknowledged the presence of H.E Donal Cronin and Ms. Sophie Racine, the Component Manager, Rights, Justice and Peace, DGF for the support extended to FHRI by the DGF and appreciated DGF's support to FHRI's program. To the students, improvement in research conducted by the students around the focus theme was noticeable.

In her remarks, Ms Sophie Racine, the Component Manager, Rights, Justice and Peace, DGF, similarly acknowledged the effort by FHRI to engage students in such important and lively human rights debates. She noted that the DGF and the contributing countries were convinced that these platforms were effective drivers for the creation of strong leaders who would champion human rights values in the future.

At the end of the event, the panel of judges who assessed the written and oral presentations commended the human rights clubs for the outstanding performance. They noted and acknowledged the remarkable improvement displayed in timekeeping, confidence, teamwork and mastery of the subject by the presenters.

“

The University Human Rights Network membership now stands at 39 University human rights clubs.

”

The panel of judges comprised of Mr Asuman Bisiika, a retired journalist, Mr Solomon Wilson Kirunda, Senior Legislative Drafter in the Parliament of Uganda and, Mr Denis Kibirige, Senior State Attorney. The overall star universities in this competition were awarded certificates and cash prizes. Makerere University emerged the overall winners.

Prior to the competition, a preparatory meeting was convened at the Human Rights House on 22nd January 2016. 47 participants (14 female & 33 male) from 32 universities attended the meeting. Of these, 11 were patrons of human rights clubs.



A cross section of delegates at the opening session of the 9th Inter-University Human Rights Competition at Ndejje University on 4th March 2016. Front row, 4th left: His Excellency Donal Cronin, Irish Ambassador to Uganda; 5th from left: Prof. Eriabu Lugujo, Vice Chancellor of Ndejje University; 6th left: Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, Executive Director of FHRI.



A cross section of delegates at the opening session of the 9th Inter-University Human Rights Competition at Ndejje University on 4th March 2016. Front row, 4th left: His Excellency Donal Cronin, Irish Ambassador to Uganda; 5th from left: Prof. Eriabu Lugujo, Vice Chancellor of Ndejje University; 6th left: Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, Executive Director of FHRI.

Student Leadership Seminars

Student leadership seminars are held at the university level. These form part of the routine activities of the human rights associations. In 2016 FHRI supported a total of 15 sessions including seminars and leadership hand over ceremonies as listed below:

Date	University/Institution	Description
18th March 2016	Nkumba University Law Society	11th Annual Lawyer's Day under the theme, 'Can law be used as a tool to transform society?'. Dr. Livingstone shared his views on the same.
2nd April 2016	Islamic University in Uganda (Kabojja Female Campus)	Dr. Livingstone attended the Annual Law Dinner, hosted by the Faculty of Law, urging the upcoming lawyers to always aim at being exemplary.
15th April 2016	Kampala International University	Dr. Sewanyana was a keynote speaker at the Annual Law Dinner for Kampala International University at Cassia Lodge, Kampala.
6th June 2016	Kabale University	A debate under the theme: "The role of the media in the democratization process in Uganda".
14th October 2016	Ethics and Human Rights Makerere University	Tactics in defending human rights. FHRI staff addressed the students.
27th October 2016	Nkumba University	An inter-schools human rights debate on policing, access to justice and fair hearing.
3rd November 2016	Bishop Barham University	The leadership seminar on human was addressed by Mr. Kasirye Elly, of FHRI.
16th - 17th November 2016	UNOHCHR	Mr. Elly Kasirye was part of the panel of judges at the university debate organised by the UNOHCHR

Towards the end of every academic year, students leaders are encouraged to handover their offices to new leaders of the human rights clubs. This practice is met to nurture democratic and responsible leaders.

In 2016, FHRI witnessed the handover of leadership in various University clubs including:

- Busoga University (8th April 2016),
- Kabojja female campus (16th April 2016),
- Kyambogo University (23rd April 2016),
- Nkumba University (9th May 2016),
- Uganda College of Commerce- Tororo (1st June 2016),
- Uganda Technical College- Elgon (3rd June 2016) and,
- Kabale University (6th June 2016).

Kudos to the winners of the
9th Inter-university Human Rights Competition
 held at Ndejje University,
 4th - 5th March 2016



2. CAMPAIGN TO ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY USING THE HRBA

Baseline Survey to Assess the Status of Application of HRBA in the Youth Livelihood Program (YLP) in the Districts of Namutumba and Bugiri

In August 2016, FHRI embarked on a pilot project to eradicate extreme poverty in Uganda using a Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA). This budding campaign was informed by the FHRI thematic report on Human Rights and Poverty published in December 2015. The campaign aimed at developing policy actions for integrating HRBA in government programs for the eradication of extreme poverty in Uganda. It was implemented in two districts, Namutumba and Bugiri. The program focuses on the Youth Livelihood Program (YLP).

During the year, 4 activities were implemented including a baseline survey to assess the status of application of HRBA in the YLP in the districts of Namutumba and Bugiri; a national level validation meeting to assess the findings of the baseline survey; publication of a Policy brief on using the HRBA in eradicating extreme poverty in Uganda and, 2 radio talk shows to popularise the Policy brief at the national and district level.

The baseline survey in the districts of Namutumba and Bugiri was conducted from 22nd to 26th August 2016. The respondents were the beneficiaries of the Youth Livelihood Programme and officers responsible for the programme's implementation. Interviews were held with a total of 73 (51 males & 22 females) respondents. The last interview was conducted with Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Mr. Pius Bigirimana on 21st November 2016. The findings from the baseline survey indicated that to a large extent there is adherence to HRBA principles in the YLP, which partly explains its success. While the design and implementation stages

enlisted the participation of the youth. the sustainable impact of the program on youth livelihoods is still to be assessed. This brings into question the extent to which the HRBA principle of 'empowerment' has been applied and prioritised in such programs.

Validation of the Survey Findings

The baseline survey report was validated on 13th December at Hotel Africana, Kampala. The meeting was attended by 25 stakeholders (15 males and 13 females) including; MPs of Namutumba and Bugiri District, the National Youth Female MP Eastern Region, Resident District Commissioners, Senior District Community Development Officers, District Community Development Officers, Community Development Officers, representatives from Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Uganda Human Rights Commission, DGF, the Equal Opportunities Commission, beneficiaries of the YLP who had participated in the baseline and FHRI staff. A separate meeting was held with the Permanent Secretary of the MGLSD, Mr. Pius Bigirimana to validate the findings on 8th December 2016. The participants at the validation meeting generally agreed with the findings of the survey. The need for FHRI to invest in creating understanding of the HRBA amongst stakeholders was emphasized.

Radio Talk Shows

FHRI was hosted on two radio talk shows to discuss the findings from the baseline survey in the two districts. On 8th December 2016, FHRI was hosted on Basoga Baino FM 87.7 FM and 9th December 2016 on NBS Kodheyo 89.4FM. The role of civil society in monitoring government programs was applauded by the listeners.

Policy Briefs

The policy briefs were not compiled due to time limitations. They will be published in 2017.



The delegates who attended the YLP validation meeting at Hotel Africana on 13th December 2016.

3. CIVIL SOCIETY STRENGTHENING

This component seeks to deepen understanding of human rights as a basis for building pressure necessary to demand social - political accountability. During the year, the following activities were carried out:

- **On 12th August 2016**, FHRI conducted a session on 'Adult Education and Empowerment' on human rights and adult education. The brainstorming exercise was moderated by Ms. Lucy Nantume, Director, Civic Education, FHRI, at the Human Rights House.
- **On 2nd September 2016**, FHRI in partnership with Buganda Youth Council organized a human rights training for 185 (88 female and 97 male) new Buganda youth leaders at Muganzilwazza hall, Katwe under the theme "National Peace: Relevance of Human Rights." The Guest of Honour was; the 3rd Deputy Katikkiro of Buganda Owek. Nelson Makubuya. The training was conducted by; Owek. David Mpanga, Hon. Muwanga Kivumbi and Dr Livingstone Sewanyana. It was closed by Owek. Henry Ssekabembe Kiberu, the kingdom's Minister for Youth, Sports and Recreation.

- **On 1st October 2016**, FHRI joined the Bodaboda Association in celebrating the Boda Boda family day. The celebrations were held in Lungujja at Silverton Gardens. 300 participants attended. Ms Claire Nampala, Project Officer, FHRI facilitated a discussion on human rights.
- **On 27th October 2016**, FHRI partnered with Women Health Care Development. Through the program, 'Kavubuka Ampaga' that airs on Bukedde TV enlisted FHRI as part of a panel that discussed child mothers and human rights,
- **On 4th November 2016**, FHRI participated in the Youth Aids Walk Organised at Muteesa 1 Royal University. The event was organized by Haven Foundation, USAID, American Embassy, YALI Uganda and, Smart girls. Over 700 people participated in the walk with the university students.
- As part of the 16 days of activism against Gender Based Violence, FHRI organized a 'girl talk' for students of Tropical High School in Nsambya on 29th November 2016 at the Human Rights House, Nsambya.
- **On 8th December 2016**, Mr Elly Kasirye a Project Officer, FHRI delivered a presentation on 'Sexual harassment in the community', at Cavendish University Law School upon invitation from the Young Women Alliance for Human Rights. The same presentation was delivered on 9th December 2016 amongst Mutundwe youth councillors.

Outcomes

The support extended to the University Human Rights Network by FHRI has accelerated the growth of the student human rights movement. There has been a significant increase in the growth of human rights clubs from 32 in 2014 to now 39 in 2016. The district coverage of the network has also expanded from 9 districts in 2012 to 20 districts in 2016. These include, Kampala, Mukono, Wakiso, Luweero, Mbale, Tororo, Gulu, Mpigi, Jinja, Iganga, Kumi, Arua, Bushenyi, Kabarole, Soroti, Kabale, Lira, Mbarara, Fort-Portal and Mpigi. The growth in numbers is matched with the increase in individual membership at the University human rights club level. Each of the clubs has registered a 50% increase in the number of new and active members. The network Facebook profile has received 2,000 views this year and has 1,100 likes compared to 800 likes for 2015.

The expansion of the network has consolidated the voices calling for accountability and sustained activism for social change – with some students taking up leadership positions in their communities to further the cause. Hon. Ismail Mafabi, former Vice President of the human rights club at IUIU, Mbale, is now a youth Member of Parliament for Eastern Region and Mr. Ndyabanawe Jackson former President of the human rights club in Kabale University is now the Youth Chairperson – Nyakinoni Sub - county, Kanungu district are such examples. Other students who have benefited from the knowledge spaces have organised a series of community human rights fora in Nkumba, Kasenji landing sites and in Makerere University Business schools to create awareness of rights.

It is not in dispute that the research based university human rights competitions and debates have enhanced the students' knowledge levels on human rights and improved their research skills. The panel of judges at the 9th Inter-University Human Rights Competition made similar observations. Further more, the opportunity availed to students to research and interrogate challenging and hard pressing issues of public interest in the human rights and governance arena have afforded them an opportunity to debate them from an informed point of view while proposing possible solutions. This has contributed to and informed wider public debate particularly through the media.

Lastly, FHRI's interest in eradicating poverty through and a HRBA discourse has been worthwhile. For instance, the baseline survey assessing the status of the application of the HRBA in the Youth Lively Hood Program (YLP) in Namutumba and Bugiri, and the validation exercise, kick-started a conversation between FHRI, the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development, Members of Parliament hailing from the two districts, the district leaders and beneficiaries of the YLP, on the application of the HRBA. From these initial activities, FHRI managed to create awareness of and arouse interest in the HRBA amongst stakeholders - particularly on the 'empowerment principle'.

Challenges

Civil society actions such as this that are aimed at increasing demand for political and social accountability from below require an active citizenry. However, the level of citizen engagement in Uganda has been negatively affected by high levels of poverty, hence disengaging citizens from confronting issues of significant political and human rights concerns.

ACTION 4 EXTERNAL SERVICES

External services is designed to improve information sharing and management, promote collective advocacy, maximise participation and build consensus on democracy and human rights issues in Uganda.

Objective

To improve information sharing and management, promote collective advocacy, maximize participation and build consensus on democracy and human rights issues in Uganda.

Implementation

The Division has five components:

- 1) Communication and Information Services
- 2) Public Affairs Unit
3. Documentation Unit
- 4) Membership Development.
- 5) Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Unit.

Planned Activities

The Division planned the following: provide library and information services; participate in book exhibitions; update the FHRI's website and her social media platforms; disseminate human rights information to the general public through media briefings and radio/TV talk shows; oversee the publication of the Annual Report 2015; publish the internal news bulletin and e-newsletters; recruit new FHRI members and; through the ICT support function, maintain the Local Area Network.

1. COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SERVICES

Human Rights and Democracy Information Centre

The Information Centre provides library services to 49 users including FHRI staff and external university researchers.

Isb Numbers

The Division processed International Standard Book Numbers for 2 reports titled, 'General Elections 2016: Revisiting the Democracy Construct' and 'Human Rights and Elections in Uganda (2016): A Call for Action',

Participation in Book Exhibitions

During the year, FHRI participated in six book exhibitions including:

- The 9th Inter-University Human Rights Competition at Ndejje University, 4th to 5th March 2016.
- The stakeholders' consultative meeting on the death penalty at Serena Hotel Kampala, 27th January 2016.
- The capacity building forum on the death penalty at Hotel Africana. 15th March 2016,
- The launch of the issue based report on human rights and elections in Uganda at Imperial Royale hotel, 27th June 2016.
- The launch of CEON-U's final election report at Imperial Royale hotel, 30th June 2016.
- The commemoration of the World Day Against the Death Penalty day, at the Human Rights House, 10th October 2016.

Digital Presence

The website was regularly updated with the latest news, program activities, articles, press releases and, newsletters. The website received content hits totalling 15,276 with an average of 175 hits per story. The FHRI website was also used as a source of information for other organisations with 95 external links.



1,569 posts with on-going program activities and emerging stories on human rights issues were posted on FHRI's Facebook page; 1,376 new likes were recorded in the period. Real time feedback on FHRI activities was received through this platform.

1,838 new tweets were posted, increasing the number to 4,439. With an increase of 1,113 new followers, the total tally of followers stood at 1,557. Information requests for internship opportunities were received through the website and the social media platforms.



274 *No. of reading materials received in the form of reports and periodicals.*

2. PUBLIC AFFAIRS UNIT

In 2016, the Division kept the public informed on FHRI's programmes through traditional media.

201

No. of appearances
in print media

354

Total no. of FHRI's known
media appearances.

153

No. of appearances
in electronic media

FHRI's work was covered by the following media houses during the year: The Daily Monitor, The Observer, The New vision, The Independent, Arize Magazine, Bukedde, The East Africa, All Africa, Radio Simba, Red pepper, Welinformers, NBS TV, WBS TV, NTV, Pearl FM, Top TV, KFM Radio, Red Pepper, Radio One, CBS Radio, Press TV, BBS TV, Salt TV, Munno Voice, Capital FM, Ssesse FM, Aljazeera, BBC, Dream TV, Kingdom TV, Associate Press, Voice of America, Prime Radio, Metro FM, Super FM, Channel 44 and Super FM.



Dr. Livingstone appearing on NBS TV's 'Morning Breeze'

3. DOCUMENTATION UNIT

In 2016, FHRI published the following:

- 750 copies of the 2015 Annual Report.
- 3 issues of the e-newsletter (Volume 13: Issue No.2, June – December 2015; Volume 14: Issue No.1, January - March 2016; and Volume 14: Issue No.2 April - August 2016).
- 31 issues of the Internal updates.

4. MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

In 2016, the team recruited 19 individual members (10 female: 8 male) and 1 Corporate member increasing the number of members from 1,416 to 1,435 individual members and 1 Associate member.

FHRI was unable to convene the 2016 Annual General Meeting (AGM) for its members due to financial limitations. A proposal to hold the meeting every 2 years was adopted by the FHRI Board of Directors on 17th December 2016. This will be presented to the members in 2017 for approval.

5. ICT SUPPORT UNIT

In 2016, through the ICT Support Unit, FHRI improved the security and safety of data through the installation of a new server and the upgrade of the virus guards on all computers. The Local Area Network (LAN) was regularly serviced to ensure full internet connectivity.

Outcomes

Through the Public Affairs Unit, FHRI proactively took a stand and condemned a number of human rights excesses perpetuated by state and non –state actors, in effect, drawing public attention to and protecting people at risk of injustice and abuse. This has raised FHRI's public profile, enhanced her brand and has become more influential in the sector.

Challenges

For the very first time in its history, FHRI was unable to convene the 2016 Annual General Meeting (AGM) for its members due to financial limitations. A proposal to hold the meeting every 2 years was adopted by the FHRI Board of Directors on 17th December 2016. This will be presented to the members in 2017 for approval.



The 2016 batch of Interns hosted at FHRI

ACTION 5 SPECIAL PROJECTS

I. NATIONAL PARALEGAL ADVISORY SERVICES (PAS)

The Paralegal Advisory Services (PAS) project commenced in 2005 as a pilot in 4 sites, in 3 districts, with 18 paralegals and 6 social workers providing legal assistance and advice for pre-trial detainees. Over the years the program has grown to cover 58 districts, with a total coverage of 61% of Uganda's prisons.

Objective

PAS seeks to improve the understanding of principles and procedures of the formal justice system by both users and justice agencies in Uganda. The program contributes to physical and case file decongestion, links the demand and supply sides and advocates for practice change in the justice system.

Implementation

The program enhances access to justice for the poor and vulnerable in both criminal and civil matters. Over the years, the programme has grown to cover the districts of Arua, Gulu, Kitgum, Lira, Mbale, Jinja, Kampala, Mbarara, Bushenyi, Kabarole, Busia and Soroti. In 2015, the program extended its services to the prisons of Masaka, Luweero- Nakasongola, Iganga, Agago, Pader, Kapchorwa and Nebbi.

PAS is implemented by 50 paralegals and 57 social workers, 1 field legal officer and 40 Community Legal Volunteers (CLVs). The secretariat comprises 5 staff including the National Coordinator, Legal Officer, Accountant, Office Administrator and a project driver.

A National Steering Committee headed by a High Court Judge, Hon. Judge Lawrence Gidudu, governs PAS. The body provides leadership and plays an oversight role.

Planned Activities

The following activities were planned in 2016:

1. Provision of legal assistance to suspects and inmates.
2. Quarterly monitoring visits
3. Capacity development for CLVs and community leaders (local council leaders, clan leaders, opinion leaders).
4. Steering Committee meetings.
5. Partnerships

1. PROVISION OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO SUSPECTS AND INMATES

Legal Assistance to Suspects at Police Stations

In 2016, the PAS teams assisted a total of 28,280 suspects (17,556 men and 2,724 women) to access police bond. In order for the suspects to fulfil the requirements for police bond, PAS traced a total of 19,660 sureties (16,540 men and 3,120 women). This has significantly resulted in the decongestion of police cells in the PAS sites.

As a result of PAS interventions, complainants are more responsive to applying ADR mechanisms such as mediation in order to avoid unnecessary delays within the system. Further still, the Uganda Police in the PAS sites, have taken advantage of the presence of the paralegals to mediate petty criminal and civil matters which are reported to the police. As a result, a further 1,408 cases (1,047 men and 361 women) have been assisted by the paralegals, leading to diversion of more cases from the formal justice system through mediation.



Ms Sophie Racine, Component Manager, Rights Justice and Peace, DGF (in grey top) and the PAS team during one of the monitoring visits to Gulu prisons.



Paralegals during a continuing legal education session conducted for inmates in Pader on 16th March 2016.

Legal Assistance to Detainees Charged with Petty Offences

In 2016, PAS assisted a total of 8,600 petty offenders (7,578 men and 1,022 women) to access bail. Similarly 2,465 inmates (2,157 men and 308 women) were assisted by the PAS team to benefit from community service awards. This outstanding performance of PAS in government case decongestion initiatives such as plea bargain and community service has increased appreciation and demand for PAS services by both inmates and justice agencies.

Legal Assistance to Detainees Charged with Capital Offences

In 2016, the PAS teams assisted a total of 1,591 capital offenders (1,279 men and 312 women) to access legal representation and secure court bail.

Legal Assistance to Juveniles

In 2016, the PAS teams assisted to trace a total of 972 sureties to facilitate juveniles access police bond.

Legal Assistance to the Poor and Vulnerable in Busia District

Using CLVs has proved effective in reducing criminal and civil offences in the district of Busia. It is a more sustainable and proactive approach as it builds the capacity of communities to resolve disputes stemming the flow of cases into the formal justice system. In 2016, a total of 135 civil cases (59 men and 76 women) were mediated at court by the CLVs in Busia while 38 (32 men and 6 women) were represented in court by the field project advocate. Further more, the CLVs conducted 36 legal rights awareness sessions during the year, reaching a total of 7,580 community members (3,323 men and 4,257 women) in Busia district.

2. QUARTERLY MONITORING VISITS

In 2016, PAS conducted a total of 3 monitoring visits in the PAS sites by the secretariat in order to provide back up support to the paralegals and thrush out any challenges.

The first set of monitoring visits were conducted between 14th to 18th March 2016 in Busia; the second was extended to the new PAS sites in the districts of Paidha, Nebbi, Patong, Pader, Ntungamo, Iganga, Tororo, Kumi, Masaka, Luwero/Nakasongola from 7th and 26th June 2016. The last set of monitoring visits was conducted for the eastern region between 6th and 15th December 2016. During the visits, the PAS team convened stakeholder meetings and community dialogues to discuss challenges related to access to justice.

3. CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR CLVS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS

Two training sessions on human rights and legal procedures were conducted during the year. The first was run for 40 Community Legal Volunteers in Busia district from 7th -9th September 2016 at 12 Pearls Hotel. The second which targeted 10 community leaders run from 12th - 15th December 2016 at the Lunyo Sub-county head quarters. During the local leaders training, 40 bicycles and a vehicle were handed over to the CLV program in Busia to facilitate their work. The Resident District Commissioner, Busia district Mr. Oti Adhola Kennedy presided over this function.

4. STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

During the year, 2 Steering Committee meetings were held at the Human Rights House, Nsambya, on 21st April 2016 and, 3rd November 2016. Bottle necks identified in the PAS sites were discussed while proposing practical solutions.

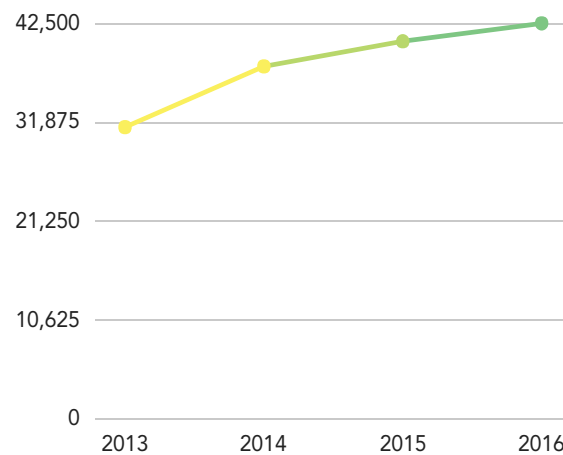
5. PARTNERSHIPS

Finally, during the period, PAS participated in a total of 15 meetings organised by partner institutions such as; the judiciary, Uganda Police Force, DGF, Justice Centres Uganda, LASPNET, the Law Council, the JLOS Criminal Working Group and SAJEA. Within this framework, PAS conducted a human rights training for 3,000 cadets at the Police Training School in Kabalye-Masindi on 21st August 2016.

Outcomes

The total number of suspects and inmates released through PAS interventions has continued to increase from 31,302 in 2013, 37,837 in 2014, 40,544 in 2015 and 42,464 in 2016.

There is no doubt that the National Paralegal Advisory program (PAS) as a best practice, has significantly contributed to a reduction in Uganda's pre-trial detention prison population from 63% in 2013 to 52% in 2017.



Challenges

Even with the success registered by PAS, staffing shortfalls within the judiciary have negatively impacted on timely access to justice by inmates. Further, the high rates of recidivism has clogged the justice system causing further delays. A section of the population in some of the PAS sites now prefer to stay in prison where they are assured of a meal and roof over their heads. Secondly, PAS is a high investment program bringing into question its sustainability.



Paralegals and CLVs (standing up) during their visit to Bulekei Primary School in Busia district on 26th July 2016

II. CITIZEN'S COALITION FOR ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY IN UGANDA (CCEDU)

The Citizens Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU) marked its sixth anniversary on 19th September 2016. In 2016 CCEDU's membership stood at 850 organisations and over 16,000 individual members. The members are spread across the country.

Objective

CCEDU seeks to advocate and promote integrity, transparency and active citizen's participation in Uganda's electoral processes.

Implementation

CCEDU is governed by her membership platform, an Advisory Board and the Executive Committee.

The CCEDU Advisory Board is the think tank of the coalition and comprises 12 configurations elected by the membership including the elderly, workers, faith based networks, media, development workers, student/youth, Persons with Disabilities, private sector, women, human rights activists and Persons Living with HIV/AIDS in Uganda. The Advisory Board provides technical advice on strategy. The Executive Committee, which is charged with overseeing policy implementation is comprised of 90 civil society groups. The body is run by eminent persons in the area of human rights and democratic governance.

The CCEDU secretariat comprises of a Coordinator, Manager, Advocacy and Communications, Manager, Electoral Process Observation, Finance and Administration Manager, an Accounts Officer, 3 Project Associates and a driver. It is located at the Democracy House, Plot 1111 Lulume Road, Nsambya.

Planned Activities

In 2016, CCEDU planned to pursue the Citizens Electoral Reform Agenda (CERA) campaign; to observe the 2016 general elections and by-elections and; oversee the implementation of the 'Topowa' and 'Basobola' voter mobilisation campaign drives.



1. THE CITIZEN ELECTORAL REFORM AGENDA

Post-election FORA

Under the campaign for electoral reforms, CCEDU convened 5 regional post election fora in 2016. The objective of the consultative forums was to facilitate mapping of electoral reform issues that emerged from the February 2016 general elections. Priority recommendations were adopted at each of the fora which would then be used to update CERA 2017. The findings of the various election observer groups - both domestic and international - informed the discussions. The events were broadcast on 62 regional and national media platforms and attended by ordinary community members, opinion leaders, political parties, faith based leaders, cultural leaders, judicial officers, civic leaders and the media.

Post-election FORA

9-9-2016	Soroti
30-9-2016	Bundibugyo
2-9-2016	Jinja
28-10-2016	Masaka
4-11-2016	Kampala



MP Survey on Lifting of Presidential Age Limit - Article 102 (B) of Uganda's 1995 Constitution and Reforming the Electoral Commission

As part of the electoral reform campaign, CCEDU and NDI jointly conducted an opinion poll survey amongst Members of Parliament in Uganda to gauge levels of support towards amending Article 102 (b) of the Constitution on Presidential age limit and reforming the Electoral Commission. 185 MPs were interviewed through telephone. 73% of the MPs said they would not support an amendment lifting the age limit while 77% agreed that the Electoral Commission needs to be reformed.

Champions for Reform

As part of its dissemination strategy, CCEDU compiled a database of 25,000 democracy activists and established community electoral reform activist committees in the districts of Buikwe, Busukuma, Jinja and Soroti, to create keep the momentum on the electoral reform campaign.

Lobby Meetings on Electoral Reforms

In 2016, CCEDU held a total of seven lobby meetings with key influencers within and outside government on the future of electoral reforms. These included:

- **6th September, 2016:** Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, Executive Director, FHRI, met Hon. Justice James Ogola of the Elders Forum (TEFU) and Mr. Joshua Kitakule of Inter Religious Council of Uganda (IRCU).
- **7th September, 2016:** Mr. Crispy Kaheru, Coordinator CCEDU met with Elizabeth Lwanga, the Coordinator of the Women Situation Room (WSR).
- **22nd September, 2016:** Mr. Crispy Kaheru, met the Prime Minister of Uganda, Hon Ruhakana Rugunda, the Inter Party Organisation for Dialogue (IPOD) and the National Consultative Forum (NCF).
- **17th August, 2016:** CCEDU held a lobby meeting with the Monitor newspaper journalists.
- **17th August 2016:** CCEDU held a lobby meeting with the Monitor newspaper writers.
- **23rd August 2016:** CCEDU met with New Vision newspaper journalists.
- **9th November 2016:** Dr Sewanyana and Ms. Charity Ahimbisibwe, Manager, Communication and Advocacy, met Ms. Ida Nakiganda, Director Research, Education and Documentation, Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC).
- **7th December 2016:** CCEDU held a meeting with Uganda Local Government Association (ULGA).

As a result of these engagements, a working committee comprised of representatives from CCEDU, TEFU, WSR, IPOD, NCF and IRCU was put in place to draft a coherent framework for both a political dialogue and electoral reform agenda for the next five years.

2. ELECTION OBSERVATION

In order to contribute to the integrity of the electoral process, CCEDU observed elections under the auspices of two frameworks:

- 1) **Citizens Election Observer Network Uganda (CEON-U):** Within the CEON-U structure, CCEDU was appointed to manage CEON-U's election observation mission in central Buganda region which constituted the districts of Wakiso, Butambala, Kiboga, Mubende, Gomba, Kalungu, Bukomansibi, Kyankwanzi, Sembabule, Buvuma, Kampala, Lyantonde, Mityana and Kyotera. Within this framework, CCEDU managed a total of 39 Long Term Observers (LTOs) and 131 Short-Term Observers. This efforts culminated into the publication of a comprehensive election observation report on the 2016 elections by CEON-U which was launched at Hotel Africana in Kampala on 29th July 2016.
- 2) **Women Leadership Development (WLEDE):** This partnership sought to mobilise women to participate in the 2016 general elections. The observers in their Election -Day report noted that overall women participation in the elections both as voters and polling officials was a ratio of 1:1 in comparison to their male counterparts. However, women participation as candidates, particularly those vying for mainstream parliamentary positions, was still very low with only 90 women having contested. Only one woman contested in the Presidential race.

Later in the year, CCEDU observed by-elections in the newly created districts of; Kakumiro, Kagadi, Rubanda, Omoro and Kibaale. CCEDU published reports on the by-elections which were discussed with the Electoral Commission, political parties and Parliament.



3: 'TOPOWA' AND 'BASOBOLA' VOTER MOBILISATION CAMPAIGNS

The 'TOPOWA' Campaign

The Topowa campaign was designed to meet two key objectives:

- To contribute towards increasing the 2016 voter turnout from the previous 58% in the 2011 general elections to at least 65% in the 2016 general elections;
- To promote citizen participation in the electoral processes prior, during and after Uganda's 2016 general elections.

The 'BASOBOLA' Campaign

The campaign was aimed at increasing the number of women taking up leadership positions and participating in the electoral process.

Through the use of a multi-media messaging approach, the campaign signed up 20 radio stations and utilised jingles, DJ mentions and social media platforms to mobilise the public to support female candidates who were vying for leadership positions in the 2016 general elections.



Messages disseminated:

80,078 messages

5,965 messages sent over television

102 messages via print media,

5 commercial buses branded with the Topowa campaign's message

Effectiveness of TOPOWA



Uganda's voting population were influenced by the Topowa campaign to participate in the processes of the 2016 general.



Uganda's voting population that had been exposed to the Topowa campaign message participated in Uganda's 2016 general elections.



Uganda's voting population that listened to messages of the Topowa campaign voted at these elections.

25,084 With the aim of increasing civic awareness through digital media, CCEDU's digital footprint was enhanced during the year through the 'Topowa' campaign. The likes on CCEDU's Facebook page stood at 25,084, and 4,209 on Twitter.

Outcomes

The creation of the civil society- government working committee on a political dialogue process is a positive step towards dialogue on electoral reforms. The establishment of this mechanism can be attributed to CCEDU's efforts.

Secondly, CCEDU's post-election forums particularly held in Bundibugyo was a golden opportunity for dialogue between the Obudinga Bwa Bamba and Obudinga Bwa Rwenzururu within the context of the general elections and existing ethnic differences. This, according to the Bwamba County MP, Hon Gafabusa Richard Mujugira, was the first time in years that the two cultural institutions have met to confront their differences. The forum adopted a set of recommendations towards building sustainable mechanisms for conflict resolution and early warning in the region.

Lastly, the 'Basobola' campaign registered some positive results. There was a significant increase in the number of women who contested for mainstream parliamentary positions - from 38 in 2011 to 90 in 2016. The momentum has been built upon which this campaign will continue.

Challenges

Government's reluctance to effect meaningful electoral reforms is regrettable. Mindful of the promises made by the government during the UPR in November 2016, CCEDU and her partners will have to devise new strategies to realise these promises.

Ms. Namansa a former Luweero district Woman MP contestant sharing her experience in politics at the Democracy House, Nsambya on 17th June 2016



Participants at the post election forum in Jinja, 2nd September 2015

III. CITIZENS ELECTION OBSERVERS NETWORK UGANDA (CEON-U)

In 2015 and 2016, FHRI was host to the Citizens Election Observers Network –Uganda (CEON-U). CEON-U was a consortium of eighteen civil society organisations that agreed to conduct a unified, comprehensive and effective domestic election observation mission for the 2016 general elections. The secretariat successfully wound up on 30th June 2016.

Objective

To enhance the integrity of the election process by deterring and exposing irregularities.

Implementation

The civil society organisations included, Action for Development (ACFODE), African Centre for Media Excellence (ACME), Citizens Watch-It (CEW-IT), Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE), Women in Democracy and Governance (WDG), Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI), Citizens' Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU), Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (HRAPF), Human Rights Network for Journalists (HRNJ), Human Rights Network-Uganda (HURINET-U), Legal Aid Service Providers' Network (LASPNET), National Union of Disabled Persons in Uganda (NUDIPU), Public Interest Law Clinic (PILAC), The Uganda NGO Forum (UNNGOF), Uganda Governance Monitoring Platform (UGMP), Transparency International-Uganda (TI-U), Alliance for Campaign Finance Monitoring (ACFIM), Uganda Women's Network (UWONET), Uganda Youth Network (UYONET), Western Ankole Civil Society Forum (WACSOF), Women Leadership Development (WLEDE) and Women's Democracy Network-Uganda Chapter (WDN-U).

CEON-U was structured at three levels namely, the Steering Committee (Directors of member organisations), the Coordination Committee (technical committee) and, the Sub-National Organisations (implementers/ regional coordinators).

To successfully manage and implement the election observation project, CEON-U divided the country into 18 regions. These were: Acholi, Ankole, Buganda A, Buganda B, Buganda C, Buganda D, Buganda E, Bugisu, Bukedi, Bunyoro, Busoga, Karamoja, Kigezi, Lango, Rwenzori, Sebei, Teso and West Nile. These regions were represented by 23 Sub National Organisations who supported the implementation of the CEON-U's activities at the regional level.

The CEON-U secretariat comprised of 18 staff (9 male and 9 female) headed by a National Coordinator. It was located at the Democracy House, Plot 1111 Lulume Road, Nsambya.

Planned Activities

In 2016, CEON-U planned activities in the pre, during and post election periods. These included; documentation and production of election related report, publication of press releases, deployment of election observers, convene post election fora and, development of an outreach strategy.

1. PRE-ELECTION

With technical support from the National Democratic Institute (NDI), CEON-U developed a central database to analyse and compile reports submitted by the 223 constituency election observers spread out in all districts across the country. On a weekly basis, Long Term Observers submitted reports based on a checklist of questions on election administration, voter education, campaigns, campaign financing, electoral violence, security and the media. Reports were submitted through the smart phones Open Data Kit platform (ODK). Critical incident reports were further submitted by the 23 regional coordinators.

Out of this information, CEON-U released 4 pre-election reports and press statements.



CEON-U observers at the main data centre at Hotel Africana, Kampala, February 2016

2. ELECTION DAY (E-DAY)

On E-day, CEON-U deployed observers at 700 polling stations. CEON-U published four election-day press statements and one final election observation report which was launched on 30th June 2016 at Hotel Africana, and titled, 'General Elections 2016: Revisiting the Democracy Construct'. The final report engaged over 50 media houses, 5 News Papers and 11 TV stations.

The election observers' reports were further utilised to trouble shoot and engage election management officials like the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission on election irregularities. One such engagement was when CEON-U met with the EC Chairperson Dr Badru Kiggundu on E-day and discussed the delays experienced in Kampala and Wakiso.

3. LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

223 LTOs were deployed to observe the Local Council elections. CEON-U published a report on the LC and Municipal Council elections of 2016.

4. POST ELECTION AUDIT

Shortly after the general elections, CEON-U conducted post-election audit activities including an opinion survey on the 2016 general elections. The survey was meant to document electoral irregularities and document incidents that might have not been captured by CEON-U pre election and e-day reports. In this respect, Focus Group Discussions were held in constituencies/districts considered as hot-spots. These included; Tororo, Gulu, Kotido, Butambala, Serere, Jinja, Mayuge, Iganga, Mukono, Kasese, Bundibugyo and Ntungamo. The findings will inform CCEDU's Citizens Electoral Reform Agenda (CERA)

CEON-U SEEKS TO BE ADMITTED AT AMICUS CURIAE IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION PETITION NO. 1 OF 2016

On 12th March 2016, FHRI together with 7 members of the CEON-U including FIDA U, Chapter Four Uganda, HURINET, CCG, Kituo Cha Katiba, LASPNET and Transparency International filed Civil Application No. 3 of 2016 seeking to be admitted as amici curiae in Presidential Election Petition No. 1 of 2016, between Rt. Hon Amama Mbabazi as the petitioner and Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, Electoral Commission and the Attorney General as Respondents.

The motion was premised on the fact that the Applicants observed the presidential and parliamentary elections through CEON-U and were in possession of valuable information that would offer a unique contribution to the resolution of the issues before the court. Although FHRI and her counterparts were not admitted as such, the Supreme Court ruling delivered on 31st March 2016 acknowledged CEON-U's role in the 2016 general elections drawing attention to the recommendations in the CEON-U reports.

4. OUT-REACH STRATEGY

CEON-U developed and implemented an out-reach strategy through which a number of stakeholders including the Electoral Commission, political parties, religious leaders and journalists were sensitised on CEON-U's mission. These platforms were also utilised to disseminate CEON-U's election observation reports.

Outcomes

The acknowledgement of CEON-U's role in observing the general elections in the Supreme Court ruling delivered on 31st March 2016 in the matter of between Rt. Hon Amama Mbabazi as the Petitioner and Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, Electoral Commission and the Attorney General as Respondents, is proof of the impact of the domestic observer mission in 2016.

Challenges

The shut down of online platforms by Government on election day affected the operations of CEON-U as its reporting and transmission structure was highly dependent on these. The inability by some observers to access tabulation centres due to obstruction by state agents, further impacted on CEON-U's timely reporting.



The inability by some observers to access tabulation centres due to obstruction by state agents, further impacted on CEON-U's timely reporting.



ACTION PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKING

FHRI continues to work closely with a wide range of institutions and groups pursuing similar objectives at the local, national and international levels. The networking affords FHRI an opportunity to contribute to the global, regional and national human rights agenda; share contextual information on different human rights situations and, best practices and initiate new partnerships and agendas.

Objective

To work closely with other actors in order to promote adherence to human rights standards at the national and international level.

Implementation

In 2016, networking took diverse forms-joint campaigns, country visits, internships, volunteer placements and, participation in national, regional and international events.

1. COALITIONS

FHRI is a member of thirteen (13) networks/coalitions. It plays various roles in the following networks:

1. CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Defenddefenders/ East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP)
2. COORDINATOR
The East African Coalition Against the Death Penalty (EACADP)
3. VICE PRESIDENT
Federation of International Human Rights Defenders (FIDH)
4. MEMBER, STEERING COMMITTEE
World Coalition Against the Death Penalty
5. CHAIRPERSON, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Citizens' Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU)
6. CHAIRPERSON, STEERING COMMITTEE
Citizens Election Observation Network- Uganda (CEON-U)
7. BOARD MEMBER, BOARD OF DIRECTORS
National Coalition for Human Rights Defenders in Uganda

Besides the leadership positions, FHRI was also active member of the following networks/coalitions in 2016:

1. Human Rights Network – Uganda (HURINET-U)
2. Development Network of Indigenous Voluntary Associations (DENIVA)
3. Legal Aid Services Providers Network (LASPNET)
4. Uganda Child Rights NGO Network (UCRNN)
5. Uganda Governance Monitoring Platform (UGMP)

2. EVENTS ATTENDED IN 2016

In 2016, FHRI participated in over 136 events organized by partners, civil society actors and government institutions on human rights, governance and democracy. Some of these include:

- Breakfast meeting with the Minister of Internal Affairs at Hotel Africana, 7th April 2016, Kampala.
- Civil society dialogue on the death penalty organized by Centre for policy analysis under its Parliament Watch Uganda Initiative at Piatto Restaurant, 10th May 2016, Kampala
- Disability orientation training organized by National Union of Disabled persons of Uganda at NUDIPU, 30th May 2016, Kampala.
- Validation meeting on the Alternative Dispute Resolution project organized by Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs at Imperial Royale Hotel, 30th June 2016.
- Roundtable discussion on the Platform for Labour Action (PLA) study at Silver Springs Bugolobi, 5th June 2016, Kampala.
- Strategic dialogue to develop a civil society strategy organized by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung at Silver Springs on 21st July 2017, Kampala.
- Diversity Management meeting organized by the National Coalition for Human Rights Defenders-Uganda (NCHRD-U) at Arch Hotel, 31st August 2017, Kampala
- Meeting for the Human Rights Sub-Committee at the Uganda Police Force Headquarters Naguru, 1st September 2017, Kampala
- US Embassy Youth Entrepreneurship workshop organized by the US Embassy at Lake Bunyonyi, 7th -10th September 2016, Kabale.
- Uganda Law society colloquium on presidential election petition No.1 of 2016 organized by Uganda Law Society at Serena Hotel, 13th September 2016, Kampala
- Commemoration of the World Bioethics Day under the theme, 'Human Dignity', organised by the Mulago Medical School, 19th October 2016,
- Meeting with the revival of women's land Rights Movement organized by the women's land rights movement at Hotel Africana, 10th November 2016, Kampala.
- Consultative meeting with Civil Society Organization organized by EU CSO Partners at Kampala Serena Hotel 15th November 2016, Kampala.
- Legal aid clinic organized by RDC at the RDC's office grounds, 24th November 2016, Mukono.
- International Symposium on the 10th Anniversary of the African Court organized by the African Court in Arusha, 21st -22nd November 2016, The United Republic of Tanzania.
- Results sharing symposium organized by IDF at Africana Hotel. 10th November 2016
- Awareness Workshop for paralegals organized by Help Age International at Land Mark View Hotel, 22nd November 2016.

Outcomes

The success registered in 2016 with respect to our work on Uganda's UPR, the death penalty campaign, civic space, access to justice, electoral reforms, election observation and judicial strengthening is attributed to the diverse range of partnerships.

Challenges

The increased demand for FHRI's involvement in many initiatives calls for a careful cost-benefit analysis and value addition to ensure unanimity in a common agenda or goal.

ORGANISATIONAL

DEVELOPMENT

The implementation of FHRI's program requires efficient systems, a welltrained and motivated staff and creative leadership. This section aims to document the steps taken in this direction.

II. ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The implementation of FHRI's program requires efficient systems, a welltrained and motivated staff and creative leadership. This section aims to document the steps taken in this direction.

Objective

To build a sustainable and innovative human rights advocacy organisation in Uganda.

Implementation

The Action has four components:

1. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)
2. Human Resource Development;
 - i. Staffing
 - ii. Internships
 - iii. Staff training and development
3. Governing Bodies
4. Office Administration.

1. MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E)

The M&E component tracks progress of program implementation, outcomes and impact for effective human rights advocacy. The following activities were carried out in 2016:

- The annual work plan, year planner and budget for 2016 - form part of the M & E system. These instruments were updated for 2016.
- Two (2) quarterly program review meetings were held on 15th April 2016 and 16th July 2016.
- Three (3) quarterly Board of Directors meetings were held on 16th April 2016, 16th July 2016 and 17th December 2016.
- Two (2) strategic bi-annual partnership meetings were held with DGF at the Human Rights House, Nsambya on 11th April 2016 and 28th November 2016.
- During the year, DGF and FHRI adopted the final report arising from the Joint Annual Review of FHRI's program in 2015. The review sought to assess FHRI's progress towards delivery of agreed outputs and outcomes as articulated in the FHRI Strategic Plan (2012 – 2016).
- Two (2) strategic planning sessions were held on; 17th – 21st October and on 7th December 2016 at Caccia Lodge in Munyonyo.

2. HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

This component strives to improve staff capacity for effective implementation of the program. Human Resource Development has three components, namely, staffing, Internships and, staff training and development.

Staffing

The FHRI team comprises of technical and administrative support staff. In 2016, FHRI staff position stood as follows

Program	Total number of staff	Male	Female
FHRI	37	15	22
PAS (Secretariat)	5	3	2
PAS (Social Workers)	57	33	24
PAS (Paralegals)	50	23	27

PAS (Community Legal Volunteers)	40	25	15
CCEDU (Secretariat)	12	7	5
CEQN-U	16	7	9
Totals	217	113	104

Staff Training and Development

Following the Organisational Capacity Assessment exercise conducted by AKIJUL Consultants in December 2014, FHRI adopted an Institutional Strengthening Plan (ISP) in 2015. The ISP prioritizes five thematic areas for capacity strengthening including, monitoring and evaluation, fundraising and donor relations, external communications, safety and security and advocacy. The ISP guides institutional strengthening and results based planning, budgeting, program review and reporting.

Within this framework, 3 capacity building sessions were conducted for FHRI staff on developing an advocacy strategy on 12th February 2016, facilitated by Ms Jill Kyotuheire, Freedom House Advocacy Specialist; Monitoring and Evaluation conducted on 9th March 2016 facilitated by Mr Janani Luwum, Freedom House Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist and; fundraising and donor relations conducted from 22nd – 23rd September 2016 conducted by Ms Barbara Musoke Ntambi, Communication Specialist, Democratic Governance Facility (DGF).

Relatedly, on 8th July 2016, the Capacity Development Division of FHRI conducted a human rights orientation training for the interns hosted during the year.

Lastly, Ms Claire Nampala, Project Officer, FHRI, attended the East African Human Rights Training Program (EQUITAS), from 24th April - 6th May 2016, in Arusha, Tanzania.

Internships

In 2016, FHRI hosted a total of 40 interns (30 women and 10 men). The interns were selected from universities based in Uganda and abroad. The universities, represented by their students, were: Makerere University, Law Development Centre, Uganda Christian University (UCU), Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU). Maastricht University - Netherlands, Osgoode Law School - Canada and Stanford University- USA. The list on the following page details the interns that were hosted by FHRI.



FHRI staff during the capacity building session on fundraising held at the Human Right House Nsambya, 23rd September 2016

Interns Hosted by FHRI In 2016

Name		FHRI Division
Namuganyi Aidah Nsumba	Makerere University	Legal Aid
Wembabazi Lydia N	Makerere University	CCEDU
Nassuna Noeline	Makerere University	PAS
Nalubbo Mary Leticia	Makerere University	CDD
Septemba Olga Nantume M	Makerere University	CEON-U
Akoragye Lussie	Makerere University	PAS
Kahuhira Misaki	Uganda Martyrs University	PAS
Mukiza Kenneth	Makerere University	CEON- U
Nansumba Berinda	Makerere University	CCEDU
Nakawungu Norah	Makerere University	CCEDU
Ofwono Willy Douglas	Makerere University	Research
Baguma Moses	Makerere University	Research
Stecia Namigadde	Makerere University	Research
Allan Kabaale	Makerere University	CCEDU
Akankwasa mackline	Makerere University	CDD
Adeke Janet Ruth	Islamic University in Uganda	LSD
Brenda Kyarukunda	Makerere University	CDD
Akech Esther	Uganda Martyrs University	CDD/LSD
Rutaremwu John Paul	Makerere University	LSD
Namuli Halima	Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU)	LSD
Amahoro Yvonne	Uganda Christian University	CDD/Death Penalty
Namayanja Kristina Neona	Uganda Christian University	CCEDU
Isabella C. Namuyomba	Uganda Christian University	LSD/Rights & Rule of Law
Natukunda Sharlot	Makerere University	Rights and Rule of Law
Akino Jacintah	Makerere University	LSD
Martha Ajambo	Uganda Christian University	CEON-U
Nabakaabya Rosette Teddy	Makerere University	CDD
Kyazike Shariter	Makerere University	CDD
Awori Georgina Hope	Uganda Christian University	CDD
Ssemamanda Gonzaga	Makerere University	CID/PAS
Birungi Margaret	Makerere University	CID/CDD
Namutebi Kanyike Tracy	Makerere University	CID/CDD
Kasimbi Philip	Law Development Centre	LSD
Isaac Kugonza	Law Development Centre	LSD
Nakayi Gloria	Law Development Centre	LSD
Alisha Kaba	Maastricht University, Netherlands	DEDP/ Research
Anthony D'Agostino	Osgoode Law School	Research
Alana Dhanani	Osgoode Law School	Research
Veronika Virkenborg	LLB.	Research
Mena Kalokoh	Stanford University	Research

3. GOVERNING BODIES

FHRI is a membership organisation with an organisational structure that comprises the General Assembly, Patron, Trustees, Board of Directors, the Working Group and the secretariat.

While the General Assembly is the supreme governing body of FHRI, the Trustees are the custodians of FHRI Constitution and property. The Patron on the other hand promotes awareness of the values and mission of FHRI while the Working Group is a think-tank of the organisation, with a mandate of providing strategic direction on emerging issues. The Working Group is elected by the General Assembly.

The Board of Directors provides strategic direction to the organisation while the secretariat is the implementing arm. FHRI holds Annual General Meetings (AGM) for its membership to reflect, adopt and approve new strategic plans, annual reports and the audit reports. FHRI also convenes General Assemblies every three years to elect new members to the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors meets three times a year to appraise staff, discuss and approve activity reports, budgets and program work plans. The 3 quarterly Board of Directors meetings were held on 16th April 2016, 16th July 2016 & 17th December 2016.

FHRI's Board of Directors 2015-2018

Name	Position	Affiliation
Rev Dr John Kateeba Tumwine	Chairperson	Board member of the Inter Religious Council
Ms Rosetti Nabbumba Nayenga	Vice Chairperson	Deputy Head of the Budget Monitoring and Accountability Unit, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
Ms Patricia Atim P'Qdong	Hon Secretary	Lecturer at the School of Law, Makerere University
Mr Edward Peace Obura	Hon Treasurer	College Registrar, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Makerere University
Mr Frank Nigel Othembi	Member	Director, Law Development Centre
Mr Jack Kururagire	Member	Commissioner in Charge of Inspectorate, Uganda Prisons Service
Ms Evelyn Korishaba Walimbwa	Member	Regional Coordinator (Western region), Women Together for Development (WOTODEV)
Dr Livingstone Sewanyana	Ex-Officio	Executive Director, FHRI

FHRI was unable to convene the 2016 Annual General Meeting (AGM) for its members due to financial limitations. A proposal to hold the meeting every 2 years was adopted by the FHRI Board of Directors on 17th December 2016. This will be presented to the members in 2017 for approval.

The Trustees, Patron and Working Group continued to deliver on their mandate and support the organisation in various capacities. They are presented below:

Mrs. Mary Sewamuwe <i>Minnesota Health International</i>	Mrs. Sarah Mukiibi. S. <i>Libra Consultants Limited</i>	Mr. Wycliffe Birungi <i>Birungi & Co Advocates</i>
Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana <i>FHRI</i>	Trustees	Mr. Albert Mukundane <i>Consultant</i>
Prof. Dr. Hon Justice George Kanyeihamba <i>GW Kanyeihamba & Co. Advocates</i>		
Patron		
Mr. James Kizito-Mayanja <i>Member</i>	Rev. Dr. John Kateeba Tumwine <i>Member</i>	Her Worship Stella Amabilis <i>Member</i>
Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana <i>Ex-officio</i>	Working Group	Mr. Mwambustya Ndebese <i>Member</i>
Mr. Patrick Semwogerere <i>Member</i>		

4. OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

In 2016, FHRI paid its salary and utility bills on a regular basis. Assets were regularly maintained despite the high operational costs. Acquisitions in 2016 included:

- 2 desktop computers and accessories
- 6 laptops
- Office furniture (Display rack)

The organisation duly insured, serviced and repaired its equipment including vehicles, photocopiers, the generator, computers and accessories.

STAFF

DIRECTORY 2016

STAFF DIRECTORY 2016

EXECUTIVE OFFICE



Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana
Executive Director



Ms. Sheila Muwanga
Deputy Executive Director (Programs)



Ms. Milly Nakakande
Executive Manager



Ms. Isabella Bwiire
Executive Manager



Ms. Gloria Akello
Project Intern



Ms. Lizet Vlamings
Senior Researcher

RESEARCH DIVISION



Mr. Rashid Bunya
Research Associate

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION



Ms. Claire Nampala
Project Officer



Ms. Lucy Nantume
Director Civic Education
Manager Death Penalty



Mr. Elly Kasirye
Project Officer



Ms. Connie Numbi
Project Officer - Death Penalty

LEGAL SERVICES



Ms. Nassim Nakabugo
Legal Associate



Ms. Maria Kaddu
Director



Mr. George Musisi
Manager - Legal Aid Unit



Ms. Solome Nagadya
Legal Officer



Ms. Namukasa Josephine
Associate



Ms. Kaggwa Esther
Legal Associate



Ms. Rosabella Ntanzu
Project Officer Rights Rule of Law



Ms. Elizabeth Nantamu
Coordinator

EXTERNAL SERVICES



Mr. Isaac Ssekuuma
IT Officer

CCEDU



Ms. Charity Kalebbo
Manager - Communication
and Advocacy



Ms. Beatrice Icibo
Finance & Administration
Manager



Mr. Crispy Kaheru
Coordinator



Mr. Keneth Raffer Wanda
Accounts Officer



Mr. Iwan Mwaka
Manager - Electoral
Process Observation



Ms. Faridah Lule
Project Associate - Electoral
Process Observation



Ms. Suzan Nalukwago
Project Associate -
Advocacy



Mr. Moses Nyanzi
Driver



Ms. Deborah Namirimu
Project Associate -
Communication

PARALEGAL ADVISORY SERVICES



Ms. Faith Mutumba
Legal Officer



Ms. Elinor Wanyama
Chemonges
National Coordinator



Mr. Otim Emmanuel
Administrative Assistant



Mr. Hannington Musisi
Driver

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION



Ms. Gladys Mirembe
Finance and Administration Assistant



Ms. Rose Kamuli Mwesigwa
Director Finance and
Administration



Mr. Patrick Lugunga
Accountant



Ms. Winnie Munyegera
Administrative Assistant

ADMINISTRATION



Mr. Kyazze Moses
Senior Driver



Ms. Nakato Elizabeth
Front Desk Officer



Mr. Sebaana Stephen
Office Manager



Mr. Mathew Sekitto
Office Assistant



Mr. Allan Semalulu
Senior Driver



Mr. Frank Sendawula
Gardener/Cleaner



Ms. Olivia Kigozi
Welfare Assistant



Mr. Richard Okeya
Security Guard



Mr. Godi Hassan
Gardener

FINANCIAL

OVERVIEW

III. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Carr Stanyer Sims & Co.

Certified Public Accountants

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Independent Auditor's Report

to the members of Foundation for Human Rights Initiative

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of **Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI)**, which comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at **31 December 2016**, and the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, as set out on pages 24 to 71.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the FHRI as at 31 December 2016, and (of) its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs), the Uganda Companies Act, 2012 and comply with FHRI financial procedures.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of FHRI in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Uganda, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of the Board of Directors for the Financial Statements

The Board is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with FHRI financial reporting guidelines, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Board is responsible for assessing the organisation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the organisation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the organisation's financial reporting process.

Carr Stanyer Sims & Co.

Certified Public Accountants

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Independent Auditor's Report to the members of Foundation for Human Rights Initiative

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the organisation's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the organisation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the organisation to cease to continue as a going concern.

Carr Stanyer Sims & Co.

Certified Public Accountants

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Independent Auditor's Report

to the members of Foundation for Human Rights Initiative

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the organisation's activities within the geographical areas of FHRI to express an opinion on the financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the organisation audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

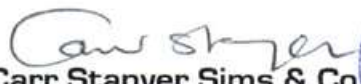
We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

The Companies Act, 2012 requires that in carrying out our audit we consider and report to you the following matters. We confirm that:

- (i) We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- (ii) In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the Company, so far as appears from our examination of those books; and
- (iii) The Financial Statements are in agreement with the books of account.

The Engagement Partner responsible for the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is CPA John C. Mpalampa (P0020).


Carr Stanyer Sims & Co.
Certified Public Accountants



- 1 JUN 2017

Kampala, Uganda

FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE (FHRI)

(A Company Limited by Guarantee, and not having a Share Capital)

Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 31 December 2016

	Note	2016 Actual Ushs.	2016 Budget Ushs.	2015 Actual Ushs.
INCOME				
General Grants	12.1	7,204,575,368	8,328,125,654	11,246,204,783
Donations in Kind	12.2	-	-	137,418,300
FHRI Income	13	358,488,957	372,798,275	565,813,254
TOTAL INCOME		7,563,064,325	8,700,923,929	11,949,436,337
Less: Capital Expenditure		(183,166,173)	(82,164,000)	(478,634,987)
Balance available for recurrent expenditure		7,379,898,152	8,618,759,929	11,470,801,350
RECURRENT EXPENDITURE				
PROGRAMMES				
Research, Advocacy and Lobbying				
Routine Monitoring		15,289,541	15,487,000	18,762,700
Thematic report production		79,610,802	82,945,775	68,800,691
Treaty Reporting		16,187,580	17,650,000	60,000
Lower level Platform		-	-	85,433,234
Salary costs		94,189,401	83,515,627	226,848,899
Sub-total Research, Advocacy and Lobbying		205,277,324	199,598,402	399,905,524
Legal Services				
Legal Aid Services		85,995,351	92,147,345	161,806,874
Mobile legal Camps		38,716,500	41,442,000	63,452,350
Representation of Death Row Inmates		34,484,956	34,726,674	118,442,047
Public Interest Litigation/Legislative Advocacy		351,460,984	441,651,956	425,021,539
Kalangala office		32,196,409	32,161,000	-
Capacity Building for local leaders		15,220,000	16,000,000	-
Salary costs		76,356,187	77,427,328	334,624,601
Sub-total Legal Services		634,430,387	735,556,303	1,103,347,411
CIVIC EDUCATION				
Students Leadership Forum		10,172,000	11,600,000	-
Strengthening SRHR Kalangala		144,406,267	139,865,000	-
Social Accountability		0	0	67,466,000
University Human Rights Network		32,100,000	34,500,000	85,249,000
Private Sector Outreach		0	0	6,550,000
Civic awareness camps		16,851,900	17,044,446	31,360,744
Human Rights Concerts and Anthem		3,560,000	3,500,000	22,030,000
Salary costs		30,571,013	30,170,000	158,396,747
Building Civic Competence		20,114,461	24,000,000	5,045,703
Sub-total Support to CBHR		257,775,641	260,679,446	376,098,194
External Services				
Communication and Information Management		30,123,290	31,080,000	50,986,401
Documentation		22,829,252	25,000,000	26,333,597
Public Affairs		490,000	600,000	37,071,500
Volunteer and Internship fund		2,200,000	2,250,000	44,506,482
Salary costs		30,367,448	30,910,000	98,126,082
Partnerships		52,510,756	32,008,182	137,896,365
Sub-total External Services		138,520,746	121,848,182	394,920,427

FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE (FHRI)

(A Company Limited by Guarantee, and not having a Share Capital)

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for the year ended 31 December 2016

	Note	2016 Actual Ushs.	2016 Budget Ushs.	2015 Actual Ushs.
Organisational Development				
Periodic Review and Staff Retreat		4,826,400	4,700,000	3,902,500
Human Resource Development		2,900,000	3,620,000	26,113,659
Governing bodies		3,755,000	7,500,000	51,924,000
Accounting software - Pastel		-	-	3,570,000
Alarm System (Human Rights House)		-	-	7,176,000
Monitoring and Evaluation		47,968,327	51,000,000	-
Salary costs		1,165,025,370	1,165,105,881	607,968,532
Staff medical		64,260,000	64,008,000	-
Sub-total Organisational Development		1,288,735,097	1,295,933,881	700,654,691
Programme Support		568,621	20,000,000	2,966,340
Special Projects				
CCEDU				
Field Activation				
Vehicle hire		20,072,114	28,990,000	45,010,000
Per diem		20,720,000	25,210,000	41,990,000
Media Activations & Engagements - MAAD ADV		50,000,120	49,998,919	450,001,081
Alternative Messaging - Peripheral Visual Intern		8,027,251	7,699,806	72,300,194
Media Messaging / BUY		383,337,342	375,377,762	750,308,417
Television				
Newscaster endorsements		1,900,000	36,490,000	-
Spot adverts		31,681,379	24,974,233	-
Talk show time		72,315,000	70,000,000	-
Re-production of television commercial		28,055,975	28,055,975	-
Print				
Strip adverts		49,592,499	(2,184,496)	-
campaign user toolkit		13,150,000	1,160,000	-
Media Monitoring (5%) IPSOS		-	10,252,525	11,800,000
Text Based messaging		17,977,070	17,977,070	92,500,000
CCEDU Membership engagement		-	-	38,565,552
Travel		-	-	24,704,714
Communication		-	-	543,340
Media - OMNICO Limited		-	-	632,022,094
Local Cinema PVI		-	-	61,160,131
Information Communication Technology		-	-	31,543,842
Observation Mission		-	-	109,033,500
Data Management		-	-	8,520,749
Media Campaigns		-	-	750,000
Human Resource		150,990,005	165,999,998	278,833,094
Electoral Reform Advocacy		-	-	9,431,288
Election Observation (By elections)		-	-	4,450,000
Membership Management Information System		-	-	20,414,999
Monitoring and Evaluation				
Campaign evaluation visits		12,720,000	10,876,389	-
Structured surveys (per phase)		61,351,953	57,022,930	52,185,011
Communication task force		-	978,600	-
Equipments		1,736,000	1,166,300	129,563,996
Sub-total Special Projects CCEDU		923,626,708	910,046,011	2,865,632,002

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	Note	2016 Actual Ushs.	2016 Budget Ushs.	2015 Actual Ushs.
Project No. 0313_CCEDU				
Strengthening the Legislative and Policy Framework				
Post-election reflection fora		31,818,000	31,000,000	-
Lobby meetings with key policy influencers		4,327,300	4,200,000	-
Travel - vehicle hire/day		6,950,000	3,750,000	-
Per diem - for regional post-election reflection fora		8,540,000	6,300,000	-
Field travel fuel		1,732,884	2,184,000	-
Sub-total		53,368,184	47,434,000	-
Electoral Process Monitoring				
Pre-election assessment for by-elections		15,742,800	35,000,000	-
Election day observation for by-elections		6,250,000	25,000,000	-
Installation of toll-free election reporting hotline		21,500,000	21,500,000	-
Post-election reporting and dissemination		912,892	2,500,000	-
Travel - vehicle hire/day		20,801,200	7,500,000	-
Per diem		6,160,000	12,600,000	-
Field travel fuel		2,312,640	8,995,980	-
Sub-total		73,679,532	113,095,980	-
Strengthening Civic Awareness on the Electoral Process				
Creative new media messaging		7,748,797	43,200,000	-
M&E Field Visits-By-Election Observation				
M&E field visits by-election observation		14,884,500	15,000,000	-
Quarterly task force/board review meetings		1,990,800	1,600,000	-
Fuel- town running		16,380,000	16,380,000	-
Sub-total		33,255,300	32,980,000	-
Programme Salaries				
Co-coordinator		59,850,000	59,850,000	-
Manager Advocacy and Communication		36,000,000	36,000,000	-
Manager - Electoral Process Observation		36,000,000	36,000,000	-
IT Officer		6,370,338	25,200,000	-
Finance and Administration Manager		37,800,000	37,800,000	-
Accounts Officer		18,900,000	18,900,000	-
Project Associate		31,111,013	12,281,358	-
Driver		6,000,004	6,000,000	-
10% NSSF contribution		23,203,135	23,203,136	-
Sub-total		255,234,490	255,234,494	-
Institutional and Organisational				
Organisational review and restructuring		-	12,000,000	-
Capacity building of staff		10,507,250	10,000,000	-
Hosting of CCEDU website		1,440,000	1,400,000	-
Off-site rental of secure server premises		9,450,000	14,868,000	-
Sub-total		21,397,250	38,268,000	-
Sub-total CCEDU		1,368,310,261	1,440,258,485	2,865,632,002

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	Note	2016 Actual Ushs.	2016 Budget Ushs.	2015 Actual Ushs.
PAS				
One OFF COSTS		20,028,000	20,167,806	700,000
Coordination costs		56,659,555	60,601,361	109,326,372
Investment costs		960,000	960,000	2,737,600
Running costs		373,615,000	385,041,040	1,169,189,131
Administrative costs		47,801,241	45,703,200	98,077,205
PAS-Busia		175,373,400	197,814,198	133,942,031
Tracing and sensitization of suspects		140,561,950	143,169,600	-
Attending police suspect parades		9,360,000	9,360,000	-
Legal assistance to Juveniles		15,000,000	15,000,000	-
PAS outreach costs		37,575,000	37,485,000	-
Information on police on 48 hour rule		3,120,000	3,120,000	-
PAS sites Programme costs		2,340,000	2,340,000	-
Legal Aid services		44,255,000	45,180,000	-
Community sensitization by CLVs		5,400,000	5,400,000	-
Capacity Building session for CLVs		1,930,000	1,930,000	-
Programme field running costs for CLVs		3,860,000	3,860,000	-
Monitoring and Evaluation		26,735,000	26,335,000	-
Institutional and Organizational Development		32,649,447	41,800,000	-
7% Management & Administrative cost		33,142,529	33,504,332	-
Sub-total Special Projects PAS		1,030,366,122	1,078,771,537	1,513,972,339
CEON-U				
Objective 1				
Identification and deployment of observers		7,519,000	4,343,000	-
Deployment of LTOs and STOs		573,137,000	390,673,000	383,958,915
Activity I - Training of 32 TOTs		31,270,500	26,672,480	50,066,100
Activity II - Training of 200 LTOs		16,796,000	104,226,232	-
Activity III - Training of 700 LTOs		614,455,878	154,742,016	277,151,060
Activity IV - E-Day Data Centre		71,562,720	155,174,448	-
Activity V - Training and Support for E-day		11,617,000	389,611,872	-
Activity VI - Development and production of election observation materials, manuals, budgets and bibles for identification		255,834,692	234,031,874	22,150,000
Sub-grants		142,962,301	204,694,776	-
Sub-total Objective 1		1,725,155,091	1,664,169,698	733,326,075
Objective 2				
Public outreach to create awareness		-	(478,233)	35,740,100
Production of visibility materials		5,300,000	14,260,000	24,960,000
Production of Observation reports		37,196,000	30,300,000	2,689,200
Regular engagement with key stakeholders		2,428,900	928,900	-
Press briefings and media engagement		77,054,140	49,400,000	27,596,500
Sub-total Objective 2		121,979,040	94,410,667	90,985,800

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Objective 3				
Coordination Unit (Human Resource)		503,839,945	363,733,915	285,964,361
CEON Governance		561,500	(900,000)	458,500
Equipment and Furniture		6,060,000	(6,960,805)	10,959,835
Monitoring and Evaluation		114,258,300	69,454,140	85,500,000
NDI expenses		3,493,358	-	-
FHRI expenses after project closure		8,185,402	-	-
Sub-total Operation Costs		636,398,505	425,327,250	382,882,696
Sub-total CEON-U		2,483,532,636	2,183,907,615	1,207,194,571
Specific Grants				
Penal Reform International - Community Service		3,025,014	5,517,579	146,428,665
ICNL		34,803,550	40,800,000	-
Promoting the Electoral Process in Uganda		344,597,385	364,801,500	311,307,835
Integrity Action		-	-	1,840,000
ICJ Kenya		-	-	11,002,468
SSA/UHSNET		-	-	7,100,000
WFD Consultancy		-	-	15,585,500
CIVICUS		9,479,740	9,877,000	-
Penal Reform International-Africa Office		30,289,155	34,000,000	-
Sub-total Other Special Projects		422,194,844	454,996,079	493,264,468
Total Programme Expenditure		7,829,711,679	7,791,549,930	9,057,955,967
OFFICE ADMINISTRATION				
Staff salaries, benefits and taxes		393,065,728	406,737,334	543,988,961
Office administration		158,163,649	201,582,373	203,427,760
Communication and postage		23,710,021	58,877,760	40,937,616
Space and utilities		36,439,791	9,600,000	38,132,142
Office supplies and stationery		1,144,000	2,480,000	9,532,663
Generator and vehicle fuel		25,470,000	36,000,000	50,293,600
Audit		32,825,000	32,259,960	20,500,000
Furniture and equipment maintenance		12,908,782	16,800,000	23,536,800
Insurance		14,288,648	15,401,781	35,601,080
Bank charges		32,927,573	(5,229,209)	32,321,108
Governing bodies		-	-	2,020,000
Sub-total Office Administration		730,943,192	774,509,999	1,000,291,730
Human Rights House				
Human Rights House maintenance		12,016,494	15,000,000	14,827,712
Nsambya House maintenance-DH		300,000	500,000	15,576,594
Sub-total Human Rights House		12,316,494	15,500,000	30,404,306

CONCLUSION

For the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI), 2016 was not an ordinary year. In 2016 FHRI marked more than two rewarding decades of human rights activism in Uganda.

IV. CONCLUSION

For the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI), 2016 was not an ordinary year. In 2016 FHRI marked more than two rewarding decades of human rights activism in Uganda.

Looking back, despite the challenges, the signs of progress are visible. The changes at the policy, practice and institutional level bear testimony to this. As we look forward to the implementation of the 8th Strategic Plan (2017-2021), a new chapter opens. Determination, dedication and openness will surely drive us to new heights.

We shall count on you: our partners, friends and peers to move forward.

“TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE”



Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI)

Celebrating
25 years of human rights activism
in 2016



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Foundation for Human Right Initiative



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