



ANNUAL REPORT

Foundation for Human Rights
Initiative (FHRI)

2017



WHOAREWE

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 non-governmental 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 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 reforms, 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 2017, FHRI marked the first year in the implementation of its 8th Strategic Plan (2017-2021) titled, *'Between Rhetoric and Practice: Bridging the Democracy Divide in Uganda'*. In this five-year program FHRI recognizes the need for a paradigm shift, founded on a participatory approach, which is aimed at building pressure from below, through a citizen movement, to demand for respect for constitutional order, adherence to the rule of law and the protection and promotion of human rights. To achieve this aim, FHRI will work towards building active citizenship. In keeping with her mandate, vision and mission, FHRI shall further aspire to enhance access to justice for victims of human rights violations, the poor and vulnerable in Uganda. FHRI shall utilise the existing opportunities to bridge the gap between the government's rhetorical commitments, and the negative trends at legislative, policy and practice levels.

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), Africa 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, Koboko Civil Society Network, Soroti Development Association and NGO Network (SODANN), 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 (HURIPCEC), 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 (HRAFP), National Coalition Against the Death Penalty in Uganda, East African Coalition Against the Death penalty, Refugee Law Project (RLP), Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda (ACCU), Human Rights Centre Uganda (HRCU) 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, Demebe 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 Dockbella, 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 organisations that have supported the implementation of the 8th Strategic Plan (2017-2021) in 2017.

- British High Commission/ Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Citizen Election Watch IT (CEW-IT)
- Embassy of France in Uganda
- European Union (EU)
- Freedom House under the USAID Rights and Rule of Law Program (RRL)
- International Centre for Non-Profit Law (ICNL)
- National Endowment for Democracy (NED)
- Robert Bosch Foundation
- Democratic Governance Facility (DGF)
- UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR)
- World Alliance for Citizen Participation (CIVICUS)
- World Coalition Against Death Penalty (WCADP)
- International Centre for Non- Profit Law (ICNL)

FOREWORD



Rev Dr. John Kateeba
Chairperson FHRI Board of
Directors

Dear friends,

We give thanks to our God for enabling us steadily under hard situations register tangible results in the areas of human rights advocacy, rule of law, electoral reforms, legal aid work, election observation and civic education in 2017. To our Trustees, Board of Directors, life members, friends of FHRI, and partners, I salute you for your support towards the pursuance of FHRI's **Vision and Mission**. For those of us who were able to attend the 19th Annual General Meeting on 9th September 2017, thank you for your effective participation.

In 2017, FHRI marked 26 years of human rights activism in Uganda. For sure, FHRI has lived the test of time. Based on her Vision, Mission and Core Values, she has continued to be the 'Voice of the Voiceless'. FHRI now has a competitive advantage over and above many organizations particularly in the area of human rights, access to justice and electoral reforms. This competitive advantage has over the years become our culture.

In 2017, we continued to excel in the areas of capacity development, legal aid, research, advocacy and lobbying, rights and rule of law, electoral reform and election observation through CCEDU. We as members are proud of FHRI that for the last 26 years, she has an excellent track record in human rights monitoring, reporting and documentation, accessing justice to the poor and vulnerable, campaigning against the death penalty in Uganda, undertaking electoral reforms, conducting election observation, speaking out on key constitutional amendment related issues, strengthening judicial independence and, undertaking treaty reporting before the UN and the African Commission.

These achievements notwithstanding, there are still hard questions we must confront. Where and how should FHRI continue to be focused and relevant? With FHRI's new Five Year Strategic Plan (2017 – 2021) in place, how can members be involved more actively? How should we as a human rights movement respond to some of the challenges in our communities and the emerging issues of our times? We will need to reflect on these questions in the coming year.

Once again, allow me to thank our partners, particularly Government related bodies especially the Office of the Chief Justice, Uganda Prisons Service, Uganda Police and Parliament of Uganda for their continued collaboration. Last but not least, looking to the future, let us think and plan positively on how we can sustain our beloved organization. The Bible in Luke 12.56 says: ***'You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?'***

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY.

'Together We Can Make A Difference'



Rev. Dr. John Kateeba Tumwine
CHAIRPERSON, FHRI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FHRI BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2015 – 2018)



Rev Dr John Kateeba Tumwine
Chairperson



Ms. Rosetti N Nayenga
Vice Chairperson



Ms Patricia Atim P'Odong
Hon Secretary



Mr. Edward Peace Obura
Hon. Treasurer



Ms Evelyn Korishaba
Walimbwa
Member



Mr Jack Kururagyire
Member



Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana
Ex-Officio

2017 IN PERSPECTIVE



Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana
Executive Director

It is my honor to present to you FHRI's 26th Annual Report for the year 2017.

This report is significant to the Foundation as it provides an account of what has been accomplished in the maiden year of the implementation of FHRI's 8th Strategic Plan (2017 – 2021) titled; *'Between Rhetoric and Practice: Bridging the Democracy Divide in Uganda'*. This report is three stories: The first is what FHRI did in 2017, why we did it, and what difference it made in the lives of Ugandans.

The political, human rights and socio- economic context in which we operate has remained largely the same as last year. The Ugandan state remains largely a clientele state characterized by unequal power relations, weak state institutions, and a disempowered citizenry. Uganda continues to experience a democracy backlash. Human rights abuses are common, social exclusion is growing, and the gap between the rich and the poor continues to widen. Given the current economic meltdown, the private sector driven economic model is being questioned, as private investments come under intense pressure. In such a situation, the state is largely inept, and liberty trade- offs have become the norm. The space for free expression narrows, as policy and legislative pronouncements become more restrictive- bringing rights under intensive scrutiny; for example, the Constitutional (amendment) bill, 2017 that seeks to amend article 26 of the Constitution to provide for the arbitrary take- over of land, the anti-age limit campaign, and the on-going press and media censorship.

The key question remains, 'how do we respond to this state of powerlessness, and growing inequality among the citizenry?'

In an attempt to respond to this state of affairs, in 2017, FHRI pivoted its campaigns around the following: building a critical mass of human rights defenders by reaching out to all manner of citizen groups; expanding the civic space and rule of law through strategic litigation and increasing judicial activism; increasing access to justice by expanding the geographical scope of legal aid provision; increasing advocacy for the better enjoyment of freedom through human rights monitoring, reporting and dialogue, including campaigns for policy and legislative reform, the death penalty, and; building strong partnerships for collective action. The Highlights of our key interventions in 2017 include the following:

Under rights, monitoring and advocacy, FHRI prioritized the rights of pre- trial detainees. Research was conducted on this issue and a report and policy brief published thereof; **The Plight of Pre-trial Detainees in Uganda**, launched on 14th March 2017. A campaign to promote our findings continues among the different sector players including JLOS, Parliament, and within the African and UN human rights system.

Aware of the importance of peer review in advancing human rights, FHRI has in partnership with FIDH and CIVICUS made submissions to the African Commission on Human and People Rights and to the United Nations Human Rights Council during its 34th Session on 16th March 2017 in Geneva on Constitutionalism, rule of law and human rights. Of the 226 recommendations made by UN State Parties, Uganda government accepted 143, noted 65 and left 18 pending. Out of FHRI's advocacy efforts to secure commitment from government to improve access to justice, 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 exceeded FHRI's target of 5, relating to improving access

to justice and protecting civil and political rights. This is an optimistic indicator towards more responsive and rights based governance.

To promote policy and law reform consistent with agreed human rights principles, FHRI made several submissions to parliament; *On the Human Rights Enforcement Bill, 2015 which seeks to provide procedures for the enforcement of human rights under Article 50 (4) of the Uganda Constitution, 1995 (as amended)* before the legal and Parliamentary Affairs committee, and on the *Law Revision (penalties in Criminal Matters) Miscellaneous Amendment Bill, 2015* which aims at effecting the death penalty Supreme Court ruling in Susan Kigula vs. AG. before the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee.

In an effort to enhance spaces for civic action, create synergy and build civic competences, key interventions included, the University Human Rights Network, which has grown from 7 to 39 human rights associations in universities and other tertiary institutions. In 2017, the 10th inter-university competition under the theme, '*Our Rights, Our Freedom- Raising the Bar*' was hosted by Nkozi Martyrs University on 10th and 11th March 2017. Attended by 30 institutions, it attracted 586 participants.

Similarly, in an effort to advocate and promote integrity, transparency and active citizen participation in the electoral process, CCEDU undertook several initiatives such as an MP survey on lifting of Presidential Age limit under Article 102 (b) of the Constitution and Reform of the Electoral Commission was carried out showing 73% of the MPs in favor of retaining the age limit and 77% in favor of reforming the Electoral commission. Bye-elections have been observed while a campaign to challenge the local Government (Act) 2015 that provides for lining up in LCI and LCII elections initiated. Public consultations have been carried out and a Constitutional Court petition challenging the constitutionality of the Act has been lodged.

Access to justice was pursued through the National Paralegal Advisory Service (PAS), Rights and Rule of Law program, the campaign against the death penalty and the FHRI legal aid program. The PAS program seeks to enhance access to justice for the poor and vulnerable persons in both criminal and civil matters. Established in 2005, as a pilot in 3 districts with 18 paralegals and 6 social workers, it has expanded to 58 districts with a staff portfolio of 50 paralegals, 57 social workers, 40 community Legal Volunteers and a Secretariat of 5. Through the PAS intervention, the prison pre-trial population has been reduced from 63% in 2013 to 52% in 2017.

The rights and Rule of Law program aims at strengthening the capacity and independence of the judiciary in order to reach just decisions. Two judicial training courses have been conducted as well as strategic litigation. Presently 3 Constitutional petitions and 1 Supreme Court Petition lie before the constitutional Court and Supreme Court respectively.

The death penalty campaign aims at the progressive abolition of capital punishment. Activities carried out include advocacy for the enactment of the law revision (*Penalties in Criminal Matters*) Miscellaneous Amendment Bill, 2015 and commemoration of the World Day Against the Death penalty on 10th October 2017.

Legal aid provision includes legal representation, legal advice and legal rights awareness. The Legal aid scheme has expanded with the opening of a field office in Kalangala and Wakiso. With a staff portfolio of 6, the scheme has provided legal assistance to 1,542 clients, recovered 47 properties and compensation of UGX 101,444,198 in favor of their clients. Reliefs obtained include financial compensation, release from detention and reconciliation of parties.

At the organizational level, new partnerships were entered during the year. To enhance access to justice and judicial independence, FHRI subscribes and is a member to the Coalition on the Independence of the judiciary and the Judiciary Sentencing Guidelines Committee. The partnership with Robert Bosch Foundation to galvanize civic education efforts in the sub-region led to the formation of the Civic Education Network for East and Southern Africa (CENESA) as an outcome of the Civic Education Forum for Eastern and Southern African co-organized with FHRI from 22nd -24th November 2017 in Entebbe.

After 2 years, the 20th Annual General Meeting for members was held on 9th September 2017 with 652 members attending the event. FHRI's membership grew from 1,435 in 2016 to 1,574 comprising of life members (90), Friends of the Foundation (1,484) and Associate member (2); spread out in 98 districts and 4 countries namely; Kenya, Sudan, Tanzania and USA.

Lastly the Joint Annual Review commissioned by the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) in 2017 rated FHRI highly positioning it as a leader in the human rights sector in Uganda.

These achievements notwithstanding, the organization was still confronted with a number of challenges. The Government's rejection of some of the UPR recommendations amounts to a road block to FHRI's campaign on the abolition of the death penalty and the enjoyment of freedoms of expression, association and assembly in Uganda. The case backlog mainly as a result of institutional malpractices within the judicial system, poses a continuing obstacle to access to justice.

Nevertheless, little would have been achieved without the financial and technical support of our development partners. To them we say thank you for the support, trust and confidence in us.

Building a citizens movement for social change is a lifelong struggle. It is replete with success and reversals. It requires commitment, sacrifice and passion. It is a journey that no one can dare alone. The obligation to stand up, speak and defend humanity calls for collective action. There is no doubt that your individual and collective efforts have made a difference. For that we say thank you to our members, Board of Directors, Trustees, development partners and staff.

'TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE'



Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I. FHRI'S 8TH STRATEGIC PLAN (2017 – 2021)

I. FHRI'S 8TH STRATEGIC PLAN (2017 – 2021)

2017 marked the first year of implementation of FHRI's 8th Strategic Plan titled: '*Between Rhetoric and Practice: Bridging the Democracy Divide in Uganda*'.

The new Program has four Strategic Objectives:

1. To build the capacity of citizens to proactively defend their rights and demand accountability.
2. To strengthen the evidence base on the status, response and prevention of human rights violations.
3. To strengthen laws and policies for human rights compliance.
4. To improve access to justice.

Within this context, FHRI's strategic priorities are designed around two broad themes namely: **Active citizenship** and **Access to justice**. The two are implemented through five inter-linked Actions namely:

ACTION 1: RIGHTS AWARENESS

ACTION 2: RIGHTS MONITORING

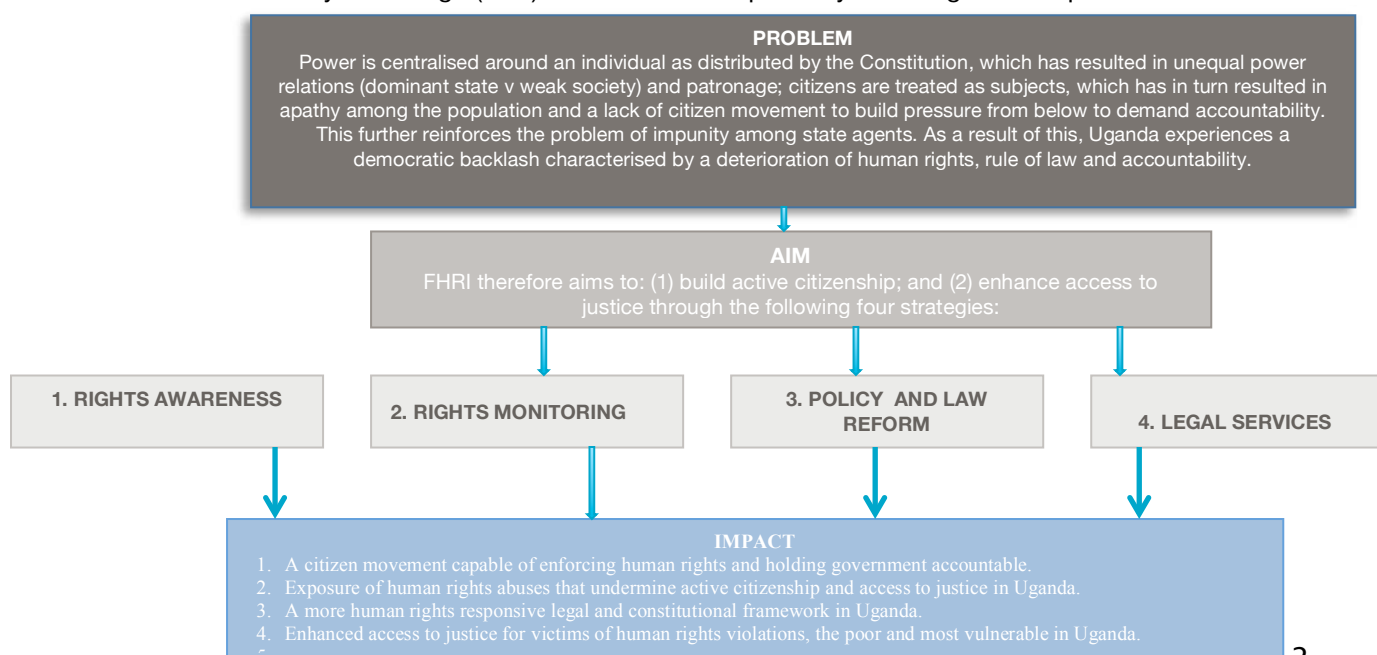
ACTION 3: CONSTITUTION, LEGISLATION AND POLICY REFORM
ADVOCACY

ACTION 4: LEGAL SERVICES

ACTION 5: ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

FHRI's THEORY OF CHANGE (2017-2021)

The Theory of Change (ToC) identifies FHRI's pathway to change for the period 2017 – 2021.



11. PROGRAM ACTIONS

Action 1: Rights Awareness

Action 1 seeks to address the problem of a disempowered citizenry and to build active citizenships and a citizen's movement capable of challenging the status quo. FHRI recognizes the need to emphasize rights awareness and empowerment primarily at the grass root level through Action 1.

The Action has four program components:

1. Student leadership forums
2. Campaign to eradicate extreme poverty using the Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA)
3. Civil Society strengthening program
4. Rights and Rule of Law program.

1. Student leadership forums

FHRI kick-started her university outreach program in 2007. The human rights seminars targeting 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 stood at 39 human rights clubs at the close of 2017 in both universities and tertiary institutions. In 2017, 3 activities were carried out including;

- i. The 10th Inter-University Human Rights Competition.
- ii. Human rights feedback sessions.
- iii. Students leadership seminars.

Outcome

A growing student human rights movement

The resilience demonstrated by the leadership of Kabale University human rights club in fighting corruption and demanding for quality service delivery at the University through dialogue, petitions and peaceful demonstrations offers a perfect example in this regard. Following a sit down strike by the lecturers of the University which was announced on 27th September 2016, the students' human rights club petitioned the University Administration over the matter, demanding an explanation as to why the students who had paid all school dues were not receiving the academic service for which they paid. Other issues raised in the petition related to the poor quality of health services that the students were accessing at the University.

Receiving no response from the University Administration, on 14th October 2016, the human rights club mobilized students and held a peaceful demonstration, demanding a meeting with the University administration on the issues raised in their petition. As expected, using tear gas, the demonstration was quelled by the Uganda Police. Some students were beaten while others arrested and held at the police. They were later released on police bond. Despite this, the students braved the intimidation and marched on to the Resident District Commissioner's office to deliver their petition. He declined to receive the petition. The students marched back to the University. Prompted by the student's activism, resilience and consistency, on 28th October 2016, a meeting with the students was called by the Vice Chancellor to discuss the issues raised in their petition. The University, which had been closed due to the volatility of the situation, was finally opened on 29th October 2016. The lecturers' strike was called off and since then some improvements have been registered in the health and academic sections.

Activities implemented under the Students leadership forums in 2017

i. The 10th Inter-University Human Rights Competition

- ❖ Prior to the competition, a preparatory meeting was held on 20th January 2017 at the Human Rights House attended by 61 participants (17 females and 44 males). Of these, 17 were patrons of human rights clubs while 44 were students from 28 institutions.
- ❖ The 10th Inter-University Human Rights Competition was hosted by Uganda Martyrs' University Nkozi from 10th – 11th March 2017 under the theme, '*Our Rights, Our Freedom – Raising the Bar*'. 586 students (175 female and 411 male) from 30 universities and tertiary institutions participated in the event. Participants discoursed on themes ranging from; electoral democracy to the role of media in democratization, death penalty, human rights based approach to poverty eradication, land grabbing, case backlog in the judiciary and, gender-based violence.
- ❖ To commemorate the 10th anniversary of the University Human Rights Network, FHRI launched the Human Rights Award to be conferred upon the best students excelling in an undergraduate study on human rights starting with the Bachelor of Arts in Local Governance and Human Rights offered by the Nkozi university. The Chief Guest, His Lordship Justice Bart Katureebe, the Chief Justice of the Republic of Uganda launched the Award and applauded this initiative by FHRI. He called upon students to uphold human rights not just for themselves but for many others. He further encouraged FHRI to reach out to the youths outside tertiary institutions. The first award will be given at the 24th Uganda Martyrs University - Nkozi graduation in March 2018.
- ❖ At the closing ceremony, which was officiated by Ms. Sophie Racine the Component Manager; Rights Peace and Justice at the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF), the judges; Ms. Christine Birabwa-Nsubuga from Justice Centers Uganda, Mr. Joshua Wamala from Uganda Electoral Commission, Mr. Asuman Bisiika a Journalist, Ms. Christine Achieng from Dan Church Aid and Mr. Eugene Pacelli Okello from Uganda Law Reform Commission commended the improved level of research and presentation. Makerere University emerged yet again as the winner followed by Uganda Pentecostal University, UCU Mukono and the hosts in 4th position.
- ❖ Guests in attendance included the Vice Chancellor Uganda Martyrs University Prof. John Chrysostom Maviiri and other Members of Management; Also present were invited guests from the Buganda Kingdom; Uganda Police; Open Space Uganda; Uganda Debate Arena; Women Leadership Development; Chairman Deans Forum; Alumni of Uganda Martyrs University; Local leaders from Nkozi village and Sub-county; the Nkozi community and students of Uganda Martyrs University



Extreme Left: His Lordship Justice Bart Katureebe, the Chief Justice of Uganda, launching the Human Rights Award to be conferred upon the best students excelling in an undergraduate study on human rights starting with the Bachelor of Arts in Local Governance and Human Rights at Uganda Martyrs University-Nkozi on 10th March 2017

ii. Human Rights and Feedback sessions

- ❖ FHRI participated in human rights and feedback sessions in 17 institutions. These were: Islamic University in Uganda Kaboja Females' Campus on 15th April; Busitema University and Uganda College of Commerce- Tororo on 21st April; Bishop Stuart University on 26th April; Kampala International University, Mbarara University of Science and Technology and UTC Bushenyi on 28th April; NTC Unyama on 3rd May; Gulu University on 4th May; Makerere University Business School on 5th May; UTC- Elgon on 6th May; Kabale University on 13th May; Islamic University in Uganda Kampala campus on 16th May 2017; Makerere University on 19th May 2017; St. Lawrence University on 1st June 2017; Ndejje University on 2nd June 2017, and International University of East Africa on 5th June 2017.

iii. Students' leadership seminars

- ❖ Student leadership seminars are held at the university level. These form part of the routine activities of the human rights associations. In 2017, FHRI supported a total 7 sessions including seminars and leadership hand over ceremonies as listed in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Student leadership seminars in 2017

Date	University/ Institution	Description
20 th – 24 th March 2017	Kampala International University	Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana at the Annual Law week delivered a presentation titled, <i>'Human rights during elections in Uganda: Overview of issues and challenges.'</i> He was later awarded a certificate of appreciation in recognition of his contribution in imparting knowledge into law students
9 th May 2017	Makerere University	An expo on Realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through Human Rights Promotion and Protection. FHRI was represented by Ms. Lucy Peace Nantume, Director of Civic Education who made a presentation on the role of the youths in the realization of the SDGs.
18 th May 2017	Mulago Para-medical school	Career talk by Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana
6 th September 2017	Islamic University in Uganda	Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana was the guest of honor
6 th September 2017	Gulu University	Mr. Elly Kasiye delivered a presentation on <i>'The role of youth in human rights advocacy.'</i>
20 th October 2017	Livingstone International University	FHRI was represented by Mr. Elly Kasiye
27 th October 2017	Busitema University, Namasagali Campus	Launch of the human rights club and debate on whether the current amendments in parliament are contributing to good governance and political stability in Uganda.



Extreme left: Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, Executive Director, FHRI addressing the students of the new club called IUIU Human Rights Association during the leadership seminar that took place at IUIU Kampala Campus on 6th September 2017

2. Campaign to eradicate extreme poverty using HRBA

In August 2016, FHRI embarked on a pilot campaign to eradicate extreme poverty in Uganda using a Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA). Using her thematic report titled: '*Human Rights and Poverty: Eradicating Extreme Poverty in Uganda*', FHRI conducted a survey to heighten her efforts in ensuring increased application of HRBA in government program that eradicate extreme poverty in Uganda.

The campaign to eradicate extreme poverty using HRBA has one main activity in 2017:

- i. Development of a policy brief and dissemination meetings

Outcome

New frontiers opened for future partnerships on applying the HRBA

FHRI managed to create awareness of and arouse interest in the HRBA amongst stakeholders like the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development, Members of Parliament, district leaders and beneficiaries of the Youth Livelihood Program on the empowerment principle. These partnerships have laid good ground for more policy advocacy activities in the future.

Activities implemented under the campaign to eradicate extreme poverty using HRBA in 2017

i. Development of a policy and dissemination meetings

- ❖ Between 22nd and 24th October 2017, policy brief dissemination meetings were held in the districts of Namutumba and Bugiri with district officials and beneficiaries including 12 district officials (8 males and 4 females) and 10 beneficiaries (3 males and 7 females). These included the Resident District Commissioners (RDCs), Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) and, District Community Development Officers (DCDOs).
- ❖ FHRI shared the findings and policy recommendations which briefly are; Empower duty bearers and stakeholders on the human rights based approach to development; involve all stakeholders especially beneficiaries in all the program stages from planning to monitoring; conduct prior mentoring and training of youths on viable economic activities before receipt of applications to the fund; consider revisiting the Youth Livelihood Program (YLP) group sizes; fill all local government positions that feed into the program and increase operational costs; key players in monitoring like the Community Development Officers should be sufficiently financed to play that role; consider funding bigger projects above the current limit of 25 million shillings with a recovery time of over 3 years and, fight corrupt practices in the Youth Livelihood Program (YLP).

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 amongst civil society groups. The civil society strengthening has three main two main activities

- i. Neighborhood Assemblies
- ii. Outreaches to schools and communities

Outcome

Citizens' demand for accountability

Participants got empowered on the duties of rights holders and duty bearers. The rights holders became more confident to demand for better services. After the empowerment sessions, the residents of Busaana Sub County demanded for electricity that had been promised to them. On 10th February their Local Council 3 Chairperson informed the residents that two parishes were to receive it and this came to pass.

Activities implemented under the civil society-strengthening component in 2017

i. Neighbour-hood Assemblies

- ❖ **From 10th and 15th February 2017**, FHRI trained 24 Neighborhood Assemblies. 105 members (27 females and 78 males) were trained on the application of the Community Based Monitoring and Evaluation System (CBMES). The participants were from 4 sub counties; Busaana, Kayonza, Galilaaya and Baale in Kayunga district.
- ❖ **From 24th – 26th February 2017**, government projects in 8 villages in the target sub-counties were monitored after the training. These were; Lusenke, Namukuma, Bbaale, Nakitokoto, Kabaku, Kanamugaddu, Namirembe and Kayonza.
- ❖ **From 20th – 30th March 2017**, 454 (125 female 329 male) participants attended the quarterly neighbour-hood assembly meetings at the parish level in villages of Bbaale, Nampanyi, Lusenke, Misanga, Namizo, Namayuge and Kamusabi in Kayunga district.
- ❖ **On 28th April 2017**, a semi annual engagement meeting was held at the Kayunga district headquarters attended by 32 district stakeholders including 26 males and 6 females.

ii. Community Outreaches

- ❖ Nearly 900 people benefited from the nine outreaches held by FHRI's Capacity Development Division (CDD) between July and August 2017. A 34 member team of interns participated in the human rights awareness meetings with communities in five districts including: Kisaakye Rehabilitation Centre in Kayunga district; Lumuza High School-Katende in Mpigi district; Gogonya village in Nsambya, Banda market, Banda B.3 Zone, Lubiri High School and Kibuli Senior Secondary all in Kampala district; Kasenyi and Kisubi Mapeera Senior Secondary both in Wakiso district; Nanyenje village, Excel secondary school and

Bishop Secondary School in Mukono district.

- ❖ The community sensitization sessions focused on the following themes; understanding basic human rights; land rights and the law, inheritance and marriage; and the notion of rights and responsibilities.



Ms. Nassim Nakabugo (standing) Legal Associate, FHRI together with a team of FHRI student interns sensitizing Banda Community, in Kampala on issues of land and marriage on 2nd August 2017.

Kisaakye Rehabilitation Centre

- ❖ On 14th July 2017 FHRI interns spearheaded an outreach to disabled children at Kisaakye Rehabilitation Centre in Kangulumira Sub- County, Kayunga district. The team shared items including soap, clothes, shoes, cups, children's pampers to the children and their mothers most of whom are single parents. The FHRI team also sensitized the Kayunga community on human rights, child rights, rights of the disabled persons, social vices like domestic violence, discrimination, stigmatization and inhuman treatment especially of least privileged persons.

4. Rights and Rule of Law

The program seeks to strengthen the capacity and independence of the Judiciary in order to reach just decisions that uphold human rights.

The Rights and Rule of Law implements one activity under this action namely;

- Human Rights capacity building for judicial officers

In 2017, FHRI conducted two capacity building sessions for judicial officers under the auspices of Judicial Training Institute (JTI) in Kampala and Kasese districts.

Outcome

**Training in Kasese*

All participants (100%) completed the pre-training assessment for the regional human rights training in Kasese district. 50% rated their knowledge and skills in topics covered by the training as 'advanced' while 50% indicated they had basic knowledge.

During the post training assessment 100% of the participants indicated that their human rights knowledge and skills had greatly improved in the following areas; conflict and gender sensitive adjudication, pre-visit of land in dispute before hearing the case or issuing a court order, and emerging human rights trends.

Activities implemented under the Rights and Rule of Law Program in 2017

i. Human Rights capacity building for judicial officers

- **Human rights training for magistrates, Kampala district**

- ❖ FHRI, Judicial Studies Institute (JSI) and Freedom House (FH) endorsed a Memorandum of Understanding on October 28, 2016 to jointly run a human rights training of trainers (ToT) for 15 judges and 30 magistrates. A human rights training for magistrates took place between 17th – 18th March 2017, at Royal Suites, Bugolobi, Kampala. A total of 29 magistrates (19 female and 10 male) participated in the training from 24 districts. These included, Buikwe, Apac, Pallisa, Rukungiri, Dokolo, Serere, Buyende, Kampala, Jinja, Moroto, Agago, Lira, Kaabong, Hoima, Soroti, Kotido, Lamwo, Iganga, Kabale, Ntungamo, Sironko, Mbarara, Busia and Arua.
- ❖ The resource team comprised reputable experts including, Associate Professor Christopher Mbazira, an expert on human rights; Mr. Daniel Ruhweza, lecturer at Makerere University; Hon. Justice Stephen Mubiru, High Court Resident Judge Arua; Her Worship Elizabeth Akullo, Magistrate Grade One at JSI and Dr. Donald Rukare, Chief of Party, Rights and Rule of Law Activity/Freedom House.

- **Regional human rights training for magistrates in Kasese district**

- ❖ FHRI, Judicial Training Institute (JTI) and Freedom House (FH) endorsed an addendum to a memorandum of understanding in August, 2017 to conduct a human rights training for 15 magistrates in Kasese District. The training was aimed at strengthening judicial independence through continuous professional development of judicial officers. The training sought to tap into the available spaces and equip judicial officers with skills in resolving land disputes emanating from ethnicity, human rights violations and domestic relations in the post- conflict situation in Kasese District. FHRI was also conscious of the volatile security situation in the district given the cross border crimes emerging from the refugee influx hence the timeliness of the training as well.
- ❖ The human rights training took place from 21st - 22nd September, 2017, at Sandton Hotel, Kasese district. A total of 10 Magistrates (1 female and 9 male) participated in the training from 7 districts comprising Chief

Magistrates, Magistrates Grade I and Magistrates Grade II from the districts of Ntoroko, Kabarole, Kasese, Kabarole, Fortportal, Ntoroko, Bushenyi, Kyenjojo and Bundibugyo.

- ❖ The training covered the following topics; trends and impact of judicial independence on human rights, gender dynamics; human rights and refugee protection. The training also included a session on causes of marginalization; emerging/contested human rights issues such as euthanasia; reproductive rights (abortion); lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) rights.
- ❖ The resource team comprised reputable experts including, His Worship Phillip Odoki, Deputy Registrar In-charge of Training, JTI; Her Worship Dr. Gladys Nakibuule Kisekka, Deputy Registrar, JTI; Dr. Samuel Barigye, Conflict Prevention and Reconciliation Advisor with USAID Supporting Access to Justice Fostering Equity and Peace (SAFE) Program; Ms. Sheila Muwanga, Deputy Executive Director - Programs, FHRI and Dr. Donald Rukare, Chief of Party, USAID Rights and Rule of Law Activity/Freedom House.
- ❖ Two of the facilitators were participants of the Human Rights Training of Trainers for Judicial officers conducted between November, 23-24, 2016. These included Her Worship Dr. Gladys Nakibuule Kisekka, Deputy Registrar, JTI; Deputy Registrar JTI In-Charge of Training His Worship Phillip Odoki who also provided administrative support before and during the training. They facilitated sessions on gender issues (mainstreaming gender in judicial decisions), human rights issues in regard to forced migrants in Kasese and surrounding areas respectively. They jointly facilitated a session on best practices in dealing with customary land disputes in the region.



Participants at the human rights training for judicial officers at Sandton Hotel, Kasese district on 21 - 22 September 2017.

Action 2: Rights Monitoring

Action 2 seeks to enhance access to information and strengthen the knowledge base on human rights practices and violations. Under this Action, FHRI monitors, documents and reports on human rights practices in order to provide an evidence-base for advocacy and accountability.

Program components

Action 2 has two program components:

1. Research and Advocacy
2. Citizens Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU)

1. Research and Advocacy

The program conducts research, monitoring and documentation of human rights practices in order to influence policy and practice change through evidence-based human rights advocacy.

The Research and Advocacy program has three main activities:

- i. Issue-based human rights report
- ii. Treaty reporting
- iii. Routine monitoring

In 2017, FHRI published one issue based report on Pre-trial detention, participated in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), conducted routine police and prison visits, and advocated for policy and law reform.

Outcome

Acti
viti

Development of an 8-strategy joint action plan

After the launch of the issue-based report on the plight of pretrial detainees in Uganda, a policy dialogue was convened at the invitation of the JLOS Human Rights and Accountability and the Criminal Justice Working Groups.

During this meeting, **an 8- Strategy Joint Action Plan** which pitches reforms both at the policy and practice level, was adopted. An administrative decision was taken by the Working Groups to roll out sections of the plan in partnership with FHRI. By the end of 2017, Strategy 4 (Strengthening case management across the criminal justice) and the corresponding Action 4.1 (Engage with the RCCs and DCCs to strengthen collaboration at regional and district level to enhance case management and monitoring system for mandatory bail), had partly been implemented through 9 regional meetings across the country in the districts of Jinja, Mbale, Masaka, Fort-portal, Mbarara, Arua, Gulu Kampala and Lira from 8th September to 7th October 2017.

Legal and Practice Guide to Lawful Detention compiled

Out of these engagements, FHRI has developed a **Legal and Practice Guide to Lawful Detention**. The Guide which has been validated by the JLOS –Human Rights and Accountability Working Group and the Criminal Justice Working Group, provides practical solutions to criminal justice actors aimed at addressing the problem of unlawful detention.

7 recommendations proposed by FHRI adopted by the UN State Parties accepted by the Government of Uganda at the UN Human Rights Council

These recommendations exceeded FHRI's target of 5, relating to improving access to justice and protecting civil and political rights. Acceptance of the recommendations by the Government of Uganda is a positive milestone towards an optimistic indicator towards more responsive and rights based governance.

es implemented under the Research and Advocacy program in 2017

i. Issue-Based Report

- ❖ Published and launched an issue-based report titled, **Justice delayed is justice denied: The plight of pre-trial detainees in Uganda** on 14th March 2017 at Hotel Africana, Kampala. The launch attracted 127 participants (71 male and 56 female participants). Participants included development partners, representatives from the Judiciary, Uganda Prisons Service (UPS), Uganda Police Force (UPF), The Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF), Directorate of Public Prosecution (DPP), Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), Uganda Law Reform Commission (ULRC) the Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS), the UN, civil society, academia and the media.
- ❖ Three simultaneous radio talk shows were run in Gulu (Mega FM), Mbale (Open Gate) and Mbarara (Radio West) on 14th March 2017.
- ❖ One policy brief titled: 'Justice delayed is justice denied: The plight of remand prisoners accused of capital offences', was compiled and 100 copies printed. The policy brief was based on the findings of the FHRI report "Justice delayed is justice denied: the plight of pre-trial detainees in Uganda" with specific policy recommendations for remand prisoners accused of capital offences.
- ❖ FHRI organised a roundtable for the members of the JLOS Criminal Justice Working Group to present the policy brief and develop an action plan on reducing pre-trial detention in Uganda. This took place on 4th May 2017 at Protea Hotel in Kampala.
- ❖ The roundtable attracted 28 participants from, among others, ODPP, UPS, UPF, judiciary, UHRC, development partners, UN, Justice Centres Uganda (JCU), Uganda Law Society (ULS), and civil society.

ii. Treaty Reporting

- ❖ Presented a written and oral statement on access to justice concerns in Uganda before the 34th UN Human Rights Council on 16th March 2017 in Geneva in partnership with FIDH. CIVICUS also submitted a joint statement with FHRI on concerns relating to human rights defenders and civic space. Also, FHRI contributed to a statement by the Advocates for Human Rights on the situation of the death penalty in Uganda.
- ❖ Convened a Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Civil and Political Rights Cluster meeting from 10th – 11th August 2017 to validate and Adopt the Action plan for the Implementation of the UPR Civil and Political Rights Recommendations. The workshop was held at Royal suits in Bugolobi.

iii. Routine Monitoring

- ❖ Two prisons visits were conducted in 2 prisons (Kigo male and Kigo women prisons) on 10th February 2017.

- ❖ Nice police visits were conducted in 7 police stations (Katwe, Kabalagala, Entebbe, Kajansi, Wandegaya, Kiira Road, Jinja road).
- ❖
- ❖ In partnership with UHRC and UPS, FHRI conducted ten, one day human rights trainings in prisons between 15th - 26th May 2017 covering 21 prisons in the East Central and South Eastern prison regions. The trainings were conducted in 10 prisons: Kauga, Lugazi, Jinja Main, Bugembe, Bugungu YP, Iganga, Kaiti, Budaka, Mbale Main and Tororo Main prisons. Prisoners and prison staff from Nakifuma, Nakisunga, Jinja Women, Jinja Remand, Kakira, Busede, Bugungu YO, Namungalwe, Mbale Women, Bubulo and Tororo were also included in the trainings. Other trainees included: paralegals, visiting justices and regional UHRC officers.
- ❖
- ❖ In addition to the trainings inside the prisons, FHRI in partnership with UHRC and UPS further run a training of trainers (ToT) on 2nd June 2017 at Nile Hotel, Jinja. The participants included all the Officers in Charge of the prisons trained, 3 Regional Prison Commanders, 3 regional UHRC Officers, paralegals and visiting justices, with a total of 45 participants

Action 3: Constitutionalism, Legislation and Policy Reform Advocacy

Action 3 seeks to strengthen the legislative, constitutional and policy framework for human rights and electoral democracy in Uganda; advocate for the abolition of the death penalty in Uganda; and promote dialogue on government compliance with regional and international human rights commitments.

The Action has three main components:

1. The Death penalty campaign
2. Public Interest Litigation

1. Death Penalty campaign

The program 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 death penalty has registered positive results. The continued capacity building and legislative advocacy to limit the use of death penalty, not forgetting the precedent set by Suzan Kigula Supreme court ruling has had a multiplier effect including mitigation hearings for prisoners on death row leading to commutation of death sentences to imprisonment and reduction in the number of the death row inmates.

The program has three main activities:

- i. Legislative Advocacy for the enactment of the Law (Revision Penalties in Criminal Matters) Miscellaneous Amendment Bill, 2015.
- ii. Commemoration of the World Day Against the Death Penalty
- iii. Global advocacy on the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty
- iv. Support to death row convicts

In 2017, FHRI advocated for the Law (Revision Penalties in Criminal Matters) Miscellaneous Amendment Bill 2015; commemorated of the World Day against the death penalty, participated at the global advocacy on the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty and supported death row convicts.

Outcome

Reduction in the death row prison population

Owing to the sustained campaign by FHRI, no executions were carried out during the reporting period albeit the sentence remains on Uganda's law books. Further more, the population on death row has decreased from 170 (163 men and 7 women) as at 12 January 2017 to 150 (6 women and 144 men). Only 21 death sentences were confirmed. Since the ruling, 42 formerly condemned have been released and recidivism has not been registered pointing to the fact that rehabilitation through imprisonment is achievable.

Reduction in the number of death sentences in the judiciary

The judiciary has decreased on the number of death sentences. In 2017, 4 sentences were registered in comparison to 6 last year. Various judgments have depicted that the judiciary is appreciating the inefficacy of the death sentence even for very grave crimes. Worth mentioning this year is the decision on 21 August 2017 by the three justices of International Crimes Division court led by Justice Ezekiel Muhanguzi in the case of Sheikh Mohammad Yunus Kamoga and his three associates who were found guilty of terrorism which attracts the death sentence but were instead sentenced to life in prison while two of their colleagues got 30 years.

Commencement of mitigation hearings in military courts

The prison visits conducted during the period brought to light the disheartening access to justice challenges faced by 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 especially for cases arising out of military courts was brought to the attention of Defense Counsel of the General Court Martial, Ms. Patra Asha by FHRI. As an outcome, mitigation hearings in military courts started happening this year.

Activities implemented under the death penalty campaign in 2017

i. Legislative Advocacy for the enactment of the Law (Revision Penalties in Criminal Matters) Miscellaneous Amendment Bill, 2015

- ❖ With the aim of restricting the application of the Death penalty and reform penal laws that provide for the death penalty in Uganda, FHRI undertook several activities to influence the enactment Law (Revision Penalties in Criminal Matters) Miscellaneous Amendment Bill 2015.
- ❖ The Bill's objective 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 still provide for mandatory death sentencing. It also proposes a reduction in the number of offences that attract the death penalty.
- ❖ During the period, the Bill 2015 was retained on the Order paper of the 10th Parliament, having stalled with the end of the 9th Parliament in 2016 before submission of the report by the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee (LPAC) after hearing of stakeholders' submissions and benchmarking.
- ❖ The new LPAC re-heard the stakeholders' submissions in March and April 2017. FHRI and its partners appeared before the committee and submitted their views on the Bill on 23rd March 2017. The partners were Rev. Canon Joseph Oneka and Ms Giden Nalubega Musisi from the Uganda Joint Christian Council; Ms. Ssuubi Ellen Eva the Executive Director, Wells of Hope Ministries, Mr. Katongole, representative, Innocence project and Mr. George Kibiike, Executive Director, Community Restoration. Three ex-death row inmates; Mr. Patrick Zizinga, Mr. Mpagi Ed Mary and Mr. Bbaale Godfrey also shared their testimonies before the parliamentary committee. The report from the LPAC is currently awaited.
- ❖ On 11th April 2017, FHRI in partnership with the European Union convened a meeting with Members of Parliament from Uganda (MPs) and European Union Ambassadors to further the discussions on the Bill. Chaired by the Head of Delegation to Uganda, Ambassador Kristian Schmidt, the meeting was attended by Mr. Lionel Vignacq, First Counsellor, Deputy Head of Mission to Uganda, French Embassy; Ms. Sarah Mann, Deputy High Commissioner, British High Commission, Kampala; Ambassador Domenico Fornara, Embassy of Italy; Hon. Medard Ssegona, Hon. Jovah Kamateka, Hon. Veronica Isala, Hon. Paul Akamba, Ms. Patricia Nsanze of British High Commission and, Ms. Aida Kusiima, Clerk to Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee.
- ❖ FHRI hosted Lord Purvis Jeremy, a Member of the British All Party Parliamentary Group and Baron Professor Marc Bossuyt of the International Commission against the Death Penalty on 21st April 2017. During their visit, a broad discussion was held on legislative advocacy and notable milestones in the progressive abolition of the death penalty in Uganda.



From Left—Right: Ms. Patricia Nsanze, Governance and Projects Officer, British High Commission; Lord Purvis Jeremy, Member of the British All Party Parliamentary Group, Baron Professor Marc Bossuyt International Commission against the Death Penalty; Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, Executive Director, FHRI; and Ms. Lucy Peace Nantume, Manager, Right to Life Project FHRI; at the Human Rights House, Nsambya on 21-April 2017.

- ❖ Eight radio talk shows were conducted during the period highlighting the abolition campaign. The radio stations were: Mama FM, Power FM, Pearl FM, Ssuubi FM, and CBS FM. These platforms provided space for FHRI to empower the citizenry with information on the death penalty campaign. It doubled as an advocacy space to dialogue on the Bill. Law.



Diploma in Human Rights course students of LDC during their study visit to FHRI on 9- March 2017

On 28th February 2017, FHRI was invited to deliver a presentation before the Diploma in Human Rights course students of the Law Development Centre on the topic “Towards

Abolition of the Death Penalty in Uganda- Suzan Kigula and Beyond.' FHRI further hosted these students on 9th March 2017 at the Human Rights House.

ii. Commemoration of the World Day Against the Death Penalty

On 10th October 2017, FHRI joined the rest of the world to commemorate the 15th World Day against the Death Penalty under the theme '*Poverty and Justice: A Deadly Mix*'. Various activities were supported during this period. These included, a solidarity visit to prisoners on death row, radio talk shows and a half-day commemoration event at the Human Rights House, Nsambya.

- ❖ FHRI together with the European Union conducted a solidarity visit to inmates on death row at the Luzira Maximum Security Prison on 5th October 2017. The European Union delegation led by H.E Attilio PACIFICI, the European Union Ambassador included 6 Ambassadors and 13 representatives from embassies, EU headquarters and FHRI. These were; H.E Stephanie RIVOAL, Ambassador of France; H.E Hugo VERBIST, Ambassador of Belgium; H.E Henk Jan Bakker, Ambassador of Netherlands; H.E Domenico FORNARA, Ambassador of Italy; H.E Finbar O'BRIEN, Ambassador of Ireland; H.E. Mogens PEDERSEN, Ambassador of Denmark; Mr. Petra KOCHENDOERFER of the German Embassy; Mr. Joseph BOLTON, Second Secretary of the British High Commission; Ms. Doris GEBRU-ZEILERMAYR from the Austrian Embassy; Ms. Julie BARRIERE the Cooperation attaché for Human rights at the French Embassy and representatives from the European Union offices; Ms. Sandra PAESEN, Mr. Thomas TIEDEMANN, Mr. Emmanuel Gyezaho and Mr. Thomas KAMUSIIME.

"What we have seen here today has really touched us and we will not forget. We will do whatever we can do to support you," **H.E Attilio PACIFICI, Ambassador European Union.**



Top and bottom pictures: Inmates on death row pose for a picture with EU Ambassadors and FHRI staff during a solidarity visit to Luzira Upper Prison on 5- October 2017

- ❖ On Tuesday 10th October 2017, Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, the Executive Director, FHRI and H.E. Stephanie Rivoal, French Ambassador to Uganda were interviewed on 'Morning Breeze' on NBS TV about the campaign on the death penalty.
- ❖ Ms. Lucy Peace Nantume, the Project Manager, Right to Life Project, FHRI together with former death row inmate Mr. Patrick Zizinga were also hosted on Power FM's morning show and CBS FM's evening show in commemoration of the World Day against the death penalty campaign.



- ❖ FHRI hosted a half-day commemoration event at the Human Rights House, Nsambya where 87 participants attended the event (53 males and 34 females). They included representatives from the European Union member states, death row survivors, human rights defenders, media, officials from Uganda Prisons Services and other abolitionists. The event was graced by H.E Attilio PACIFIC, EU Ambassador and H.E Stephanie Rivoal, Ambassador, France.

“Judges are human beings, like police officers, they make mistakes. Good legal aid is not available to the vast majority of defendants. Most suspects cannot afford good representation, miscarriage of justice is inevitable in every justice system and is irreversible. How can someone in an error-prone and imperfect system pass an irreversible sentences?”

“The death penalty is not prevention, not reparation, it’s just revenge.” “The abolition is a sign of respect for human life” “It’s a moral choice. A political choice and here in Uganda, It’s your choice.” **H.E S Rivoal, French Ambassador.**

- ❖ At the commemoration event, findings of a survey conducted by FHRI on THE socio-economic conditions of people sentenced to death in Uganda was released. Aimed at profiling those living on death row at the time, the report confirmed findings from other parts of the world that indeed the poor are more susceptible to being sentenced to death. The 10 death row survivors attending the event shared similar testimonies including; Ms. Nankya Justine, Mr. Gabula Africa Evans, Mr. Odhiambo Fredrick, Mr. Kabaza Jackson, Mr. Tumwine Yassin, Mr. Ssekide Wilson, Mr. Bbaale Godfrey, Mr. Zahura Phillip, Mr. Mpagi Edmary and Mr. Patrick Zizinga.

iii Global Advocacy on the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

- ❖ FHRI is a member of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP). Under this umbrella, FHRI participated in various activities including the following:
- ❖ With support from the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP), FHRI participated at the 60th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR) which took place in Niger between 8th and 22nd of May 2017. Ms. Lucy Peace Nantume, Manager, Death Penalty Project represented FHRI at this event that doubled as the 15th Annual General Meeting.
- ❖ Uganda’s delegates presented a report on the Country’s progress in upholding human rights on 10th May 2017. Ms. Nantume was part of the panel on litigating death penalty cases in Sub Saharan Africa where she shared the strategies used in litigating the Kigula case. The panel was organized by the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ Kenya) in partnership with the Kenya Human Rights Commission and FHRI..
- ❖ Between 22nd and 24th June 2016, FHRI was among the more than 50 member organizations of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP) that met for three days at the Catholic University of America in Washington DC for the 15th General Assembly.



Ms. Lucy Peace Nantume (in the middle of the front row in yellow top) with the Ugandan delegation after the presentation of the country report during the 60th Ordinary Session of the ACHPR, in Niamey, Niger on 10-May 2017.

- ❖ On 30th November 2017, the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) represented by Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, the Executive Director and Ms. Lucy Peace Nantume, the Director, Capacity Development Division participated in the 1st commemoration of the International Day of Cities for life / Cities against the death penalty in Uganda. On the "Cities for Life Day", many important cities around the world celebrate the first abolition of the death penalty by a European state the Gran Duchy of Tuscany in Italy. The Community of Sant'Egidio founded in Rome in 1968 and supported by abolitionists united under the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty promotes the initiative, which started in 2002. The International Day of Cities for Life/Cities against the Death Penalty constitutes, along with the World day against the Death Penalty on 10th October, the biggest modern global mobilization in favour of a higher and more civil form of justice capable of repelling capital punishment once and for all.
- ❖ In Uganda, the event was organized by the newly formed Sant'Egidio community of Uganda led by Mr. Joshua Makawa Neema. Abolitionists led by Fr. Makoboza the chaplain of Mutesa 1 Royal University prayed against the death sentence at St. Augustine Chapel Makerere. In his remarks, the Chief Guest, H.E Domenico Fornara the Italian Ambassador to Uganda informed participants that one of the pillars of Italy's human rights work is the death penalty abolition.

iv. Support to death row inmates

- ❖ The death penalty campaign team carries out regular visits to the condemned section. During the year, the visits were used to collect data to inform the survey report on the social economic status of people sentenced to death. Ten visits were conducted during the year.

2. Public Interest Litigation

Foundation for Human Rights Initiative vs. Attorney General (Constitutional Petition No. 39/2017)

- ❖ On October 31st 2017, FHRI filed a constitutional petition challenging the intended mode of voting during Local Council (LC) Elections. The petition seeks to challenge the constitutionality of the provisions of Sec. 12 (a) and (b) of the Local Government's (Amendment) Act, Act No. 16 of 2015 that provides for LC I and LC II elections to be held by lining up behind candidates. The petition is before the Constitutional court.

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. **On 31st January 2017:** The Attorney General (AG) filed his response to the amended counter petition. **On 10th February 2017:** Rwakafuzi and Co. Advocates later filed a rejoinder to that effect on the matter was then scheduled for conferencing interparty on February 16, 2017. Both parties agreed to file a joint conferencing memorandum in order to make court work easier. **On 21st March 2017:** The joint scheduling memorandum could not be filed pending the Attorney General's input. The Attorney General promised to file the joint conferencing memorandum within two weeks. The matter was adjourned to April 4, 2017. **On 4th April 2017:** The parties disagreed on two issues during conferencing. The parties were advised to amend the conferencing notes and file a joint memorandum which was done. The matter awaits to be heard.

Foundation for Human Rights Initiative vs. Attorney General (Constitutional Petition No. 53/2011)

- ❖ The petition challenges the charging of citizens with treason and terrorism for participating in peaceful demonstrations. Due to the on-going election petition appeals, the case has been stood-over pending completion of the said petitions.

Foundation for Human Rights Initiative vs. Attorney General (Constitutional Appeal No. 3/2009)

- ❖ The petition seeks interpretation on the parameters of judicial discretion in a bail application. Judgment is on notice and FHRI awaits the date.

Action 4: Legal Services

Action 4 seeks to enhance access to justice for victims of human rights violations, the poor and vulnerable persons in Uganda.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Action 4 has two program components:

1. Legal Aid
2. Paralegal Advisory Services (PAS)

1. Legal Aid

The program provides legal assistance to progressively transform the lives of the poor and vulnerable persons in Uganda.

The Legal Aid program has three main activities:

- i. Legal assistance
- ii. Legal aid camps
- iii. The Toll Free Facility

In 2017, FHRI run rights awareness sessions, capacity building trainings, and assisted the poor and vulnerable through the toll free facility and legal representation. Two field offices were opened in Wakiso and Kalangala districts during the year.

OUTCOMES

- ❖ A total sum of Eighty Seven Million, Five Hundred Thirty Four Thousand, Two Hundred and Seventy Shillings (87, 534,270/=) was recovered on behalf of indigent workers, single mothers, orphans, survivors of torture and gender based violence.
- ❖ FHRI received 5 court judgments in favor of her clients and three court rulings discharging her clients from criminal cases.
- ❖ 20 pieces of land were recovered and the clients' property rights fully restored.
- ❖ 32 cases of child custody and maintenance fully resolved and children's rights and welfare restored.
- ❖ 30 court cases were successfully concluded and settled out of court reducing on the case backlog in Wakiso magisterial area.
- ❖ 167 local leaders were trained on effective management of land disputes.
- ❖ 1,120 community members were sensitized on legal procedures, land rights and gender based violence leading to enhancement of their legal knowledge.
- ❖ Legal assistance was extended to a total of 1,088 clients.

Activities implemented under the Legal Aid program in 2017

i. Legal Assistance

Walk-in clients

- ❖ In the period January to November 2017, 427 (Males 216 and Females 211) new clients walked into the FHRI premises at Human Rights House seeking legal assistance. By the close of the year, 282 cases files had been closed while 145 pending appropriate remedy. Among the cases received, when disaggregated, land issues formed the bulk of cases at 68%, followed by domestic, civil, criminal, and commercial each at 14%, 10%, 7%, and 1% respectively.

Legal Aid camps

- ❖ Five Legal aid camps and rights awareness sessions were run in the districts of Kalangala and Wakiso in 2017. Three legal aid camps and rights awareness sessions were conducted in Kalangala on 20th – 24th February 2017, 19th – 23rd June 2017, 18th – 22nd September 2017 and 27th – 30th November 2017. Two legal aid camps and rights awareness sessions were conducted in Wakiso on 12th – 16th June 2017 and 27th – 30th November 2017.
- ❖ A total of 1,056 community members (611 males and 343 females) were sensitized on land matters, family rights and gender based violence through the rights awareness sessions. 49 clients (23 Males and 26 Females) were also registered after the sessions.
- ❖ During the year, FHRI participated in the National Legal Aid day event organized by the Legal Aid Service Providers Network (LASPNET), District Coordination Committee meetings in Wakiso and Kalangala magisterial areas, as well as Court Open days in Kampala. FHRI continues to fully participate in activities of the Network of Public Interest Lawyers (NETPIL), where FHRI sits on the Advisory Committee and the land justice committee.
- ❖ In 2017, FHRI has continued to participate in LASPNET activities, where FHRI chairs the Advisory Committee on Monitoring Corruption in the JLOS sector. Under the auspices of LASPNET, FHRI participated in His Lordship the Chief Justice of Uganda, the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Inspectorate of Government and, the Judicial Service Commission. In all these meetings, bottlenecks of access to justice have been discussed and possible solutions mooted.

Toll Free facility

- ❖ In the course of the year, 306 clients (232 Males and 74 Females) were assisted through the toll free hotline. On sport legal advice was extended to the clients.

2. Paralegal Advisory Services (PAS)

The PAS program seeks to enhance access to justice for the poor and vulnerable groups caught up in conflict with the law.

The program planned five main activities in 2017:

1. Legal assistance to suspects and inmates in police and prisons
2. Legal assistance in civil cases in Busia
3. Steering Committee meetings
4. Quarterly monitoring visits
5. Internal capacity development sessions for paralegals and social workers
6. PAS Review meetings

OUTCOME

Significant contribution in the reduction of remand population

Through its daily presence, PAS has made a significant contribution to the reduction in the remand population in Uganda prisons from 55% in 2010 to 52% in 2017. Although the bulk of the population is still ignorant about these processes, PAS has created a class of beneficiaries; suspects and inmates who are able to self represent and navigate the justice system more comfortably with sufficient knowledge and confidence. More beneficiaries in the rural communities have been empowered with legal knowledge on processes in both criminal and civil cases.

Improved civil justice in Busia communities

The Community Legal Volunteers (CLVs) running the PAS program of Busia has improved civil justice in Busia communities through legal representation and diversion of cases from the formal justice system through mediation and reconciliation. A total of 552 cases in civil matters have been handled and diverted from the formal system in Busia since the inception of the new program of the Community Legal Volunteers (CLV) in 2005.

Successful implementation of judicial initiatives

PAS has contributed to the successful implementation of judicial initiatives such as plea bargain, community service, sentencing guidelines, increased criminal sessions, special sessions, small claims and Alternative Dispute Resolution. Due to PAS intervention, a total of 2,936 (2,817 male & 119 female) inmates have so far benefited from the plea bargaining program of the judiciary which was launched in 2014. Paralegals continually sensitize, screen and identify inmates who wished to enroll on the plea bargain program. The Judiciary has noted the remarkable contribution of PAS in the success of its programs in the locations in which PAS operates.

Activities implemented under the Legal Aid program in 2017

i. Legal assistance to suspects and inmates

- ❖ In 2017, 30,100 police bonds (25,680 male and 4,420 female) were have been secured. With the assistance of the PAS team, 9,868 applicants were awarded bail (8,558 male and 1310 female). The successful police bonds and bail

applications are also attributable to cooperative substantial sureties who were traced by the PAS team to assist their relatives and friends in detention.

- ❖ In 2017, 1,748 Community Service sentences orders (1,436 males and 312 females) and 1,241 fines (991 males and 250 females) were awarded by court assisted by the PAS team. In addition, in 2017, the PAS teams traced 5,110 sureties (41,430 males and 8,680 females). In an effort to divert cases from the formal justice system 4,680 cases (3,864 male & 816 female) were successfully concluded through mediation. In 2017, 46,396 petty offenders (39,538 males and 6,858 female) and 2,990 capital offenders (2,592 male and 398 females) were assisted.

ii. Legal assistance to civil cases in Busia

- ❖ The CLV program in Busia have greatly reduced crime in the district. By close of 2017, a total number of 394 cases (216 male & 178 female) were concluded out of these, 312 cases (170 male and 142 female) were through mediation and 82 (46 male and 36 female) through legal representation. Increasingly the communities in Buisa including the local leaders at sub-county level have embraced and supported the Community Legal Volunteers program. Other stakeholders such as police and the Resident District Commissioner's office have reported and appreciated the reduction of cases reported at their offices owing it to the efforts of the CLVs who have successfully handled mediations at village and household level, hence, preventing more cases from going through the formal justice system.

iii. PAS Steering Committee meetings

- ❖ Three PAS Steering Committee meetings were convened attended by senior representatives of the criminal justice institutions. Concerns arising from monitoring reports and progress reports on issues arising in the criminal justice system were tabled for discussion and follow up by the respective justice institutions sitting on the committee. These include, long investigations causing overstay, transfer of suspects without their files, lack of vigilance in the probation office, delay in convening high court sessions and plea bargain sessions among others.
- ❖ In one of the meetings, Mr. Wycliffe Kururagyire one of the Committee members representing the Uganda Prisons Service was officially recognized and applauded for his contribution to PAS as he retired from Uganda Prisons Service. A new National Coordinator Ms. Victoria Katamba was also officially welcomed to the program in the same meeting. These meetings were held on 21st April 2017, 28th June 2017, and 20th September 2017. However, a crisis meeting was held on 15th November 2017 to discuss the outcome of the Expression Of Interest to DGF for funding for the next strategic period as well as confer a way forward on the transition of PAS.

iv. Quarterly monitoring visits/ Stakeholder meetings

- ❖ The PAS team carried out a total of 3 quarterly monitoring visits to all the PAS sites in 2017. During the visits the team convened stakeholder meetings bringing on board stakeholders from the different institutions on issues of access to justice. The visits were an opportunity to introduce the new National Coordinator of PAS.

The schedule for the visits is detailed in the table below;

QUARTER	DATES	PAS LOCATION
January to March 2017	27 th January and 24 th February 2017.	Masaka, Mbarara, FortPortal, Busia and Kampala
April to June 2017	24 th May and 23 rd June 2017.	Busia, Lira, Pader, Patong, Kitgum and Gulu
June to September 2017	4 th September to 15 th September 2017	Masaka, FortPortal, Bushenyi, Mbarara
October to December 2017	30 th October to 3 rd November 2017	Jinja, Mbale, Iganga, Tororo, Kapchorwa and Soroti

v. Internal Capacity development sessions

Three internal Capacity building sessions were conducted on 23rd February 2017, 24th March 2017, and 25th May 2017. The sessions sought to strengthen mediation, mobilization and communication skills of the CLVs.

vi. PAS Review and strategic planning meeting

A PAS review meeting was organized by the secretariat on 31st May 2017. This meeting brought on board PAS supervisors and team leaders to review PAS performance and reflect on strategic interventions for the future.

Action 5: Organizational Development

Action 5 provides for the planning, implementation and analysis of FHRI's systems and performance in order to achieve the objectives set out in the Strategic Plan. Organisational development aims to enable FHRI to respond and adapt to the changes and technological advances in the sector.

Program components

Organizational development consists of five components:

1. Partnership-building
2. Governing Bodies and membership strengthening
3. Human rights development
4. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
5. Office administration

1. Partnership-building

This component seeks to strengthen existing partnerships and build new ones for collective action and enhanced impact.

In 2017, FHRI remained an active member to the following networks and coalitions including: East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP), Human Rights Network – Uganda (HURINET-U), DENIVA, Legal Aid Service Providers Network (LASPNET), Uganda Child Rights NGO Network (UCRNN), Citizens Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU), Uganda Governance Monitoring Project (UGMP), Coalition Against Torture (CAT), National Coalition for Human Rights Defenders in Uganda (NCHRD-U), Citizens Elections Watch with IT (CEW-IT), World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP), the East African Coalition Against the Death Penalty (EACADP), NGO Coalition for an Effective African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (CEAC) and Network of Public Interest Litigation Lawyers (NETPIL). The organization is also affiliated to the International Federation for Human Rights Defenders (FIDH).

Table 3: FHRI's roles in networks/ coalitions

Network/Umbrella	Position
EHAHRDP/Defenddefenders	Chairperson, Board of Directors
The East African Coalition Against the Death Penalty (EACADP)	Coordinator
Federation of International Human Rights Defenders (FIDH)	Vice President
World Coalition Against the Death Penalty	Member, Steering Committee
Citizens' Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU)	Chairperson, Executive Committee
National Coalition for Human Rights Defenders in Uganda	Board Member, Board of Directors

OUTCOME

FHRI's highly selective strategy has added value to the overall program by amplifying the campaign on key human rights issues like: the right to life, pre-trial detention, electoral reforms, torture, judicial reforms among others.

Joint activities implemented with Partners in 2017:

World Alliance for Citizen Participation (CIVICUS)

- On 16th March 2017, FHRI and Civicus submitted a joint statement on civic space before the 34th Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.

UPR Info

- FHRI and UPR Info convened a Civil and Political Rights cluster workshop to validate and adopt the Action plan for the Implementation of the UPR Civil and Political Rights recommendations from 9th – 11 August 2017.

Citizen Election Watch – IT- Connecting Voices

- Conducted a training for twenty four (24) Neighborhood Assemblies on the application of the Community Based Monitoring and Evaluation System (CBMES) in Kayunga district from 10th - 17th February 2018 for 105 (27 females and 78 males) community monitors.
- Conducted a monitoring visit on quality of service delivery from 24th - 26th February 2018 in three (3) sub-counties of Busaana, Kayonza and Bbaale, Kayunga district.
- Participated in semi annual and quarterly meetings at the parish and district level level in the sub-counties of Bbaale, Nampanyi, Lusenke, Misanga, Namizo, Namayuge and Kamusabi, Kayunga district from 20th – 30th March 2018.
- Held a semi annual engagement meeting with district leaders in Kayunga on the quality of service delivery in the district on 28th April 2017. It was attended by 32 participants (26 males and 6 females).

Robert Bosch Foundation

- Convened the Eastern African Civic Education Forum from 22-24 November 2017, Entebbe. The Forum brought together 15 civic educators from Eastern and Southern African civic education organizations as well as organizations from Germany and Tunisia representing a European and an Arab Civic Education Network respective.

Events attended in 2017

In 2017 FHRI participated in a total of 197 events organized by partners, civil society organizations, government institutions and academic institutions on human rights, governance and democracy. Some of these include:

- The 19th Annual conference of Judges organized by the Judicial Studies Institute, January 26th-29th in Kampala.
- Breakfast meeting on the dissemination of a study report on Female Genital Mutilation/cutting organized by Uganda Women's Network on Tuesday 11th April 2017, at Golf Course Hotel.

- Launch of the Society for Justice and National Unity (SOJNU) and a symposium on “Who Owns Uganda’s Economy” held on 11th May 2017, at School of Law Makerere University.
- Consultative meeting on the United Nations Treaty Bodies that took place on 23rd and 24th May 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Conference on collaboration between the Judiciary and indigenous Community justice institution, organized by The Legal Aid Forum in partnership with the National Alliance for the Development of Community Advice Officers and Democratic Governance and Rights Unit, held from 23rd -24th May in Kigali Rwanda.
- Breakfast meeting to launch the 2nd Uganda Law Society quarterly Rule of law report organized by Uganda Law Society on 27th June 2017 in Kampala.
- Strategic Partnership Meeting with Democratic Governance Facility on 29th June in Kampala Uganda.
- Workshop on hidden refugee realities organized by Refugee Law Project on 19th June at Imperial Royale Hotel.
- OXFAM-VOICE project inception meeting organized by OXFAM Uganda held from 18th-19th July at Silver Springs hotel, Kampala.
- Judicial Service Commissions’ stakeholders forum organized by the Judicial Service Commission on 31st July 2017 at Silver Springs Hotel.
- Leadership seminar organized by Islamic University In Uganda human rights club on 6th September at their Kampala campus.
- Regional and Country Awards in the welfare and civil society category organized by Global Titans in South Africa, held on 22nd September 2017 at Kampala Serena Hotel.
- Training on resource mobilization and proposal writing organized by U.S. Agency for International Development/ Uganda Rights and Rule of Law activity on 27th and 28th September in Kampala.
- Regional Conference on the Formal Recognition of Criminal Justice Paralegals, organized by the Paralegal Advisory Service Institute from 9th to 10TH November 2017 in Lilongwe, Malawi.

2. Governing Bodies and Membership Strengthening

This component seeks to build an effective Board of Directors and active membership base to support FHRI in achieving the goals and strategies under its new Strategic Plan.

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 organization, 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.

Activities implemented in 2017

- Three (3) quarterly Board of Directors meetings were held on 17th June 2017, 18th August 2017 and, 15th December 2017 to monitor progress and approve work-plans and budgets.
- 84 new members were recruited in the category of Ordinary Members while 214 members upgraded their membership status.
- The 20th FHRI AGM was held on 9th September 2017. 652 members attended (589 old members 63 new members).
- The Board of Directors (2015-2018) stands as follows:

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'Odong	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.

- The Trustees and Working Group continued to deliver on their mandate and support the organisation in various capacities.

Trustees

Name	Affiliation
Mrs. Mary Sewamuwe	Minnesota Health International
Mrs. Sarah Mukiibi. S.	Libra Consultants Limited
Mr. Albert Mukundane	Consultant
Mr. Wycliffe Birungi	Birungi & Co Advocates
Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana	FHRI

FHRI Working Group

Name	Position
Rev. Dr. John Kateeba Tumwine	Chairperson
Mr. James Kizito-Mayanja	Member
Her Worship Stella Amabilis	Member
Mr. Mwambustya Ndebesa	Member
Mr. Patrick Semwogerere	Member
Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana	Ex-Officio

3. Human Resource Development

This component seeks to support effective and efficient programme implementation through staffing, staff training and development and a robust internship programme.

Human Resource Development has three components:

- I. Staffing
- II. Internship program
- III. Staff training and development

I. Staffing

The FHRI team comprises of technical and administrative support staff. In 2017, FHRI staff position stood as follows:

Program	Total number of staff	Male	Female
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FHRI	35	16	19
PAS (Secretariat)	5	3	2
PAS (Social Workers)	57	33	24
PAS (Paralegals)	52	25	27
PAS (Community Legal Volunteers)	40	25	15
CCEDU (Secretariat)	10	5	5
Totals	199	107	92

II. Internship program

In 2017, FHRI hosted a total of 52 interns (38 Females and 14 Males). The students contributed to the human rights campaigns throughout the year.

List of interns hosted by FHRI in 2017

No.	Name	University	Division
1	Odraru Monica	Law Development Centre	Legal Services
2	Namugwanya Alber Fina	Uganda Martyrs University	Legal Services
3	Murhon Hilda	Law Development Centre	Legal Services
4	Nassinde Juliana	Law Development Centre	Legal Services
5	Ingabire Mega Percious	Uganda Christian University	Programs
6	Ainematsiko Brian	Kyambogo University	Capacity Development
7	Oyinkan Muraina	Osgoode Hall Law school	Death Penalty
8	Deandra Moore	Osgoode Hall Law school	Research
9	Alex Polx	Grenable Law School	Research
10	Shereen Khalfan	Osgoode Hall Law school	Research
11	Kelsey Annu Essuman	Osgoode Hall Law school	Research
12	Arago Doreen	Law Development Centre	Legal Services
13	Sara Zonta	Rainbow International School	Legal Services
14	Busingu Lumu	Kyambogo University	Capacity Development
15	Nahamya Brian	Kyambogo University	Capacity Development
16	Mbabazi Derrick	Kyambogo University	External Services
17	Nayebare Judith	Kyambogo University	CCEDU
18	Hayad Mohammed		CCEDU
19	Mwaziwona Phin	Kampala International University	Rights and Rule of Law
20	Gen Vccionales	University of British Colombia	Research
21	Rafaella Creus		Research
22	Arinaitwe Anitah	Kyambogo University	CCEDU
23	Nateza Sarah	Kyambogo University	CCEDU
24	Gloria Mrindoko	Rainbow International School	Legal Services
25	Faima Nachenyi	Kampala International University	Paralegal Advisory Services
26	Ajiri Nabukenyi	Kyambogo University	Paralegal Advisory Services

27	Barbara Lamara	Makerere University	Legal Services
28	James Katumba	Makerere University	Legal Services
29	Nalugya Lydia	Makerere University	Legal Services
30	Margaret Kabangaru	Makerere University	Legal Services
31	Mununa Arajabu	Makerere University	Capacity Development
32	Lwanga Vincent	Makerere University	Legal Services
33	Happpy Monica	Makerere University	Legal Services
34	Ssenoga Hamudan	Makerere University	Capacity Development
35	Nabukalu Maria	Cavendish University	Death penalty
36	Anyango Sandra Dorothy	Makerere University	CEDDU
37	Nanyonga Solome	Makerere University	Research
38	Kameita Jennifer	Kyambogo University	Paralegal Advisory Services
39	Avacia Gloria	Makerere University	Capacity Development
40	Ayesiga Mark	Makerere University	External Services
41	Kamahoro Anna	Kyambogo University	Paralegal Advisory Services
42	Paritosh Mulay	Sciences Po, Paris	Research
43	Najjuma Ratifa	Makerere University	External Services
44	Nasuubira Maria	Makerere University	Capacity Development
45	Nakaziba Phiona	Makerere University	Capacity Development
46	Birungi Charity	University of Technology and Management	Programs
47	Ana Relinque Lopez	Sciences Po, Paris	Research
49	Katusiime Brenda	Institute of Legal Practice and Development, Rwanda	Legal Services
50	Jaiman Sigh	Osgoode Hall Law School	Research
51	Tim Drunkenmolle	University of Cologne	Research
52.	Thembo JohnBosco	Nkumba University	Research

iii. **Staff Training and Development**

❖ **The Advocacy and Resource mobilisation strategies**

Following the Organizational 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. In 2017, FHRI developed two strategies, including the advocacy and resource mobilization strategies.

❖ **Training on resource mobilization and proposal writing**

From the 27th - 28th September, 2017, the FHRI staff team along with other partners of the Rights and Rule of Law were hosted at Freedom House for a two day training on resource mobilization and proposal writing. The training aimed at equipping trainees with skills to improve resource mobilization.

4. Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (ME&L)

The component seeks to strengthen FHRI's Monitoring Evaluation and Learning system to effectively document impact and better inform future planning and programming.

The following activities were implemented in 2017:

- The annual work plan, year planner and budget for 2017 which form part of the M & E system were adopted.
- Three quarterly program review meetings were held on 4th April 2017, 16th June 2017, and 15th December 2017.
- One (1) Managers' meeting to review performance was held on 17th November 2017.
- Three (3) quarterly Board of Directors meetings were held on 17th June 2017, 18th August and, 15th December 2017.
- One Strategic Planning session was held at the Human Rights House, Nsambya on 29th March 2017.
- An M & E training session was held on 19th – 21st July 2017. It was facilitated by the International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW).
- A results framework for the Strategic Plan (2017 -2021) was adopted during the year.
- The DGF/FHRI Joint Annual Review 2016/2017 was conducted during the year.

5. Office Administration

In 2017, FHRI paid its salary and utility bills on a regular basis. Assets were regularly maintained despite the high operational costs. The organisation duly insured, serviced and repaired its equipment including vehicles, photocopiers, the generator, computers and accessories. A container for storage was acquired in 2017.

IV. 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 2017**, 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 17 to 39.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the FHRI as at 31 December 2017 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.

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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.
- 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.

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

- 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.

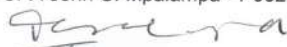
Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

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

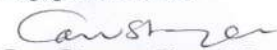
- (i) We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- (ii) In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the Company, so far as appears from our examination of those books; and
- (iii) The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

Report on other Requirements

The Engagement Partner on this audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is CPA John C. Mpalampa - P0020.



John C. Mpalampa,
Engagement Partner


Carr Stanyer Sims & Co.
Certified Public Accountants
Kampala, Uganda.



9th May 2019

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 2017**

	Note	2017 Actual Ushs.	2017 Budget Ushs.	2016 Actual Ushs.
INCOME				
General Grants	8	1,584,394,595	1,886,741,883	1,838,399,923
Specific Grants	9	135,893,370	158,495,466	79,586,400
TOTAL INCOME		1,720,287,965	2,045,237,349	1,917,986,323
Less: Capital Expenditure		-	-	(9,530,000)
Balance available for recurrent expenditure		1,720,287,965	2,045,237,349	1,908,456,323
RECURRENT EXPENDITURE				
PROGRAMMES				
RESEARCH, ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING				
Routine Monitoring		1,669,275	2,801,000	15,289,541
Thematic Report Production		121,188,697	113,126,556	49,603,323
Regional Prison Training and Round Table		42,510,360	43,642,000	-
Treaty Reporting		6,470,025	6,500,000	16,187,580
Transitional Justice		-	-	94,189,401
Sub-total Research, Advocacy and Lobbying		171,838,357	166,069,556	175,269,845
LEGAL SERVICES				
Legal Aid Services		57,037,305	56,112,603	45,795,453
Mobile legal Camps		14,256,481	13,684,000	38,716,500
Representation of Death Row Inmates		-	-	34,484,956
Public Interest Litigation/Legislative Advocacy		128,525,504	371,269,988	351,460,984
Kalangala office		42,365,819	42,000,000	32,196,409
Capacity building for local leaders		40,040,225	44,580,000	15,220,000
Salary costs		-	-	76,356,187
Sub-total Legal Services		282,225,334	527,646,591	594,230,489
CIVIC EDUCATION				
Promoting Active Citizenship in Uganda		47,360,575	58,157,172	-
Students Leadership Forum		113,285,200	112,971,000	10,172,000
Strengthening SRHR Kalangala		-	-	144,406,267
University Human Rights Network		4,840,000	4,840,000	32,100,000
Civic awareness camps		21,504,000	20,385,554	16,851,900
Building Civic Competence		12,458,600	11,860,000	3,560,000
Campaign on Death Penalty		6,620,000	6,620,000	-
Salary costs		-	-	30,571,013
Sub-total Civic Education		206,068,375	214,833,726	237,661,180

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 2017

Note	2017 Actual Ushs.	2017 Budget Ushs.	2016 Actual Ushs.
RECURRENT EXPENDITURE (Continued)			
EXTERNAL SERVICES			
Communication and Information Management	-	-	30,123,290
Public Affairs	-	-	490,000
Volunteer and Internship Fund	-	-	2,200,000
Partnerships	-	-	30,367,448
Salary costs	-	-	52,510,756
Sub-total External Services	-	-	115,691,494
INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT			
Periodic Review and Staff Retreat	13,704,400	13,550,000	4,826,400
Human Resource Development	-	-	2,900,000
Governing bodies	-	-	3,755,000
Monitoring and Evaluation	22,931,634	22,360,000	16,776,695
Salary costs	-	-	90,549,489
Partnerships and subscription to Networks	21,214,576	23,123,294	-
Insurance and vehicle maintenance	8,912,200	8,452,000	-
Programme support	-	20,000,000	-
Sub-total Organisational Development	66,762,810	87,485,294	118,807,584
SPECIAL PROJECTS			
Embassy of France in Uganda - My Rights My Power	9,023,694	42,372,881	-
Penal Reform International- Community Service	-	-	3,025,014
ICNL	2,843,547	7,120,000	34,803,550
Promoting the Electoral Process in Uganda	-	-	344,597,385
CIVICUS	28,514,000	28,763,200	9,479,740
Penal Reform International-Africa Office	4,000,000	4,079,305	30,289,155
BOSCH East Africa Civil Education Forum	43,376,566	42,291,580	-
CEW-IT Connecting Voices of the Citizen	7,080,000	7,248,500	-
Sub-total Special Projects	94,837,807	131,875,466	422,194,844
Total Programme Expenditure	821,732,683	1,127,910,633	1,663,855,436
OFFICE ADMINISTRATION			
Staff salaries, benefits and taxes	789,138,322	794,599,388	372,279,932
Office administration	32,940,547	31,782,996	34,877,248
Communication and postage	4,512,474	4,075,200	1,600,000
Space and Utilities	33,938,003	35,567,868	9,550,556
Office supplies and stationery	2,486,456	4,279,464	1,144,000
Generator and vehicle fuel	9,620,000	11,500,000	11,200,000
Furniture and equipment maintenance	6,569,680	6,500,000	600,000
Insurance	14,643,496	14,800,000	14,288,648
Audit	8,467,500	8,203,500	18,000,000
Bank charges	6,253,543	6,018,300	10,206,151
Total Office Administration	908,570,021	917,326,716	473,746,535

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 2017**

	Note	2017 Actual Ushs.	2017 Budget Ushs.	2016 Actual Ushs.
Total Recurrent Expenditure		1,730,302,704	2,045,237,349	2,137,601,971
Deficit before exchange loss		(10,014,739)	-	(229,145,648)
Exchange (loss) / gain		(968,478)	-	15,718,527
Transfer to FHRI		-	-	8,643,037
Refund to donor		-	-	(10,090,953)
DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR		(10,983,217)	-	(214,875,037)
Balance at 1 January		(34,792,182)	-	180,082,855
Transfer to FHRI House Fund	10	95,477,876	-	-
BALANCE AT 31 DECEMBER		49,702,477	-	(34,792,182)
Represented by:				
Bank balances	4.1	58,169,977		114,220,604
Bank overdraft	4.2	-		(1,687,719)
Payables	7	(8,467,500)		(147,325,067)
		49,702,477		(34,792,182)

IV. CONCLUSION

For FHRI, 26 years of human rights advocacy in Uganda is just a beginning. With our new program in place, marks a new agenda. Poverty is still prevalent, Democratic governance structures are still weak, ignorance of the law and human rights is still rife. The quality of life for the majority is below accepted standards. FHRI remains steadfast in its struggle for a society that respects the integrity of the individual. We shall not tire. We commit our selves to a battle well fought. In this we are not alone. To you our partners, colleagues, friends and peers, we say that you are not only treasured but we share a common destiny.

‘TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.’

‘FHRI is a leader in the human rights sector in Uganda. It has been at the forefront of establishing a number of coalitions in civil society sector like the coalition on the abolition of the death penalty. DGF/FHRI Joint Annual Review 2016/2017



FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE (FHRI)

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