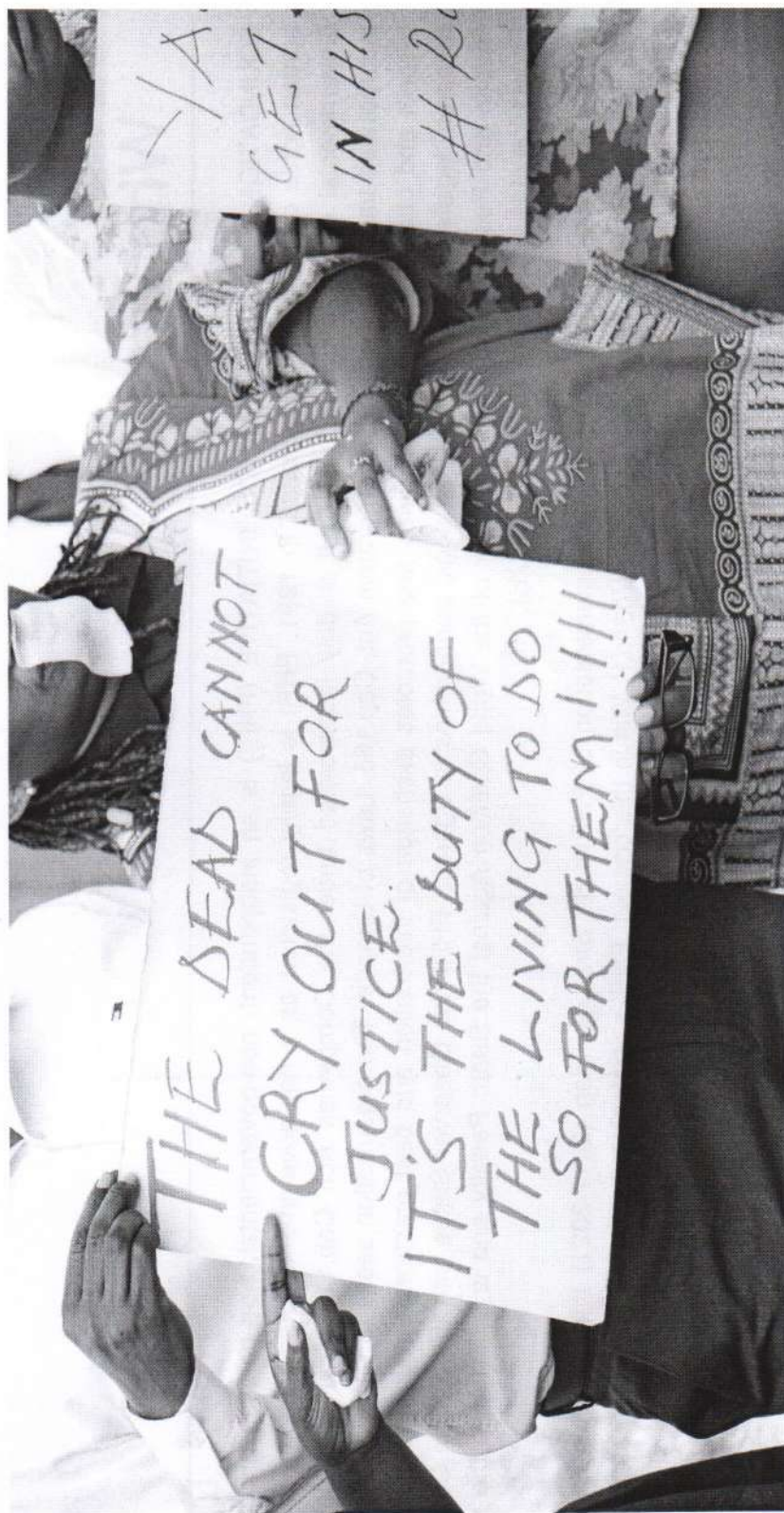




ANNUAL REPORT 2018



Summary

FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE (FHRI)

Who we are

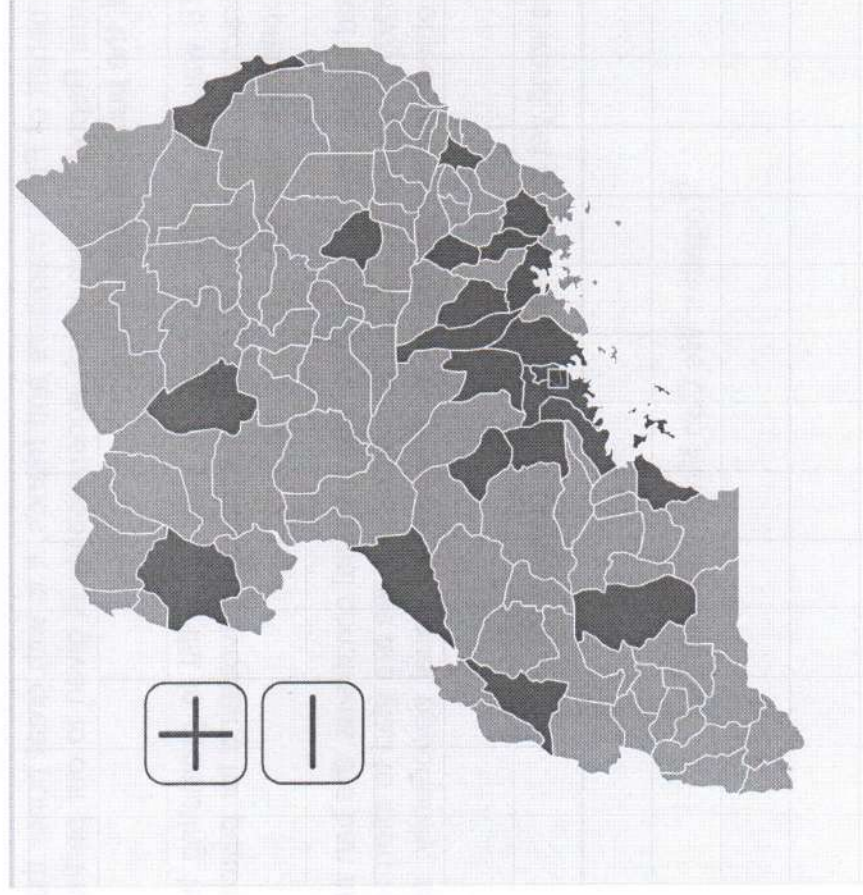
FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE (FHRI) is an independent, non-governmental, non-partisan and not-for-profit human rights organisation. Established in 1991, FHRI is legally registered as a non-governmental organization under the Non-Governmental Organizations Act 2016. It is duly incorporated under 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).

2018 marked the second year into the implementation of FHRI's 8th Strategic Plan (2017-2021) titled, '*Between Rhetoric and Practice: Bridging the Democracy Divide in Uganda*'. Within this context, FHRI's strategic priorities are designed around four broad campaigns namely; '**My Rights, My Power Campaign**', '**The Defence of the Right to Personal Liberty Campaign**', the '**Rights and Rule of Law Campaign**' and, '**the Campaign for the Abolition of the Death Penalty in Uganda**.' The four campaigns 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

'Within this context, FHRI's strategic priorities are designed around two broad themes namely: Active citizenship and Access to justice.'

Where we worked in 2018



Key: Red represents the districts where FHRl worked in 2018. These include: Kalangala, Jinja, Kayunga, Iganga, Kamuli, Kaliro, Soroti, Mukono, Mpigi, Arua, Kampala, Kiboga, Bulisa, Hoima, Wakiso, Luweero, Mityana, Gulu, Hoima, Kabarole, Mbale, Bugiri, Moroto, Masaka, Mbarara and Wakiso



Message from our leadership

Dear friends,

I greet you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On behalf of FHRI members and friends, it is with great honor that we present to you this 27th Annual Report through which accountability is given to our partners, the community we serve and, the public at large.

2018 was yet another remarkable year for FHRI in promoting human rights, documentation, monitoring of human rights practices, promoting of good governance, advocating for peace, stability, democracy, social justice and sustainable development in Uganda.

Despite the many ordeals faced by the organization to include financial constraints, the ban and suspension of the Citizens Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDEU) among others, we are glad to inform you that the organization has continued to pursue its set objectives, upholding its core values of equal opportunity, result orientation, team work, excellence and, timelessness.

We have indeed overcome the worst yet look forward to a more glorious 2019!

IN GOD WE TRUST

‘Together We Can Make a Difference.’

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

2018 In Review

During her 2nd cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2016, the Government of Uganda accepted a total of 148 recommendations all aimed at improving the human rights situation in Uganda. However, despite these rhetorical commitments to the protection of human rights, adherence to constitutionalism and rule of law, the practice in 2018 largely showed a trend to the contrary.

The right to freedom of expression, association and assembly were restricted. Journalists and others who criticized the Government were arrested, detained and harassed. There was a sharp rise in the number of women killed, some of whom were subjected to sexual violence. Draft constitutional amendments to the land laws gave the government authority to expropriate private land.

This ever-growing culture of impunity has created a state of apathy and disempowered citizenry who feel unable to demand accountability from the state due to the inability of Government to bridge the income gap, with women at the bottom of the development pyramid. Civic space; including (digital, physical and policy) spaces is increasingly closing; with systems plagued with networks of corruption and patronage; generating high levels of inefficiency; public distrust in the state, and poor service delivery to Ugandans. Critical decision-making has been hijacked by the political elite resulting in less citizen representation, and participation at all levels. Restrictive legislation such as the Public Order Management Act (2013), and regressive tax regimes such as the Excise Duty Tax 2018, which was enacted for the purpose of creating taxes for 'Over The Top (OTT) digital platforms' such as Facebook, Whatsapp, Twitter have partly contributed to narrowing spaces for citizen dialogue.

In 2018, Uganda's economy registered a slow growth pace reducing its impact on incomes and poverty reduction. Income inequality has increased significantly creating a 'growth with exclusion' with an estimated 70% of Ugandans living on less than \$2.50 per day, while youth unemployment is high, and human labour is underutilized. Women carry the burden of anchoring the family, regardless of their economic status. This notwithstanding, women experience sexual and gender-based violence, and denial of the rights to education, access to land and participation in public and family affairs. In 2018 Uganda hosted the largest number of refugees in the region, including over 1 million from South Sudan providing a safe haven.

'The rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly were restricted. Journalists and others who criticized the Government were arrested, detained and harassed.'

The campaigns in 2018 - A snap shot

‘My Rights, My Power Campaign’



Launching the 'My Rights My Power Campaign': Leaders of Mbale Women Market Vendors' Associations display certificates of participation at Wash and Wills Country Home, Mbale on 7th March 2018.

- ✓ **150** human rights awareness sessions were conducted in 3 markets from 9th - 10th March 2018, in Bugwere market, Soroti road (Kikindu) market and Mbale central market.
- ✓ **4** radio talk shows were supported.
- ✓ **80** women market vendors assisted during the legal aid camp run on 11th March 2018 in Mbale.
- ✓ **117** community members reached through outreach programs.

'My Rights My Power Campaign'

Student leadership development

✓ **40:** The university network has expanded to a total of 40 Human Rights Associations with a new entrant - Livingstone International University.

✓ **1:** The FHRI Human Rights Award was awarded to Ms Kulume Ruth of Uganda Martyrs University Nkozi during the 24th Graduation Ceremony on 8th November 2018.

✓ **2,000:** Nurtured a cadre of young Human Rights Defenders through Students Leadership Forums

✓ **38:** Conducted human rights training for 38 internship students.



'My Rights My Power Campaign'

Legal Aid

Objective

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

- ✓ **302** (127 male and 175 female) new clients.

- **28%**, land issues
- **23%** domestic
- **17%** civil
- **16%** criminal
- **16%** commercial

Remedies

- ✓ **Ugx 134,807,650/=** was recovered on behalf of our clients
- ✓ **2** court judgments in favor of our clients
- ✓ **3** court rulings discharging our clients from criminal cases.
- ✓ **12** rentals, 16 pieces of land and furniture were recovered
- ✓ **63** cases of child custody and maintenance fully resolved
- ✓ **449** clients given legal advice
- ✓ **64** registered court annexed mediations
- ✓ **10** consent judgments
- ✓ **5** letters of administration obtained

Toll Free Facility

- ✓ **601** clients (373 Male and 228 Females) utilized the Toll free hotline

Wakiso district office

- ✓ **64** mediation cases were registered

Kalangala district office

- ✓ **147** clients; (72 male and 75 female)
 - **97** civil cases,
 - **24** domestic
 - **26** land cases.
 - **5** letters of administration.

Ugx 42,814,650 money recovered for 44 clients.

‘My Rights My Power Campaign’

Paralegal Advisory Services (PAS)

Objective

- ✓ *The overall objective of PAS is to enhance access to justice for the poor and vulnerable groups caught up in conflict with the law.*

Geographical coverage

- ✓ **13** sites including : Arua, Gulu, Kitgum, Lira, Mbale, Jinja, Kampala (Luzira & UCLF), Mbarara, Bushenyi, Kabarole, Busia and Soroti.
- ✓ **63** districts up from 58 districts.

Cases work

- ✓ **35** successfully concluded mediation cases through the CLV program
- ✓ **7** cases on legal representation

Media

- ✓ **20** radio talk shows

The Defence of the Right to Personal Liberty Campaign



Launch of the thematic report on Stifling voice on 12th April 2018 at Hotel Africana, Kampala

✓ **135:** Partners attended the launch of the report '*Stifling voices: Preventive Detention as Threat to Free Speech in Uganda*' on 12th April 2018 Hotel Africana, Kampala, Uganda.

✓ **1:** Fact finding mission into electoral violence and human rights abuses during the Arua municipality parliamentary by-election.

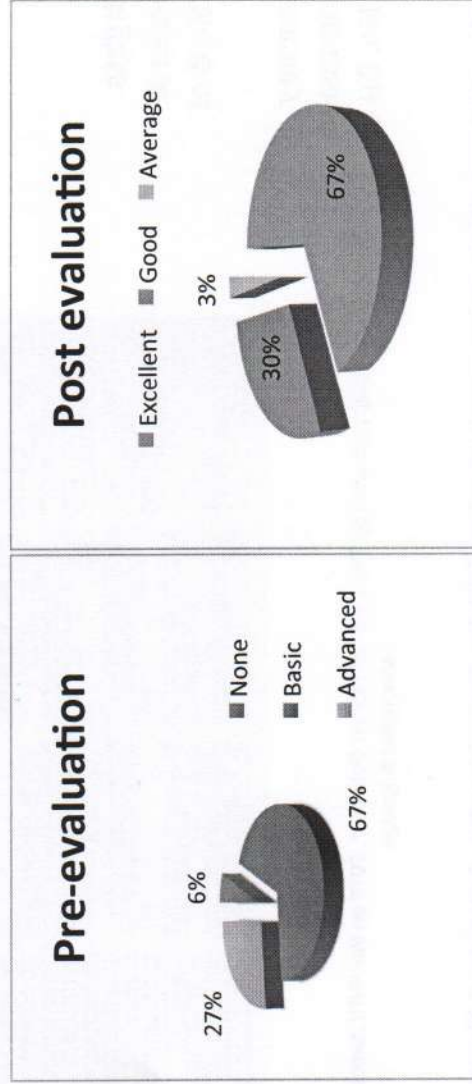
✓ **1:** FHRI developed a draft of the legal and practice guide on pre-trial detention as an innovation aimed at reducing the levels and periods of pre-trial detention and increasing the technical capacity of actors in the administration of the justice sector.

✓ **120 :**stakeholders attended the national validation exercise of the draft Guide from 19th November to 6th December 2018.

The Rights and Rule of Law Campaign

Objective

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



36: Judicial officers attended the regional sensitization workshop on the effective prosecution of Sexual Offences against children on 22nd March 2018 at Sunset Hotel, Jinja.

67% of the participants rated the sensitization workshop excellent.

60% of the participants indicated that their human rights knowledge had been enhanced.

✓ 4 Public Interest Litigation cases

- 2:** judicial outreach programs in the communities were conducted in Offaka Sub-County, Arua and Namungalwe Sub-County, Iganga district on June 13, 2018 and September 26, 2018 respectively.

201: community members were reached including elders, local leaders, councilors, police officers, teachers, religious leaders, community based organizations.

130: female students visited Arua High Court on June 14, 2018, Chief Magistrates Court, Iganga and Jinja High Court on September 27, 2018. ¹⁴



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that about only two per cent of Ugandans can afford to have a representative in court.

Gives this small numbers, there has been a push to leave the government to deal with the problem, so that so that the majority of Ugandans who can't and to blow the

The Daily Monitor on October 1, 2018 on the FHRJ Judicial Outlets conducted in Iqanqa.

in Offaka Sub-County, Arua and Namungu.

ely.

aders, councilors, police officers, teachers

Chief Magistrates Court, Iganga and Jinja

Newspaper clipping published by The Daily Monitor on October 1, 2018 on the FHRI Judicial Outreach Program conducted in Iqanqa.

Campaign for the Abolition of the Death Penalty in Uganda.

Objective

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



L – R, H.E Attilio PACIFICI, Head of Delegation of the European Union to Uganda, and Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, Executive Director, FHRI, delivering their speeches during the commemoration of the 16th World day against death penalty, Human Rights House, 10th October 2018.

- ✓ **12:** prison visits conducted bringing to light the challenges faced by death row inmates awaiting trial before civilian and military courts.
- ✓ **0:** no executions have taken place
- ✓ **150:** on death row (6 women and 144 men) in 2018
- ✓ **140:** on death row (5 women and 135 men) in 2019.



EU Ambassadors during the solidarity visit to the male section, Luzira upper prison on 18th October 2018.

CAMPAIGN ON ELECTORAL REFORMS

Objective

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



Left-right: Ms. Faridah Lule, Analyst, Elections and learning CCEDU, Mr. Crispin Kaheru, Coordinator CCEDU, Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, Executive Director FHRI, Justice Simon Mugenyi Byabakama, Chairperson Electoral Commission, Ms. Catherine Kanabahita, Executive Director DENIVA, Ms. Charity Ahimbisibwe, Senior Manager, Communication and Advocacy and Mr. Robert Sempala, Executive Director, Human Rights Network for Journalists at the Electoral Commission Offices on 24th October 2018.

- ✓ **37,551** voter mobilization messages
- ✓ **45%** voters mobilized to participate in Butebo & Paliisa By-election.
- ✓ **5** election observation missions
- ✓ **260** observers deployed
- ✓ **1** open letter to the President highlighting the need for political and electoral reforms ahead of the next general elections on February 19, 2018
- ✓ **36** radio talk shows
- ✓ **15** TV talk shows, social media engagement/ campaign on Facebook & twitter.
- ✓ **2** My Voice regional platforms in West Nile and Karamoja region.
- ✓ **4** My Voice Community platforms in Koboko, Kotido, Moroto and Nebbi.
- ✓ **1** 'My Voice' National Consensus Platform with all the national key stakeholders at Hotel Africana.
- ✓ **2** Community barazas and leadership debates in Kikuube and Nabilatuk districts.

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Objective

- ✓ To build a sustainable and innovative human rights advocacy organization in Uganda.

✓ **59:** Staff members including (36 female and 23 male)

✓ **56:** Interns hosted (38 female and 18 male)

✓ **4:** Board of Directors meetings held

Our Development Partners

- ✓ Democratic Governance Facility (DGF)
- ✓ DIGNITY
- ✓ Embassy of France in Uganda
- ✓ Freedom House under the USAID Rights and Rule of Law Program (RRRL)
- ✓ Federation of International Human Rights Defenders (FIDH)
- ✓ International Centre for Non-Profit Law (ICNL)
- ✓ National Endowment for Democracy (NED)
- ✓ OXFAM/VOICE
- ✓ Robert Bosch Stiftung (RBS)
- ✓ UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
- ✓ UPR INFO
- ✓ World Alliance for Citizen Participation (CIVICUS)
- ✓ World Coalition Against Death Penalty (WCADP)

Challenges:

- ✓ The closing civic space and its impact on FHRI.
- ✓ The need to increase the resource mobilization capacity of the organization for self-sustenance.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Ugx 1,077,197,417: 2018 Income received

✓ **84%:** spent on programs in 2018

✓ **16%:** spent on Administrative costs in 2018

External Services

✓ **1,048** new tweets shared

✓ **1,364** new followers on facebook

✓ **101** FHRI in the print media.

✓ **2** issues of the E-newsletter released

✓ **1,535** Total FHRI membership (Female 667, Male 868) 16