



FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE (FHRI)

Annual Report 2020

***“Together We can
make a difference.”***

Who are we?

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 Registration (Amendment Act) 2006. It is duly incorporated under the Companies Act, Cap.110 as a body corporate and incorporated under the Trustees Incorporation Act, Cap.165, and 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 eight 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 29 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 2020, FHRI marked the forth year into 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 citizen movement, to demand for respect for constitutional order, adherence to the rule of law and the protect 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 (HURIPEC), Uganda National NGO Forum (UNNGOF), Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC), FIDA-Uganda, Uganda Women's Network (UWONET), Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum in Kampala (HRAPF), National Coalition Against the Death Penalty in Uganda, East African Coalition Against the Death penalty, Refugee Law Project (RLP), Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda (ACCU), the Strengthening Access to Justice – Uganda Chapter (SAJEA), Human Rights Centre Uganda (HRCU), the Citizens Election Observers' Network-Uganda (CEON-U) and, the Citizens' Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU).

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

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

Commerce (Tororo), Kampala University (Jinja), Kampala International University (Bushenyi), National Technical College – Elgon and, National Technical College – Bushenyi.

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

The Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) is grateful to the following organizations that have supported the implementation of our 8th Strategy Plan (2017-2021) in 2020.

1. **CIVICUS:** World Alliance for Citizen Participation.
2. **DIGNITY** (Danish Institute Against Torture).
3. Federation of International Human Rights Defenders (FIDH).
4. Freedom House under the USAID Rights and Rule of Law Program (RRL).
5. National Endowment for Democracy (NED).
6. World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP).

Foreword



Ms. Rosetti Nabbumba Nayenga
Chairperson, FHRI Board

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to share with you FHRI's journey in 2020 towards enhancing respect and observance of human rights practices, civic values, promoting best practices through training, education, research, advocacy, ICTs and strategic partnerships in Uganda. The Annual Report 2020 recounts FHRI's interventions, accomplishments, challenges and lessons learnt through the year.

2020 was yet another remarkable year despite the challenges being faced by FHRI, the sector and the entire world. It remained a formidable brand fit for the purpose for which it was established 28 years ago. With support from FHRI's invaluable partners and friends, a lot has been achieved under the two years of leadership of the 10th Board of Directors and the Management of FHRI. Despite the limited resources, the Board is proud of the organization's achievements.

Key among the highlights were; keeping the membership vibrant amidst the social, economic and political challenges, keeping FHRI's field offices in Kalangala and Wakiso districts operational, adapting new work methods amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, continued efforts to promoting awareness and observation of rights by speaking out strongly and openly on pressing human rights issues. On the other hand, our Five-Year Strategic Plan program continues to run under the key campaign areas; My Rights, My Power; Access to Justice; Rights and Rule of Law; Freedom from Pre-trial detention and the Campaign Against the Death Penalty in Uganda. At the institutional level, through the uncertainty, we are proud that we were able to keep our governing bodies functional managing to hold all the 4 planned Board of Directors Meeting and our Annual General Meeting on 15th August 2020. For the first time in the history of the Foundation, we gathered together to attend the 22nd Annual General Meeting both as a physical and online event. Because of the COVID-19 related restrictions, we sought permission from the Government to host a specific number of members at the Human Rights House while taking advantage of the online platforms. We appreciate the flexibility of our members in adopting to these changes and for appreciating the limitations.

We are proud of what we have managed to achieve despite the COVID-19 challenges and are indebted to our membership, Trustees, staff and development partners for increasing the reach and depth of FHRI's work over the course of 2020.

'Together We Can Make A Difference'

FHRI BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2019 – 2022)



**Ms. Rosetti
Nabbumba Nayenga
Chairperson**



**Mr. Sserunjogi Davidson
Vice Chairperson**



**Ms. Namagembe
Pauline Margaret
Hon Treasurer**



**Ms. Bernadette
Bakkidde Kiberu
Hon Secretary**



**Mr. Lukwago Rajab
Member**



**Dr Josephine Ndagire
Member**



**Ms. Evelyn Korishaba
Member**



**Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana
Ex-officio**

highlights of our key interventions in 2020



Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana
Executive Director

It is with great pleasure and honor to present to you FHRI's 29th Annual Report for the year 2020.

This report is significant to the Foundation as it provides an account of what has been accomplished in the 2nd last year of the implementation of FHRI's 8th Strategic Plan (2017 – 2021) titled; '*Between Rhetoric and Practice: Bridging the Democracy Divide in Uganda*'.

The political, human rights and socio- economic context in which we operated in 2020 was adjusted to working within the COVID-19 related restrictions. The pandemic affected the quality of life of the majority of the population, more especially the urban poor in terms of health, education, freedom to worship, and enjoyment of social services. The increased poverty levels, which mostly affected children, youth and the elderly. The electoral process was adversely affected as candidates for elective positions had to meet scientific requirements, seen by many as restrictive, burdensome and overly costly to observe.

Within this context, 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.

Under rights, monitoring and advocacy, FHRI prioritized in monitoring human rights violations during COVID-19 and elections. The report on the right to liberty and security of person during the COVID-19 pandemic and elections was released at a press launch on 17th December 2020 at the Human Rights House.

FHRI involved herself in the preparations for reporting under the UN Universal Period Review

(UPR) ahead of Uganda's Third UPR Cycle, 2020. A Mission and stakeholder dialogue to gather information planned for early 2021 with support from CIVICUS in South Africa was held.

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 2020, the 11th Inter- University Human Rights Competition was held on 17th and 18th September 2020 at Mountains of the Moon University attended by 71 participants from 12 Universities. Makerere University emerged the winner followed by Uganda Christian University. Kampala International University came third.

The Rights and Rule of Law program aims at strengthening the capacity and independence of the judiciary in order to reach just decisions. In 2020, FHRI drafted a project concept note to facilitate exchange programs between judiciaries in Eastern and Southern Africa. This was developed to solicit support from the Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation (NOREC).

The death penalty campaign aims at the progressive abolition of capital punishment. Activities carried out include; commemorating the World Day Against the Death Penalty on 10th October 2019 at the Human Rights House, publication of a thematic research titled; *Access to Counsel: A matter of Life or death in Uganda* was carried out. The 3rd solidarity visit to death row inmates in Luzira Upper

Prison on 8th October 2020 where FHRI donated masks and foodstuffs for a special meal to the prisoners. Lastly FHRI conducted two planning meetings held on 26th July and 21st October 2020 with the Law firm Katende Sempebwa & Co. Advocates to support four cases on Appeal.

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. During the year, the scheme provided legal assistance to 157 clients, recovered 6 properties and compensation of UGX 45,836,000/= in favor of our clients. Reliefs obtained include financial compensation, release from detention and reconciliation of parties.

On 4th November 2020, CENESA hosted her virtual 3rd regional conference under the theme: *Why civic and voter education matters in promoting electoral democracy: Lessons from Malawi, Burundi, Tanzania and Uganda*. 74 participants attended the conference. The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Nomsa Masuku from the Electoral Commission of South Africa with 4 panelists from Malawi, Tanzania, Burundi and Uganda. On 5th November 2020, CENESA hosted her virtual 1st Annual General Meeting. 30 members attended the meeting. During the event, members adopted the CENESA Charter and resolved to formally register the Network in Uganda in 2021.

The 22nd AGM was successfully held on 15th August 2020 as a hybrid event. 270 members attended as follows: 28 physically, 220 followers on facebook and 22 on zoom. The Minutes for the 22nd AGM were finalized and sent out to members. The current FHRI membership stands at 1,562 people (889 women and 673 men.

These achievements notwithstanding, the organization was still confronted with a number of challenges.

The outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, and the case backlog mainly as a result of institutional malpractices within the judicial system still pose 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'

PROGRAMME ACHIEVEMENTS

ACTION 1: RESEARCH, ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING

Action 1 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.

1. Human Rights Monitoring and Documentation

On 10th September 2020, FHRI in partnership with FIDH was able to launch a Report on the **Human Rights Impact Assessment of the Oil extractive Industries on the Local Communities in the Albertine Graben**. The Report titled **“New Oil Same Business: At a Crossroads to Avert Catastrophe in Uganda.”** focused on the districts of Buliisa, Kikuube and Hoima. Furthermore, the Report zeroed down on human rights issues arising from the oil and gas sector with focus on the right to land, adequate standard of living, clean and health environment, freedom from torture and the right to liberty. The launch of the report attracted both local and international media. To date, FHRI and FIDH are in high level conversations on conducting capacity building activities in the local communities based on the findings and recommendations of the Report.



The scientific media launch of the report: “New Oil, Same Business? At a Crossroads to Avert Catastrophe in Uganda” and “Empty promises down the line? A Human Rights Impact Assessment of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline” at the Human Rights House on 10th September 2020.

The report can be accessed via

https://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/fidh_fhri_report_uganda_oil_extraction-compresse.pdf

Similarly on 21st December 2020, FHRI released a report on the Right to liberty and security of person in the context of COVID-19 in Uganda at the Human Rights House.



ACTION 2: LEGAL SERVICES

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 2020, FHRI provided legal assistance to indigent persons through attending to clients who walk into FHRI offices seeking for legal assistance (walk in clients); legal assistance provided at the Kalangala and Wakiso field offices; legal assistance through the Toll free phone facility.

Outcome

Legal Assistance

- 2 court judgments and 3 court rulings.
- Recovery of (45,836,000/=) on behalf of our clients.
- Recovery of 4 pieces of land, 1 houses and a car thus restoring our clients' rights to property.
- Fully resolved 14 cases of custody and maintenance hence restoring the children's.
- Obtaining of 4 bail and bonds on behalf of our clients.
- Reduced case backlog at Wakiso Magistrates Court

The mediations resolved led to;

- Recovery of sixty four million Uganda Shillings (Ugx 64,000,000) on behalf of clients.
- Resolution of 5 cases of custody and maintenance thus restoring the children's rights and welfare.
- Offered legal advice to 11 clients.
- Increased knowledge of legal rights and procedures.
- Increased number of clients seeking FHRI's services due to awareness about the availability of free services for the poor.
- Increased access to justice by the poor.
- Fifty five million four hundred twenty three thousand and seven hundred Ugandan Shillings (Ugx 55,423,700) was recovered on behalf of our clients.
- The clinic obtained 7 cases on bond on behalf of our clients.

Toll free helpline.

- Rapid response to clients' matters.
- Increased access to justice by the poor in hard to reach rural areas.
- Increased number of clients seeking FHRI's services due to awareness about the availability of free services for the poor.

Activities implemented under the Legal Aid program in 2020

1. Legal Assistance

In the period of January to November 2020, 157 (77 male and 80 female) new clients walked into the FHRI premises at Human Rights House seeking Legal assistance. By the close of the year, 113 cases files had been closed while 44 cases are still pending appropriate remedy.

• Toll Free facility

FHRI attended to 101 people (49 male and 52 female) received services through the toll free hotline. On sport legal advice was extended to the clients.



Extreme Right : His Worship Owino Abdunson, the Grade One Magistrate of Kalangala Court attending to people who were arrested and detained for flouting the curfew restrictions in Kalangala following the lock down due to Covid -19 pandemic.



testimony

A MOTHER'S STRUGGLE TO EDUCATE HER CHILD

Ms. Najjuma Winfred aged 35 years (single mother) a resident of Mpigi trading Centre in Mpigi District was undergoing untold suffering after selling off her all property including a plot of land in order to get school fees to educate her only son. She gave birth to Kizito Humphrey now aged 18 years with a one Musoke Expedito.

She never received any form of maintenance from him from the time of pregnancy until the child attained the age of 18 years. She ensured that she gets money to educate her son from Nursery to Senior Four. In a bid to educate her son, she sold off all her property and used up all her earnings from her pan cake business. Stuck and helpless at that point with tears being her last resort, Najjuma Winfred came to FHRI seeking for legal assistance in form of maintenance from the father of her child. Upon receiving her complaint, the Legal Officer drafted a notice of intention to sue to MusokeExpedito, who was duly served. Several mediations were held and in the due course, the man denied parentage of the boy and a DNA test was conducted. Upon receipt of the results, it was proved that actually the boy was his. This put the father at the prime spot of providing maintenance to the child for period he was not been providing.

As a result of our intervention, it was agreed that Mr. MusokeExpedito compensates Najjuma Winfred with Twenty Million Five Hundred Thousand Uganda Shillings Only (20,500,000 UGHS) which was paid in cash. They further agreed that he provides school fees and other necessities for the boy until he completes university.

Najjuma Winfred used the money to buy a plot of land and she is now constructing a residential house on the same. In the last interaction we had with Najjuma Winfred at her mother's home, she burst in tears of joy, knelt down, became speechless for a while and said in a shaky voice;

"LONG LIVE FHRI, YOU RESTORE HOPE IN THE HOPELESS, GOD BLESS YOU"

2. The Rights and Rule of Law Program

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

- **NOREC Exchange Program**

The Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) joined the Inter-national Commission of Jurists (ICJ) Kenya Section, African Judges and Jurists Forum (AJJF) - South Africa and Legal Resources Foundation (LRF)- Zimbabwe to develop a concept note to facilitate exchange programs between Judiciaries in Eastern and Southern Africa on 13th and 14th March 2020 at the Inter-Continental Hotel,

Nairobi Kenya.

However in November 2020, partners were requested by NOREC to hold discussions on how to re- strategize the earlier proposed activities to suit the "new normal" The project is to resume in the first quarter of 2021. This program will provide a safe platform for the Ugandan Judiciary to exchange best practices with other judiciaries in Eastern and Southern Africa. FHRI is expected to coordinate the Uganda component.



*Partners meeting for the NOREC Exchange Program on March 14th, 2020 at Inter-Continental Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya.
(Back row: 2nd left - Mrs. Maria KadduBusuulwa, Director –Legal Services Division;
Front row: Ms. Rosabella Ntanzi, Program Manager - My Rights, My Power Campaign.*

- **Closure of project with Freedom House**

As of June 30, 2019 the Rights and Rule of Law Program in partnership with Freedom House

successfully ended. End of Project reports were prepared and submitted to Freedom House and the balance of monies all reimbursed in 2020.

ACTION 3: CIVIC EDUCATION

Action 3 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 3.

1. University Human Rights Network

(i) One day preparatory meeting with the University Administration and University Human Rights Clubs

During the reporting period, FHRI held a preparatory meeting with Human Rights Club Patrons and Club Presidents on 24th July 2020 in the run up to the 11th Inter-University Human Rights Competition. During the meeting, 12 universities confirmed their participation in the competition and selected their research questions. Mountains of the Moon University in Fort Portal Western Uganda offered to host the two-day event to run from 17th and

18th September 2020 under the theme; 'Access to Counsel: A Matter of Life or Death.' Due to COVID-19, the preparatory meeting agreed to organize a hybrid event and use various media platforms to broaden the participation of other students who would not participate physically.

(ii) The 11th Inter-University Human Rights Competition

The 11th Inter- University Human Rights Competition run from 17th and 18th September 2020 at Mountains of the Moon University. 71 delegates attended the event, drawn from 12 Universities namely: Makerere University, Uganda Martyrs University- Nkozi, Mountains of the Moon University, Uganda Pentecostal University, Busitema University, Kyambogo University, Gulu University, Uganda Christian University, Kampala International University, Islamic University in Uganda, Nkumba University and Cavendish University. The competition was flagged off by the Chancellor of the Mountains of the Moon University Prof. Edward Rugumayo in the company of the Vice Chancellor Dr. Kagambe Edmond who were central in organising this event. Bishop Bishop

Reuben Kisembo graced the closing ceremony on 18th September 2020.

The students who put up a spirited fight for the awards discussed the following topics: Implementation of Section 5 of the Law Revision (Penalties in Criminal Matters) Miscellaneous Amendment Act 2019; A review of recent Supreme Court cases on the Death Penalty; The relevance of the death penalty; Realizing total abolition of capital punishment in Uganda; The ethical implication of capital punishment using a human rights perspective; Sentencing Guidelines in Capital offences; The Human Rights Enforcement Act 2019; COVID-19 and its effect on Prisoners' Rights; Article 6(4) of the ICCPR and; The impact of the campaign against the Death Penalty in Uganda

to Criminal Justice Reform in Uganda.

A panel of judges comprising of 5 eminent human rights experts including: Dr. Josephine Ndagire, Lecturer, School of Law, Makerere University, Ms. Christine Nsubuga, Access to Justice Advisor, Mr. Byonabye Kamadi, Director Civic Education, Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), Mr. Charles Mpagi Mwaguhya, Bureau Chief, The East African and, Mr. Vincent Babalanda, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees assessed the presentations including content, style of presentation, skill in argument, creativity and originality. Makerere University emerged the winner followed by Uganda Christian University. Kampala International University came third.



L-R: Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, Executive Director FHRI, Prof. Dr. Johnson M Kasenene, Vice Chancellor, Mountains of the Moon University, posing for a picture with the winning University students as they displayed their awards on 18th September 2020. Extreme left is Dr Fredrick Mutabaruka, Dean of Students, MMU.

2. The Death Penalty Campaign

- **Events to commemorate the World Day Against the Death Penalty in Uganda.**

a) One day planning meeting with the Uganda Coalition Against the Death Penalty

On 30th July 2020, FHRI held a planning meeting with the members of the Uganda Coalition University students, Community Restorative Initiative, Scope Foundation, Uganda Joint Christian Council, Wells of Hope, Penal Reform International, Justice Defenders, and FHRI. During the meeting,

an introductory presentation of the EIDHR project was made to the members, which was followed by a brainstorming session on possible activities to commemorate the year's World Day Against the Death Penalty. 16 members attended the preparatory meet (7 male and 9 female) Against the Death Penalty at the Human Rights House – Nsambya. The members of the Coalition include Saint'Egidio, Uganda Prisons Service, Katika Child Africa, former death row inmates,

b) Commemoration of the World day Against the Death Penalty

FHRI together with the Uganda Coalition Against the Death penalty commemorated the World Day Against the Death Penalty on 10th October 2020 at the Human Rights House under the theme **"Access to Counsel: A matter of Life or Death"**. The event was attended by 93 participants both physically and through on-line spaces. The winner of the

11th Inter-University Human Rights Competition award from Makerere University delivered the keynote presentation on this occasion. There were also moving testimonies shared by former death row inmates, a presentation from Uganda Prisons Service, songs from Cities for Life Children's Choir and, a poem from Katika Child Africa. The climax was the planting of a tree in commemoration of the event.



Group photo of the participants during the commemoration of the 18th Commemoration of the World Day against the death penalty, 10th October 2020, Human Rights House, Nsambya

c) Thematic research: Access to Counsel: A matter of Life or death.

As part of the commemorative events, a thematic research titled; Access to Counsel: A matter of Life or death in Uganda was carried out. The results were compiled into a report highlighting facts and figures from former death row inmates, Uganda Prisons Services, Members of Parliament, Judiciary, Police, Court Martial, and lawyers. The report was published and disseminated during and after the commemoration event.

(d) Solidarity Visit

In commemoration of the World Day, the 3rd solidarity visit was carried out to death row inmates in both female and male sections of Luzira Upper Prison on 8th October 2020. FHRI donated masks and foodstuff for a special meal for the prisoners on that day. Among the items were face masks, rice, beef, cooking oil, and spices for the meal.

• Legal assistance to four (4) persons on death row:

During the reporting period, FHRI held two planning meetings with the Law Firm, Katende Sempebwa & Co Advocates on 28th July 2020, and 21st October 2020 to kick start this activity. Within the framework of the Uganda Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Uganda Prisons Service was able to compile a list of both male and female prisoners on death row for legal representation. 4 cases on Appeal have been selected for onward support under the project.



Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, Executive Director (FHRI) emphasising the need to abolish the death penalty on national TV. He was interviewed on 10th October 2020 during the commemoration event at the Human Rights House.



Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, ED, Foundation for Human Rights Initiative, (Middle) with (L) Mr. Benson Mayanja Makerere University student, with children and representatives of Katika Child Africa during the commemoration of the World Day against the Death Penalty at the Human Rights House, Nsambya on 10th October 2020 .

3. 'My Rights, My Power' campaign

During the year, the campaign convened a regional forum, in Gulu District (Northern Uganda) on 19th February 2020.

- **Gulu regional platform**

The regional forum in Northern Uganda was convened in Gulu town on Wednesday 19th February 2019 at Churchill Courts Hotel. A total of 125 delegates (57 female and 68 male) attended the forum including religious leaders, media, civil society groups, students, persons with disabilities, the Electoral Commission, religious leaders, security forces including the police. This forum was unique as the majority of participants were youth from university and tertiary institutions in Gulu.

The forum was moderated by the FHRI Project Coordinator, who shared with the participants the objectives of the forum – largely to offer a state – citizen space for dialogue on rights, obligations and key issues around the electoral process leading up to the 2021 General elections in Uganda. The forum was intended to be that space where citizens directed questions to state agencies that were mandated to organise and support the holding of a free and fair election such as Uganda's Electoral Commission, the Parliament of Uganda and security agencies. Among those who led the discussions were Commissioner Sebaggala Kigozi from the Electoral Commission in charge of Northern Uganda who discussed the 2020/2021 general election road map and Ms Lucy Lapoti from the Institute of Parliamentary Studies (IPS) in the Parliament of Uganda whose discussion centred on Government's recently tabled electoral reform proposals which are before the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs

Committee of Uganda. The discussion on citizen participation in electoral processes was led by Mr. Pat Roberts Lurubi, a seasoned journalist working with Pats Journal. The forum was graced by the Resident District Commissioner of Gulu district, Mr. Santos Gaboro who shared information on the role of government and citizens in conducting a free and fair election. He also officiated at the closure of the forum.



A cross section of participants attending the regional forum in Gulu at Churchill Courts Hotel, Gulu on 19th February 2020.

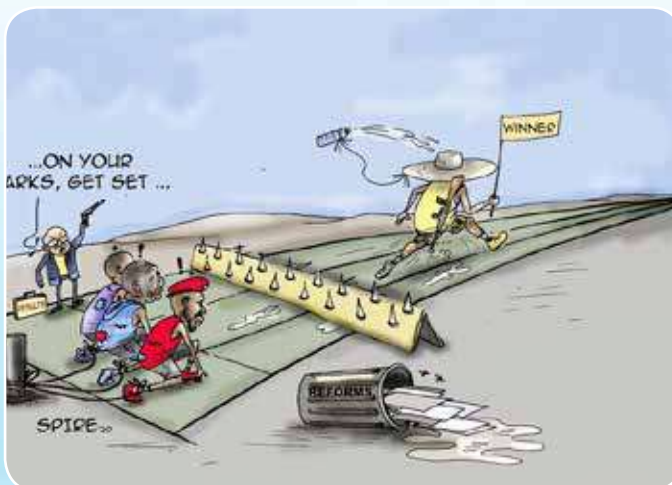
- **Run the 'Active Citizenship' online media campaign.**

Launched in October 2019, the campaign has "campaign-specific landing pages" on three social media platforms including Facebook/ugelects2021, Instagram/ugelects2021 and Twitter/@ugelects2021/ #UgElects2021. During the reporting period, the messaging focused on key aspects of the 2020/2021 general election road map including; candidate nominations, voter education, voter registration, election funding and

peace and security. The specific call to action by the FHRI online campaign targeted civil society and the

youth, calling on them to actively participate in the on-going election activities.

Samples of cartoons developed and published as part of the FHRI on-line campaign to promote active citizenship in 2020 on the social media pages during the period.



The cartoons and related tweets earned about 11.2k impressions. A total of 29 posts were uploaded on UG Elects 2021 facebook page on issues related to the 2021 elections in Uganda during the period under review. On post type, that the majority (37.93%) of the posts were in form of cartoon images followed by photos. During the period, FHRI recorded 92 stories published on the 2021 elections in Uganda by online publications. Of the stories, 59 were published on candidate nomination; 28 on voter registration and 5 on voter education. Four newspaper articles were published as part of the online campaign stirring debate on government's electoral reforms in Parliament, the state of political parties and, the readiness of Ugandans to participate in elections.

• TV Dialogues on NTV

In the additional 6 months of the project, FHRI sought to partner with the Uganda Electoral Commission (EC), the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) and, NTV to jointly run the 'My Rights, My Power' campaign given their key role in the electoral process.

On 2nd July 2020 FHRI held an initial meeting with NTV Uganda's General Manager Mr. Johnson Omolo in order to outline the purpose of the campaign, agree on the description of the TV dialogues and the attendant obligations of both FHRI and NTV. A series of follow up meetings have been held throughout the reporting period to agree on themes, partners and panellists.

On Monday 20th July 2020, FHRI held a consultative meeting with the Uganda Electoral Commission in order to present the on-going campaign, **'My Rights, My Power'**, and to explore opportunities for cooperation with the Electoral Commission. The meeting held at the Electoral Commission offices in Kampala, was hosted by the Chairperson of the Commission, Hon. Justice Simon Byabakama and the entire Commission. The Commission welcomed the partnership citing this as an opportunity for the body to interface with the public on emerging election and human rights related debates taking place in Uganda today. In this way, the Electoral Commission would broaden her audience and benefit from proposals from a wide array of opinions with respect to the 2021 elections in the context of COVID-19.

In subsequent discussions with the Commission, it was agreed that while FHRI would sponsor the TV platforms, the Electoral Commission on the other hand would support the campaign by leading discussions during the TV dialogues on pertinent election related issues. At the end of each dialogue, FHRI would compile the emerging issues and share them with relevant institutions for effective follow up. The Electoral Commission together with FHRI would agree on subsequent panels, themes and Guest Panelists. Similarly, during the reporting period, contact was made with the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), with initial feedback from the Ag, Chairperson of the Commission Ambassador Dr. Katebalirwe Amooti Wa Irumba indicating the Commission's willingness to cooperate with FHRI in this respect. Subsequently, a planning meeting with the Commission was held on **13th October 2020**.

During the period and following the joint meeting held between partners driving the campaign, that

is FHRI, the Uganda Electoral Commission (EC) Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) and NTV, the **inaugural Television Dialogue took place on Wednesday 28th October 2020**, on NTV at 3.00pm. This first platform hosted the four partners. On this occasion the partners were afforded an opportunity to share information on the objective of the campaign, discuss the progress registered in the implementation of the revised Electoral Roadmap 2020/2021, provide greater clarity on emerging and pertinent election related concerns and, deliberate on the current human rights situation. The platform was advertised on NTV and her social media platforms.

The 2nd TV dialogue was broadcast on Wednesday 25th November 2020, on NTV under the theme; 'Law Enforcement during Elections.' The dialogue was timely as it was held shortly after the violent riots that erupted after Presidential Candidate Hon Kyagulanyi was arrested. This time, the platform hosted the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission, Uganda Police, the Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces (UPDF), the Inter Party Organisation for Dialogue (IPOD) and the Human Rights Network for Journalists (HRNJ). Both dialogues enlisted the participation of over 500 viewers via online platforms and TV. Public concerns on law enforcement and human rights were put to the panelists who responded during the dialogues.

The Third dialogue took place on **21st December 2020** on NTV starting at 3pm under the theme, **'Unwrapping Election Day, 14th January 2020.'** The platform hosted the Electoral Commission, the UPDF, the Uganda Police, Uganda Communications Commission, the National Association of Broadcasters and a political party representative.



The biggest success was the unique and timely opportunity the forums offered to the youth to dialogue with the Electoral Commission on the 2020/2021 general election roadmap. The youth who actively participated in the forums acquired knowledge on the voter registration process, the election of special interest groups including election of youth representatives, the nomination process of candidates, the campaign process and the polling process. The rights and obligations of the youth in all these processes was articulated and discussed. The youth were also able to voice their concerns on Government's 2019 proposed electoral reforms. Majority of the participants called for urgent review of the reforms in the run up to the 2021 general elections.

Post activity focus group discussions were convened by FHRI over Radio

Rupiny (95.7) FM in Gulu shortly after the Gulu forum. Again, the majority of the callers who were youth, appreciated the forums filled the information gap amongst the people in the Northern region on elections.

The other success was the online media campaign which continued to engage particularly the youth on the subject of elections even during the lock down. A record number of 13.5k impressions were recorded as was triggered by the cartoons and other uploads on the campaign landing pages. FHRI has noted that the use of visuals like cartoons is an excellent strategy that triggers responses from on-line audiences.

With the partnership secured with the Electoral Commission, the Uganda Human Rights Commission and NTV, FHRI kickstarted the TV dialogues in October 2020. FHRI is certain that this space will be yet another opportunity for the public to get answers from policy makers on the controversies surrounding the 2021 elections in Uganda.

ACTION 4: SPECIAL PROJECTS

• **Civic Education Network for Eastern and Southern Africa (CENESA)**

CENESA was founded in November 2017 during the Entebbe Civic Education (CE) Forum after a growing recognition that consistent connectivity between Eastern and Southern Africa was lacking and yet CE practitioners were addressing the same challenges. There was thus a need for a platform that enables civic education and youth empowerment organizations across the sub-continent connect, collaborate and cooperate with each other.

Vision: is a region with a well-informed, empowered, active and responsible citizenry based on the principles of democracy, respect for human rights and good governance.

Mission: CENESA works towards providing a regional civic education platform for mutual support, knowledge sharing, capacity building, advocacy and regional cooperation to individuals, Civil Society, private sector, state and other stakeholders.

An Interim Steering Committee (ISC) which was appointed at the Entebbe Forum in 2017 to spearhead, formalize and run the network was formed and it was concluded that Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) remains CENESA's host.

Activities 2020

1. CENESA celebrated its 3rd birthday in November 2020.
2. During the 16th ISC online meeting, held on 25th August 2020, the ISC admitted 14 new members to the network bringing the total to 30.
3. CENESA has rebranded her website and developed a new one with financial help from Hanns Seidel Foundation. The same was launched at the CENESA AGM. www.cenesa.org
4. In July 2020, CENESA published her 3rd e-newsletter that included work done thus far and profiled activities of what member organizations had been doing during the period of the pandemic.
5. In October 2020, CENESA published her 1st Edition of the Annual report which is being designed.
6. CENESA secretariat compiled its working papers and founding documents into a memorandum and articles of Understanding that were compiled to form its charter. The Charter was adopted at the AGM, subject to amendments. Members agreed that CENESA be registered as a legal entity limited by guarantee governed by

Ugandan law.

- CENESA ISC members Ms. Sheila Muwanga and Ms. Grace Maingi represented the network on a joint workshop with Networking Arab Civic Education (NACE) and EENCE (Eastern European Network for Citizenship Education) during the Networking European Citizenship Civic Education (NECE) conference that took place between 5th - 7th Nov 2020. The Joint workshop took place on Friday 6th Nov 11.15 CEST for 90 minutes. The topic under discussion was Identity and Citizenship - "Do we still need national identities?" – the relationship between local, regional, national and global Citizenship. The panel discussion hosted 3 speakers one from each network and one moderator. Participants from all networks and beyond were invited and they had a chance for breakout rooms to discuss experiences further.
- CENESA together with NACE and EENCE are in the process of setting up a common database website for the 3 networks. The website's name of the common platform is www.cenetworks.org. The importance of this database is to ease connection of all members of the three networks
- On 4th November 2020, CENESA virtually hosted her 3rd regional conference under the theme: Why civic and voter education matters in promoting electoral democracy: Lessons from Malawi, Burundi, Tanzania and Uganda. 74 Participants attended the conference which was moderated by Ms. Naita Hishoono from South Africa. The keynote speaker was Dr. Nomsa Masuku from the Electoral Commission of South Africa with 4 panelists to include Mr. Gray Kalindekaffe from Malawi, Mr. Israel Ilunde from Tanzania, Ms. Eulalie Nibizi from Burundi and Ms. Faridah Lule from Uganda.
- On 5th November 2020, CENESA virtually hosted her 1st Annual General Meeting. 30 members attended the meeting. During the event members agreed on the following:
 - Admission of 14 new members bringing the membership to 30.
 - Launch of the CENESA website
 - Registration of CENESA in Uganda
 - Incorporation of the CENESA charter
 - Developing a Strategic plan and roadmap for the next 3 years with the volunteer ship of expert members in the field.
 - ISC Members to undertake the recruitment drive especially in countries that haven't been reached yet.
 - Resource Mobilization.
 - CENESA visibility.
 - Developing a CENESA Motto.
 - Sharing information for the website.

- CENESA members have been able to attend a number of online conferences that are very pivotal to its niche some of which include:

-An online conference by our partners NECE on how civil society actors within the region are playing crucial roles in informing communities about COVID-19, where Ms. Sheila Muwanga represented the network as one of the panelists majorly addressing the effects of the pandemic to Ugandans and how civil society is dealing with the same in member countries on 27th April 2020.

-The Tanzanian Human Rights report launching on Wednesday, April 29th, 2020,

-The famous histoCON, an online event on global memories by our partners Networking Arab Civic Education (NACE) on 8th May 2020. An exciting and varied program was explored with statements from young people from all over the world, a virtual field trip and live talk with comic artists on the representations of war and Holocaust in comics.

-The Governing Africa event on 'during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic' that happened on 14th May.

-NECE Webinar "Restarting Europe: The role of civil society and citizenship education" on 11th June 2020,

-CENESA has established a linkage between Association for Progressive Communications (APC) and CENESA members to leverage their 30 year's work 'from home' experience to build CENESA member's capacity during the pandemic. New chapters are opened every week to offer online classes on the same. As a host organization, FHRI is committed to continue executing secretariat duties on behalf of CENESA towards achieving a region with a well-informed, empowered, active and responsible citizenry based on the principles of democracy, respect for human rights and good governance.



FHRI hosts the 1st CENESA AGM virtually at the Human rights House, Nsambya on 5th November 2020.

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. Organizational 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.

FHRI is an active member of seven (7) networks/ coalitions including: the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Network (EAHRDP), Legal Aid Services Providers Network (LASPNET), the Citizens' Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU), Coalition Against Torture (CAT), the NGO Coalition for an Effective African Court on Human and People's Rights (CEAC), World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP), and the Civic Education Network for Eastern and Southern Africa (CENESA).

In 2020, FHRI participated in over 30 physical and virtual events organized by partners, civil society actors and government institutions on human rights,

governance and democracy.

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 organization with an organizational structure that comprises her 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 Director provides strategic direction to the organization 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 prove activity reports, budgets and program work plans.

Activities implemented in 2020

The 22nd AGM was successfully held on 15th August 2020 as a hybrid event. 270 members attended as follows: 28 physically, 220 followers on facebook and 22 on zoom. The minutes for the 22nd AGM were finalized and sent out to members.



Members of FHRI Board of Directors at the 22nd Annual General Meeting that took place at the Human Rights House on 15th August 2020 receive Audit Report 2019

Trustees

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

Board of Directors (2019 – 2022)

Name	Affiliation
Ms. Rosetti Nabbumba	Chairperson
Mr. Davidson Sserunjogi	Vice Chairperson
Ms. Bernadette Bakkidde Kiberu	Hon. Secretary
Ms. Pauline Margaret Namagembe	Hon. Treasurer
Mr. Rajab Lukwago	Member
Dr. Josephine Ndagire	Member
Ms. Evelyne W Korishaba	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

I. Staffing

By the close of 2020, the staffing stood at 41 (15 male and 26 female), including program, administration staff and volunteers. The staff line up includes the following:

Name	Position
1. Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana	Executive Director
2. Ms. Sheila Muwanga	Deputy Executive Director Programs
3. Mr. Rashid Bunya	Research Associate
4. Ms. Connie Numbi	Director CDD/ Manager Death Penalty
5. Mr. Elly Kasiye	Project Officer, Civic Education
6. Ms. Sheila Amujal	Research Assistant
7. Ms. Solome Nagadya	Ag. Director Legal Services Division
8. Ms. Esther Kaggwa	Legal Associate, Legal Aid Unit
9. Ms. Brenda Katusiime	Volunteer Legal Aid Unit
10. Ms. Rose Kamuli	Director, Finance & Administration
11. Mr. Moses Kyazze	Senior Driver
12. Mr. Moses Nyanzi	Senior Driver
13. Mr. Richard Okeya	Security Guard
14. Ms. Olivia Kigozi	Welfare Assistant
15. Ms. Elizabeth Nantamu	Coordinator, External Service Division
16. Ms. Milly Nakakande	Executive Manager
17. Mr. Stephen Sebaana	Office Manager

Name		Position
18.	Ms.ElizabethNakato	Front Desk Officer
19.	Mr.MathewSekitto	Office Assistant
20.	Ms.GladysMirembe	Finance & Administration Assistant
21.	Ms.WinnieMunyegera	Administrative Assistant
22.	Mr.Ssendawula Frank	Cleaner/ Gardener
23.	Mr.James Wandulu	Security Guard/ Gardener
24.	Mr. Haruna Serusiiti	Gardener/ Cleaner
25.	Mr.Isac Ipeto	Security Guard/ Gardener
26.	Mr.kamuntu	Guard (Democracy House)
27.	Ms.Christine Kirabo	Volunteer Programs
28.	Ms. Sandra Nakibuuka	Volunteer Programs
29.	Mr. Tweekembe Ronald	Volunteer LSD
30.	Mr. Deo Miro	Paralegal Kalangala Office
31.	Ms. Deborah Namirimu	Volunteer External Services
32.	Mr. Ivan Mwaka	Volunteer External Services
33.	Ms. Angella Namuddu	Volunteer LSD Wakiso Office

II. Internship program

In 2020, FHRI hosted a total of 2 interns (2 female) including Nakawesa Majorine from MUS and Lara Frumm from University Bayreuth, Germany.

Financial Overview

SAM BISASE & CO

Certified Public Accountants

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative set out on pages 23-30. These financial statements comprise the statement of financial position at 31 December 2020 and statement of comprehensive income and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of financial affairs of the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative at 31 December 2020 and of its results and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and FHRI accounting 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 the organisation in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code), and other independence requirements applicable to performing audits of financial statements in Uganda. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IESBA Code and in accordance with other ethical requirements applicable to performing audits in Uganda. We believe that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

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ICPAU REG. No. AF0015

"The firm is licensed and regulated by the institute of Certified Public Accountants of Uganda"

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE (Continued)

Responsibilities of Directors for the financial statements

The Directors are responsible for preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of the Companies Act, 2012, and for such internal control as the Directors determine 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 Directors are responsible for assessing the company'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 the Directors either intend to liquidate the organisation or to cease operation, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of 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 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 International Standards on Auditing 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 International Standards on Auditing, 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 from fraud is higher than one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE (Continued)

- 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 the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Directors' 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 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.

We communicate with the Directors 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.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

As required by the Companies Act of Uganda, 2012, we report to you, based on our audit, that:

We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit;

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE (Continued)**

In our opinion proper books of account have been kept by the organisation, so far as it appears from our examination of those books;

The organisation's statement of financial position and statement of comprehensive income are in agreement with the books of account.

The engagement partner responsible for the audit resulting in this independent auditors' report is CPA Samuel L.R. Bisase - FM 005.

Sam Bisase & Co.
Sam Bisase & Co.
Certified Public Accountants
Kampala

Date: *May 10, 2021*



FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Consolidated financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2020

Statement of comprehensive income

	Note	2020 Shs	2019 Shs
Income			
General grants	10	490,019,607	746,912,383
Specific grants	11	175,189,626	236,961,246
FHRI House Fund income	12	523,111,624	536,720,707
Other income	14	<u>10,314,746</u>	<u>2,690,903</u>
		1,198,635,603	1,523,285,239
Less: Capital expenditure		<u>(9,650,000)</u>	<u>(170,743,505)</u>
		<u>1,188,985,603</u>	<u>1,352,541,734</u>
Expenditure			
Research, advocacy and lobbying		(79,674,826)	(98,960,417)
Legal services		(38,969,335)	(150,792,667)
Civic education		(197,241,218)	(104,519,075)
Institutional and organisation development		(63,284,703)	(103,548,810)
Office and administrative expenses		(584,589,922)	(546,861,273)
Human Rights House		(26,558,960)	(8,154,500)
NHCC - Kiwatule		<u>(30,297,635)</u>	<u>(32,198,806)</u>
		<u>(1,020,616,599)</u>	<u>(1,045,035,548)</u>
Operating surplus		<u>168,369,004</u>	<u>307,506,186</u>
Exchange gain/ loss		(8,448,294)	(2,735,952)
Profit on disposal of assets		15,300,000	-
Gain/(Loss) on share valuation		-	(1,262,400)
Transfer for programme support		(104,546,739)	(113,831,656)
Refund to DGF		<u>-</u>	<u>(17,110,441)</u>
Surplus for the year		<u>70,673,971</u>	<u>172,565,737</u>

FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Consolidated financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2020

Statement of financial position		2020 Shs	2019 Shs
	Note		
Funds			
Capital funds	8	1,907,597,504	1,954,458,092
Restricted funds	9	56,250,727	153,312,141
General fund	7	(88,962,914)	(159,360,592)
Designated funds	15	10,175,492	1,269,970
		<u>1,885,060,809</u>	<u>1,949,679,611</u>
Long term loan		<u>159,319,746</u>	<u>161,625,214</u>
Total funds available		<u>2,044,380,555</u>	<u>2,111,304,825</u>
Represented by:			
Non-current assets			
Property and Equipments	2	1,907,597,505	1,954,458,092
Investments	3	54,311,200	53,048,800
		<u>1,961,908,705</u>	<u>2,007,506,892</u>
Current assets			
Cash and bank	4	175,087,595	201,306,677
Receivables and prepayments		<u>44,673,905</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u>219,761,500</u>	<u>201,306,677</u>
Current liabilities			
Payables and accruals	5	137,289,650	93,877,294
Bank overdraft	6	-	3,631,450
		<u>137,289,650</u>	<u>97,508,744</u>
Net current assets		<u>82,471,850</u>	<u>103,797,933</u>
Net assets		<u>2,044,380,555</u>	<u>2,111,304,825</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 5th May 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:

Executive Director.....

Honorary Treasurer.....

Conclusion

With all the challenges, FHRI celebrated her 29th birthday. Amidst the growing feeling of hopelessness due to uncertainty brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, FHRI shall cut her coat according to her cloth and will without a doubt continue to make her contribution. Sincere heartfelt gratitude to our partners, colleagues, friends and peers. This would be impossible without you.

Truly, you are not only treasured but we share a common destiny!

"TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE"

**FOUNDATION FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE (FHRI)**

Human Rights House

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 Foundation for Human Rights Initiative

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