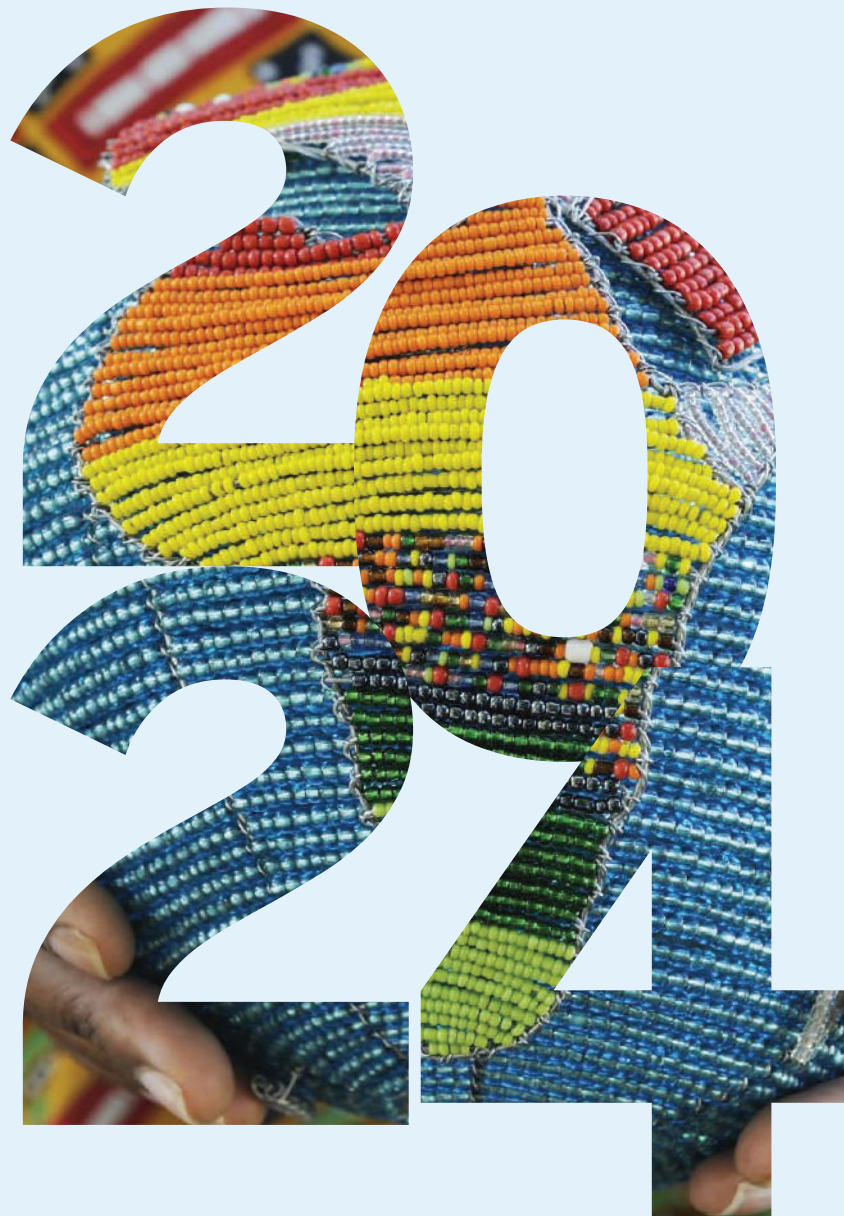




**FOUNDATION FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS
INITIATIVE (FHRI)**



ANNUAL REPORT

FHRI@33 years

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. FHRI 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 33 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, 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.

FHRI's previous Five-Year Strategic Plan (2017-2021) titled, 'Between Rhetoric and Practice: Bridging the Democracy Divide in Uganda', pivoted its campaigns around; building a critical mass of human rights defenders by reaching out to all manner of citizens groups; expanding the civic space and rule of law through strategic litigation and increasing judicial activism; increasing access to justice; increasing advocacy for the better enjoyment of freedoms through human rights monitoring, reporting and dialogue, including campaigns legislative reform, the death penalty, and building strong partnerships.

In 2022, this campaign orientation was carried forward in FHRI's 9th five year Strategic Plan, (2022– 2026), titled, 'Building Back Better: Realizing human rights in the Post Covid-19 Era in Uganda', including (1) My Rights, My Power campaign, (2) Defense of the Right to Personal Liberty, (3) Rights and Rule of Law (4) Access to Justice, (5) Campaign against the Death penalty and, (6) The Civic Education Network for Eastern and Southern Africa (CENESA). A seventh focus area has been introduced namely, (7) Institutional and Corporate Governance.

FHRI is very proud to be associated with several partners including Government Ministries Agencies and Departments, Faith Based Institutions, Academic institutions and likeminded Non-Governmental Organisations. Some of these include: Uganda Prisons Service (UPS), Uganda Police Force (UPF), Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), Parliament of Uganda, 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, Equal Opportunities Commission, Law Development Centre, Coalition Against Torture (CAT), Africa Centre for Treatment of Torture Victims, (ACTV), Wells of Hope, St. Egidio Community, Chaplaincy Prisons Gate, Safe Home, Scope Foundation, Katika Child Africa, Communications Development Foundation Uganda, Free Child Uganda, Women Pro-bono Initiative, Justice Defenders, the Church of Uganda, Fountain Publishers, Amnesty International, NGO Coalition for an Effective African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, DefendDefenders, FIDH, Penal Reform International (PRI), World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, African Judges and Jurists Forum (AJJF), International Commission of Jurists (ICJ – Kenya), Legal Resources Foundation (LRF), International Centre for Not for Profit Law (ICNL), the East Africa Civil Society Forum (EACOSOF), Drake University (USA), 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 and also collaborates with national based CSOs including: National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders (NCHRD), Public Interest Law Clinic (PILAC) at the School of Law, Makerere University, Network of Public Interest Litigators (NETPIL), Platform for Labour Action (PLA), Legal Aid Service Providers Network (LASPNET), Uganda Human Rights Network for Journalists (HRNJ), Uganda Parliamentary Press Association (UPPA), Uganda Journalists association (UJA), Human Rights and Peace Centre (HURIPEC), Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC), FIDA-Uganda, Uganda Women's Network (UWONET), Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum in Kampala (HRAPF), African Centre for Media Excellence (ACME), Kituo Cha Katiba, Uganda Coalition Against the Death Penalty in Uganda, East African Coalition Against the Death penalty, and the Human Rights Centre Uganda (HRCU).

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 Campus), 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 among others: CBS FM, Super FM, Radio One, Radio Simba, KFM, Vision Voice, Sanyu FM, Prime Radio, Capital FM, Radio Sapientia, Dembe FM, Top Radio, Power FM, Joy FM, Kalangala Community Radio, Voice of Africa, BBC, UBC, NTV, NBS, NTV, Urban TV, Top TV, Record TV, Salt TV, Kingdom TV, Dream TV, Aljazeera, Radio Dockbella, SBC, Radio France, Associated Press and DeutscheWelle. 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 human rights.

Table Of Contents

iii		ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
01		FOREWORD
03		BOARD OF DIRECTORS
04		HIGHLIGHTS IN 2024
07		PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS
26		FINANCIAL OVERVIEW
31		CONCLUSION

The Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) is grateful to the following partners that have supported the implementation of our 9th Strategic Plan (2022-2026) in 2024.

1. **LEGATUM**
2. **World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP)/European Union**
3. **Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation (NOREC)**
4. **CIVICS /Bpb Germany**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

FOREWORD



Chairperson-Board of Directors

Dr. Josephine Ndagire

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to share with you FHRI's journey in 2024. The 2024 Annual Report recounts FHRI's interventions, accomplishments, challenges and lessons learnt through the year.

The key highlight for 2024 was the convening of FHRI's 25th Annual General Meeting (AGM) after failing to convene the same in 2023 due to financial constraints. Given that it was two years since we last met as members, the Board of Directors, took the decision to convene this year's AGM as an in-person event to enhance membership participation. Through this foreword, we would like to extend our most sincere appreciation to our members for their resilience and positive response in attending this event against all odds.

In a very special way, I extend our deepest and most sincere appreciation to all our members, partners and friends for responding positively to the '*FHRI Harambe Platform*' that we as a Board of Directors and Management took a decision to set up in May 2024. This was an appeal for financial support towards convening this AGM. It was because of this support that we were able to meet on 9th November 2024.

Sadly, in the last 2 years, some of our members have passed on while others are indisposed. We received news of the passing of our members, Mrs Mary Sewamuwe, Mr Anthony Mutimba, Prof Yasin Olum and most recently Mr. Barchimpe Yusuf of Kayunga. We commiserate with the families and continue to stand in solidarity. Further, we would like to thank our members and friends for standing with our Executive Director when he lost his dear mother this year. For those of our members who have also achieved various milestones, congratulations!

On 31st December 2024, FHRI marked 33 years of human rights activism in Uganda and beyond. In the same year, FHRI embarked on the 3rd year of implementation of her 9th Five-Year Strategic Plan (2022 – 2026) titled; '*Building Back Better: Realizing Human Rights in the Post COVID-19 Era.*' As you may recall, in this Strategy, we have carried forward FHRI's five campaigns namely: (1) *My Rights, My Power*, (2) *Defense of the Right to Personal Liberty*, (3) *Rights and Rule of Law* (4) *Access to Justice*, (5) *Campaign against the Death penalty*.

I would like to assure you that despite the challenges we have faced, FHRI still remains an inspiring organization that is fit for purpose. The human rights work continues; organizational policies and systems are functional; the Board of Directors is functional and has continued to meet regularly and our independent auditors have continued to work with us while checking our financial health. Thanks to the invaluable leadership and support of the Board of Directors, Management of FHRI, particularly our Executive Director, the staff, members, partners and friends.

During the year, FHRI has continued to highlight and voice human rights concerns, calling on stakeholders to ensure that rights are respected. We would like to thank our Executive Director who has kept us informed and engaged on various media platforms in this respect. Our student leadership program has gained more footing, our access to justice campaign implemented by the Legal Aid Outlets in Nsambya, Wakiso, Kalangala and Bushenyi has continued to contribute to the realization of the right to a fair and speedy hearing, while the campaign against the death penalty has remained a vibrant one. Even with the limitation of resources, the Board of Directors is proud of the organizational achievements

There has also been a slight increase in our membership to a total of 1,582 members spread across 103 districts and 4 countries. Some of our members have continued to remain active in various ways including meeting membership financial obligations. For others, it is still challenging. As an organization, we still need to grow our membership base to strengthen the human rights movement in Uganda. The need to diversify particularly through encouraging the youth to join this movement is now. The campaign ‘*bring a friend to the Foundation*’ should be our collective goal. This movement is a solidarity movement that not only defends human rights but looks out for and extends support to one another even in challenging times.

As we mark 33 years of human rights activism in Uganda and three years into the implementation of the current strategy, this is a time to reflect on our achievements while pondering on the future of the institution.

As I sign off, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to extend my deep gratitude to our Executive Director and his team at the secretariat for supporting us in doing our job. Your resilience, optimism and the passion with which you have defended FHRI is a positive takeaway for us. You have made our work easy, our engagements focused and business like. Thank you to our partners who have continued to believe in and support FHRI. Our Trustees and membership are appreciated in the same way.

We thank God for this far He has brought us and ‘*Together we can make a difference.*’



Dr Josephine Ndagire

Chairperson, FHRI Board of Directors (2022 – 2025)



Dr. Josephine Ndagire
Chairperson



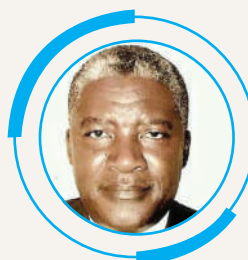
Mr. Lukwago Rajab
Vice Chairperson



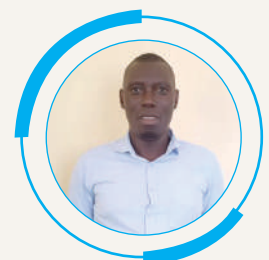
Ms. Namagembe P. Margaret
Hon. Treasurer



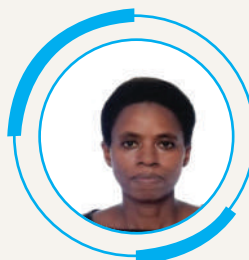
Ms. Bernadette B. Nakimbugwe
Hon. Secretary



Dr. Godfrey Kagawa
Board Member



Mr. Edward S. Kyazze
Board Member



Dr. Millian Kiconco
Board Member



Dr. Livingstone Scwangana
Ex officio

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2024



Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana
Executive Director

It is my honor to present to you FHRI's 33rd Annual Report for the year 2024

This report is significant to the Foundation as it provides an account of what has been accomplished in the third year of the implementation of FHRI's 9th Five-Year Strategic Plan (2022 – 2026) titled; Building Back Better: Realizing human rights in the Post Covid-19 Era in Uganda.'

As we publish this report, the world is grappling with conflicts: (Russia vs Ukraine; Israel vs Palestine, Lebanon, Iran and Yemen; Sudan). The adverse effects of climate change, high fuel prices, the ever-growing pressures on multilateralism, and the ever-declining respect for human rights continue to threaten the search for justice, freedom, and the rules-based international order. Mindful of recent developments such as the just concluded US Elections,

the UN Summit of the Future, the adoption of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment by the UN Human Rights Council, provide new hopes for new thinking, search for durable solutions and an opportunity to challenge existing stereo types in 2024.

Back home in Uganda, the human rights situation remained grim in 2024: poverty, youth unemployment, high fuel and commodity prices, an ever-growing debt burden, crime, corruption, impunity, and a disillusioned civil society characterize everyday reality. It is against this background that FHRI continued to push the human rights frontiers for a fairer and just society in 2024. The achievements registered so far would not be possible without the support of our Board of Directors, staff, partners, peers, membership, and relevant stakeholders.

In 2022, FHRI adopted the 9th Strategic Plan titled: Building Back Better: Realizing Human Rights in the Post-Covid Period (2022-2026). The program builds on the achievements of the previous program cycles, with five key campaign areas namely: 1) My Rights, My Power 2) Access to Justice 3) Rights and Rule of Law 4) Defense of the Rights to Personal Liberty, and 5) the Campaign against the Death Penalty. These campaigns are executed under program units under the tag line: Keep Hope Alive:

The program units are: 1) Research and Advocacy Unit 2) Legal Services Unit 3) Civic Education Unit 4) Rights and Rule of Law Unit 5) Program Development Unit 6) and External Services Unit.

The Research and Advocacy Unit promotes human rights monitoring, research, documentation, and reporting of human rights violations. During the reporting period the research team in partnership with FIDH, ASF, CRED and Oxfam conducted human rights impact assessment missions on the oil and gas activities in the Albertine region and King Fisher as a follow up of our earlier report published jointly by FHRI and FIDH titled 'New Oil, Same Business? At the Crossroads to avert catastrophe in Uganda'. Preliminary findings have been shared with Total Energies, Petroleum Authority of Uganda, CNOOC, Ministry of Gender, Baylor College of Medicine and the Uganda Human Rights Commission. Gender and structural inequalities have been identified and these form the basis for the on-going policy reform advocacy regarding land acquisition, resettlement, environmental protection, and community rights. The report titled:-

"Oil in Uganda: Serious human rights abuses and escalating threats as project development enters new phase" was launched on 12th December 2024.

Legal assistance to indigent persons and victims of human rights abuse is key to upholding rights. FHRI has been providing legal support to victims of abuse since 1994. Operating legal aid support offices at Nsambya, Wakiso and Kalangala, the service has been extended to Greater Bushenyi. With support of Legatum Foundation, a project titled 'Enhancing Criminal Justice Reform in Uganda: Promoting alternative punishment in Greater Bushenyi' commenced in October 2022. Built around three pillars:

- 1) Prevention
- 2) Legal representation and
- 3) Advocacy; the FHRI Bushenyi Legal Aid Project (F-BLAP)

operates in the districts of Bushenyi, Buhweju, Sheema, Rubirizi, and Mitooma. The focus is on decongestion of petty offenders in prison, increased knowledge of criminal procedure among local council courts and local leadership and strengthening alliance building and networking among criminal justice actors in Greater Bushenyi. Through court representation, training of LC Courts, and Advocacy Forums for the district leadership and criminal justice agencies, F-BLAP has become a key player in advancing justice in the region.

To date, FHRI has extended assistance to over 3,720 cases through screening and follow up of cases at various justice institutions, mediation, legal aid camps, ensuring access to pre-trial guarantees (police bond, bail, community service), plea-bargain sessions hence contributing to speedy access to justice and case backlog reduction. F-BLAP, has contributed to reducing the petty remand population at Nyamushekera Prison. As of 31st October 2022, the petty remand population was 409 and by 31st December 2024 it had reduced to 257. Further still, there has been increased use of alternative sentences such as community service, police bond, court bail by justice agencies in Bushenyi. Through advocacy, more state attorneys have been appointed, and a Resident Judge for Bushenyi was appointed last year.

Overall, FHRI has secured 2,079 court rulings/ Judgments, recovered UGX 4,004,536,400, 107 properties, secured 595 bail/bond applications in favor of our clients; restored 84 family properties, extended legal advice to 1,048 clients, secured 1,043 detainees through plea-bargain, and 133 community service orders for petty offenders during the reporting period.

The Civic Education Unit has a triple mandate: civic empowerment, public outreach, and the campaign against the Death Penalty. Under civic empowerment, dubbed 'My Rights, My Power', the focus is directed towards youth in tertiary institutions, in particular, universities. Presently, FHRI boasts of 39 human rights clubs, spread out in all major universities in Uganda. Through these clubs, students are encouraged to conduct human rights research, carry out internal debates, and reach out to sister universities in a bid to build a student's human rights network. We are encouraged by the passion and enthusiasm, and 'organizing power' exhibited by these students in 2024 especially UIIU, Uganda Martyrs, Nkozi, Bugema University, Kabojja Females Campus, and Bishop Stuart University. To motivate the exceptional students, FHRI has launched a Human Rights Award for the best student in a human right related- field in Uganda Martyrs University, Nkozi, Bishop Stuart University, and Gulu University. So far 6 human rights awards have been presented to Uganda Martyrs University, and one Human Rights award to Bishop Stuart University at their recent graduation ceremony.

Besides the university outreach, FHRI participated in civic-related activities: public lectures, Radio/TV Talk shows, online webinars, at the local, regional and international level in 2024.

With respect to the Campaign against the Death Penalty, in partnership with The World Coalition against the Death Penalty (WCADP), and with support of the European Union, a two-year project titled 'Securing the abolition of the death penalty in Africa and in countries at risk', is being implemented. Activities under the project in 2024 included legal assistance to death row inmates, advocacy, prison visits, and the commemoration of the 22nd world day against the death penalty on 10th October 2024. Measurable impact has been registered under this campaign. For instance, Parliament voted overwhelmingly to abolish the death penalty, Uganda voted for the very first time in favor of the UN General Assembly resolution on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, President Museveni has exercised his powers to grant a prerogative of mercy to release some prisoners, and FHRI was overwhelmingly voted as Vice president of the World Coalition against the Death penalty during the WCADP General Assembly; and there has been a noticeable decline of death row prisoners from 417 (2009) to 104 (2024).

The Rights and Rule of Law Unit (RRL) aims at strengthening the capacity and independence of the judiciary to reach just decisions and uphold human rights. Given the long-standing partnership with the judiciary, FHRI was invited as the Keynote Speaker at the 25th Annual Judges Conference held 5th-8th February 2024 at the Serena Conference Centre on the Theme 'A people-centered Approach to Justice'. FHRI was also a key exhibitor at the Judiciary National Court Open Day held at the Kololo independence grounds on 15th April 2024.

Primarily charged with activity oversight, the Program Unit coordinates the Civic Network for Eastern and Southern Africa (CENESA). CENESA's mission is to provide a regional civic education platform for mutual support, knowledge sharing, capacity building, advocacy and regional cooperation among individuals, civil society, private sector, state and other stakeholders. FHRI is host to CENESA. In 2024, CENESA participated in the Network for Europe Citizenship Education (NECE) Festival in Tirana, Albania from 14th-17th November 2024.

The External services Unit is charged with information management and membership development. During this reporting period, the unit updated the FHRI website, the membership register, ensured regular internet access, and organized the 25th AGM.

FHRI membership currently stands at 1,584 Members including 1,552 ordinary members, 32 Life members and 1 Associate member. 16 members joined in 2024. We are highly indebted to those members and sympathizers who contributed to the Harambee.

Special thanks go to the staff for their dedication, resilience, patience and hard work. Our staff portfolio in 2024 stood at 50 (includes volunteers and interns). Under a 2 Year Norwegian Exchange project titled 'Transforming the Justice Sector in East and Southern Africa through Exchange of legal technical experts', FHRI benefited from staff contributions of Charmaine Ncube Mbali (Africa Judges and Jurists Forum (AJJF), South Africa and Priviledge Blessing Mtsibirani (Legal Resources Foundation (LRF), Zimbabwe. In turn two of our staff namely Catherine Omega and Namakajo Deric had the benefit of working with the Legal Resources Foundation (Zimbabwe) and The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ-Kenya) respectively under a similar arrangement.

As I sign off, special thanks go to our partners who have supported our programs in 2024 who include but not limited to: European Union (Brussels), LEGATUM FOUNDATION, World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation (NOREC) and CIVICS/BPB Germany.

With a track record of 33 years of human rights activism in Uganda and beyond, our shared mission is more relevant than ever before. We wish to salute our entire membership, partners, staff, Board of Directors and the entire body politic for the trust and support that FHRI continues to enjoy.

As Martin Luther King Jr, stated, "We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope."
#keephopealive

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Sewanyana', enclosed within a hand-drawn rectangular box.

Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana
Executive Director

PROGRAM

PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

» CAMPAIGN 1

MY RIGHTS MY POWER

Action 1: Civic Education

Action 1 seeks to address the problem of a disempowered citizenry, build active citizens and a citizens' movement capable of challenging the status quo. Through this campaign, FHRI recognizes the need to emphasize rights awareness and empowerment primarily at the grass root level, and in university and tertiary institutions through civic education.

i. University Human Rights Network

Under the auspices of the student leadership program, FHRI presented the 6th and 7th Human Rights Awards to the best student in Bachelor of Arts in Local Governance and Human Rights at Uganda Martyrs University Nkozi's Graduation ceremony (2023/2024) on Friday 18th October 2024 and the other, to the best student in Bachelor of Arts in Ethics and Human Rights during the 20th Bishop Stuart University Graduation, Mbarara on 25th October 2024.



Dr Livingstone Sewanyana, Executive Director, FHRI (right) and Ms Charimaine Ncube, NOREC participant, handing over the Human Rights Award to Ms. Arinda Julian, best student in Bachelor of Arts in Ethics and Human Rights at Bishop Stuart University (BSU) 2024 (in the middle) during the 20th BSU Graduation Ceremony, 25th October 2024 at BSU in Mbarara.

Similarly, FHRI held a human rights seminar at Bugema University organized by the Department of Social Sciences under the theme: "Know Your Rights and Demand Them" while on 26th September 2024, officiated as Chief Guest at the commemoration of IUIU human rights club's designated Human Rights Day. Further still, aligned to our student leadership program, on 29th October 2024, FHRI hosted students from the School of History, Archaeology and Heritage Studies, Makerere University, who were treated to a lecture on FHRI's role in advancing human rights in Uganda by the Executive Director, Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana.

Besides the university outreach, FHRI participated in civic-related activities: public lectures, Radio/TV Talk shows, online webinars, at the local, regional and international level in 2024.

CAMPAIGN 2

DEFENCE OF THE RIGHT TO PERSONAL LIBERTY

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 to provide an evidence- base for advocacy and accountability.

i. Human Rights Monitoring and Documentation

In 2024, FHRI conducted a Community-Based Human Rights Impact Assessments on the Oil and Gas sector in the Albertine region and Kingfisher from 15th – 20th April 2024 in partnership with FIDH.

The assessment builds on 2020 and 2022 studies and addresses the current situation related to the Tilenga, Kingfisher and EACOP projects in Uganda. It was based on a combination of desk research and field documentation conducted in April 2024. A total of 78 interviews and focus group discussions, involving 114 participants, were carried out between February and September 2024. The interviews were voluntary and included members from affected communities, local and national authorities, civil society actors, human rights defenders, medical personnel, experts, journalists, and staff members and managers of companies involved such as CNOOC and Total Energies, as well as an investor and a subcontractor of Total Energies. The report titled “Oil in Uganda: Serious human rights abuses and escalating threats as project development enters new phase” was launched on 12th December 2024.

To complement the human rights monitoring work, FHRI remained resolute, proactively responding to various human rights issues through her media advocacy efforts over several media outlets such as: CBS FM, Super FM, Radio One, Radio Simba, KFM, Vision Voice, Sanyu FM, Prime Radio, Capital FM, Radio Sapientia, Dembe FM, Top Radio, Power FM, Radio West, Radio Buddu, Radio Equator, Kalangala Community Radio, Voice of Africa, BBC, UBC, NTV, NBS, Urban TV, Delta TV, Top TV, Pearl FM, The East African, Weinformers, The Observer, The New Vision, The Independent, Daily Monitor, Impact FM, Mega FM, Voice of America, Prime Radio, Dream TV, Channel 44, Salt TV, Kingdom TV, Associates Press and Aljazeera.

ii. Treaty reporting

In June 2024, FHRI participated in a Universal Periodic Review (UPR) training in Naivasha, Kenya, with support from CIVICUS.

CAMPAIGN 3

THE RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW

The campaign seeks to strengthen the capacity and independence of the Judiciary to reach just decisions and uphold human rights.

Action 1: Judicial Exchange Program

A two-year project titled; ‘Transforming the Justice Sector in East and Southern Africa through exchange of legal technical experts’, was approved by the Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation (NOREC) running from 2024 – 2026. The coordinating partner of the exchange is the African Judges and Jurists Forum (AJJF) in South Africa in partnership with the International Commission of Jurists in Kenya, Legal Resources Foundation in Zimbabwe and Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) in Uganda. Under this exchange, FHRI received two participants; Ms Priviledge Tsumbirani from LRF in Zimbabwe and Ms Charmaine Ncube from AJJF in South Africa. In exchange, FHRI’s Research Assistant, Ms. Omega Kasirye, was hosted by LRF in Zimbabwe while Legal Associate Mr. Deric Namakajo, iate by AJJF in South Africa. The participants hosted by FHRI were involved in a range of activities among others:

- A plea- bargain training on 21st of June 2024 at the Supreme Court of Uganda.
- Plea bargain sessions (petty and capital) at Bushenyi High Court.
- Mediation sessions at court, police and locus visits in Greater Bushenyi.
- Sensitization of inmates and suspects in Greater Bushenyi.
- Capacity building training of local leaders and social workers in Bushenyi.
- Community service monitoring in Greater Bushenyi.
- District Advocacy meetings in Greater Bushenyi.
- Radio talk shows in Greater Bushenyi.
- Advocating for juvenile justice in Greater Bushenyi.
- Research and drafting of court documents.
- Re-integration of convicts into communities Greater Bushenyi.
- Participated in Mobile Legal Aid Clinics (MLACS) in Greater Bushenyi
- Participated in the mission to the Albertine on the human rights impact of oil and gas activities.



Left –Right: NOREC participants—Ms. Charmaine Ncube from AJJF (black and white) and Ms. Priviledge Tsumbirani, from LRF (in black) on their first day of attachment to FHRI. They were at the offices of Uganda Prison Service, Bushenyi district on 21st February 2024.



Priviledge during the plea bargain session with an inmate on 4th June 2024



Ms. Privilege Tumbirani at the Supreme Court of Uganda, Kampala after attending the 7th Annual Plea-Bargaining Conference on 21st June 2024.

As part of the exchange program, FHRI was part of the participants that attended the Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation (NOREC) training for partners from 8th-10th April 2024 in South Africa.



The consortium members during the NOREC Partners Training Monday April 8th, 2024, at Indaba Hotel, Spa and Conference Centre in Johannesburg. From right to left is Mr. Arnold Tsunga, AJJF, Mr. Demas Kiprono, ICJ Kenya, Ms. Sheila Muwanga, FHRI, Mr. Itai Mafara, AJJF, Ms. Sandra Muengwa,

LRF, Mr. Wallace Nderu, ICJ Kenya, Ms. Florence Bumhira, LRF, Dr Livingstone Sewanyana, FHRI and Mr. Martin Masiga, AJJF

FHRI was represented by Dr Livingstone Sewanyana, Executive Director, FHRI and Ms Sheila Muwanga, Deputy Executive Director, Programs. The training offered FHRI, and consortium partners an opportunity to meet representatives from various partner organizations and companies that are participating in the exchange program, share best practices, discuss challenges, and build networks for a future sharing of experiences. Further, the training provided a more detailed introduction to the Norec partnership model, and covered program areas such as project management, monitoring, and reporting routines. Subjects related to diversity management, mentoring and communication were also discussed. The training inspired FHRI and her consortium partners and offered new tools and insights that increased the chances for a successful exchange project within the Norec framework, and in line with NOREC principles and values.



The consortium members at the NOREC Partners training on Monday April 8th, 2024, at Indaba Hotel, Spa and Conference Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa. Seated from left: Dr Livingstone Sewanyana (FHRI), Mr Martin Masiga, (AJJF), Ms Sheila Muwanga, (FHRI), and Mr. Demas Kiprono, (ICJ Kenya). Standing from Left: Mr. Itai Mafara, (AJJF), Mr. Wallace Nderu (ICJ Kenya) and Arnold Tsunga, (AJJF)

On 10th September 2024, the AJJF led partnership met in Nairobi, Kenya to appraise progress against set targets and results. It was also an opportunity for the partners to strategize for Round 2 of the program. Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, Executive Director and Ms. Sheila Muwanga, Deputy Executive Director (Programs) represented FHRI.



NOREC partners meeting on 10th September 2024 at Pride Inn, Plaza, Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting was hosted by ICJ Kenya.

ACTION 2.

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE JUDICIARY

During the year, Dr Livingstone Sewanyana, was invited to deliver a Keynote Address at the 25th Annual Judges Conference on 5th February 2024 at the Kampala Serena Hotel titled, 'A People Centred Approach to Justice.' In his address, he noted that the theme of the conference was timely and relevant to effective delivery of justice in Uganda. He further noted that justice users deserved appropriate treatment as well as awareness of how the justice system works to trust it.



Standing on the left: Ms. Connie Numbi, FHRI Project Manager, campaign against the death penalty talking to Uganda Police who visited the FHRI exhibition stall during the maiden National Court Open Day held on 15th April 2024 at Kololo Independence Grounds



Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana delivering the Keynote Address at the 25th Annual Judges Conference, Serena Hotel, Kampala on 5th February 2024.

The National Court Open Day event started with a procession from the Judiciary headquarters to Kololo Independence Grounds. The Chief Walker was the Principal Judge, Hon Justice Dr Flavian Zeija. The Chief Justice (CJ) Alfonse Owiny Dollo, the Deputy Chief Justice Richard Buteera, Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs Hon. Norbert Mao, Judicial Officers from the High Court, the Lower Bench, Senior Administrators and staff of the Judiciary, representatives from Civil Society Organizations, representatives from the criminal justice system, and members of the public among others graced the occasion. FHRI exhibited, and shared information on the campaign for the abolition of the death penalty in Uganda. Various members of the public visited our stall including students, police officers, Civil Society Organisations, friends and members of FHRI, members of the Uganda Coalition Against the Death Penalty and the public.

The Campaign for the abolition of the death Penalty in Uganda

CAMPAIGN 4

ACTION 1: ADVOCACY

- Reintegration Program

On 7th February 2024 a meeting between, FHRI, former death row inmates and European Union in Uganda (EU) was held. This platform was an opportunity for the former death row inmates to present their advocacy initiatives for possible support from the EU. This meeting was attended by Mr. Nicolas Gonze– Head of Governance and Social Inclusion and Mr. Thomas Kamusiime- Operations Advisor Gender, Conflict and Human Rights (for European Union); Ms. Numbi Connie, and Ms. Sara Teklay (for FHRI); Ms. Nankanja Ruth, Mr. Kabaza Habert, and Mr. Walusimbi Andrew (for former death row inmates).

- The African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR)

FHRI was represented by Mr. Yasin Sentumbwe at the 79th ACHPR session, from 14th May – 3rd June 2024. The session was a hybrid one.

- Multimedia advocacy

FHRI entered partnership with the SML News Uganda to conduct a multi- media messaging campaign. Under the theme 'All lives matter', the campaign has generated mass following. The aim of this partnership is to amplify the voices of those advocating for the abolition of the death penalty, create awareness on the issues surrounding capital punishment, and stimulate meaningful conversations among Ugandans on the need to abolish capital punishment in Uganda. See the following links :

1. <https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/special-reports/the-death-penalty-will-not-make-uganda-safer-abolitionists--4785578>
2. <https://smlnews.ug/2024/10/04/fhri-joins-hands-with-sml-news-in-campaign-against-the-death-penalty-in-uganda/>



Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, Executive Director, FHRI, (left) shakes hands with Mr. Simon Lutaaya of SML News Media after signing the mutual agreement to conduct the media messaging campaign, at the Human Rights House, Nsambya on 4th October 2024

Annual events to commemorate the World Day against the death penalty reaching out 200 participants

On 10th October 2024, FHRI together with the Uganda Coalition Against the Death Penalty (UCADP) joined the rest of the world to commemorate the 22nd World Day Against the Death Penalty. Under the theme **‘Security and the Death Penalty’**, the event was held under the slogan ‘The Death Penalty Protects No One: Abolish it Now’ localised to Luganda to read, ‘Akalabba Tekatariza Muntu Yenna: Akalabba kadibizibwe.’ The event was attended by a total of 204 participants (97 female, 107 male). Among the participants were representations from the Uganda Prisons Service, European Union Delegation to Uganda, NGOs, academic institutions, children whose parents are in prison, women’s rights led organisations, government agencies, media, representatives of the Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS), former death row inmates, and legal advocates.

‘The Death Penalty Protects No One: Abolish it Now’ localised to Luganda to read, ‘Akalabba Tekatariza Muntu Yenna: Akalabba kadibizibwe.’



A cross section of participants attending the commemoration of the 22nd World Day Against the Death Penalty on 10th October 2024 at the Human Rights House, Nsambya.

Several activities were conducted as part of the commemorative event including:

- Thematic research on Security and the Death Penalty was conducted under the slogan ‘The Death Penalty Protects No one: Abolish it Now.’ A factsheet was published which was distributed among the participants during and after the commemoration of the World Day Against the Death Penalty.
- Human rights training was conducted on 8th October 2024 at Tropical High School. The training sought to empower the youth with human rights knowledge and to introduce the campaign for the abolition of the death penalty. 89 students (42 male, 47 female) participated in the training. After the training, a movie-Sabrina’s- Near Death Experience was viewed by the students.
- Solidarity visit/s to prisoners sentenced to death. On 16th October 2024, a solidarity visit at Luzira Upper Prison – male condemned section was conducted. Prisoners on death row were able to present the message against death penalty through songs, and skits. A special meal was prepared for the inmates in commemoration of the World Day Against the Death Penalty.

In addition to these activities, on 21st and 28th October 2024, FHRI visited two female death row inmates in Katojo Government Prison and Luzira Upper prisons to discuss their cases and wellbeing.



FHRI team joins in sharing a special meal with the Uganda Prisons Service team and prisoners on death row during the solidarity visit at Luzira Maximum Prison – Condemn section on 15th October 2024 as part of the commemorative events.

Legal Assistance

During the year, FHRI extended legal assistance to 1 female prisoner sentenced to death. The inmate was able to challenge her conviction during the Court of Appeal hearing on 14th October 2024. The ruling was awaited by year's end.

Routine Prison visits:

Five prison visits were conducted to Luzira women's prison and Luzira maximum prison. The team was able to collect new information, update the database, have a special meal with the prisoners during the 22nd commemoration of the World Day against the Death Penalty. Currently there are 104 (2 female, 102 male prisoners) sentenced to death in Uganda.

ACTION 3: PARTNERSHIPS

World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP)

FHRI remained consistent in supporting and participating in the activities of the WCADP. Represented by Ms. Numbi Connie, FHRI participated in various meetings organised by the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP) namely:

- o Gender Working Group meetings (24th and 26th April 2024, 27th Sep 2024).
- o World Day Working Group meetings (23rd April 2024).
- o Steering Committee meetings (25th April 2024, 30th September 2024, 3rd December 2024).
- o Executive Board meetings (9th, and 17th April 2024, 1st October 2024, 5th December 2024).
- o FFPA training (2nd October 2024).

Wells of Hope Ministries Safe Home

During the year, FHRI visited the reintegration centre for formerly incarcerated women run by Wells of Hope Ministries..

Regional Focal Point of the WCADP Gender Working Group

FHRI is a member of the WCADP Gender Working Group and is represented by Ms. Numbi Connie and Mr. Yasin Munagomba. Ms. Numbi Connie (Uganda) along with Ms. Nora Asobi (Nigeria) were selected as the regional focal point for Sub-Saharan Africa.

Ms. Numbi Connie, FHRI Project Manager Death Penalty project, in studio introducing the e- training on gender and the death penalty, and the e- training on the ACHPR on 2nd October 2025 in Philadelphia, USA.



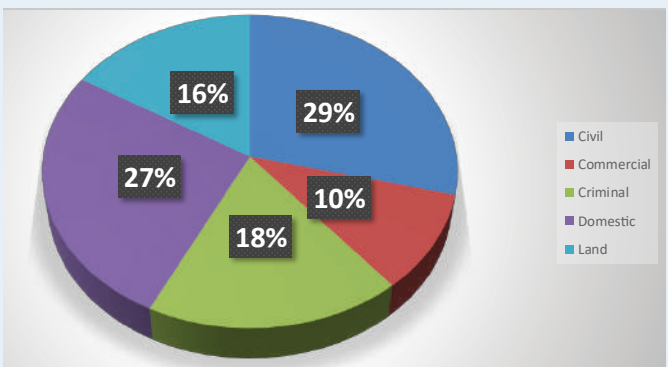
CAMPAIGN 5 ACCESS TO JUSTICE

The objective of the campaign is to provide free and accessible legal assistance to poor and vulnerable groups in Uganda.

ACTION 1: LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Kampala Office

- A total of 587 (309 male, 278 female) were clients registered and supported with free legal assistance.
- Civil matters were the highest with 144 clients, representing 29%, followed by domestic cases with 132 (27%). Criminal cases handled totalled 102, (18%), land matters at 83 (16%) and commercial cases 66 clients representing 10%.
- Remedies included: 22 successful court bail and police bond applications, 11 successfully concluded family maintenance matters, 8 pieces of land recovered on behalf of our clients, 2 Court Judgments in favour of our clients, 15 Court Rulings in favour of our clients, 2 community awareness sessions and recovery of money for our clients worth Ugx 13,530,000/=.
- As part of the legal assistance, on 15th August 2024, FHRI invited the Lubigi evicted residents of Nansana to discuss their plight with a view to petitioning court to challenge



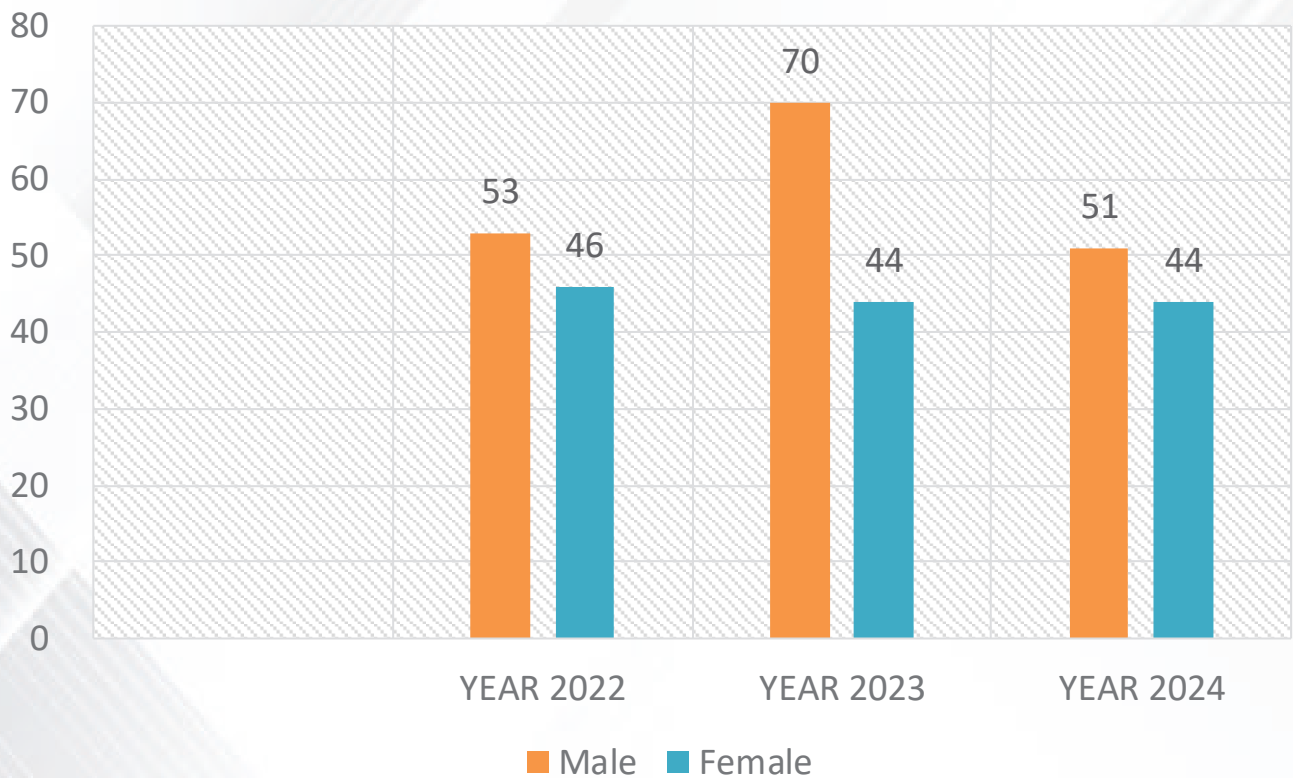


Fig 3: Number of clients assisted in the Wakiso Office from 2022 - 2024

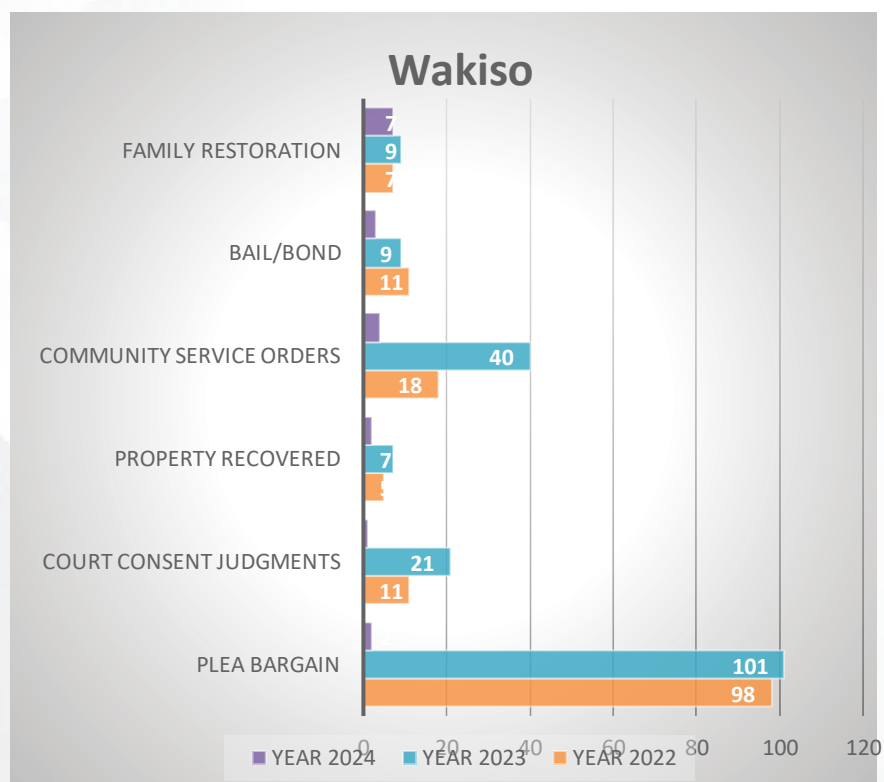


Fig 4: Nature of remedies secured by the FHRI Wakiso Legal Aid Office

FHRI Kalangala Legal Aid Office

In Kalangala, 56 clients both new and pending cases were assisted including 31 male, 25 female. Civil cases registered were 21, land matters were 15, domestic cases were 14, only 1 criminal matter and only 1 commercial matter. 21 cases were closed through mediation while remedies included: 6 families restored, 13 successful bail and bond applications, 11 properties recovered on behalf of FHRI clients, 6 consent judgments in favour of FHRI clients, 19 successful community service orders and, Ugx 11,311,000/= recovered on behalf of FHRI clients.

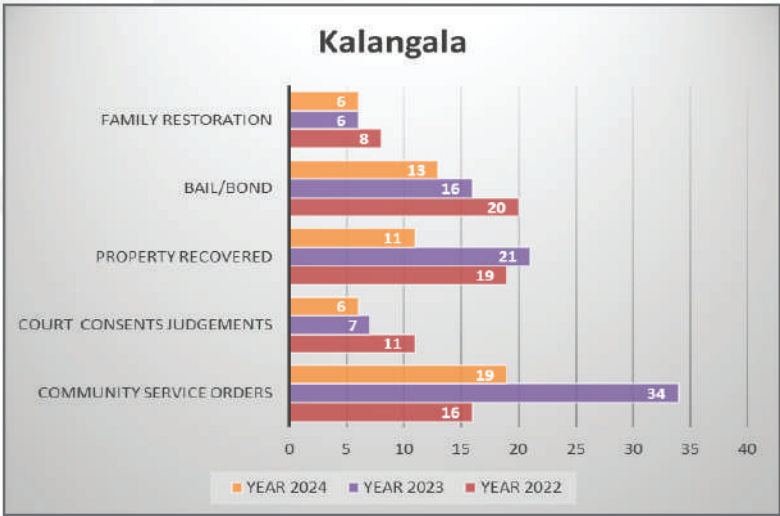


Fig 5: Remedies from the Kalangala Office

FHRI Bushenyi Legal Aid Project (F-BLAP)

Pillar One: Prevention

Two, 2-day district-based capacity building trainings for Local Councils in Mitooma district were held from 23rd – 24th April 2024 and in Kyamuhunga Town Council, Bushenyi district from 22nd – 24th October 2024. A total of 76 LC 1 and III leaders were trained.

Pillar Two: Legal Assistance

A total of 953 clients (874 male, 79 female) were assisted against a target of 410 as summarized in table 1 below.

Table 1: Break down of clients assisted per intervention under Pillar 2

Intervention	Target	Achieved Male	Achieved Female	Achieved Total
i. One (1), mini court sessions for petty offenders	40	45	6	51
ii. Frequent Court appearances/Legal representation (High Court, Magistrate courts).	100	322	29	351
iii. Two, 5-day plea bargain sessions for petty offenders and capital cases.	120	181	5	186
iv. Routine monitoring of police, prisons, courts.	150	326	39	365
Totals	410	874	79	953

Pillar Three: Advocacy

During the reporting period, two District based Advocacy forums were held in Rubirizi district on 25th April 2024, and in Sheema district on 23rd October 2024 with a total of 178 participants attending including community members, local leaders and Justice Law and Order Sector institutions.

Similarly, FHRI participated in the launch of the High Court circuit in Bushenyi on 19th March 2024, under the theme ‘Enhancing Judicial Accountability and Access to Justice.’

As a result of the FHRI interventions during the year, the trained LCs were able to divert a total of 147 cases after the training compared to the baseline of 69 cases before the training.

Further still, there has been a reduction in the remand population because of FHRI interventions. A total of 648 (612 male, 36 female) cases on remand were concluded through frequent court appearance, plea bargain, mini-court session and court users' session. The respect for the integrity of the incarcerated has been enhanced within the criminal justice system in Bushenyi.

Through FHRI interventions, more suspects in prison who were on remand without trial were granted bail and those at police were granted police bond pending investigations. Diversion of cases at police was further encouraged, hence reducing on the number of cases ending up in court and prison. As a result of FHRI intervention, 169 (150 male, 19 female) were granted police bond, 53 cases (43 male, 10 female) were diverted at police through reconciliation and 81 (68 male, 13 female) were granted court bail/bond.

Further still, there has been continued adherence to JLOS standards and promotion of the presumption of innocence rule in greater Bushenyi. The police themselves have appreciated this trend. For instance, District Police Commander of Rubirizi District, ASP. Lilian Kikobyе during the District Coordination Committee meeting held on 24th June 2024, testified as follows:

"Because of FHRI we are kept under self-check and as such we are grateful."

The use of alternatives to imprisonment such as community service, cautions, fines and non-custodial options resulting in reduction of prison population has been appreciated by JLOS officials. Of the total number of cases supported in table 1 above, 57.92% were non-custodial options with 143 cases reconciled, 99 dismissed for want of prosecution, 76 granted community service, 31 acquitted, 21 cautioned, 17 discharged, 12 fined, 8 sentenced to the period spent on remand and 4 given suspended sentences.



Hon Justice Amos Kwizera (3rd from left) the new Resident Judge of Bushenyi poses for a photo with FHRI team led by Dr Livingstone Sewanyana, Executive Director, FHRI (2nd from right), Ms Gorreth Ayebala, Project Manager, FHRI Bushenyi Legal Aid Project, FLAB, (extreme right), Ms. Sheila Muwanga, Deputy Executive Director Programs, FHRI (3rd from right), Ms. Charmaine Ncube, NOREC Fellow (2nd from left) and Her Worship Arinaitwe Goretti, Registrar, Bushenyi Court on 23rd October 2024 at Bushenyi High Court

'We are very proud of FHRI'S work in Greater Bushenyi. The organization is well known. The work is responding to the needs in the justice system.'
Hon Justice Amos Kwizera during the courtesy visit by FHRI.

As a result, there has been a reduction in the case backlog for both petty and capital cases. Regarding capital cases, by 31st December, there were only 2 cases of 2021 pending hearing. All other cases in the system were for 2022.

Through the judicial initiative on plea bargain, FHRI supported the High court in Bushenyi through extending with legal representation. With the establishment of a High Court in Bushenyi, capital cases are being reported and registered instead of resorting to mob justice, hence an increase of capital remand population.

Whereas the petty cases backlog is hard to determine by years, the reduction because of FHRI interventions can be assessed from the reduction in the petty cases remand population. As of 31st October 2022, the petty remand population was 409 and by 31st December 2024 it had reduced to 257 as seen in Table 2 below.

Table 2 : Nyamushekyera Main Prison population data comparaisn (2022 – 2024)

Prison population as of 31 st October 2022				Prison population as of 31 st December 2024			
	Petty	Capital	Total		Petty	Capital	Total
Convicts	295	166	461	Convicts	177	257	434
Remand	409	263	672	Remand	257	407	664
Total	704	429	1,133	Total	434	664	1,098

CAMPAIGN 6

CIVIC EDUCATION NETWORK FOR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (CENESA)

The objective of CENESA is to provide 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. FHRI hosts CENESA.

• CENESA at the NECE Festival 2024 in partnership with RedeNEC

The European Festival of civic education: Borders, Tirana Albania, 14- 17 November 2024.

Yet again, the Civic Education Network for Eastern and Southern Africa (CENESA) together with her new partner, the Brazil's National Network for Civic Education (RedeNEC), was represented at the NECE festival 2024 in Tirana. NECE which stands for Networking European Civic Education (www.nece.eu) has long been a familiar platform and annual conference for civic educators to connect, learn and grow. This time round, the NECE festival 2024 explored the various manifestations and meanings of Borders and what civic educators make of them. The elements of the festival included: Cubes with panels, pitches, world café sessions, side events, discoveries, interviews and celebrations.

CENESA and RedeNEC participated in CUBE 1:

Climate change and green literacy. Through a panel discussion titled: 'Green literacy in Brazil and Eastern & Southern Africa: Civic education as a climate justice tool,' this insightful CUBE session featured members of CENESA and the RedeNEC. The panel explored how civic education can drive climate justice, empowering communities across the Global South to tackle environmental challenges. The speakers were: Cyrus Nkusi Munyaburanga (Rwanda), CENESA member, from Governance for Africa (GFA), Sheila Muwanga (Uganda), CENESA member and host from Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI), a young University Student from Uganda and member of CENESA, Simon Peter Luyiima, João Tavares, co-founder of the Rede Nacional de Educação Cidadã, and Alice Pataxó an indigenous leader and ambassador for World Wildlife Fund Brazil who has represented Brazil at various Conference of the Parties (COP).



From left: Cyrus Nkusi Munyaburanga (standing in black coat) CENESA member from Governance for Africa (GFA) and right, Sheila Muwanga (with glasses), CENESA member at the NECE festival on 15th November 2024, Tirana, Albania

Through the lens of green literacy, the speakers shared perspectives on environmental education, indigenous knowledge, and youth engagement, highlighting the powerful role of civic participation in fostering climate resilience. Drawing on experiences from Brazil and Africa, the session sparked discussions on cross-border collaboration and the global push for climate justice.



CENESA and Brazilian Civic Education Network at a joint panel organized by Sister Network NECE in Albania, 15th November 2024

COMPONENT 7

INSTITUTIONAL AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The objective of Component 7 is to build a sustainable and innovative human rights advocacy organization in Uganda.

Action 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 six (6) networks/coalitions including: the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Network (EAHRDP), Legal Aid Services Providers Network (LASPNET), 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 2024, FHRI participated in over 40 physical and virtual events organized by partners, civil society actors and Government agencies on human rights, governance and democracy.

Action 2: Visibility

The FHRI website (www.fhri.or.ug) and social media platforms were both regularly updated to keep the public informed. In 2024, the unit published the FHRI Annual report 2023 as part of the visibility and information sharing strategy.

Action 3: Governance and leadership

FHRI is a membership organization with an organizational structure that comprises her General Assembly, Trustees, Board of Directors, 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 Board of Directors 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.

The 25th Annual General Meeting, was held on 9th November 2024 at the Human Rights House commencing with a Thanksgiving Service officiated by Rev. Canon John Ssebude, Mukono Diocese. 207 members attended the AGM while 13 new members were enrolled.

The Guest Speaker Dr. Stephen Okello, Secretary, National Bureau for NGOs (NGO Bureau), from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, commended the good work done by FHRI and her membership in fighting for justice as well as supporting varied members of the public across the country. He noted that this work requires resilience and a lot of resources and therefore called upon members to continue with the culture of supporting the organisation through regular payment of subscription fees, funding organisational activities and donations where possible. He urged FHRI and her membership to speak out and continue lobbying the government so that action can be taken to help the electorate in making informed electoral decisions. He noted that the decline in foreign aid has incapacitated many NGOs leading to their closure especially in cases where local philanthropy is still very low and more so in areas of public interest. He urged the sector to consider carrying out self-sustenance activities.



FHRI's Board of Directors led by Dr. Josephine Ndagire, Chairperson, (2nd right) handing over a Certificate of Appreciation from FHRI to Dr. Stephen Okello, (right) Secretary, National Bureau for NGOs during the 25th AGM held on 9th November 2024 at the Human Rights House, Nsambya.

- **Membership Development**

The FHRI membership register has a record of 1,584 members. 16 members joined in 2024. (1,552 ordinary members, 32 Life members). Three (3) members passed on while twenty nine (29) withdrew their membership.

- **The 2024 AGM Fundraising Drive**

Out of the 44 FHRI members, staff members and partners pledged Ugx 8,940,000/=-, Ugx 6,850,000 was realized.



Group photograph of some of the FHRI members who attended the 25th Annual General Meeting held on 9th November 2024 at the Human Rights House, Nsambya.

• BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2022 – 2025)

Dr. Josephine Ndagire
Chairperson

Mr. Rajab Lukwago
Vice-Chairperson

Ms. Bernadette Bakkidde
Hon Secretary

Ms. Margaret Pauline Namagembe
Hon Treasurer

Mr. Edward Kyazze
Member

Dr. Milliam Kiconco
Member

Mr. Godfrey Kaggwa
Member

Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana
Executive Director (Ex-Officio)

• TRUSTEES

Ms. Sarah Mukiibi S
Libra Consultants Limited

Mr. Albert Mukundane
Private Consultant

Mr. Wycliffe Birungi
Birungi & Co. Advocates

Mr. James Kizito Mayanja
Uganda Coffee Development Authority

Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana
FHRI

• STAFFING

By the close of 2024, the staffing stood at 50 (22 male, 28 female), including program, administration staff and volunteers

Executive Office

Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana	Executive Director
Ms. Milly Nakakande	Executive Manager

Programs Unit

Ms. Sheila Muwanga	Deputy Executive Director (Programs)
--------------------	--------------------------------------

Research Unit

Ms Charmaine Ncube	NOREC participant
--------------------	-------------------

Capacity Development Unit

Ms. Connie Numbi	Director CDD/ Manager Death Penalty
Ms. Catherine Nakimera	Volunteer

Legal Services Unit

Ms. Solome Nagadya	Legal Officer
Ms. Esther Kaggwa	Legal Associate
Mr. Deo Miir	Paralegal Kalangala Office
Ms. Alice Mayanja	Legal Officer Kampala
Ms. Brenda Katusiime	Volunteer
Mr Richard Akora	Legal Intern
Mr Afura Huzaifa	Legal Intern
Mr Ramathan Katamba	Legal Intern
Mr Friday Davis	Legal Intern
Mr Sentumbwe Yasin	Legal Intern
Ms. Samantha Lubuulwa	Legal Intern
Ms Idah Kiiza Namakula	Legal Intern

FHRI Bushenyi Legal Aid Project

Ms. Gorreth Ayebale	Senior Legal Officer
Mr. Tamale Joash	Legal Officer
Ms. Nuunu Martha	Legal Officer
Ms. Karungi Brenda	Accounts Officer
Ms. Biyonga Stee Nyindo	Paralegal Officer
Ms. Busingye Rachel	Paralegal Officer
Ms. Ainebye Roselyn	Paralegal Officer
Mr. Tumuheki Amons	Paralegal Officer
Mr. Bashsha Nicholas	Paralegal Officer
Ms Priviledge Tumbirani	NOREC participante
Ms. Kwagalakwe Carolyn	Front Desk Officer
Mr. Arinda Willex	Clerk
Ms. Kyomuhendo Lilian	Cook/cleaner.
Mr. Mugisha Charles	Gardener/security

Communication and Information

Ms. Elizabeth Nantamu	Coordinator, External Service Division
-----------------------	--

Finance

Ms. Rose Kamuli Mwesigwa	Director, Finance & Administration
Ms. Gladys Mirembe	Finance & Administration Assistant
Ms. Winnie Munyegera	Administrative Assistant
Ms. Gladys Arigye	Volunteer

Administration

Mr. Stephen Sebaana	Office Manager
Ms. Elizabeth Nakato	Front Desk Officer
Mr. Mathew Sekitto	Office Assistant
Ms. Olivia Kigozi	Welfare Assistant
Mr. Moses Kyazze	Senior Driver
Mr. Moses Nyanzi	Senior Driver
Mr. Haruna Serusiiti	Gardener/ Cleaner
Mr. Richard Okeya	Security Guard

Cleaning team/gardening/security

Ms. Sarah Najjemba
Mr. James Wandulu
Mr. Samuel Kamuntu
Mr Joseph Omusungu
Mr Andrew Mwebaze

• Internship program

In 2024, FHRI hosted a total of 20 interns and students on Clerkship.

Action 4: Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

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 2024:

- * Development of the Annual Work plan, Year Planner and Annual Budget for 2024, which form part of the M & E system, were adopted.
- * Four (4) Program Review meetings held on 12th January 2024, 3rd May 2024, 3rd October 2024, and a Board- Staff Retreat on 20th December 2024.
- * Three (3) Board of Directors meetings held on 4th May 2024, 2nd November 2024 and 20th December 2024.

Action 5: Office administration

During the period, FHRI paid salary, stipends and utility bills. Assets were maintained despite the high operational costs. Where possible, the organization has duly insured, serviced and repaired her equipment including vehicles, photocopiers, the generator, computers and accessories.

● 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 Foundation for Human Rights Initiative set out on pages 22 to 29 which comprise the statement of financial position at 31 December 2024, 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 company as at 31 December 2024 and of its results and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards for Small and Medium Entities, the Uganda Companies Act Cap 106 and the Non-Governmental Organizations (Amendment) Act Cap 109.

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 Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of FHRI 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.

Responsibilities of the directors for the financial statements

The directors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards for Small and Medium Enterprises and the requirements of the Companies Act Cap 106, 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 company or to cease operation, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' 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 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

PO Box 10938, Kampala
Plot No. 962, Heritage Road, Nsambya
Tel: +256 0414 231 316 / 0772 317 833
E-mail: sbisase@africaonline.co.ug

Partner: S.L.R. Bisase FCCA, CPA(U)
Deborah Mulondo ACCA, CPA(U)

"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)

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 skepticism 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.
- 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 Company's internal controls.
- 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 FHRI's ability to continue as 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 Company 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 Cap 106, we report to you, based on our audit, that:

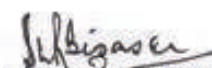
- We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit;
- In our opinion proper books of account have been kept by the Company, so far as it appears from our examination of those books;

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

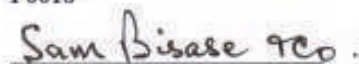
Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

- The Company's statement of financial position and statement of profit or loss and comprehensive income are in agreement with the books of account.

The engagement partner responsible for the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is CPA Samuel L.R. Bisase - P0018.



Samuel Robert Bisase
P0018



Sam Bisase & Co
Certified Public Accountants

15 May 2025.

Kampala, Uganda.



FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Consolidated financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

Statement of comprehensive income

	Note	2024 Shs	2023 Shs
Income			
General grants	9	1,390,501,312	1,070,063,379
Specific grants	10	168,502,547	173,576,670
FHRI House Fund	11	<u>583,527,568</u>	<u>454,500,487</u>
		2,142,531,427	1,698,140,536
Interest received		2,007,065	3,810,584
Less: Capital expenditure		<u>(9,280,000)</u>	<u>(34,766,645)</u>
		<u>2,135,258,492</u>	<u>1,667,184,475</u>
Expenditure			
My Right, My Power		(5,100,000)	(19,605,000)
Reducing pre - trial detention		(4,500,386)	(6,048,000)
Access to justice		(511,293,822)	(422,462,879)
Rights and Rule of Law		(2,200,000)	(13,088,000)
Campaign Against the Death Penalty		(34,157,284)	(33,857,410)
Regional Initiatives		(38,269,000)	(53,573,942)
Institutional and organisational development		(135,060,930)	(91,974,203)
Office and administrative expenses		(1,078,425,295)	(1,025,448,814)
Human Rights House- Maintenance		<u>(3,752,000)</u>	<u>(7,261,000)</u>
Total expenditure		<u>(1,812,758,717)</u>	<u>(1,673,319,248)</u>
Operating surplus		<u>322,499,775</u>	<u>(6,134,773)</u>
Exchange gain/ loss		(9,097,988)	(38,780,890)
Gain/(Loss) on share valuation		2,972,000	(2,485,600)
Transfer for programme support		<u>(134,473,799)</u>	<u>(135,489,973)</u>
Surplus/ (deficit) for the year		<u>181,899,988</u>	<u>(182,891,236)</u>

The notes on pages 25 to 29 are an integral part of these financial statements

FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Consolidated financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2024

Statement of financial position		2024	2023
		Shs	Shs
	Note		
Funds			
Capital funds	7	1,789,466,957	1,863,872,355
Restricted funds	8	30,780,598	21,581,980
General fund	6	182,213,946	9,512,576
Designated funds	14	6,783,444	6,754,628
		<u>2,009,244,945</u>	<u>1,901,721,539</u>
Total funds available		<u>2,009,244,945</u>	<u>1,901,721,539</u>
Represented by:			
Non-current assets			
Property and Equipment	2	1,789,466,957	1,863,872,355
Investments	3	60,676,800	57,704,800
		<u>1,850,143,757</u>	<u>1,921,577,155</u>
Current assets			
Cash and bank	4	268,155,478	113,921,020
Receivables and prepayments		<u>2,887,651</u>	<u>2,887,651</u>
		<u>271,043,129</u>	<u>116,808,671</u>
Current liabilities			
Payables and accruals	5	111,941,941	130,430,251
Bank overdraft		-	6,234,036
		<u>111,941,941</u>	<u>136,664,287</u>
Net current assets		<u>159,101,188</u>	<u>19,855,616</u>
Net assets		<u>2,009,244,945</u>	<u>1,901,721,539</u>

The notes on pages 27 to 30 form part of these financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on ^{3rd} May 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

Executive Director.....

Honorary Treasurer.....

» CONCLUSION

Our theme for 2024 was, 'Keep Hope Alive'. Against the backdrop of pessimism that came with 2024, FHRI has remained resolute, proactively responding to almost all these issues through advocacy work. FHRI will continue to push the human rights frontiers even much further to ensure her survival and continued relevance in 2025.

'TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE'



FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE (FHRI)

Human Rights House

Plot 1853, John Kiyingi Road, Nsambya

P. O Box 11027, Kampala, Uganda

Tel: +256414510263, 466880, 660710, 660709, 0393266025

Mobile: +256752791963

Email: fhri@dmil.ug

 fhri91@blogspot.com

 Foundation for Human Rights Initiative

 @FHRI2

 fhri1235

 www.youtube.com/user/fhriuganda