



ANNUAL REPORT

2023



**FHRI@32
YEARS**



The Award Winners during the Annual Meritorious Event in Bushenyi on 30 th November 2023.

From Left to Right : His Worship Paul Mujuni, Principal Magistrate Grade I, holding the award presented to the Judiciary for the best JLOS Institution in Greater Bushenyi, best Judicial Officer, His Worship Toloko Simon, Chief Magistrate, Bushenyi Court, the Chief Guest, His Lordship Kwizera Amos, Resident Judge, High Court, Bushenyi, best District Police Commander, SSP John Bosco Sserunjogi, Bushenyi, best District Head, ODPP, Mr Batson Baguma, Chief State Attorney, Bushenyi, and best Officer in Charge of Prisons, SSP Henry Kidega

‘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. FHRI is a member of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty and is also 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 32 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 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 for legislative reform, the death penalty, and building partnerships.

In 2022 this campaign orientation has been carried forward in FHRI's new Strategic plan. In the 9th, five year Strategic Plan, (2022 -2026), titled, *Building Back Better: Realizing human rights in the Post Covid-19 Era in Uganda*, FHRI with deepened approach and intensified investments in existing campaigns 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, Institutional and Corporate Governance. It is an inward looking strategy that seeks to strengthen FHRI's governance, branding and visibility, membership development and sustainability in a fast changing socio-economic context.

FHRI is proud to be associated with a number of partners including: Uganda Prisons Service Uganda Police Force (UPF), Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), Parliament of Uganda, Uganda Law Reform Commission (ULRC), the Justice Law and Order Secretariat (ULOS), the Judicial Studies Institute (ISI), 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, Human Rights Watch, 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 (WCADP) international Commission of Jurists (ICI - Kenya), Internasmlal Centre for Not for Profit Law (ICNL), the East Africa Civil Society Forum (EACSO), Women Leadership Development (WLEDE), Drake University (USA), 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, Hope After and During Incarceration (MAC) in Entebbe, Community Rural Empowerment and Support Organisation in Gulu district, Rwenzori Peace Bridge for Reconciliation (RPBR) in Kasese district, Kalangala Human Rights Defenders, Kalungu Paralegal Association, Human Rights Defenders Masaka, and Action for Human Rights and Civic Awareness (AHURICA) in Kayunga district. Other groups are 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 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), Uganda National NGO Forum (UNNGOF), Legal Aid Service Providers Network (LASPNET), Uganda Human Rights Network for Journalists (HRNI), Uganda Parliamentary Press Association (UPPA), Human Rights and Peace Centre (HURIPEC), Uganda National NGO Forum (UNNGOF), Uganda Joint Christian

Council (UICC), FIDA- Uganda, Uganda Women's Network (UWONET), Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum in Kampala (HRAPF), African Centre for Media Excellence, Kitua Cha Katiba, Uganda Coalition Against the Death Penalty in Uganda, East African Coalition Against the Death penalty, 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 (Luwero), Nkumba University, Kyambogo University, Uganda Christian University (Mukono), Gulu University, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, the Islamic University in Uganda (Kaboja Campus), Mutesa I Royal University, Bugema University (Mbale), Mountains of the Moon University (Fort P), Islamic University IUIU (Mbale), Uganda Pentecostal rtp 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: CM, Super FM, Radio One, Radio Simba, KFM, Vision Voice, Sanyu FM, Prime Radio, Capital FM, Radio Sapientia, Dembe FM, Topudio, Power FM, Joy FM, Kalangala Community Radio, Voice of Africa, BBC, UBC, NTV, NBS, NTV, Urban TV, Top TV, Record TV, Sait TV, Kingdom TV, Dream TV, Aljazeera, Radio Dockbella, Turkish News, SBC, Radio France, Associated Press and Deutsche Welle among others.

Newspapers that have supported the campaign include: The New Vision, Daily Monitor, The Weekly Observer, Bukedde, The East African, Reuters, The Independent Magazine, Red Pepper, among others. FHRI receives financial support for its programs from foundations, individuals and donor agencies that have interest in the promotion and protection of human rights.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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 2023.

1. LEGATUM Foundation
2. World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP)/European Union
3. CIVICS /Bpb Germany



FOREWORD



Dr. Josephine Ndagire
Chairperson FHRI Board of Directors

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to share with you FHRI's journey in 2023. The Annual Report 2023 recounts FHRI's interventions, accomplishments, challenges and lessons learnt through the year. On 31 st December 2023, FHRI marked 32 years of human rights activism in Uganda and beyond. 2023 also marked two years into the implementation of our 9 th five-year plan (2022-2026) titled; 'Building Back Better: Realizing Human Rights in the Post COVID-19 Era

The year under review was yet another remarkable year despite the challenges being faced by the sector and the entire world. FHRI remained a formidable brand fit for the purpose for which it was established 32 2 years ago. With support from FHRI's invaluable partners and friends, a lot has been achieved under the second year of leadership of the 11 th Board of Directors and despite the limited resources, the Board is proud of the organization's achievements.

One of the major highlights of the year was the commemorative event of the 21 st World Day Against the Death Penalty held on 10 th October 2023 at the Human Rights House. The theme was 'Death Penalty: An Irreversible Torture. Over 60 partners of FHRI attended , the climax of the Bushenyi Legal. Aid program 2025 was the Annual Champions for Change Meritorious Award ceremony held on 29 th November 2023 at the Bushenyi Legal Aid Office. The purpose of this Award was to recognize and appreciate various JLOS officers for their dedication to change in the criminal justice system in Greater Bushenyl. Under the auspices of FHRIS student leadership program, on 18th October 2023, the best student in the Bachelor's Degree Class of Ethics and Human Rights receive the FHRI Award at the 29th

Graduation Ceremony of the Uganda Martyrs University, Nkozi. This is the 4th award that has since been presented by FHRI, Lastly, on the protection front, the FHRI Legal Services Division in Kampala, Kalangala, and Bushenyi continued to assist vulnerable victims of rights abuse to secure remedies for violations suffered during the year. Unfortunately, FHRI was unable to hold her 25 th Annual General Meeting in 2023 due to resource limitations. However, the Board of Directors prepared and sent out an organizational update to our membership for the period 28 th August 2022-11 August 2023 in lieu of the same. In this respect, we remain indebted to our members for their understanding and flexibility.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate Dr. Livingstone Sewanayana, our Executive Director on launching his second book titled "Human Rights in Uganda-The Illusive Promise" on 12th April 2023.

We are proud of what we have managed to achieve in 2023 despite the challenges. We are indebted to our Membership, Trustees, Staff, and Development Partners for increasing the reach and depth of FHRI's work over the course of 2023.

'Together We Can Make A Difference'

Dr. Josephine Ndagire
Chairperson, FHRI Board of Directors (2022 – 2025)

FHRI BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2022 – 2025)



Dr. Josephine Ndagire
Chairperson



Mr. Lukwago Rajab
Vice Chairperson



Ms Margaret P Namagembe
Hon Treasurer



Ms. Bernadette Bakkidde Kiberu
Hon Secretary



Dr. Godfrey Kaggwa
Board Member



Mr Edward S Kyazze
Board Member



Dr. Milliam Kiconco
Board Member



Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana
Ex-officio



HIGHLIGHTS IN 2023



Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana
Executive Director, FHRI

It is my honor to present to you FHRIS 32nd Annual Report for the year 2023. This report is significant to the Foundation as it provides an account of what has been accomplished in the second 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'*

On 10th December 2023, the World marked the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The UDHR, a norm of international customary law, provides that 'all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. Relatedly, the preamble to the United Nations Charter reaffirms faith in human rights and the 'dignity' of the human person, and so does the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda (as amended).

Throughout 2023, FHRI like many other likeminded organizations continued to work determinedly even amidst several challenges, to translate this concept of human dignity into reality for ordinary people, by calling on Government to respect protect and fulfill human rights on one hand, and the other mobilize citizens to stand up and defend their rights. 2023 has been a very encouraging year. FHRI has had a renewed sense of hope. The song, Another year is downing (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_iTn6HFOkHI) has inspired us yet again , encouraging us to offer ourselves for service to Humanity in 2023 and providing an opportunity to prove that we, both at the organizational and Individual level, can be the best versions of ourselves.

In the 2nd year of the Five-Year Strategic Plan (2022-2026), FHRI continued to champion five campaign areas namely:

- 1) "My Rights My Power "
- 2) Defense of the Right, to Personal Liberty
- 3) Access to justice
- 4) Rights and Rule of Law and the
- 5) The Campaign against the Death Penalty.

The campaigns are pursued under program units: Research and Advocacy Unit, Legal Services Unit, Civic Education Unit, Rights and Rule of Law Unit, Program Development Unit, and External Services Unit. Under the Research and Advocacy Unit, FHRI carried out field missions including inspections of police and prison detention centres between 14th 21st August 2023, focusing on the state of pre-trial detainees in Uganda. A total of 71 inmates were interviewed in Luzira Remand Prison, Kigo Prison, Luzira, maximum security Prison, Murchison Bay

Prison, Kampala Remand Prison, Luzira Women's Prison, Kitalya Prison Farm and Kitalya Mini maximum prison. The findings from the mission informed FHRI's campaign aimed at reducing, pre-trial detention in Uganda.

Besides human rights monitoring and documentation, FHRI der the Treaty reporting component, co-authored three reports with partners; The Advocates for Human Rights in the US, CIVICUS, and FIDH for onward submission to the UN Human Rights Committee in consideration of Uganda's state party report on the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) as well as the mid-term report on the status of implementation of the recommendations arising from Uganda's review at the UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism in January 2022.

The provision of legal aid services to the indigent and victims of human rights abuse remained key to the observance of human rights. At present FHRI operates four legal aid centres: one at the Human Rights House, and three in the districts of Kalangala, Wakiso, and Bushenyi. During the reporting period, legal aid services were extended to 306 clients at the Nsambya Clinic (149 male, 157 female). By the close of the year, 128 cases had been completed while 78 cases were still pending. appropriate remedy. Through Alternative Dispute Resolution, FHRI recovered Ugx 5,329,000,000/ and 17 pieces of land, successfully lodged 13 Caveats, successfully applied and secured 6 Letters of Administration in favor of her clients, and reconciled 12 families. FHRI secured court bail (18) and police bonds (17) on behalf of her clients. In addition, FHRI secured 4 acquittals, and 2 reconciliation Judgments in favour of her clients.



At the Wakiso outpost, 114 cases (70 male, 44 female) were registered. Through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), FHRI recovered Ugx 3,000,000/=-, successfully mediated 12 land matters, secured 40 community service orders, and reconciled 12 family disputes. The team further successfully secured 6 Police Bonds and 5 Court Bail applications. Besides the face-to-face clientele, over 100 clients accessed our toll-free facility with a majority from Kampala, Wakiso, Luwero, and Buikwe districts.

In Kalangala, the legal aid clinic assisted a total of 151 new clients (82 male, 69 female). Again, through Alternative Dispute Resolution, FHRI recovered a total of Ugx 31,643,000/-, 26 pieces of land, and 3 Motorcycles and reconciled 7 families. The team secured 34 Community Service orders and 9 court bail applications.

Lastly, the FHRI-Bushenyi Legal Aid Project (F-BLAP), assisted a total of 1,207 clients (1,038 male, 169 female) at police and prison and, conducted a total of 137 monitoring visits including 90 police visits and 47 prison visits. During the visits, FHRI sensitized a total of 1,364 suspects at police and 2,302 in prison. Out of these, a total of 1,016 (944 male, 72 female) were assisted.

Further, the project successfully conducted 5-targeted community awareness sessions reaching 672 persons (male, female) exceeding the target by 422, supported 10 radio talk shows, ran 3 legal aid camps supporting a total of 376 persons, held 13 court users' sessions reaching 453 suspects and conducted 17 plea bargain sessions and concluded 508 cases. As a climax of the year, the project successfully convened the Champions of Change Award held on 29 th November 2023 at the Bushenyi Legal Aid Office. The judiciary emerged as the best-performing justice sector institution in Greater Bushenyi. On the same day, FHRI published a report titled, "Behind the Scenes:

The report documents the access to justice challenges in Greater Bushenyi making it an additional resource to support advocacy for criminal justice reform in the region.

Dubbed My Rights, My Power, during the year, FHRI handed over two Human Rights Awards to the best students offering a Bachelor of Ethics and Human Rights, Ms. Nahumuza Ritah at Bishop Stuart University in Mbarara on 24 th March 2023 at the 18 th Graduation Ceremony, and another to Ms. Acan Jesca Ruth of Uganda Martyrs University on 18 th October 2023 during the 29th Graduation Ceremony.

FHRI further supported the student leadership program by attending the opening of the Human Rights Day organized by the Human Rights Club of the Islamic University in Uganda. (IUIU) on 25th May 2023 and as a Guest speaker at the Guest Lecture in honor of Dr. Sauda Nayiga, former Dean of the Law Sol.

With respect to the death campaign against the penalty in Uganda, FHRI tended the sub-regional English-speaking seminar on best practices for the abolition of the death penalty organized in partnership with the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP) in France, the International Federation of ACATS (FIACAT in France) and, the International Commission of Jurists in Kenya from 19th 22nd June 2023, Nairobi, Kenya.

And participated in the 17th General Assembly of the WCADI from 23rd-24th September 2023 in Nairobi Kenya, during which FHRI was elected Vice President of the ADP's Executive Board. In the same year, FHRI participated in the 77th Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR) including the NGO Forum from 16th 24th October 2023, Arusha, Tanzania; commemorated the 21st World Day against the death penalty on 10 th October 2023, at the Human Rights House, Nsambya under the theme, 'The Death penalty: An irreversible Torture' and as Vice President of the WCADP, attended virtual Steering Committee and Board meetings throughout the year 2023 including one physical meeting from 2nd-3rd December 2023 in Paris, France.

The Rights and Rule of Law campaign (RRL) aims to strengthen the capacity and independent of the judiciary to reach just decisions and uphold human rights. During the reporting period 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 consortium with International Commission of Jurists in Kenya, Legal Resources Foundation in Zimbabwe, and Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) in Uganda. FHRI will be receiving a total of 2 exchange participants from Zimbabwe and South Africa.

At the regional level, CENESA, the Civic Education Network for Eastern and Southern Africa, hosted by FHRI actively participated in the NECE Festival 2023 on a panel discussion that tackled the theme, 'Re- addressing the challenges facing civic education intern and Southern Africa:



The 2023 Festival took place in Madrid, Spain under the theme, FUTURES! The future challenges facing civic education in Europe. Back home, CENESA in partnership with Networking European Civic Education (NECE) hosted a NECE Festival 2023 side event at the Human Rights House in Nsambya on 1st December 2023 under the same theme.

At the organisational level, efforts were directed at reconstructing the FHRI website, updating the membership register, and servicing the FHRI Governing Bodies. By the end of the year, FHRI's membership register had a total of 1,548 members (874 men, 672 women and 2 Associate Members). Of these, 28 are Life Members, 140 Ordinary Members, and 1,377 are friends.

During the year, I continued to carry out my Mandate as the UN Independent Expert on the Promotion of a Democratic and Equitable International Order, speaking at events such as the International Conference on Climate Change and Human Rights in Qatar Doha, from 21st - 22nd February 2023, the Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy in Mexico City from February 27th March 6th 2023, the meeting of European Ambassadors in Brienzen Sweden, and carrying out a country visit Georgia from 24th - 6th May 2023.

Lastly, on 12th April 2023, I launched my second book titled 'Human Rights in Uganda The Illusive Promise. The book is a wide-ranging examination of the state of human rights in Uganda and provides solutions to comprehensive human rights issues. It underscores the reality and challenges Uganda has faced to become a democratic state and further analyses the human rights movement in Uganda.

As FHRI commemorates 32 years of activism, special thanks go to our wide network including our Trustees, membership, management, staff, Board of Directors, development partners, peers, and beneficiaries. We re-dedicate ourselves to the cause of human rights in Uganda and beyond and reassure Ugandans of our determination to resist any injustice. #keeptopealive



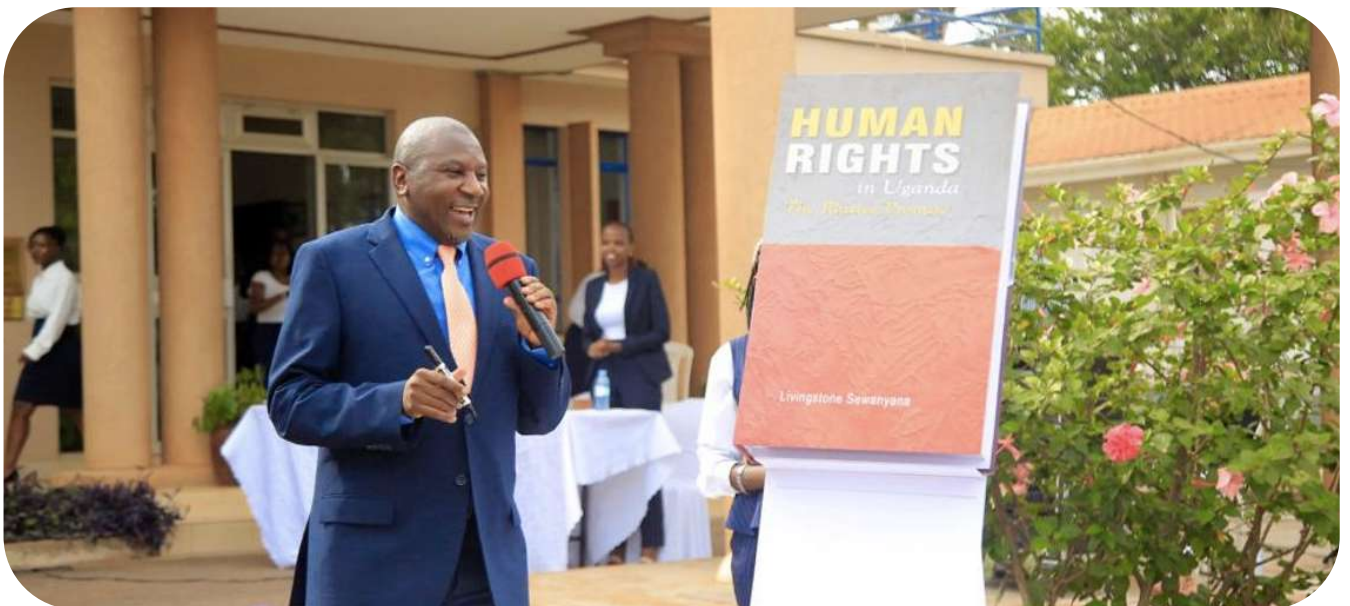
Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana
Executive Director

‘Together We Can Make A Difference





PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS





CAMPAIGN 1

‘MY RIGHTS MY POWER’

Action 1: Civic Education

This Action seeks to address the problem of a disempowered citizenry, and build active citizens and a citizens' movement capable of challenging the status quo. FHRI recognizes the need to emphasize rights awareness and empowerment primarily at the grassroots level through civic education.

i. University Human Rights Network

Under the auspices of the student leadership program, two Human Rights Awards for 2023 were handed over to the best students offering a Bachelor of Ethics and Human Rights, Ms. Nahumuza Ritah at Bishop Stuart University in Mbarara on 24th March 2023 at the 18th Graduation Ceremony, and another to Ms. Acan Jesca Ruth of Uganda Martyrs University on 18th October 2023 during the 29th Graduation Ceremony.



Mr. Elly Kasirye handing over the Human Rights Award to Ms. Nahumuza Ritah, the best student at the 18th Graduation Ceremony of Bishop Stuart University Mbarara on 24th March 2023.

As part of the student leadership program, on 25th May 2023, FHRI officiated at the opening of the Human Rights Day organized by the Human Rights Club of the Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU) on 25th May 2023. The event attracted students from Uganda Christian University, Makerere University, IUIU – Kabojja Female Campus, and Cavendish University. The day commenced with a public debate on Freedom of Association in Uganda. Mr. Elly Kasirye, Program Officer, FHRI, and Mr. Eron Kizza an advocate from Kiiza and Mugisha Associates delivered papers on the subject. A handover ceremony from the outgoing student leadership body of the Human Rights Club of IUIU to the new leadership was officiated by Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, Executive Director FHRI.

Lastly, in recognition of her distinguished service, Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana was a Guest speaker at the Guest Lecture in honor of Dr. Sauda Nayiga, former Dean of the Law School, IUIU-Kabojja Female Campus on 4th March 2023.



A cross-section of delegates at the Public Lecture in memory of Dr. Sauda Nayiga at Islamic University in Uganda- Kabojja Female Campus on 6th June 2023..



CAMPAIGN 2

DEFENCE OF THE RIGHT TO PERSONAL LIBERTY

Action 1: Research, Advocacy and Lobbying

The Action 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-based basis for advocacy and accountability.

i. Human Rights Monitoring and Documentation

As part of her mandate, FHRI carried out field missions including inspections of police and prison detention centres between 14th – 21st August 2023, on the state of pre-trial detainees in Uganda. A total of 71 inmates were interviewed in Luzira Remand Prison, Kigo Prison, Luzira, Maximum Security Prison, Murchison Bay Prison, Kampala Remand Prison, Luzira Women's Prison, Kitalya Prison Farm, and Kitalya Mini Maximum Prison. The findings from the mission informed FHRI's campaign aimed at reducing pre-trial detention in Uganda.

Further still, in partnership with the Pan African Network for Artistic Freedoms (PANAF), FHRI conducted a research study on artistic freedoms in Uganda in January 2023. As a result, the report titled, 'An Assessment of Artistic Freedom in Uganda', was published on 23rd July 2023. The report examined the current legal frameworks that govern artistic rights and the practical challenges that impede the enjoyment of artistic expression in Uganda.

ii. Treaty reporting

During the year, FHRI participated in the 77th Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) including the NGO Forum from 16th – 24th October 2023, Arusha, Tanzania in partnership with the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and partner leagues; Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) in Tanzania, Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) in South Africa, CDD in Mozambique and LIDHO in Côte d'Ivoire. The African Union theme of 2023 was "Accelerating implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area - AfCFTA – Agreement". FHRI presented a statement on the human rights situation in Uganda particularly on business and human rights during the NGO forum that preceded the ACHPR session and organized a side event on extractive industries, the environment, and human rights in Africa.



As part of the Treaty reporting component in 2023, the Research team co-authored three reports with partners; The Advocates for Human Rights in the US, CIVICUS, and FIDH for onward submission to the UN Human Rights Committee in consideration of Uganda's state party report on the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) as well as the mid-term report on the status of implementation of the recommendations arising from Uganda's review at the UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism in January 2022.

FHRI's Ms Omega Kasirye attending the 77th Ordinary Session of the ACHPR in October 2023, Arusha Tanzania.



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.



Ms Charmaine Ncube from AJJF (3rd from Right) and Ms Priviledge Tsumbirani from LRF (2nd from right), pose for a photo with FHRI staff shortly after their arrival in February 2024.

The coordinating partner of the exchange is the African Judges and Jurists Forum (AJJF) in South Africa in consortium with International Commission of Jurists in Kenya, Legal Resources Foundation in Zimbabwe, and Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) in Uganda. FHRI received two (2) exchange participants from Zimbabwe and South Africa, Ms. Omega Kasirye, Research Assistant, and Mr. Deric Namakajo, Legal Associate have been nominated by FHRI to participate the exchange program. Omega will be attached to the Legal Resources Foundation in Zimbabwe, while Deric to AJJF in South Africa.



CAMPAIGN 4

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY IN UGANDA

The campaign seeks to advocate for the progressive abolition of the death penalty in Uganda.

Action 1: Advocacy

The 77 th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR), Arusha, Tanzania

FHRI participated in the NGO Forum and the 77th Ordinary session of the ACHPR from 16th to 24th October 2023 in Arusha, Tanzania. The session considered the State report from the Government of Uganda on the state of human rights in Uganda for the period 2017 to 2022. FHRI in partnership with Penal Reform International (PRI) presented a parallel report and statement to the same.



H.E Hussein Mwinyi, the President of Zanzibar (third left) during the opening ceremony of the 77th Ordinary session of the ACHPR held on 20th October 2023 at the Arusha International Conference Center.

• Commemoration of the World Day Against the Death Penalty, 2023

FHRI in partnership with the Uganda Coalition Against the Death penalty joined the rest of the world to commemorate the 21st World Day Against the Death Penalty on 10th October 2023 at the Human Rights House under the theme "Death Penalty: A Road Paved with Torture". The event was attended by over 60 stakeholders including the EU Delegation to Uganda, Uganda Prison Service, Uganda Human Rights Commission, Penal Reform International (PRI) Uganda, Wells of Hope, Scope Foundation, St. Egidio, students from various Universities, journalists and former death row inmates. In the run-up to the commemorative event, FHRI visited inmates on death row and supported a media campaign to popularize the day.

• Thematic research: "Death Penalty: A Road Paved with Torture".

As part of the commemorative events, a thematic research titled; 'The Death Penalty : A Road Paved with Torture in Uganda' was conducted by FHRI. The findings were compiled into a report highlighting facts and yes from former death row inmates, Non-Governmental Organisations working with formerly incarcerated women, children whose parents are in prison, and individuals working with and familiar with challenges faced by death row inmates. The report was published and disseminated during and after the commemorative event.

• Solidarity visit

In commemoration of the World Day Against the Death Penalty, FHRI visited female inmates on death row in Luzira Upper Prison on 7th October 2023 sharing food items, personal effects, and some pocket money.



• Partnerships

On 9th October 2023, FHRI joined Wells of Hope Ministries to commemorate the World Day Against the Death Penalty Ms. Numbi Connie was the Guest of Honor.



Ms. Connie Numbi in a group photo with the Children Against the Death Penalty Club - Wells of Hope Ministries in Luwero District on 9th October 2023.

• Women Deliver Conference 2023:

FHRI in partnership with members of the East African Coalition Against the Death Penalty (International Commission of Jurists -Kenya (ICJ – Kenya, and Legal and Human Rights Center, LHRC in Tanzania), participated in the 6th Women Deliver Conference that took place in Kigali, Rwanda from 16th -20th July 2023. Held for the very first time on the African Continent, the conference was organized under the theme; 'Spaces, Solidarity and Solutions.' The event was a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder convening that aimed to advance gender equality. A side event on the death penalty was organised by the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP) with panelists from Uganda (FHRI), Kenya (ICJ – Kenya), and Tanzania (LHRC).



President of Rwanda H.E Paul Kagame giving a keynote address during the Official Opening Ceremony of the Women Deliver Conference 2023, at the BK Arena Stadium in Kigali-Rwanda.

Action 2: Legal assistance

• Legal assistance to persons on death row

During the reporting period, Katende, Sempebwa & Co. Advocates, a law firm providing legal Aid to one (1) prisoner on death row continued to push for the hearing of the prisoner's case. •

• Prison visits

Five (5) prison visits were conducted to Luzira Women's prison and Luzira Maximum prison to conduct research about women in incarceration between 30th April - August 2024. The information supported FHRI's fundraising efforts during the year. Additionally, FHRI conducted a solidarity visit to 1 former death row inmate, 85-year-old Mr. Baguma Silvano on 4th May 2023, in Fort Portal. FHRI contributed Ugx 500,000 towards his medical expenses.



The 4 daughters of Mr. Baguma (in a yellow dress, red blouse, yellow T-shirt, and multi-colored dress), the LC 1 Chairperson standing with Mr. Baguma's granddaughter, and the FHRI team led by Ms. Numbi Connie in a green dress and Ms. Nakimera Catherine in blue jeans.

Activity 3: WCADP Steering Committee meetings

- As a member of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP), FHRI attended Steering Committee Meetings and Board Meetings, throughout the year.
- FHRI participated in the 17th General Assembly of the WCADP from 23rd – 24th September 2023 in Nairobi Kenya and delivered a presentation on, 'Women in incarceration, challenges and opportunities in Uganda'. On this occasion, FHRI was elected, Vice President of the WCADP's Executive Board.
- FHRI participated in the external evaluation of the campaign for the abolition of the death penalty in Uganda which was commissioned by the European Union (EU). Other respondents included Mr. Baale Godfrey (former death row inmate and member of the Uganda Coalition Against the Death Penalty (UCADP), Pastor Sirrah, a member of the UCADP, and Ms. Aliyo Naatukunda, Uganda Prison Services.



Some of the children whose parents are in prison together with Dr. L. Sewanyana (centre) and Ms. Margaret Namagembe, Board Member (Back row- Extreme right) that attended the commemoration of the 21st World Day Against the Death Penalty at the Human Rights House, Nsambya on 10th October 2023.



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

In 2023, FHRI extended legal assistance to indigent persons through the FHRI Kampala office, the field offices in Kalangala and Wakiso, and the FHRI Bushenyi Legal Aid project (F-BLAP). On-spot legal advice was also provided through the Toll-free phone facility in all four stations.

Kampala

In 2023, the FHRI Kampala office assisted 306 clients (149 male, 157 female) including domestic, civil, criminal and commercial cases. By the close of the year, 128 cases had been completed while 78 were still pending appropriate remedy. Further still, through the toll-free facility, FHRI provided on-the-spot legal advice to 500 people from 28 districts. Through these interventions, FHRI was able to secure 2 court judgments in favor of her clients, recovered Ugx 5,329,000,000/= on behalf of her clients, recovered seventeen (17) pieces of land, successfully lodged 13 Caveats, successfully applied and secured 6 Letters of Administration in favor of her clients, reconciled 12 families and secured court bail (18) and police bonds (17) on behalf of her clients.

In addition, the legal team conducted eight (8) legal and human rights awareness sessions in Kigo Prison, Luzira Women Prison, Mulama Village in Nakaseke district, St Denis Nsambya Catholic Church, Gayaza in Kyankwanzi district, Kassaga LC1, Virtual Law Classes with prisoners and on BBS TV with FIDA throughout the year.

Wakiso

The Legal Aid office in Wakiso district assisted a total of 114 new clients (70 male, 44 female). Broken down, these include, 35 criminal cases, 29 domestic cases, 22 civil cases, 15 land cases, and 13 commercial cases. Through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), FHRI recovered Ugx 3,000,000/=-, successfully mediated 12 land matters, secured 40 community service orders, and reconciled 12 family disputes. Further still, the legal team successfully secured 6 police bond and 5 court bail applications. Similar to kampala office, four (4) legal and human rights awareness sessions were conducted as follows:

- Mwererwe Parish church on Women's day (8th March 2023).
- Participated in the land awareness week from 14th - 18th August 2023 in Masulita and Namayumba Sub-counties.
- Kavumba L.C.1 village.
- Kavumba Ward Parish in Wakiso Town Council.
- Training for local leaders at Bujjuko on the mandate and jurisdiction of LC1s on 9th September 2023.

Kalangala

In Kalangala district, FHRI assisted a total of 151 new clients including 82 male, 69 female. Through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), the Kalangala office recovered a total of Ugx 31,643,000/=-, 26 pieces of land, 3 Motor Cycles, and reconciled 7 families. In addition, the team held three (3) awareness sessions as follows:

- Mazinga Subcounty Kachungwa land site.
- Bukasa Sub County in Buswaga.
- Bubeke Sub County in Buswaga.

The Legal Aid office in Wakiso district assisted a total of 114 new clients (70 male, 44 female). Broken down, these include, 35 criminal cases, 29 domestic cases, 22 civil cases, 15 land cases, and 13 commercial cases. Through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), FHRI recovered Ugx 3,000,000/=-, successfully mediated 12 land matters, secured 40 community service orders, and reconciled 12 family disputes. Further still, the legal team successfully secured 6 police bond and 5 court bail applications. Similar to Kampala, four (4) legal and human rights awareness sessions were conducted as follows:

FHRI Bushenyi Legal Aid Project (F-BLAP)

Activity 1: Provision of free holistic legal aid services to the poor and vulnerable persons suspects at police Stations and inmates in prisons, in Bushenyi district.

The objective of this activity was to assist suspects and pre-trial detainees charged with petty offences to access justice. During the period under review, the target number assisted was surpassed. A total of 1,207 clients (1,038 male, 169 female) were assisted against a target of 780 as summarized in Table 1 below. 3 advocates, 5 paralegals, and 1 clerk who were recruited during the year ran the activity.

Table 1: Break down of clients assisted per intervention under activity (i)

Intervention	Target	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
		Male	Female	Total
Legal assistance to suspects at police	100	187	25	212
Legal assistance to pre-trial detainees in prison	200	164	27	191
Plea bargain	240	555	19	574
Assistance to juveniles	20	26	0	26
Assistance to other inmates	20	12	1	13
Assistance to walk-in clients with criminal cases	100	31	26	57
Legal Advice to call-in clients via the Toll-free facility	100	63	71	134
Totals	780	1,038	169	1,207

Activity 2. Routine monitoring of the rights of suspects and inmates at police stations and prisons in Bushenyi district.

The objective of this activity was to identify and assist incarcerated persons who had overstayed their constitutionally stipulated time limit. During the reporting period, FHRI conducted a total of 137 monitoring visits including 90 police visits and 47 prison visits. FHRI sensitized a total of 1,364 suspects at police and 2,302 in prison. Out of these, a total of 1,016 (944 male, 72 female) were assisted as summarized in table 1 above.

Activity 3 Civic awareness

The activity was intended to increase civic awareness of due process, legal and human rights, and change public perceptions of the justice system and those incarcerated. The activity targeted communities through; community outreach sessions, radio talk show legal aid camps, court users' sessions, and the "Champions for Change" award. In the period under review, FHRI successfully conducted 5 community awareness sessions as planned, reaching a total of 672 persons exceeding the target by 422. 10 radio talk shows were supported against a target of 4. The 3 planned legal aid camps were held reaching 376 persons exceeding the target by 76. 13 court users' sessions were held against the 10 that were planned reaching a total of 453 suspects against a target of 250. Lastly, FHRI successfully convened the Champions of Change Award in November 2023 as planned, with the judiciary emerging as the best-performing justice sector institution in Greater Bushenyi. The community awareness sessions generated a new caseload for FHRI, thereby extending legal assistance to a total of 194 (89 male, 105 female) clients with cases of a civil nature against the target of 30 clients.

Activity 4. Advocacy for legal, policy, and practice change within the criminal justice system.

As was planned, FHRI successfully held 6 district quarterly round table meetings reaching out to 189 justice actors in the region as had been planned. At the national level, membership within forums in the judiciary and Parliament also resulted in positive changes. As was planned, the report titled, 'Behind the Scenes', which documents the access to justice challenges in Greater Bushenyi was published by FHRI as an additional resource to support advocacy for criminal justice reform.

Activity 5. Alliance building and networking

As was envisaged, the project benefitted from the partnership approach during the reporting period. Leveraging the additional resources from existing partners from the political leadership, the JLOS sector as well as project partners like Communication for Development Forum Uganda (CDFU), Ankole Private Sector Promotion Centre Ltd (APROCEL), and Pepperdine University in the US, FHRI was able to expand its scope of work, reaching and assisting more vulnerable persons through legal awareness, plea bargain and capacity building, thus exceeding its targets interventions like plea bargain. Further, the 4 successful capacity-building sessions that were planned and held under this activity were largely facilitated by the positive collaboration between FHRI and JLOS institutions in Greater Bushenyi. 83 JLOS actors were reached against the target of 40.

Project achievements

- **15% reduction in the pre-trial population in Bushenyi main prison.** As a result of the various interventions, FHRI has contributed to reducing the pre-trial population in Bushenyi main prison (Nyamushekyera prison) from 77.5% (1,256 pre-trial detainees) in 2022 to 42.7% (607 pre-trial detainees) at the end of 2023, making it a 35% reduction in the pre-trial population over the project period.
- **15% reduction in the prison population in Bushenyi.** The prison population in Nyamushekyera prison (both male and female) had reduced to a total of 1,423 inmates as at 30 th November 2023 up from 1,620 in June 2022 just before the project activities started. This represents a 12.16% reduction.

15% reduction in the pre-trial population in Bushenyi main prison.

15% reduction in the prison population in Bushenyi.

Increased uses of alternatives such as community service orders, police bond, court bail by justice actors in Bushenyi district.

- *Increased use of alternatives like; community service orders, police bonds, and court bail by justice actors in Bushenyi district.*
Through the FHRI project interventions, there was an increased use and appreciation of alternatives to incarceration by justice actors. This positive attitude enabled FHRI to successfully apply for 171 police bonds and 3 court bonds for suspects, facilitated the reconciliation of 25 matters, assisted 11 inmates in securing release as a result of caution, and successfully applied for 77 community service orders.
- *Increased application of the Sentencing Guidelines by judicial officers in Bushenyi district.*
There is still a need to create more awareness of the Sentencing Guidelines among judicial officers in order to apply them to their work.
- *Adherence to JLOS performance standards by justice institutions strengthened including respect to personal integrity improved (less use of force by state security agents, adherence to the 48hr rule, less use of preventive detention) in Bushenyi district.*
There is progressive appreciation and improvement in the adherence to some JLOS standards by justice institutions such as; respect for the 48-hour rule (between Oct 2022 – July 2023, 2,305 cases registered in Greater Bushenyi were released on police bond) 1, the right to legal counsel, the promotion of diversion of cases particularly in juvenile matters, and the use of alternatives such as mediation at the police. (Over 690 cases registered at police were resolved through ADR between October 2022 – July 2023).

- *Access to justice for civil disputes expedited in Bushenyi District.*
FHRI registered and successfully handled a total of 194 cases against the expected 30. Managing civil cases stemmed the flow of cases into an already clogged criminal justice system.
- *Increased knowledge and awareness of rights amongst the target groups in Bushenyi District.*
The community-based legal rights awareness campaign through radio and outreach sessions raised curiosity and increased agency amongst communities in Bushenyi. The project has witnessed an increase in the numbers of people seeking legal advice from FHRI particularly on civic cases, through the Toll-free facility (134 received on-spot legal advice against 100 who were targeted) and during radio programs.
- *Existence of an active coordinating mechanism comprising JLOS officials, civic leaders, and penal reform activists to address bottlenecks and propose solutions for the improvement of access to justice for indigent persons in Bushenyi district.*
As anticipated, the district roundtables have created a solid coordinating mechanism in the region, filling an existing gap. This structure, which has provided the opportunity for justice actors to collectively reflect on the challenges to justice delivery in the Greater Bushenyi region, has been successful in addressing issues that impede justice delivery in the region



Roundtable meeting in Buhweju District on 19th April 2023



FHRI team had the opportunity to host the new RDC of Bushenyi, Mr Robert Atuhaire (4 th from the right) at the Bushenyi offices on 20th April 2023.



Dr Sewanyana , Executive Director , FHRI, hands over his Book, 'Human Rights in Uganda; An Illusive Promise' to Chief Magistrate, His Worship Simon Toloko at the Chief Magistrate's Court in Bushenyi on 1 th April 2023.



BUSHENYI IN PICTURES





BUSHENYI IN PICTURES





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 is host to CENESA.

CENESA at the NECE – Festival 2023

The NECE Festival is an annual European gathering that brings together stakeholders from civil society, politics, academia, media, and culture for an interactive and interdisciplinary exchange of ideas and actions. The festival is held in various European cities and focuses on a specific topic that is relevant to civic education. The 2023 Festival took place in Madrid, Spain under the theme, ***FUTURES! The future challenges facing civic education in Europe.***



CENESA represented by Sheila Muwanga (third from left) and Deo Mbabazi (second from right) at NECE, 2023, 1st December 2023, Madrid, Spain

The Civic Education Network for Eastern and Southern Africa (CENESA) in partnership with Networking European Civic Education (NECE) hosted a NECE Festival 2023 side event at the Human Rights House in Nsambya on 1 st December 2023 under the theme, 'Re- addressing the challenges facing civic education in Eastern and Southern Africa.' The side event focused on re- addressing the present and the future challenges facing civic education in the CENESA region that have been triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic among other root causes.

The event comprised a panel discussion held in Madrid, Spain, and a hybrid audience in Kampala, Madrid, and online. Two guest panelists led the discussions that reflected on the present and future challenges facing civic education and proposed ways of addressing them. The countries of focus included Uganda, represented by Deo Mbabazi from ASSURE Uganda, and Namibia represented by Naita Hishoono from the Namibia Institute for Democracy (NID), both members of CENESA.

The panelists discussed the legal and policy frameworks that underpin civic education in their countries including the present and future challenges facing the same post Covid-19. The CENESA members shared with the audience some of the tactics they had employed in addressing the challenges emphasising the importance of collaborative frameworks with regional civic education networks such as NECE.

The audience comprised of youth including students from universities in Uganda; Makerere University, Law Development Centre, Uganda Christian University, Islamic University in Uganda, Kampala International University, King Ceaser University, students on internship with FHRI, and staff members.



The audience attending the panel at the Human Rights House, Kampala Uganda at NECE 2023, 1st December 2023



CAMPAIGN 7

INSTITUTIONAL AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The objective of Campaign 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 2023, FHRI participated in over 30 physical and virtual events organized by partners, civil society actors, and Government Institutions 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 2023, the unit published the FHRI Annual Report 2022 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 approve activity reports, budgets, and program work plans. The 25 th Annual General Meeting, for 2023 was postponed to 2024 due to resource constraints.

Board of Directors (2022 – 2025)

Name	Position
1. Dr. Josephine Ndagire	Chairperson
2. Mr. Rajab Lukwago	Vice-Chairperson
3. Ms. Bernadette Bakkidde	Hon Secretary
4. Ms. Margaret Pauline Namagembe	Hon Treasurer
5. Mr. Edward Kyazze	Member
6. Dr. Milliam Kiconco	Member
7. Mr. Godfrey Kaggwa	Member
8. Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana	Executive Director (Ex-Officio)

Trustees

Name	Affiliation
1. Ms. Sarah Mukiibi S.	Libra Consultants Limited
2. Mr. Albert Mukundane	Private Consultant
3. Mr Wycliffe Birungi	Birungi & Co. Advocates
4. Mr James Kizito Mayanja	Uganda Coffee Development Authority
4. Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana	FHRI

Staffing

By the close of 2023, the staffing stood at 57 (25 male, 32 female), including program, administration staff and volunteers.

Executive Office

1. Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana	Executive Director (Ex-Officio)
2. Ms. Milly Nakakande	Executive Manager Programs Unit
3. Ms. Sheila Muwanga	Deputy Executive Director (Programs)
4. Ms. Gladys Arigye	Volunteer

Research Unit

7. Ms. Omega Kasirye	Research Officer
8. Ms. Sara Tekly	Research Intern

Capacity Development Unit

9. Ms. Connie Numbi	Director CDD/ Manager Death Penalty
10. Mr. Elly Kasirye	Project Officer, Civic Education
11. Ms. Sumaya Nankya	Volunteer
12. Ms. Catherine Nakimera	Volunteer

Legal Services Unit (Kampala Office)

13. Ms. Solome Nagadya	Legal Officer
14. Ms. Esther Kaggwa	Legal Associate
15. Mr. Deo Miiro	Paralegal Kalangala Office
16. Ms. Alice Mayanja	Legal Officer Kampala
17. Ms. Brenda Katusiime	Volunteer
18. Ms. Allen Kainembabazi	Volunteer
19. Mr. Mahande Joshua	Legal Intern
20. Mr. Derrick Namakajo	Legal Intern
21. Mr. Richard Akora	Legal Intern
22. Mr. Afura Huzaifa	Legal Intern
23. Mr. Ramathan Katamba	Legal Intern
24. Mr. Friday Davis	Legal Intern
25. Mr. Sentumbwe Yasin	Legal Intern
26. Ms. Nalujja Lilian	Legal Intern
27. Ms. Precious Ayebazibwe	Legal Intern

FHRI Legal Aid Project (Bushenyi)

28. Ms. Gorreth Ayebale	Senior Legal Officer
29. Mr. Tamale Joash	Legal Officer
30. Ms. Nuunu Martha	Legal Officer
31. Ms. Karungi Brenda	Accounts Officer
32. Ms. Biyonzia Stee Nyindo	Paralegal Officer
33. Ms. Busingye Rachel	Paralegal Officer
34. Ms. Ainebye Roselyn	Paralegal Officer
35. Mr. Tumuheki Amons	Paralegal Officer
36. Mr. Bashsha Nicholas	Paralegal Officer
37. Ms. Kwagalakwe Carolyn	Front Desk Officer
38. Mr. Arinda Willex	Clerk
39. Ms. Kyomuhendo Lilian	Cook/cleaner.
40. Mr. Mugisha Charlse	Gardener/security

Communication and Information

41. Ms. Elizabeth Nantamu	Coordinator, External Service Division
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Finance

42. Ms. Rose Kamuli Mwesigwa	Director, Finance & Administration
43. Ms. Gladys Mirembe	Finance & Administration Assistant
44. Ms. Winnie Munyegera	Administrative Assistant

Administration

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

Cleaning Team/Gardening/Security

53. Ms. Sarah Najjemba
54. Mr. James Wandulu
55. Mr. Samuel Kamuntu
56. Mr. Joseph Omusungu
57. Mr. Andrew Mwebaze

Internship program

In 2023, FHRI hosted a total of 19 interns from both national and international institutions of higher learning.



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 2023:

- Development of the Annual Work plan, Year Planner, and Annual Budget for 2023, which form part of the M & E system, were adopted.
- Three (3) Program Review meetings were held on 12th May 2023, 1st September 2023, and, 15th December 2023.
- Three (3) Board of Directors meetings were held on 13th May 2023, 2nd September 2023 and, 15th December 2023.

Action 5: Office Administration

During the period, FHRI paid salary, stipend, 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 the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative set out on pages 22-29. These financial statements comprise the statement of financial position at 31 December 2023 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 2023 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.

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.

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E-mail ghisase@africaonline.co.ug

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

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.
- 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

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

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;

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 – PA0018.

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

Date: 04 May 2024



FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Consolidated financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

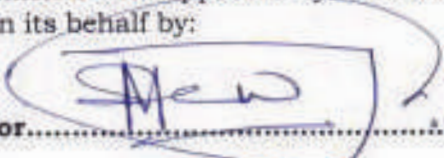
Statement of comprehensive income

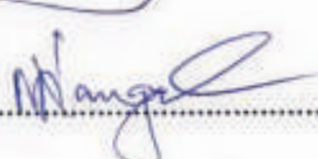
	Note	2023 Shs	2022 Shs
Income			
General grants	9	1,070,063,379	901,156,860
Specific grants	10	173,576,670	189,864,717
FHRI House Fund income	11	454,500,487	842,233,099
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
		1,698,140,536	1,933,254,676
Interest received		3,810,584	1,677,866
Less: Capital expenditure		<u>(34,766,645)</u>	<u>(97,253,270)</u>
		<u>1,667,184,475</u>	<u>1,837,679,272</u>
Expenditure			
My Rights My Power'		(19,605,000)	(84,178,593)
Reducing pre - trial detention		(6,048,000)	(8,897,000)
Access to justice		(422,462,879)	(241,592,069)
Rights and Rule of law		(13,088,000)	(1,500,000)
Campaign Against the Death Penalty		(33,857,410)	(165,967,913)
Regional Initiatives		(53,573,942)	(15,092,085)
Institutional and organisational development		(91,974,203)	(124,546,831)
Office and administrative expenses		(1,025,448,814)	(812,894,369)
Human Rights House- Maintenance		(7,261,000)	(10,538,000)
NHCC - Kiwatule (Mortgage, Interest)		<u>-</u>	<u>(31,280,715)</u>
Total expenditure		<u>(1,673,319,248)</u>	<u>(1,496,487,575)</u>
Operating surplus		<u>(6,134,773)</u>	<u>341,191,697</u>
Exchange gain/ loss		(2,314,548)	(38,780,890)
Gain/(Loss) on share valuation		-	(2,485,600)
Transfer for programme support		<u>(125,042,915)</u>	<u>(135,489,973)</u>
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		<u>(133,492,236)</u>	<u>164,435,234</u>

FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Consolidated financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2023

Statement of financial position		2023 Shs	2022 Shs
	Note		
Funds			
Capital fund	7	1,863,872,355	1,911,054,030
Restricted funds	8	21,581,980	145,563,202
General fund	6	9,512,576	19,023,590
Designated funds	14	6,754,628	6,733,210
		<u>1,901,721,539</u>	<u>2,082,374,032</u>
Total funds available		<u>1,901,721,539</u>	<u>2,082,374,032</u>
Represented by:			
Non-current assets			
Property and Equipments	2	1,863,872,355	1,911,054,029
Investments	3	57,704,800	57,704,800
		<u>1,921,577,155</u>	<u>1,968,758,829</u>
Current assets			
Cash and bank	4	113,921,020	229,642,798
Receivables and prepayments		2,887,651	-
		<u>116,808,671</u>	<u>229,642,798</u>
Current liabilities			
Payables and accruals	5	130,430,251	116,027,595
Bank overdraft		6,234,036	-
		<u>136,664,287</u>	<u>116,027,595</u>
Net current assets		<u>(19,855,616)</u>	<u>113,615,203</u>
Net assets		<u>1,901,721,539</u>	<u>2,082,374,032</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 17.12.2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

Executive Director.....

Honorary Treasurer.....

FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE (FHRI)

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