



Franciscans International

A voice at the United Nations



**EAST AFRICAN
CRUDE OIL PIPELINE
HOST COMMUNITIES**



Human Rights Council

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Human Rights Situation in Uganda

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Joint submission

Franciscans International (FI)

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&

The Bright Doves of Saint Francis, John Paul II Justice and Peace Centre, Caritas Kampala, The Secular Franciscan Order of Uganda, the Franciscan Youth of Uganda, Wells of Hope Ministries, Tulinde Watoto Uganda, EACOP Host Communities, The Medical Mission Sisters, Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, Laudato Si Movement, Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation Franciscans Africa, Justice and Peace Department of Kampala Archdiocese.

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Geneva and Kampala

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PART 1: INTRODUCTION

1. Presentation of the organizations

2. **Franciscans International** (FI) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) with General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. FI was established in 1982 to bring the concerns of vulnerable people to the attention of the United Nations. FI's expertise is based on first-hand information obtained by Franciscans and other partners working at the local level around the world to advocate at the UN for structural changes addressing the root causes of inequality.
3. The **Bright Doves of Saint Francis** is a faith-based Ugandan Youth organization established in 2006 and based in Kamwokya – Kampala. It is a community based organization working through the Young Franciscans network to reinforce cultural values which emphasize freedom, democracy, and non-violence by propagating peace and helping the young discover and utilize their potential.
4. **The John Paul II Justice and Peace Centre** was established in 2006, by a consortium of five religious missionary congregations: Comboni, Holy Cross, Mill Hill, Missionaries of Africa and Society of Jesuits, and aims to facilitate collective action against social injustice, through research, advocacy, and training.
5. **Caritas Kampala** is the social services and economic development department of the Catholic Church in Kampala Archdiocese, mandated to carry out socio-pastoral activities within the administrative districts of: Mpigi, Kampala, Wakiso and Butambala. Caritas Kampala's initiatives focus on community development, good governance and civil society enhancement, orphans and vulnerable children, and women's empowerment.
1. **The Secular Franciscan Order of Uganda (OFS)** is the Ugandan branch of the worldwide Franciscan Family made of lay Catholic men and women from all walks of life who follow Christ in the footsteps of St Francis of Assisi.
2. **The Franciscan Youth of Uganda (Youfra)** is a fellowship of Ugandan young people deepening their vocation within the realm of the Secular Franciscan Order (SFO), and inspired by the life of St Francis of Assisi.
3. **Wells of Hope Ministries** is a Christian Non-Government organization founded in 2002 that reaches out to inmates and their families, particularly children of inmates.
4. **Tulinde Watoto Uganda** established in 2025 is an NGO that supports vulnerable children and young people across Uganda by providing training, mental health support services through counseling and guidance, child protection case management, and youth empowerment advocacy activities.
5. **EACOP Host Communities** is an association of East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) affected communities formed in 2018, based in the Albertine region of Uganda, and dedicated to promoting sustainable environmental use, human rights and land rights of vulnerable communities, and advocating for the protection of environment and human rights in areas affected by the proposed EACOP project.
6. **The Medical Mission Sisters**, established for over a century, serve the poor and marginalized by providing medical services, promoting human dignity, empowering communities, advocating for justice and care for creation, and offering compassionate presence and spiritual

support in many countries around the world.

7. **The Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd**¹ is an international organization present in 62 countries with ECOSOC Special Consultative Status, dedicated to promoting the dignity and empowerment of girls, women and children affected by poverty, violence, exploitation, and exclusion. Through a rights-based approach, it provides counselling, psychosocial support, child protection, skills training, livelihood support, and human rights advocacy
8. **Laudato Si Movement (LSM)** is a global Catholic movement inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*, dedicated to caring for our common home through ecological conversion, environmental justice, and climate action.
9. **Justice and Peace Department of Kampala Archdiocese** is a dedicated pastoral entity committed to promoting social justice, human rights, and peacebuilding within Uganda. It actively engages with local communities, government institutions, and civil society to address issues such as poverty, inequality, and conflict, and strives to foster a culture of justice and reconciliation.
10. **Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation Franciscans Africa (JPICFA)** is a regional office for all Franciscans in Africa working as a coordination centre for advocacy, communication, cooperation and animation of the whole Franciscan Family in Africa, stakeholders and players in the justice, peace and integrity of creation program

2. Methodology

11. This Universal Periodic Review (UPR) report is the compilation of first-hand information gathered during consultation with Franciscans and partners between 2025-2026. Other corroborating reports and articles are also cited in this report.

¹ In Kawempe Division, Kampala, Good Shepherd programmes currently support around 400 girls, women and children. The Justice and Peace Advocacy Programme contributed community perspectives, challenges, and recommendations to this report.

PART 2: REPORT

1. Children's rights

UPR in 2022

- 12.** Uganda received and supported two recommendations during its third cycle UPR review in 2022 on providing equal opportunities to vulnerable groups including children and persons with disabilities², and 13 recommendations on improving access to education³.

Legal framework

- 13.** Uganda has a comprehensive legal framework to ensure children's rights, including those with disabilities. Key frameworks such as the Constitution (1995)⁴, the Children Act (2016)⁵, the Persons with Disabilities Act, the Education Act, the Employment Act (1977)⁶, the Local Government Act 1997⁷, the National Child Policy (2020)⁸, and the Special Needs and National Inclusive Education Policy (2011), the National Child Participation (2017/18 – 2021/2022)⁹, and the East African Community Child Policy (2016)¹⁰ all affirm the right to non-discrimination, accessibility, and inclusive education. Uganda's ratification of the CRC and CRPD further reinforces these obligations.

Situation in 2026

- 14.** Despite the existence of Universal Primary Education (UPE, 1997) and Universal Secondary Education (USE, 2007), 30–40% of children with disabilities in rural areas do not attend school, while only 9% of children with disabilities access primary education and just 6% transition to secondary school¹¹. These figures are even lower for children with autism and intellectual disabilities due to limited specialized services.

² Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Uganda, 4th April 2022. Recommendation 125.208 (Tunisia) and Recommendation 125.263 (Mozambique). <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/g22/300/83/pdf/g2230083.pdf>

³ Recommendations 125.181 to 125.192, 125.206 (Latvia) and 125.249 (Zambia). They include providing free and quality education to all, including girls in rural areas, addressing factors contributing to school dropouts and allocating an appropriate amount of the national budget to mitigate the impact of Covid-19. Uganda noted recommendations on making education compulsory for twelve years

⁴ The Constitution comprehensively provides a framework for the Protection of all children in Uganda. Article 34 (2) A Child shall be entitled to basic education which shall be the responsibility of the State and the parents of the child. Articles 35 (2) Parliament shall enact laws appropriate for the protection of persons with disabilities.

⁵ The Children Act, Cap 59 (2016) (as amended) provides for the overarching legal framework articulating constitutional provisions on children and emphasizing the rights, protection, duties and responsibilities as contained in the UNCRC and ACRWC.

⁶ The Employment Act (1977) forbids contracts with persons under the age of eighteen, and the employment of children under the age of twelve years, except from light work defined by the Minister. The Employment Act 2006 Part VI Section 32 further explains that a child under 14 years shall not be employed except for light work.

⁷ The Local Government Act 1997, Cap 243 makes district councils responsible for the welfare of children. It further foresees the establishment of an executive committee at each parish and village administrative unit, including a vice chairperson who shall be secretary for children welfare. .

⁸ The National Child Policy has key priority areas including Education and Development that among others promotes access to special needs and inclusive education, Priority Area: Education and Development, Strategy 2 (d) and (j). Priority Area 5: Child Participation – Strategy 4 provides for inclusion of especially vulnerable children in child participation mechanisms through targeted measures

⁹ The National Child Participation Strategy 2017/18 – 2021/22 articulates three main messages: Valuing children as critical stakeholders in the community; ensuring that they are visible in all spheres of human rights governance and making sure that their voices are heard and amplified.

¹⁰ The East African Community Child Policy (2016) identifies four broad strategies through which child participation shall be enforced. The third strategy: (c) calls for the development and implementation of age and disability appropriate child participation frameworks for the region.

¹¹ UNFPA, National Disability Stakeholders' Mapping Report, 2025 <https://uganda.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/2025-03/Disability%20stakeholder%20mapping%20report%20F.pdf>

15. Although both UPE and USE are intended to be compulsory and free, hidden costs such as uniforms, books, and transport continue to prevent many families from enrolling their children. Children living in vulnerable households face risks of violence, neglect, exploitation, child labour, and school dropouts. Schools play an important role in identifying and reporting child protection concerns and connecting children to appropriate support services. However, children who are out of school are often isolated from these protective mechanisms, making it more difficult to detect abuse, neglect, exploitation, or other risks and increasing their vulnerability to harm.
16. Families of children with disabilities face additional financial costs, including the cost of therapy, costly assistive devices, specialised transport and services which are almost non-existent in rural areas. Families are forced to travel long distances to urban centers, increasing their financial burden, while community-based programs are insufficient to meet existing needs.
17. Despite the Constitution making provision for 10% of the budget being allocated to inclusive education, only 0.1% of the budget is currently allocated¹². While we welcome the allocation of UGX 15.5 billion to the National Child Assistance Programme for Children with Severe Disabilities, effective in the Financial Year 2026/2027¹³, accessibility features such as ramps, wide doorways, and adapted sanitation facilities for children with disabilities are not widely available to this date, which limits school attendance. Children with autism require sensory friendly classrooms, and teachers are inadequately and insufficiently trained in inclusive education pedagogies as their pre-service training does not have specialized modules on the necessary skills to teach children with disabilities.
18. Access to education for children with disabilities is further impeded by social and cultural discrimination as many communities associate disabilities with curses, witchcraft, or punishment, leading to stigma and isolation. In the absence of awareness-raising programs, children with disabilities experience bullying, teasing, and exclusion within school environments, and girls with disabilities face heightened risks in that regard. As raised in our report to the Committee of the Rights of the Child¹⁴, social stigma compounded by socio-economic inequalities negatively impacts girls' access to education, accordingly, girls are at increased risk of abuse, early marriage and teenage pregnancies.

Recommendations

1. Ensure adequate and sufficient allocation of funds for inclusive education including accessibility features and training for educators and teachers;
2. Enforce and disseminate existing policy and legal standards to ensure accessibility of schools for children with disabilities and reinforce financial accessibility of high-cost assistive devices;
3. Increase efforts to prevent school dropout and promote regular school attendance by addressing poverty, child labour, violence, discrimination, and other barriers that exclude children from education, particularly those in vulnerable situations; and

¹² Education For All: Making Education Inclusive, Accessible to Uganda's Children With Special Needs, The World Bank, Retrieved May 2022

¹³ National Union of Disabled Persons in Uganda, Government allocates UGX 15.5 billion to support children with severe disabilities, 8th May 2026, <https://nudipu.org/2026/05/08/government-allocates-ugx-15-5-billion-to-support-children-with-severe-disabilities/>

¹⁴ Franciscans International, Written contribution for the review of Uganda during the 100th Session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, 2024, https://franciscansinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/CRC100_Joint_Submission_Uganda-FINAL.pdf

4. Strengthen multi-sectoral collaboration to make sure every stakeholder undertakes the responsibility of mainstreaming disability cross-cutting concerns in their respective sectoral plans.

2. Gender-based violence (GBV)

UPR in 2022

19. Uganda received 62 recommendations on gender-based violence in its 2022 UPR, among which 14 were noted¹⁵ and 46 supported¹⁶.

Legal Framework

20. Uganda has adopted several laws aimed at preventing and responding to gender-based violence. The Domestic Violence Act (2010) protects women and other victims from domestic violence, including physical, emotional, sexual, and economic abuse¹⁷. The Penal Code Act criminalizes rape, assault, defilement, and related offenses.
21. To address child, early, and forced marriage, the Marriage Act (2014) sets the minimum age of marriage at 18, and the Children Act (2016) reinforces these protections by criminalizing child marriage and emphasizing the best interests of the child. However, Uganda still lacks a dedicated Child Marriage Act, despite ongoing advocacy for a comprehensive law.
22. Female Genital Mutilations (FGM) is prohibited under the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act (2010), which criminalizes performing, aiding, or abetting FGM, and applies to both traditional practitioners and medical personnel, and provides penalties for offenders¹⁸.
23. While Uganda maintains policy frameworks such as the National Gender Policy (2007) and the National Policy on Gender-Based Violence (2016), there has not been an updated new national gender policy since then. However, the government actively updates and implements strategic frameworks to achieve UN Sustainable Development Goals including – Gender in Education Sector policy; Judiciary Gender Policy and Strategy; and the Broader Equal Opportunities which oversees the National Equal Opportunities Policy¹⁹. However, these policies remain severely underfunded. In 2021, only 0.007% of the national budget was allocated to address violence against women²⁰.

¹⁵ Recommendations 125.198 (Norway), 125.2 (Denmark), 125.205 (Namibia), 125.197 (the Netherlands), 125.242 (Poland), 125.218 (Estonia), 125.184 (Poland), 125.202 (Iceland), 125.231 (Timor-Leste), 125.29 (Argentina), 125.239 (Fiji), 125.228 (Slovenia), 125.23 (Latvia), 125.3 (Sweden) from Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Uganda, A/HRC/50/11.

¹⁶ Recommendations 125.264 (China), 125.176 (Costa Rica), 125.178 (Fiji), 125.181 (Mexico), 125.19 (Egypt), 125.196 (Malta), 125.199 (Kenya), 125.201 (Malaysia), 125.204 (Indonesia), 125.206 to 125.209 (Latvia, Algeria, Tunisia, Italy), 125.212 to 125.17 (Timor-Leste, Ukraine, Cyprus, Armenia, Cuba), 125.219 (Paraguay), 125.221 to 125.127 (Chile, Egypt, Mexico, Nepal, Philippines, Kenya, Republic of Korea), 125.229 (South Africa), 125.232 to 125.238 (Australia, Bahamas, Belgium, Cape Verde, Malawi, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic), 125.241 (Germany), 125.243 to 125.247 (Ukraine, Burkina Faso, Chile, Republic of Congo, Malawi), 125.261 (Botswana), 125.263 (Mozambique), 125.264 (Nigeria), 125.266 (Democratic People's Republic of Korea), 125.47 (Togo), 125.71 (South Africa), 125.22 (Brazil) from Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Uganda, A/HRC/50/11.

¹⁷ Domestic Violence Act section

¹⁸ UDHS 2016 data

¹⁹ Uganda Bureau of Statistics and Equal Opportunities Commission Uganda – <https://eoc.go.ug>; Uganda National Priority Gender Equality indicators report 2025

²⁰ UN Women, UNDP, IDLO, World Bank, and Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies. Financing Women's Justice Needs: Global Perspectives on Violence against Women, and a Case Study on Uganda (2025). [SDG16, Financing Women's Justice Needs: Global Perspectives on Violence against Women, and a Case Study on Uganda \(2025\) https://www.sdg16.plus/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2024/03/Financing-Womens-Justice-Needs-Executive-Summary-2025.pdf](https://www.sdg16.plus/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2024/03/Financing-Womens-Justice-Needs-Executive-Summary-2025.pdf)

Current Situation in 2026

Prevalence and Forms of GBV

24. While the practice of FGM is decreasing due to wide condemnation in society and successful awareness-raising campaigns, with the prevalence of FGM among women aged 15-49 at 1.4%²¹, the practice persists in some communities that perceive it as rite of passage and with elders defending this practice. The prevalence of child marriage remains high, with 40% of girls being married before 18 whilst teenage pregnancies remain high in rural and conflict-affected regions²². The temporary closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic increased risks of early marriages and pregnancies.
25. These trends vary across regions, for instance FGM remains concentrated in Karamoja and Sebei regions due to cultural resistance; early marriage is prevalent in Eastern and Western Uganda; and urban centers such as Kampala report high levels of intimate partner violence and sexual assault. Limited access to education particularly in rural areas combined with harmful traditional practices perpetuate GBV particularly child marriages and teenage pregnancies.
26. For instance, women and girls in Kawempe Division face multiple forms of violence and discrimination, including domestic violence, sexual abuse, economic exploitation, trafficking, and harmful survival practices linked to poverty. Women frequently report experiences of physical and emotional abuse within households. Many survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse remain in abusive situations due to financial dependence, fear of stigma, and lack of access to support services.

Impact on Women, Girls, and Children

27. GBV infringes on women's and girls' rights to dignity, safety, and equality, perpetuating discriminatory gender norms.
28. Sexual violence and harassment discourage girls from attending school. Early pregnancies resulting from sexual violence often lead to school dropouts. GBV, notably child marriage, leads to physical injuries, unwanted and early pregnancies, reproductive health issues, and mental health challenges. Women and girls often lack access to adequate and necessary healthcare services due to stigma, cultural norms, or economic barriers.
29. FGM impacts the right to life through severe complications during the procedure that can lead to death, especially when performed in unsanitary conditions. The right to education is impacted as girls subjected to FGM often face absenteeism, stigma, or drop out of school due to health issues or social exclusion, and the right to health is also impacted as FGM causes chronic pain, infections, childbirth complications, and psychological trauma.

Access to Justice and Reparations

30. These legal frameworks allow GBV survivors to report cases to the police who will refer them to the courts, and access legal aid organizations, and community paralegals. However, many survivors do not effectively access justice due to weak implementation of existing frameworks, insufficient training of law enforcement and judicial personnel on GBV issues, and inaccessibility of legal processes that are often slow.
31. GBV survivors are often unaware of existing legal protections, face stigma from their families or communities to report their situation to the police, and are often discouraged from adopting

²¹ UNFPA Uganda report 2025

²² UNICEF, 2021.

a legal recourse due to family pressure.

32. Victims still lack holistic reparations and are instead limited to legal remedies without comprehensive psychological, social, and economic support. Many survivors do not receive adequate health care or economic support after leaving an abusive situation, and shelters and other support services are often inadequate in number and geographic coverage. These structural barriers, social norms, and stigma alongside victim-blaming hinder justice and reparation efforts.

Recommendations

1. Expand access to survivor-centered services, including shelters, psychosocial support, and legal aid for victims of GBV;
2. Enhance training for police, health workers, and judicial officers on GBV and harmful practices;
3. Develop a national reparations framework for GBV survivors, including medical, psychological, and economic support; and
4. Strengthen community engagement to address harmful norms and reduce stigma.

3. Trafficking

UPR in 2022

33. During its third-cycle UPR in 2022, Uganda received seven recommendations concerning trafficking in persons. Uganda supported six recommendations and noted one²³.

Legal framework

34. Uganda's legal framework to combat trafficking is grounded in the 1995 Constitution, particularly Article 23, which protects the right to personal liberty, and Article 25, which prohibits slavery, servitude and forced labour²⁴. Internationally, Uganda follows the UNODC guidelines and has integrated coordination mechanisms involving law enforcement, border control, and regional partnerships.
35. The primary legal instrument is the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act 2009²⁵, which reflects international anti-trafficking standards by criminalizing trafficking in persons, including the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons by means such as force, fraud, deception, coercion or abuse of vulnerability for purposes of exploitation.
36. This framework was supported by the National Action Plan for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons in Uganda 2019–2024, which set out the strategy on awareness-raising, victim

²³ Recommendations 125.236 (Malawi), 125.128 (India), 125.125 (Qatar), 125.62 (Philippines), 125.127 (Holy See), 125.126 (Luxembourg), from Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Uganda, A/HRC/50/11.Recommendation 125.1 (Ukraine), noted by Uganda, from *Ibid*.

The accepted recommendations called for continued efforts to protect girls from exploitation and abuse; implementing and strengthening mechanisms to combat trafficking; effectively implementing the Second National Action Plan for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons (2019 – 2024), particularly through the allocation of sufficient resources; and providing assistance to victims. The only recommendation noted by Uganda concerned taking all necessary measures to combat impunity for crimes of enforced disappearance and human trafficking.

²⁴ Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995, arts. 23 and 25, Parliament of Uganda,

²⁵ Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2009, Act 7 of 2009, secs. 2–3, Uganda Legal Information Institute, consolidated version, available at <https://ulii.org/akn/ug/act/2009/7/eng@2024-12-23>

support, and institutional coordination²⁶. Although the plan expired in 2024, no successor framework has yet been publicly released²⁷. The responsibility for implementing the legal frameworks lies primarily with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, particularly through the Coordination Office for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons and the National Task Force on Prevention of Trafficking in Persons (COPTIP). However, limited financial resources continue to undermine law enforcement efforts and leave victim protections severely underfunded.

The situation in 2026

37. Trafficking in persons remains a serious concern in Uganda. Since 2023, reported cases have consistently exceeded 1,000 annually²⁸. The main forms of exploitation include sexual exploitation, particularly in urban areas such as Kampala²⁹; forced labour in sectors such as agriculture, domestic work and the informal economy³⁰; and internal child trafficking, especially through rural-to-urban movements. Within this context, children and young people, within the 13–24 age group, remain among the most affected groups. In 2024, they accounted for approximately 79% of identified trafficking victims³¹. Women and girls are also disproportionately affected, particularly in relation to sexual exploitation and domestic servitude³². Poverty, unemployment, and limited livelihood opportunities compound the vulnerability of women and girls to trafficking and sexual exploitation. Community members have reported cases in which young women were recruited with promises of employment but later faced exploitation.
38. Uganda also continues to function as a source, transit and destination country for trafficking³³. Recent operations in 2026 further suggest that trafficking patterns are evolving. In April 2026, authorities detained 231 foreign nationals in a case linked to possible trafficking, irregular migration and cyber-scam operations³⁴. Some of the individuals detained claimed that they had been trafficked into Uganda under false promises of employment. Certain areas, including Mbale (which recorded the highest number of cases), as well as Kampala and Jinja, appear to be internal trafficking hotspots³⁵. In addition, victims continue to be trafficked across borders

²⁶Ministry of Internal Affairs, Government of Uganda, *National Action Plan for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons in Uganda 2019–2024*, available at <https://mia.go.ug/sites/default/files/2022-06/National%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

²⁷ U.S. Department of State, *2025 Trafficking in Persons Report: Uganda*, published by eci.net, 30 September 2025, available at <https://www.eci.net/en/document/2130563.html>

²⁸ Violet Nkwanzi et al., "Individual and Communal Factors Associated with Re-Trafficking Vulnerability Among Women Survivors in Kampala, Central Uganda," *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, first published online 26 December 2025, <https://doi.org/10.1177/08862605251392277>

²⁹ U.S. Department of State, *2025 Trafficking in Persons Report: Uganda*, published by eci.net, 30 September 2025, <https://www.eci.net/en/document/2130563.html>

³⁰ Ben Musanje, "Children are Most Trafficked in 2024 – Report," *Radio Sapientia*, 2 December 2024, <https://www.radiosapientia.com/2024/12/03/children-are-most-trafficked-in-2024-report/?utm>

³¹ Stephen Kalema, "Uganda Continues to Grapple with Alarming Rise in Human Trafficking Cases," *Watchdog Uganda*, 2 December 2024, <https://www.watchdoguganda.com/news/20241202/175172/uganda-continues-to-grapple-with-alarming-rise-in-human-trafficking-cases.html?utm>

³² Violet Nkwanzi et al., "Individual and Communal Factors Associated with Re-Trafficking Vulnerability Among Women Survivors in Kampala, Central Uganda," *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, first published online 26 December 2025, <https://doi.org/10.1177/08862605251392277>

³³ Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, "Uganda," *Global Organized Crime Index*, available at <https://ocindex.net/country/uganda>

³⁴ Rodney Muhumuza, "Uganda detains 231 foreigners in crackdown on possible human trafficking," *Associated Press*, 28 April 2026, available at <https://apnews.com/article/0c4f50f8df1854c07e6521bfff3c36>

³⁵ Ben Musanje, "Children are Most Trafficked in 2024 – Report," *Radio Sapientia*, 2 December 2024, <https://www.radiosapientia.com/2024/12/03/children-are-most-trafficked-in-2024-report/?utm>

to Kenya, Tanzania and the Middle East, particularly for domestic work and other forms of labour exploitation³⁶.

Prevention

39. At the grassroots level, people usually get information about jobs through local brokers, family, and social networks, which traffickers frequently exploit by offering fake or risky employment³⁷. However, community-led protection is hindered by low awareness of trafficking signs and a lack of trust in authorities³⁸. For instance, in regions such as Karamoja, advocacy campaigns have highlighted the vulnerability of children who migrate to urban centres and end up in Kampala slums.

Prosecution

40. Prosecution of trafficking remains weak due to a profound lack of trust in the police and courts. Community members report that corruption and slow judicial processes discourage them from reporting suspected cases. Victims are often unwilling to testify due to severe trauma, fear of the traffickers, and the social stigma attached to their exploitation³⁹. Consequently, many cases collapse because of insufficient evidence or the ability of witnesses to testify in an environment characterized by intimidation and inadequate witness protection⁴⁰.

Protection of Victims

41. Victims who are rescued or repatriated often face significant challenges during reintegration. Most returnees experience psychological trauma and social rejection. Although government and NGO shelters exist, they are severely under-resourced and frequently lack adequate medical services, psychosocial services, and professional counselling⁴¹.
42. Furthermore, access to legal assistance is almost non-existent in rural areas, leaving many victims unaware of their rights or unable to seek remedy⁴². Civil society and faith-based organisations have attempted to address some of these gaps. For example, John Paul II Justice and Peace Centre has provided business start-up capital and livelihood support to over 50 survivors to promote economic self-reliance and reduce vulnerability to re-trafficking.
43. Nevertheless, these initiatives cannot substitute for comprehensive government action and broader structural reforms, and sustained efforts are needed to address the underlying drivers of trafficking, including poverty, gender inequality, unemployment, and limited access to safe and decent livelihood opportunities for all, and specifically for women and girls.

³⁶ Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, "Uganda," *Global Organized Crime Index*, available at <https://ocindex.net/country/uganda>

³⁷ Uganda Bureau of Statistics, *Report on Migration Statistics: Year 2020*, January 2021, https://www.ubos.org/wp-content/uploads/publications/o6_2022Migration_Report_2020.pdf

³⁸ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, 2020; UNODC, *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, 2024, available at [UNODC 2020 report](#) and [UNODC 2024 report](#)

³⁹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, 2020, available at [UNODC 2020 report](#)

⁴⁰ Uganda Police Force, *Annual Crime Report 2020*, 6 April 2021, figure 30, "Trend of Trafficking in Persons," <https://upf.go.ug/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/ANNUAL-CRIME-REPORT-2020.pdf>

⁴¹ UNICEF Uganda, *UNICEF Uganda Annual Report*, 2019, available at https://www.unicef.org/uganda/media/6806/file/UNICEF_UgandaAR2019-WEBhighres.pdf

⁴² Uganda Ministry of Justice. (2020). Legal Aid and Victim Support Initiatives.

Recommendations

1. Adopt a new National Action Plan to combat trafficking with adequate funding for COPTIP and ensure wide dissemination of measures to communities and relevant authorities;
2. Strengthen community-level awareness and implementation of existing measures to prevent and respond to trafficking, and sexual exploitation;
3. Ensure accessible survivor-centered support services, including counselling, shelters, legal assistance, rehabilitation, and reintegration programmes; and
4. Expand access to comprehensive reintegration services for victims and rural livelihood programs in high-risk regions by addressing root causes of poverty and unemployment.

4. Human rights of persons in detention ⁴³

UPR in 2022

44. Uganda received twenty-two recommendations related to prisoners' rights. Nineteen of these concerned the death penalty and were noted⁴⁴, and three recommendations were supported and addressed detention and prison conditions⁴⁵.

Legal framework

45. Uganda acceded to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in 1995 and has not ratified the Second Optional Protocol aimed at the total abolition of the death penalty. Prisoners' rights are primarily anchored in the 1995 Constitution, which guarantees the right to life in Article 22 and provides specific protections for the children of detainees in article 34.6. The Sentencing Guidelines for Courts of Judicature (2013) implements article 30 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child pertaining to "Children of imprisoned mothers" and its General Comment n°1 ⁴⁶.
46. The Prisons Act (Cap 325) serves as the central regulatory instrument, mandating that the Uganda Prisons Service respects the inherent dignity of prisoners on the basis of humane treatment and a rehabilitation approach.
47. The Prohibition and Prevention of Torture Act (Cap 130), aligned with international standards, seeks to prevent torture and ill-treatment during detention, while the Human Rights (Enforcement) Act (Cap 12) empowers courts to hold officials personally liable for violating the rights of detained persons.
48. Significant legislative progress was made through the Law Revision (Penalties in Criminal Matters) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act of 2021, which amended the Penal Code Act and the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2002 to remove the mandatory death penalty. Courts may now consider the circumstances of each case instead of imposing death automatically. The Act also

⁴³ Information contained in this section is based on various reports and field observations from Wells for Hope Ministries.

⁴⁴ Recommendations such as ratify or consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR; to abolish the death penalty in law and replace it with alternative or proportionate punishments; to establish a formal or de jure moratorium on its application; to reduce the number of capital crimes; to fully implement the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act; and to step up awareness-raising campaigns and public debate on the abolition of the death penalty.

⁴⁵ Those recommendations called Uganda to strengthen the justice system, including juvenile justice, and reduce prison overcrowding; to ensure that detainees are brought before a court within 48 hours of arrest; and to raise awareness among prison staff and detainees of their human rights and obligations.

⁴⁶ Penal Reform, Une peine partagée: Les enfants de parents incarcérés en Ougand, 2015 https://cdn.penalreform.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/PRI-FHRI_GC-No1-Exec-Summary-FRENCH-WEB.pdf

requires Supreme Court confirmation of any death sentence and allows the Court to impose another appropriate sentence where confirmation is refused. Furthermore, it stipulates that if a death sentence is confirmed by the Supreme Court but not physically carried out within three years, it is automatically commuted to life imprisonment.

The situation in 2026

General situation

49. In 2026, Uganda's prison system continues to face serious challenges, most notably severe overcrowding and prolonged pretrial detention.
50. As of 2025, 93 prisoners remained on death row⁴⁷. Despite the absence of recent executions, they continue to face extreme psychological distress, uncertainty, and discrimination within condemned sections of the prisons. Parliamentary oversight has also highlighted persistent concerns regarding solitary confinement and the personal safety of high-profile detainees.
51. While the Uganda Prisons Service (UPS) has increasingly shifted towards a rehabilitation model, offering vocational training in trades such as carpentry and tailoring, the practical impact of these efforts has been limited by inadequate funding. As a result, former prisoners often face stigmatization and rejection upon release, with many regarded as unemployable by the private sector, which in turn contributes to family breakdown and, in some cases, reoffending.

The Situation of Children of Detainees

52. While the Sentencing Guidelines in Uganda seek to protect the rights of children of detainees, additional effort is needed to ensure their protection and alternative care.
53. Children of incarcerated parents are highly vulnerable and often an invisible population whose fundamental rights to education, health, and safety are seriously undermined. Many of these children are left in child-headed households or in the care of elderly grandparents, which frequently leads to school dropout as they are forced into child labor to support younger siblings. They often suffer from discrimination, chronic malnutrition, sometimes surviving on only one meal a day, and are at high risk of sexual exploitation and abuse. While some can access the government's Universal Primary Education (UPE) programme, they are often excluded in practice because the system does not provide basic materials such as books and pens, which their parents, given their situation, cannot afford. Furthermore, many of these children suffer lasting psychological harm, including trauma and nightmares, after witnessing the arrest of their parents.

⁴⁷ Uganda Prisons Service, as of December 2025

54. According to the Uganda Prisons Service, as of March 2026, women detainees represent 5.1% of the total prisoner population. Currently, Uganda has 270 prisons, holding 2,057 convicted female detainees and 1,805 women in pre-trial detention⁴⁸. Women in detention face different challenges linked to their socio-economic situation and socially assigned caregiving roles. Women are often arrested without consideration for their caregiving responsibilities, at times leaving infants abandoned at home or unattended. As of March, 2026 the average number of children staying in prisons with their incarcerated mothers was 287. In addition, officials have reported to the Parliament that Uganda prisons hold 294 babies alongside incarcerated mothers who are exposed to overcrowding and inadequate sanitation.
55. The welfare of women detainees and children varies significantly by location. While urban prisons such as Luzira provide comparatively better access to health care, women in rural prisons face severe difficulties in obtaining nutritious food and medical services for their babies. Many women in detention are also first-time offenders charged with offences such as theft or assault. They cannot afford private lawyers and often do not qualify for state-provided legal aid for petty crimes. This situation leaves them with a limited understanding of the judicial process and in a vulnerable situation.

Recommendations

1. Take all necessary measures to accelerate the abolition of the death penalty in law and practice including by ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR;
2. Develop a national policy to minimize the incarceration of women, prioritizing alternatives to detention for mothers with young children; and
3. Establish a dedicated social support system to ensure children of detainees continued access to education, nutrition and healthcare.

5. Business, human rights and the environment

UPR in 2022

56. In 2022, Uganda received three recommendations on business and human rights, all of which were supported. These included recommendations to promptly implement the national action plan on business and human rights⁴⁹, and develop it so it considers the business sector⁵⁰. One recommendation was received to adopt the energy development programme that aimed to prevent food and water pollution in settlements located near mining sites⁵¹. Similarly, Uganda received and supported two recommendations related to the environment, with a particular focus on climate change⁵².

⁴⁸ Data from Uganda Prisons Services, as of March 2026.

⁴⁹ Recommendation 125.63 (Poland) from *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Uganda*, 2022.

⁵⁰ Recommendation 125.69 (Indonesia) from *Ibid*.

⁵¹ Recommendation 125.64 (Russian Federation) from *Ibid*.

⁵² Cyprus recommended to integrate a rights-based approach into climate mitigation policy and disaster risk reduction plans (Recommendation 125.70). Plus, Fiji recommended to strengthen efforts to ensure the participation of vulnerable groups and local communities developing and implementing climate change and disaster risk reduction frameworks (Recommendation 125.270)

Legal framework

57. Uganda's legal framework governing business, human rights and environmental protection is anchored in the 1995 Constitution, notably Article 39, which guarantees the right to a clean and healthy environment, Article 26, which protects the right to property and requires fair and adequate compensation prior to compulsory acquisition, and Article 41 on access to information⁵³.
58. The main regulatory safeguards are the National Environment Act of 2019⁵⁴, and the National Environment (Environmental and Social Assessment) Regulations of 2020⁵⁵, which require environmental and social impact assessments, mitigation measures and regulatory approval by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), particularly for large-scale infrastructure projects.
59. Uganda's legal framework further includes the Land Act and the Petroleum (Exploration, Development and Production) Act⁵⁶, while the Uganda Human Rights Commission and the National Environment Management Authority play important oversight roles. Uganda is also bound by regional⁵⁷ and international human rights instruments⁵⁸ which guarantee rights relevant to land, participation, access to information and an adequate standard of living.
60. This framework is complemented by the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (2021-2026)⁵⁹, and project-level mechanisms such as Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs)⁶⁰, the Informed Consultation and Participation (ICP) policy⁶¹, and specific Plans for Vulnerable Ethnic Groups and the corresponding grievance mechanisms, which are intended to reflect International Finance Corporation (IFC) standards ensuring that there is adequate consultation and livelihood restoration for displaced persons.

⁵³ Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995, arts. 26, 39, 41, Parliament of Uganda,

<https://cmis.parliament.go.ug/cmisis/views/933ebdd9-61ff-48ae-bebd-d961ff98ae0d%253B1.o>

⁵⁴ National Environment Act, 2019, Act 5 of 2019, sec. 3, National Environment Management Authority,

<https://nema.go.ug/sites/all/themes/nema/docs/National%20Environment%20Act,%20No.%205%20of%202019.pdf>

⁵⁵ National Environment (Environmental and Social Assessment) Regulations, 2020, National Environment Management Authority, <https://www.nema.go.ug/en/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/National-Environment-Environmental-and-Social-Assessment-Regulations-S.I.-No.-143-of-2020.pdf>

⁵⁶ Land Act, Cap. 236 (as amended). The Act regulates land tenure, ownership, acquisition, compensation, and the protection of land rights, including for communities affected by extractive and other development projects. Available at: <https://ulii.org/akn/ug/act/1998/16/eng%402023-12-31/source>

Petroleum (Exploration, Development and Production) Act, 2013 (Act No. 3 of 2013). The Act establishes the legal framework for petroleum exploration and production, including licensing, environmental protection, local content, compensation, and the regulation of petroleum operations. Available at: <https://www.petroleum.go.ug/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Petroleum-Exploration-Development-and-Production-Act-2013.pdf>

⁵⁷ African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights

⁵⁸ International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

⁵⁹ Five-year policy framework for coordinating government, business, and other actors to prevent, address, and remedy business-related human rights harms, focusing on eight priority areas: land and natural resources; environment; labour rights; revenue transparency, tax exemptions, and corruption; social service delivery by private actors; consumer protection; access to remedy; and women, vulnerable, and marginalized groups. Available at: https://globalnaps.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/uganda_approved-national-action-plan-on-business-and-human-rights_august-2021.pdf

⁶⁰ Comprehensive documents outlining procedures, budgets, and schedules for compensating and assisting people displaced by development projects such as the EACOP pipeline project. 12 RAPs have been prepared (Resettlement Policy Framework for Tanzania, multiple RAPs for Uganda) aiming to detail management approach for land acquisition and relocation of affected communities

⁶¹ This is an intensive, ongoing, and two-way engagement process required by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) for projects with potentially significant adverse impacts on local communities

The Situation in 2026

61. The existence of legal and institutional safeguards has not translated into effective protection of affected communities and the environment as witnessed in the case of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project⁶²

Description of the project

62. The EACOP project is a massive oil extraction and transportation system associated with the Tilenga and Kingfisher oil pads. It is designed to develop Uganda's oil reserves in the Albertine region and transport the crude oil via a 1,443-kilometer pipeline for export to international markets. The project's infrastructure spans across multiple districts, including Hoima, Kikuube, Buliisa, Nwoya, and the Greater Masaka region, and crosses various indigenous and vulnerable homesteads and communities. Presented as a vital national development milestone by authorities, the oil will be refined and sold overseas while grassroots communities are bearing the primary physical, social, and economic costs of the project. The project is expected to start oil production and exportation in October 2026⁶³.

Impact on Local Communities

63. The implementation of the project has led to the acquisition of 5,300 hectares of land, resulting in the displacement of over 50,000 individuals since 2019 and impacting approximately 14,000 households⁶⁴. Displaced communities are at risk of being re-evicted from their lands, as seen in the disputed Kapapi land in Kigorobya County in Hoima District in February 2026⁶⁵.
64. Communities depending on land-based activities (farming, cattle keeping) saw their livelihoods and means of subsistence severely disrupted due to the lack of access to water and cultivable lands. The pipeline's route through the Lake Victoria Basin raises the danger of pollution of agricultural lands and drinking water compounded, as witnessed in the 2022 flooding in Buliisa caused by oil activities. Farmers have been forced to rely on short-term crops while waiting for their compensation lands, contributing to chronic food insecurity.
65. Communities were not adequately informed of the environmental and social impact assessments of the projects as they were communicated to them in highly technical and complex English terms, preventing informed decision-making and meaningful consultation. Local communities testified on the pressure faced to sign agreements in English that they did not understand and accepting amounts that were insufficient to purchase replacement land.

⁶² BankTrack reports that the project is owned through EACOP Ltd, with TotalEnergies EP holding 62%, Uganda National Oil Company Limited (UNOC) 15%, Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) 15%, and the China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) 8%. In March 2025, EACOP announced a US\$755 million term loan provided by a syndicate composed of African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), Standard Bank, Stanbic Bank Uganda, KCB Bank Uganda, and the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD). To date, 42 commercial banks globally have ruled out finance for the project, and many large insurers have ruled out insuring it. For updated information, see:

https://www.banktrack.org/success/most_of_europe_s_largest_50_banks_have_rejected_eacop_oil_pipeline_banktrack

⁶³ <https://e360.yale.edu/features/eacop-completion>

⁶⁴ UN Special Procedures, AL OTH 95/2023 and AL OTH 33/2025, letters concerning the East African Crude Oil Pipeline, Tilenga, and Kingfisher Projects, available at:

<https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gld=28256> <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gld=29836>; and Human Rights Watch, "Uganda: Oil Pipeline Project Impoverishes Thousands," July 10, 2023, available at <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/07/10/uganda-oil-pipeline-project-impoverishes-thousands>

⁶⁵ Kazi-Njema News, Fresh eviction fears emerge after Kapapi security meeting displays high level interests, 19 February 2026 <https://kazi-njemanews.com/fresh-eviction-fears-emerge-after-kapapi-security-meeting-displays-high-level-interests/#:~:text=Mr%20Nzair%20name%20does%20not,laid%20claim%20to%20the%20land>

Indigenous communities such as Bagungu community faced similar challenges and saw their right to free, prior and informed consent violated⁶⁶.

66. According to the Petroleum Authority of Uganda, 97% of project affected persons were reportedly compensated in 2025;⁶⁷ however, court rulings have favored project interests. In October 2024, a Masaka High Court ruled against 80 Project Affected Persons (PAPs) from Lwengo, Kyotera, and Rakai to receive direct compensation to communities, and allowing instead the government to deposit it in court accounts, raising concerns on adequacy and accessibility of remedies for victims⁶⁸. In the absence of prompt and sufficient financial compensation to purchase replacement lands, communities were forced into heavy household debts, and suffered the loss of ancestral land, compounded by the erosion of trust in government institutions.

Impact on environment and biodiversity

67. The EACOP is in violation of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and the protection of biodiversity in addition to other human rights. Biodiversity impacts are most acute in Murchison Falls National Park (MFNP), where infrastructure including 38 kms of roads and 10 well pads have fragmented habitats of local species⁶⁹. The park's significance as a biodiversity hotspot is jeopardized as the project targets endangered wetlands and Ramsar sites like the Murchison Falls-Albert Delta. A high-risk Victoria Nile pipeline crossing threatens vital freshwater ecosystems, while the route endangers 44 protected areas and 7 key biodiversity areas⁷⁰. Labeled as a carbon bomb by climate activists, the project is predicted to emit 34.5 million metric tons of CO₂ annually, exacerbating the climate change impact⁷¹. Direct clearing has accelerated deforestation and the loss of ecosystem services, including the degradation of watersheds and disruption of wildlife migration corridors.

Access to justice, remedies and right to oppose the project

68. Victims face widespread harassment and intimidation while seeking justice and access to remedies for delayed compensation, loss of lands and livelihoods. Delayed court cases, proceedings dragging on for years as prosecution witnesses fail to appear to deliberately slow down the process, lead to the dismissal of cases due to a lack of evidence⁷². Judicial burdens are compounded by an environment of fear driven by increasing security surveillance in villages such as those in Kyotera District, where increased militarization at project sites has also led to threats against families refusing compensation and assaults on demonstrators.

⁶⁶ Minority Rights Group, Bagungu in Uganda, <https://minorityrights.org/communities/bagungu-in-uganda/>

⁶⁷ East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Ltd, response to UN Special Procedures communication AL OTH 33/2025 concerning the East African Crude Oil Pipeline, Tilenga and Kingfisher projects, September 9, 2025, available at <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadFile?gld=39212>

⁶⁸ Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO), "EACOP Project Affected Persons (PAPs) Disappointed by High Court Ruling," press release, 2 October 2024, available at <https://afiego.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Press-release-Court-rules-against-EACOP-80-2-Oct-2024.pdf>

⁶⁹ Earth Insight, "Mounting Threats: Mapping What's at Stake as EACOP Advances," September 8, 2025, available at <https://earth-insight.org/insight/eacop-map-story-2025/>; and Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO), "Research Brief: Impact of Tilenga Oil Activities on Murchison Falls National Park," July 2024, available at <https://www.afiego.org/downloads/research-brief-impact-of-tilenga-oil-activities-on-murchison-falls-np-july-2024>

⁷⁰ Ibid

⁷¹ European Parliament, Resolution of 15 September 2022 on violations of human rights in Uganda and Tanzania linked to investments in fossil fuels projects, Pg_TA(2022)0321, 15 September 2022, available at https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2022-0321_EN.html; and Climate Accountability Institute, "East African Crude Oil Pipeline: a 379 MtCO₂ 'Carbon Bomb,'" October 27, 2022, available at <https://climateaccountability.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/EACOP-PR-27Oct22.pdf>

⁷² Ibid

69. Civil society organizations and activists documenting human rights violations face increased surveillance, intimidation, harassment, arbitrary arrests, and unlawful detentions. At least 81 environmental defenders were arrested by late 2024⁷³ for protesting the project, and more than a dozen are ongoing to this date⁷⁴. In 2023 and 2025, several UN Special Rapporteurs expressed concern about the situation of environmental human rights defenders, pointing to the persistent challenges in ensuring civic space and access to justice⁷⁵.
70. In this context of backlash against environmental human rights defenders, the adoption of the Protection of Sovereignty Act adopted in May 2026 is feared to have a chilling effect on civic space in Uganda, particularly against those opposing the project, as it seeks to impose severe compliance, operational, and financial constraints on civil society. NGOs utilizing international funds are forced to dual register as an "agent of a foreigner" under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, legally stigmatizing human rights defenders by using derogatory language and affecting their domestic credibility. The law introduces a rigid declaration threshold to the Ministry of Internal Affairs for foreign funding exceeding UGX 400 million per year. Combined with massive penalties for financial institutions, this drives commercial banks to "de-risk" by arbitrarily freezing NGO accounts. Its provision effectively outlaws independent policy critique, community monitoring, and grassroots advocacy not explicitly sanctioned by the Cabinet.

Recommendations

1. Guarantee the right to say NO for communities affected by extractive and development activities at any stage of the project;
2. Ensure adequate financial and material compensation for communities affected by the project as well as strengthening efforts in the promotion and implementation of just sustainable green energy solutions in vulnerable oil producing areas;
3. Strengthen the implementation and enforcement of the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights and ensure that all extractive and infrastructure projects fully comply with national legislation, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and international human rights standards, including through mandatory human rights due diligence, independent environmental and social monitoring, and meaningful consultation and participation of affected communities;
4. Protect environmental human rights defenders and civic space by preventing harassment, intimidation and arbitrary arrests, and ensure that all extractive and development projects respect the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, while strengthening safeguards to protect biodiversity, water resources and the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment in accordance with Uganda's international human rights and climate obligations; and
5. Repeal the Protection of Sovereignty Act.

⁷³ Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, "Uganda: Crackdown on activists protesting against large-scale oil projects," September 3, 2024, available at <https://observatoryfordefenders.org/alert/uganda-crackdown-on-activists-protesting-against-large-scale-oil-projects/>

⁷⁴ Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, "Uganda," country page, available at <https://observatoryfordefenders.org/country/uganda/>

⁷⁵ UN Special Procedures, AL OTH 33/2025, letter concerning the East African Crude Oil Pipeline, Tilenga, and Kingfisher Projects, July 3, 2025, available at: <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gld=29836>