Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
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Summary of Stakeholders’ submissions on Uganda*


I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review. It summarises 65 stakeholders’ submissions1 to the universal periodic review, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints. A separate section is provided for the contribution by the national human rights institution that is accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles.

II. Information provided by the national human rights institution accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles

2. The Uganda Human Rights Commission acknowledged Uganda’s efforts to put the Commission in line with the Paris Principles by increasing the funding for various activities. It noted that overdue reports to human rights mechanisms should be submitted. 2

3. The Commission regretted the persistence of torture and recommended investigating acts of torture, holding perpetrators accountable, and passing the Witness Protection Law.3

4. The Commission was concerned about excessive use of force by the police to disperse campaigns, and violations to freedom of expression and the media, including illegal detentions and harassment, threats and violence against journalists and human rights defenders. It recommended conducting investigations into alleged cases of excessive use of force and reviewing the Non-Governmental Organizations Act, ensuring its conformity with human rights standards.4

5. The Commission noted efforts to improve juvenile justice and recommended that the guidelines for ensuring that minors who commit petty offences are diverted to non-judicial bodies be integrated into the law and implemented.5

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.
6. The Commission urged the Law Reform Commission to review the laws on ending child marriage and teenage pregnancy, bringing them in conformity with the Constitution. It recommended strengthening the implementation mechanisms on trafficking in persons.  

7. The Commission welcomed the Kampala Child Protection Ordinance (2019) and recommended bringing the Prison Act 2006, which allows children to remain with imprisoned mothers, and the Registration of Persons Act, in line with international standards. 

8. Regretting that a human rights-based approach had not been adequately established in sectoral and local government processes, the Commission recommended implementing the development plans fully integrating a human rights-based approach; and that the Landlord-Tenant Bill (2019) becomes operational. 

9. The Commission recommended addressing the equitable school infrastructural development and passing the school Health Policy to improve enrolment and completion rates, especially for female learners; implementing remote learning inclusive policy during the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns, including children with disabilities; and progressively increase the health sector funding to 15% of the national budget standard. 

10. The Commission regretted a decline in services rendered to persons living with albinism and recommended ensuring a human rights-based approach in this issue, including during the COVID-19 pandemic. 

III. Information provided by other stakeholders

A. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies

11. ICAN recommended that Uganda ratifies the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear-Weapons. 

12. AI was concerned that many reports to treaty bodies were still pending. 

13. HRF recommended inviting special procedure mandate holders to carry out visits to Uganda. 

B. National human rights framework

14. JS40 and JS42 welcomed the adoption of the Human Rights (Enforcement) Act 2019 and recommended ensuring its effective implementation. 

15. JS29 was concerned that the Uganda Human Rights Commission continued facing challenges to deliver its mandates, such as budget cuts and staff gaps. JS7 and JS29 recommended increasing the Commission’s human and financial resources. 

16. ISER recommended incorporating economic and social rights in Constitution and adopt related legislation. 

17. JS8 recommended operationalizing the national action plan on culture and allocate 1.5% of the national budget to the cultural sector. 

18. JS4 recommended undertaking comprehensive public finance management reforms to address the inefficiency in public investment management.
C. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

1. Cross-cutting issues

Equality and non-discrimination

19. JS27 was concerned that the Constitution attributed nationality at birth only to members or descendants of 65 ethnic groups, putting those not eligible at risk of statelessness. JS27 recommended repealing legislation related to ethnic discrimination in acquiring Ugandan nationality and eliminating discrimination against registered or naturalized citizens in the transmission of nationality to children.

20. JS10 was concerned that some sections of the HIV and AIDS Prevention and Control Act could result in discrimination against persons living with HIV. It recommended repealing the provisions in the Act that perpetuate discrimination and implementing the Anti-HIV Stigma and Discrimination Policy.

21. JS42 noted that persons with albinism rarely have access to adequate services, including health and education, and recommended creating a database on albinism; developing a National Action Plan for Persons with Albinism; increasing awareness initiatives to combat myths and misconceptions towards persons living with albinism.

22. Several stakeholders were concerned about persistent discrimination against LGBTIQ+ persons, including access to housing, education, health care and employment, and increased homophobic rhetoric from government officials. They reported that LGBTIQ+ people were often detained for long periods, and frequently, the police utilize vaguely defined petty offences to justify arrests that are purely homophobic. LGBTIQ+ people were often tortured and subjected to ill-treatment such as unjustified anal examinations, and some provisions in the Penal Code may be interpreted in a manner that criminalizes consensual same-sex sexual acts.

23. The same organizations noted that the security forces had used COVID-19 directives as a pretext to arbitrarily arrest dozen of LGBTIQ+ people accused to spread “infection of disease”. They recommended taking legislative steps to provide protection against discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, in conformity with international standards; repealing legislation that can be interpreted as criminalizing consensual same-sex relations; ensuring accountability for crimes perpetrated on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity; bringing the Sexual Offences Act 2021 in line with international standards, and providing mechanisms for redress for LGBTIQ+ victims of hate crimes.

Development, the environment, and business and human rights

24. JS25 welcomed the Third National Development Plan. Just-Atonement-Inc. recommended that Uganda continue its climate change reform to ensure a safer and healthier future for its people; work with other bordering countries of Lake Victoria to protect the lake from the devastating impacts of climate change on the life of people; prioritize environmental management in the post-COVID-19 interventions to enhance community resilience, and provide alternatives to those that heavily depend on natural resources.

25. Various stakeholders welcomed the adoption of the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights. They recommended providing resources for the effective implementation of the Plan.

26. JS7 and ISER were concerned that companies and the government have consistently failed to secure indigenous communities’ free, prior, and informed consent before starting business operations in the Karamoja region. JS20 recommended involving host communities at all stages of extractives projects to allow them to influence decision making throughout the entire value chain.

27. JS7 was concerned with the increasing cases of food and water contamination within communities in the proximate of mining sites as a result of the use of banned chemicals.
JS20 regretted the absence of transparency and accountability in the extractive sector. JS5 recommended establishing a pro-active disclosure regime on information regarding the extractives industry and implementing, through a rights-based approach, the National Development Plan III’s Energy Development Programme.

2. Civil and political rights

Right to life, liberty and security of person

28. JS33 and AI regretted that Uganda had not formally abolished the death penalty. AI was concerned with authorities’ threats to resume executions and “hang” death row prisoners to deter crime. AI and JS6 recommended Commute all death sentences with a view to abolishing the death penalty. JS6 recommended ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

29. Several stakeholders were concerned at repression, and serious human rights violations occurred in the context of the elections, including arbitrary arrests and detentions, torture and ill-treatment, enforced disappearances and killings; perpetrated against opposition leaders and their supporters, parliamentary opposition members, journalists, environmental rights activists, young activists, and human rights lawyers. They stressed that during the electoral campaigns 2020-2021, dozens of people were killed during riots and protests by the security forces.

30. The same organizations reported that in 2020, the opposition candidate Robert Kyagulanyi (Bobi Wine) was arbitrary arrested and beaten by the security forces. Wine’s supporters were also arrested when demonstrating, based on “reasonable acts of elements of the opposition”.

31. According to various Stakeholders, security forces arrested, beat, and killed civilians as punishment for allegedly violating regulations related to the COVID-19 pandemic. They recommended undertaking investigations into human rights violations, including those that occurred in the COVID-19 context and during the electoral violence in 2020–2021, ensuring that those responsible are brought to justice and full reparation to victims. They also recommended allowing the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights and UN Special Rapporteurs to conduct site visits.

32. Some stakeholders stated that the army committed violations against small-scale fishers when controlling fishing activities, including killing several young fishers, despite the Parliament directive (2019) aiming to halt the army operations on fishing. They recommended investigating the human rights violations perpetrated against persons accused of involvement in unlawful fishing activities and bring to justice persons suspected of illegal fishing activities rather than subject them to arbitrary punishment.

33. Various stakeholders welcomed the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Regulations (2017). However, they were concerned that torture persisted in Uganda. HRW regretted information according to which authorities detained and tortured people in unacknowledged places of detention. JS6 recommended introducing mandatory training on torture to security forces and prison services, ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, and fully implementing the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act.

34. Some organizations were concerned about poor prison conditions, including overcrowding, forced labour, and insufficient food. According to them, overcrowding was particularly severe in 2020 when thousands of people were arrested for violating COVID-19 restrictions. They recommended improving prison conditions, consistent with the Nelson Mandela Rules.

Administration of justice, including impunity and the rule of law

35. JS29 regretted the recurring intrusion by the Executive and the Legislature on the independence of the Judiciary. It recommended holding accountable all government officials who interfere in judicial proceedings.
36. Various organizations recommended strengthening the Judicial and Administrative systems and intensifying efforts to address the case backlog, including increasing the number of judicial officers, expediting the enactment of the National Legal Aid Bill, 2020 and ensuring its effective implementation. 59

37. IHRC stressed that not adequate investigations have been carried out regarding the massacre of more than 150 people in the town of Kasese in 2016 and was concerned about the impunity of perpetrators. 60

38. JS29 regretted the acute shortage of remand homes which negatively impacts access to justice by juveniles, and that juveniles are detained with adults in some police stations. JS29 recommended increasing budgetary allocations to remands homes and the Family and Children Courts, Police Child and Family Protection Departments and ensuring separation of juveniles in detention from adults. 61

39. Several stakeholders welcomed the 2019 National Transitional Justice Policy. 62 They recommended providing an adequate resource for its effective implementation; 63 enacting the Transitional Justice Bill; ensuring that victims are at the centre of the government’s efforts; 64 enabling spaces for victims who were affected by the gross human rights violations to speak out, and establishing an inclusive database on disappeared persons. 65

40. HRW recommended prosecuting armed forces members implicated in serious crimes who are not otherwise facing ICC proceedings and impose the appropriate penalties. 66 JS29 recommended ending all trials of civilians in the military courts and withdrawing the related appeal filed before the Supreme Court. 67

41. JS29 recommended fully implementing and enforcing the Justice Law and Order Sector initiatives aimed at curbing corruption in the sector, including the Anti-Corruption Charter. 68

Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life 69

42. Several organizations were concerned with obstructive laws, rules, policies and arbitrary actions against media workers and journalists. They reported that during the 2020-2021 election campaigns, authorities restricted the media from covering opposition party candidates, and that two days before the 2021 elections, the Communications Commission ordered internet service providers to block social media access. The next day, the government shut down the internet across the country for five days, and foreign journalists covering campaigns were deported. 70

43. The same organizations regretted that the government has established a taxation on the Internet, 71 and ordered online data communication and broadcast service providers to obtain licenses before posting information. 72 Moreover, the police blocked public meetings of opposition presidential candidates, alleging a violation of the Public Order Management Act. 73

44. Several organizations regretted that Uganda used the COVID-19 pandemic as a pretext to strengthen its crackdown on the political opposition and dissenters. 74 They recommended removing all obstacles to the right to freedom of expression and the media, including obstructions on the internet; ensuring that activists, journalists, human rights defenders and lawyers and opposition groups can freely and independently do their work without fear of reprisals. 75

45. JS2 recommended revising the Press and Journalists Act and related regulations and policies and bringing them in line with the Constitution and international standards; decriminalizing defamation through repealing section 179 of the Penal Code Act; adhering to the Constitutional Court’s decision on decriminalization of false information; and amending the Computer Misuse Act in line with international standards. 76

46. A number of stakeholders recommended guaranteeing free, transparent and fair electoral processes, providing equal conditions for all candidates; ensuring the independence of the National Elections Management Body and the Electoral Commission; and ensuring that all eligible indigenous peoples are included in the updated voters’ register and can participate in future elections. 77
Prohibition of all forms of slavery

47. Some stakeholders welcomed the 2nd National Plan of Action for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons (2019-2024). However, they were concerned with persistence challenges to eliminate this practice. JS1 was concerned about the trafficking of children, especially girls, from poor rural areas to urban areas. They recommended increasing the annual budget of the Coordination Office for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons; strengthening the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Department of the Uganda Police Force; strengthening investigation of cases of trafficking, bringing the perpetrators to justice; and providing victims with temporary shelter, counselling, and legal and psychosocial assistance.

3. Economic, social and cultural rights

Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

48. ELISKA was concerned at the high rates of Ugandans between 15-29 working in informal, precarious jobs, particularly young women – who faced unfair working conditions, including longer hours than men, and at lack of employment opportunities for young people. It regretted that the poor quality of basic education inadequately prepared youth for work. JS44 noted that insufficient funding of the Youth Livelihood Programme had undermined the objective of responding to the challenge of unemployment among the youths and recommended that the 11th Parliament fast track the passing of the National Graduate Services Scheme Bill to support the young people to transit to the labour market. JS9 recommended implementing the programmes established under the National Youth Policy, providing training and education for youth, and increasing digital inclusion and equitable upskilling initiatives.

49. JS9 recommended incorporating international labour rights into domestic law and guaranteeing its implementation. JS44 recommended setting a minimum wage for employees and also develop mechanisms to ensure formal contracts.

50. HRW was concerned that informal sector workers, including domestic workers and street vendors, were not sufficiently protected from abuses, violence and harassment. It recommended approving the Employment (Amendment) Bill, 2019, adopting legislation on sexual harassment in line with international standards and implementing the necessary reforms. JS44 and JS21 recommended expediting the adoption of the draft Employment (Domestic Workers) Regulation (2020) to ensure decent work for domestic workers.

Right to social security

51. ELIZKA regretted that the coverage and design of national social protection programmes were insufficient since most Ugandans work in agriculture, and the agricultural sector continues to be highly exposed to climatic shocks and hazards. ISER stated that implementing lockdown measures in response to COVID-19 increased the vulnerabilities of people who do not ordinarily seek social protection. ELIZKA and ISER regretted that the related programmes had been consistently underfunded.

52. JS44 recommended developing a clear vision and long-term financing strategy for social protection. ELIZKA recommended expanding the scope of social protection to include agricultural workers, evaluating and increasing spending on social protection programmes and ensuring that they reach their beneficiaries. ISER recommended implementing the National Social Protection Policy; strengthening data collection on vulnerability; refraining from using national digital ID as the sole form of ID to benefit from social protection or public services.

Right to an adequate standard of living

53. FIAN was concerned that the fishing communities live in precarious conditions with inadequate access to housing, health facilities, and other infrastructure, and poverty is the main cause that pushes small-scale fishers to illegal fishing. FIAN recommended harmonizing the Aquaculture and Fisheries Bill 2020 with international standards, promoting
the sustainable management of the fisheries resources through an institutional framework to
sensitize and empowering small-scale fishers; and ensuring that the Bill is re-drafted in an
inclusice and participatory manner.113

54. ELIZKA was concerned that the COVID-19 pandemic had had a negative impact on
the living standard of Ugandans, particularly in rural areas.114 ISER noted that limited social
protection had forced many Ugandans to resort to sexual exploitation.115

55. JS18 indicated that despite the positive measures taken to promote the right to food,
26% is living in a stressed food insecurity zone;116 40% of Ugandans being classified as
undernourished, and 16% of the households are chronically malnourished.117 JS18
recommended establishing a Food Emergency Preparedness and National Food Reserves
systems, especially for the most vulnerable persons; establishing a vulnerability country
register to guide food distribution processes especially in situations as the COVID-19
pandemic; undertaking institutional reform of the agricultural, food and nutrition sector;
enacting the Food and Nutrition Bill-2019, and progressively increase the budgetary allocation
to the agro- industrialization programme.118

56. AI stated that thousands of communities had been forcibly evicted by authorities,
between 2016 and 2021, including 35,000 Maragoli Indigenous Peoples from their homes in
Kiryandongo district to pave the way for industrial farming;119 Benet Indigenous Peoples of
Mount Elgon continue to live in temporary settlement camps following multiple forced
evictions. This situation has further exposed them to marginalization and discrimination,120
and the government has failed to enact adequate safeguards against forced evictions.121 AI
regretted that evictees in the Kaweri case are still waiting for justice after almost 20 years of
legal battle.122 According to HRW, evictions left thousands of eligible voters unable to
participate in the 2021 elections.123

57. FIAN recommended putting in place protection procedures for forced evictions; and
ensuring that all victims of forced evictions have access to effective remedies and
reparations.124 HRW recommended establishing an effective consultative process to
resolve the Apaa property dispute, based on respect for property rights and fair
procedures.125

Right to health126

58. AI reported that, in 2021, the allocation for maternal healthcare was cut to 9.3% of
the health budget, and the overall health sector was reduced to 5.1% of the national budget.127
Some stakeholders stressed that COVID-9 had spotlighted the need to strengthen the public
health system.128 JS41 indicated that Hospitals in rural areas suffer from a shortage of
medicines and equipment, long waiting periods, and patients must travel long distances to
receive treatment.129

59. Stakeholders recommended increasing 15% the health sector budget in line with the
Abuja declaration,130 and enacting a National Health Insurance Scheme to extends coverage
to the informal sector, low-income households and individuals, and other vulnerable
groups.131 JS10 recommended recognizing the right of health in the Constitution.132

60. Some stakeholders recommended providing access to quality maternal healthcare
services in public health facilities and implementing the Court decision of 2020, according
to which sufficient funds should be allocated to maternal healthcare.133

61. JS42 referred to the shortage of health care workers, with only one doctor for every
8,300 Ugandans. Stakeholders recommended recruiting health workers, including providing
motivation packages to attract medical personnel to rural areas, and operationalizing the
Mental Health Act.134

62. JS42 welcomed the initiatives to promote sexual and reproductive health.135 It
recommended paying particular attention to vulnerable and disadvantaged girls and women’s
needs; implementing the Sexuality Education Framework;136 disseminating information on
related policies and laws; and fast-tracking the process of the enactment of the National
Health Insurance Bill (2019).137
63. JS41 stated that sex workers encounter discrimination in accessing the health care system.\textsuperscript{139} It recommended strengthening human rights training for health workers on issues concerning marginalized persons within the healthcare system.\textsuperscript{139} ADF recommended improving healthcare access for women from poor and/or rural backgrounds.\textsuperscript{140}

64. According to AI and ISER, Uganda had been slow in rolling out the National Deployment Vaccination Plan.\textsuperscript{141} It recommended that COVID-19 prevention measures comply with Uganda’s obligations under international law; prioritize vulnerable persons and groups along with the COVID-19 response, including through the National Deployment Vaccination Plan; and ensure good quality COVID-19 vaccines are available to all.\textsuperscript{142}

Right to education\textsuperscript{143}

65. According to several organizations, the funding of the education sector continued to be reduced, thus affecting the quality of education; and schools are operating without enough human resources and with infrastructural constraints.\textsuperscript{144} They recommended increasing the education sector budget,\textsuperscript{145} equipping the public education system,\textsuperscript{146} and implementing the National Teacher Policy 2019 to promote career development for teachers in rural areas.\textsuperscript{147}

66. According to the same organizations, the growing weaknesses in the public education system delivery had opened space to the private sector without an adequate regulatory framework.\textsuperscript{148} They recommended regulating the private education sector, including monitoring their compliance with education standards.\textsuperscript{149}

67. ELIZKA and ISER were concerned about the gap between school enrolment in rural and urban areas, particularly in secondary education.\textsuperscript{150} They recommended guaranteeing universal access to quality primary and secondary education free of any charges or indirect costs.\textsuperscript{151}

68. ISER indicated that the prolonged school closures due to COVID-19 affected millions of students, leading many to drop out.\textsuperscript{152} HRW and JS42 recommended increasing education allocations; ensuring that children deprived of school during the pandemic can continue education;\textsuperscript{153} reviewing the Universal Primary Education and Universal Secondary Education policies to, among others, address low completion rates.\textsuperscript{154} JS13 recommended implementing a national digital agenda to ensure access to online learning for all.\textsuperscript{155}

69. JS13 stated that cultural norms still hamper progress in education for many girls and young women.\textsuperscript{156} Stakeholders recommended implementing the policy of allowing teenage mothers to return to school after giving birth;\textsuperscript{157} providing sanitary towels to all girls undergoing menstruation; ensuring the provision of toilets for girls in all schools;\textsuperscript{158} expediting the approval of the “Inclusive Education” policy,\textsuperscript{159} and adopting the National School Health Policy and Adolescent Health Policy.\textsuperscript{160}

70. JS31 recommended building schools closer to indigenous communities to eliminate barriers for children travelling long distances to access education.\textsuperscript{161}

4. Rights of specific persons or groups

Women\textsuperscript{162}

71. Several stakeholders were concerned about the increased rates of sexual and gender violence during the COVID-19 lockdown and regretted that the responsive measures to COVID-19 were not aligned with the specific needs of women and girls, exposing them to economic insecurity, poverty, abuses and exploitation. They also regretted that most of the cases were unreported, and the victims lack adequate protection and support measures.\textsuperscript{163} They recommended providing legal protection for victims of sexual and gender-based violence; increasing the number of emergency shelters for victims to cover more districts;\textsuperscript{164} and of youth-friendly health centres, in communities and schools, to encourage young women and girls to report cases of violence; bringing perpetrators to justice; ensuring proper enforcement of laws protecting women and girls from violence;\textsuperscript{165} and incorporating in the Domestic Violence Law marital rape.\textsuperscript{166}
72. Some stakeholders regretted that the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act had not been sufficiently implemented, and this practice persisted in some parts of the country.\textsuperscript{167} They recommended carrying out awareness-raising campaigns and other measures to address the socio-economic and cultural factors allowing the prevalence of FGM.\textsuperscript{168}

73. JS23 regretted that thirteen years since the end of the conflict in the North, Uganda has not sufficiently responded to the needs of conflict-related sexual violence survivors.\textsuperscript{169} JS23 recommended investigating and prosecuting all perpetrators for conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence, providing access to free and comprehensive medical and psychological care for survivors and reparations to victims.\textsuperscript{170}

74. JS41 and MAAT stated that patriarchal authority and the traditional view of women limit their ability to enjoy their rights without discrimination.\textsuperscript{171} For example, although the Land Act provided legal protection to a spouse to occupy family land, women continued to be dispossessed of land since they were either forced to give consent or were too poor to pursue legal remedies following the unlawful sale.\textsuperscript{172} They regretted that issuing or transferring of a passport also requires the husband’s written consent. They recommended developing systems for issuing passports, abolishing the husband's consent requirement,\textsuperscript{173} and developing women's ability to enter into credit and financial transactions. They also recommended expediting the implementation of policies and laws on non-discrimination and ensuring girls and women’s participation in key national processes; reviewing all policies, programmes and laws that are discriminatory; improving coordination of ministries working on women rights; and passing the Marriage and Divorce Bill as recommended by CEDAW.\textsuperscript{174}

75. Various stakeholders noted with concern that many women hesitated to participate in elective processes because of the high level of electoral violence that targeted them.\textsuperscript{175} They recommended that the 11\textsuperscript{th} Parliament formulate progressive electoral reforms to enhance women’s participation in political leadership and increasing the percentage of women in public service through strategic affirmative action at the senior management level.\textsuperscript{176}

\textit{Children}\textsuperscript{177}

76. SOS-Children’s village noted that many children lived outside of protective family care or in situations at risk.\textsuperscript{178} JS28 and JS13 were alarmed at the high rates of violence experienced by children, including at schools.\textsuperscript{179} They reported that COVID-19 lockdowns increased rates of child violence and abuse.\textsuperscript{180} They recommended bringing all perpetrators to justice; developing an early detection mechanism for violence against children; supporting social services to children and families in situations of vulnerability; and circulating child-friendly education material on reporting mechanisms.\textsuperscript{181}

77. Various stakeholders were concerned that the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, together with school closures and inadequate government assistance, was pushing children into exploitative and dangerous child labour, which disproportionately affects females. They also noted that many children and adolescents who were temporarily out of school because of the lockdowns have permanently dropped out; and were particularly concerned about increasing cases of teenage pregnancies, rape, and incest. They reported that girls have tried to terminate themselves unwanted pregnancies.\textsuperscript{182} SOS-Children’s Village recommended supporting emergency response and management of COVID-19 through risk communication and community engagement, mental health and psychosocial support to children and young people.\textsuperscript{183}

78. HRW recommended ensuring that children benefit from adequate social security, progressively introducing universal child allowances; and passing laws requiring companies to conduct human rights due diligence throughout their global supply chains to ensure they are not contributing to child labour or other rights abuses.\textsuperscript{184} Stakeholders recommended repealing laws prohibiting access to safe abortion\textsuperscript{185} and implement the Standards and Guidelines for Reduction of Maternal Mortality and Morbidity due to Unsafe Abortion.\textsuperscript{186}

79. JS1 reported that, despite legislation prohibiting corporal punishment, it is still used by many parents and teachers as the primary form of discipline.\textsuperscript{187} JS15 recommended
enacting a law to prohibit all corporal punishment of children in all settings and repeal any legal defence allowing its use.  

80. HRW was concerned that child and forced marriages persist in Uganda. Stakeholders recommended enacting legislation setting a minimum marriage age of 18 for both spouses, and fast-tracking the implementation of the National Strategy to End Child Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy in Uganda.  

81. Stakeholders recommended monitoring schools to ensure girls are not discriminated against or excluded due to pregnancy or parenthood; implementing existing policies under the National Sexuality Education Framework; and ensuring that sexuality education complies with international human rights standards.  

Persons with disabilities

82. Some organizations welcomed the adoption of the Persons with Disabilities Act in 2020. They recommended implementing the Act and related policies, under SDG4, by allocating an appropriate national budget while paying attention to the children with disabilities’ needs; undertaking a comprehensive national awareness-raising plan about the rights of persons with disabilities; strengthening the capacity of ministries, departments and agencies on disability issues to enhance their inclusion in planning; and establishing affirmative action mechanisms to enable persons with disabilities to compete more favourably in job markets.  

83. HRW was concerned that people with psychosocial disabilities in Uganda could be shackled. It recommended to ban shackling; and create and implement a de-institutionalization policy with a time-bound action plan for de-institutionalization, based on the values of equality, independence, and inclusion for persons with disabilities.  

Minorities and indigenous peoples

84. JS31 reported that indigenous and minority peoples in Uganda face barriers in access to basic services, resulting from discrimination, difficulties for accessing its physical environment, and access to information and communication challenges. JS31 regretted the lack of sufficient health centres and health workers in indigenous communities, making their mortality rates worse.  

85. Some organisations indicated that 49.8% of Batwa never went to school according to a population census, and only 0.3% of Batwa had tertiary/University education. Moreover, indigenous peoples, including the Batwa and Benet, have lost their lands to conservation without adequate compensation or resettlement, limiting their ability to generate income. They regretted that the limited access to cultural resources in the protected areas resulted in a loss of the cultural identity of several indigenous peoples.  

86. The same organizations recommended acknowledging the historical injustice faced by the indigenous peoples and adopt national legislation, policies and affirmative action to address the landlessness, marginalization, and discrimination faced by indigenous peoples. They also recommended developing teaching materials in indigenous languages; facilitating the accessing of indigenous peoples, especially the Batwa, to cultural sites; engaging indigenous peoples in policy-making processes to ensure that they benefit from specifically targeted programmes; recognizing indigenous peoples in the Constitution; Ratifying ILO Convention 169; Publicly endorsing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and inviting the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to visit Uganda.  

Migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons

87. AI acknowledged Uganda’s refugee hosting model as one of the most progressive in the world. It regretted, however, that the government closed the country’s borders in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. AI recommended continuing to seek international cooperation and peaceful resolution to conflicts in neighbouring countries to ensure that refugees are provided with shelter and protection.
88. JS27 indicated that in 2015, the Constitutional Court ruled that refugees can acquire Ugandan citizenship by naturalization and not by registration. However, refugees still faced challenges in successfully naturalizing due to the broad discretionary power of the authorities to determine whether to approve naturalization applications. JS27 recommended facilitating access to nationality for protracted refugees and their descendants and adopting legal reforms that provide access to citizenship for those without access to other citizenship.

89. JS30 recommended enhancing access to education services in refugee and post-conflict communities; and supporting and strengthening girl child education in refugee settlements.

Stateless persons

90. JS27 regretted that Uganda does not have a dedicated statelessness determination procedure, and no safeguards exist in national law to prevent statelessness or adequately protect stateless persons. In particular, JS27 was concerned that children faced the risk of statelessness due to discriminatory laws, inter-generational statelessness; and Uganda’s week birth registration system. It also referred to the situation of Children Born of War. Stakeholders recommended amending relevant legislation to recognize the right of children born in Uganda to citizenship, if they would otherwise be stateless; enacting procedural reforms to facilitate universal birth registration by making the process free for all; and removing fines for late birth registration; establishing mobile registration units and raising awareness among the population on the importance of birth registration.

Notes

1 The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: www.ohchr.org.

Civil society

Individual submissions:

- ACCU: Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda;
- ADF International: ADF International (Switzerland);
- ADH: Agence pour les droits de l’homme (Switzerland);
- AHR: The Advocates for Human Rights (United States of America);
- AI: Amnesty International (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- EAWAD: Education with a Difference – Platform (Uganda);
- ECLJ: European Centre for Law and Justice (France);
- Elizka: Elizka Relief Foundation (Ghana);
- FIAN Uganda: FIAN Uganda (Uganda);
- HRF: Human Rights Foundation (United States of America);
- HRW: Human Rights Watch (Switzerland);
- ICAN: International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (Switzerland);
- IHR Council: IHR Council (United States of America);
- ISER Uganda: Initiative for Social and Economic Rights (Uganda);
- JAI: Just Atonement Inc. (United States of America);
- L4L: Lawyers for Lawyers (Netherlands);
- LASPNET: Legal Aid Service Providers Network (Uganda);
- MAAT: MAAT Foundation for Peace, Development and Human Rights (Egypt);
- SOS CV Uganda: SOS Children’s Villages Uganda (Uganda);
- UWONET: Uganda Women’s Network (Uganda).

Joint Submissions

- JS1: Joint submission 1 submitted by: Uganda Child Rights NGO Network (Uganda);
- JS2: Joint submission 2 submitted by: Access Now and Africa Freedom of Information Centre (United States of America/Uganda);
- JS3: Joint submission 3 submitted by: Africa Freedom of Information Centre and National Coalition for Human Rights
Defenders (Uganda);


**JS5**

**Joint submission 5 submitted by:** Africa Institute for Energy Governance, Action for Rural Women’s Empowerment, Center for Constitutional Governance, Civic Response on Environment and Development, Civil Society Coalition on Oil and Gas, Community Transformation Foundation Network, Ecological Trends Alliance, Environment Shield, Environmental Governance Institute, Friends with Environment in Development, Friends of Zoka, Guild Presidents’ Forum on Governance, Oil Refinery Residents Association, World Voices Uganda, Youth for Green Communities (Uganda);

**JS6**

**Joint submission 6 submitted by:** Foundation for Human Rights Initiative and the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (United States of America);

**JS7**


**JS8**

**Joint submission 8 submitted by:** The Cross-Cultural Foundation-Uganda: Ker Kwaro Acholi cultural institution, Alur Kingdom, Rwebisengo Widows Cultural Association, Go Culture Africa, Historic Buildings Conservation Trust, Historic Resources Conservation Initiatives, TEENS Uganda, Buganda Heritage and Tourism Board, Uganda Community Tourism Association, Shalom Arts (Uganda);

**JS9**

**Joint submission 9 submitted by:** Center for Constitutional Governance, Reach A Hand Uganda and the Youth Human Rights Defenders (Uganda);

**JS10**

**Joint submission 10 submitted by:** Center for Health, Human Rights and Development and its 33 contributors (Uganda);

**JS11**

**Joint submission 11 submitted by:** CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Foundation for Human Rights Initiative, Justice Access Point Uganda, African Institute for Investigative Journalism (South Africa/Uganda);

**JS12**

**Joint submission 12 submitted by:** Cultural Survival, American Indian Law Clinic of the University of Colorado, Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment (United States of America/Uganda);

**JS13**

**Joint submission 13 submitted by:** Education Advocacy with a Difference – Platform and Uwezo Uganda (Uganda);

**JS14**

**Joint submission 14 submitted by:** Human Rights Center Uganda, National Coalition for Human Right Defenders Uganda, The East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (Uganda);

**JS15**

**Joint submission 15 submitted by:** End Corporal Punishment and the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (United States of America);
JS16 Joint submission 16 submitted by: Foundation for Human Rights Initiative, African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims, National Coalition for Human Rights Defenders Uganda and Chapter Four Uganda (Uganda);

JS17 Joint submission 17 submitted by: Franciscans International, John Paul II Justice and Peace Centre, The Bright Doves of St. Francis, Caritas Kampala, Ugandan Joint Christian Council (Switzerland/Uganda);

JS18 Joint submission 18 submitted by: The Food Rights Alliance, The Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiations Institute, Caritas Uganda, Community Integrated Development Initiatives and National Youth Advocacy Platform, Uganda Common Voice Farmers’ Platform, Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group, Slow Food Uganda, Hunger Project, Uganda Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services, Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers’ Forum and Consumers’ Education Trust (Uganda);


JS20 Joint submission 20 submitted by: Global Rights Alert and the Civil Society Coalition on Oil and Gas (Uganda);


JS22 Joint submission 22 submitted by: Human Rights Network for Journalists Uganda, Freedom of Expression Hub, the Collaboration on International ICT Policy in East Africa (Uganda);

JS23 Joint submission 23 submitted by: The International Center for Transitional Justice, Avocats Sans Frontières, African Youth Initiative Network, The Refugee Law Project (Uganda);

JS24 Joint submission 24 submitted by: The Uganda Library and Information Association and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (Netherlands/Uganda);


JS26 Joint submission 26 submitted by: International Refugee Rights Initiative, Minority Rights Group, The Uganda Child Rights NGO Network, the International Centre for Transitional Justice, and the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (Netherlands/Uganda);

JS27 Joint submission 27 submitted by: International Refugee
Rights Initiative, Minority Rights Group, The Uganda Child Rights NGO Network, the International Centre for Transitional Justice and the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion (Uganda);

JS28 **Joint submission 28 submitted by:** Jubilee Campaign and Set My People Free (United States of America/United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

JS29 **Joint submission 29 submitted by:** Legal Aid Service Providers Network, Uganda Law Society and National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders Uganda (Uganda);

JS30 **Joint submission 30 submitted by:** Civil society organisations for refugees and asylum seekers (Uganda);

JS31 **Joint submission 31 submitted by:** Jubilee Campaign and Set My People Free (United States of America/United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);


JS33 **Joint submission 33 submitted by:** National Coalition for Human Rights Defenders – Uganda and its 300 other contributors (Uganda);

JS34 **Joint submission 34 submitted by:** Akahata – Equipo de Trabajo en Sexualidades y Géneros (Argentina);

JS35 **Joint submission 35 submitted by:** The National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda and its contributors (Uganda);

JS36 **Joint submission 36 submitted by:** Right Livelihood Award Foundation and Martin Ennals Foundation (Switzerland);

JS37 **Joint submission 37 submitted by:** The PACT, Girls Awake Foundation, Peer to Peer Uganda and Sexual Rights Initiative (Uganda/Canada);

JS38 **Joint submission 38 submitted by:** Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa and Small Media (Uganda/United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Africa);

JS39 **Joint submission 39 submitted by:** The Uganda LBQ Loose Network, CREA and the Sexual Rights Initiative (Uganda/Canada);


JS41 **Joint submission 41 submitted by:** Uganda Women’s
Network, The National Association of Women’s Organisation and the Uganda Association of Women Lawyers (Uganda);


**Joint submission 43 submitted by:** The Salvation Army and the World Evangelical Alliance (Switzerland);

**Joint submission 44 submitted by:** The organisations working on economic, social and cultural rights issues (Uganda);


*National human rights institution*

| 1 | UHRC para. 5. |
| 2 | UHRC para. 8. |
| 3 | UHRC para. 10. |
| 4 | UHRC para. 13. |
| 5 | UHRC para. 17. |
| 6 | UHRC para. 20. |
| 7 | UHRC para. 27. |
| 8 | UHRC para. 31. |
| 9 | UHRC para. 32. |
| 10 | UHRC para. 15. |

The following abbreviations are used in UPR documents:

- **ICERD** International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;
- **ICESCR** International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
- **OP-ICESCR** Optional Protocol to ICESCR;
- **ICCPR** International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- **ICCPR-OP 1** Optional Protocol to ICCPR;
- **ICCPR-OP 2** Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of
For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/34/10, paras. 115.1-115.4, 115.46-115.48, 117.16, 117.21, 117.24 and 117.40.

ICAN, page 1.

AI, para. 4.

HRF, para. 48 (g).

For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/34/10, paras. 115.27-115.34, 115.39-115.43.

JS40, para. 3.2, JS42, paras. 15 and 16.

JS29, paras. 10-12, JS7, page 7.

JS7, page 8, JS29, paras. 13 and 14.

ISER, para. 7.

JS8, paras. 7-9.

JS4, page 4.

For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/34/10, paras. 115.59, 115.60, 115.97, 117.3, 117.4, 117.9, 117.14, 117.23, 117.31, 117.38, 117.46-117.49, 117.58, 117.59, 117.61 and 117.64.

JS27, para. 20.

JS27, para. 44 (I) and (III).

JS10, para. 2.4, JS37, para. 30.

JS42, para. 42.

JS42, para. 19.

JS42, paras. 25 and 26.

JS39, para. 13.

HRF, para. 26, AI, paras. 13 and 33, HRW, page 4, JS40, para. 4.11.


JS39, para. 33.

HRW, page 4.


For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/34/10, paras. 115.134-115.136 and 115.138.

JS25, page 3.

Just Atonement Inc, paras. 15-17.

JS25, pages 5 and 6.

JS42, para. 19, Business and HR: JS7, page 5, ISER, para. 27, JS44, para. 33.

JS7, page 6, ISER, para. 27.

JS20, page 5.

JS7, page 6.

JS20, page 3.

JS5, page 13.


For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/34/10, paras. 115.5-115.7, 115.15, 115.16, 115.81, 115.86-115.88, 115.102, 117.25, 117.32, 117.42, 117.56, 117.60 and 117.62.

JS33, para. 5.2, AI, para. 15.

AI, para. 32.

AI, page 6, JS6, paras. 2 and 26.
17

For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/34/10, paras. 115.82, 115.83 and 116.13.

JS29, para. 33.

JS29, para. 35.


IHRC, para 5.

JS29, paras. 41-45.

JS42, para. 9.

JS42, para. 13.

JS29, para. 29.

JS29, paras. 30, 54, and 63.

HRW, page 7.

JS29, paras. 51 and 52.

JS29, para. 21.

For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/34/10, paras. 115.19, 115.101 and 115.103.


HRF, para. 17.

AI, para. 23, HRW, page 1, HRF, page 17, JS2, page 11, HRF, para. 48 (a) and (d), HRW, page 2.

For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/34/10, paras. 115.15, 115.16 and 115.81.

JS42, para. 7.

JS1, para. 76.

JS17, page 8, JS21, page 6, JS42, paras. 35 and 41, JS9, para. 2.12 (f, g, h, i), ECLJ, para. 18, JS17, page 8, JS21, page 6, JS43, paras. 8 and 10.

For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/34/10, para. 116.14.


ELIZKA, page 3.

ELIZKA, page 3.

JS44, paras. 56 and 57.

JS9, page 7.

JS9, page 2.22 (b).

JS44, para. 49.

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JS44, paras. 54 and 55.

For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/34/10, para. 116.3.

ELIZKA, page 3 and 4.

ISER, para. 16.

ISER, para 15, ELIZKA, page 3 and 4.

JS44, page 4.

ELIZKA, page 4.

ELIZKA, page 4.
For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/34/10, paras. 115.111, 115.112, 115.137, 115.140 and 115.142.

For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/34/10, paras. 115.111, 115.112, 115.137, 115.140 and 115.142.

FIAN, para. 14, FIAN, pages 8 and 9.

ISER, para. 14, FIAN, pages 8 and 9.

ISER, para. 22 and 23, JS1, para. 76.

JS18, para. 2.1.

JS18, para. 2.2, JS18, paras. 2.12 and 2.13.

JS18, paras. 1-6.

AI, para. 30, FIAN, para. 13.

AI, para. 29-31, see also FIAN, pages 4 and 5.

AI, para. 29-31.

AI, page 10, FIAN, pages 4 and 5.

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FIAN, para. 17, see also AI, page 5, HRW page 11.

HRW, page 11.

For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/34/10, paras. 115.113-115.122, 116.2, 116.10, 116.12, 117.5 and 117.36.

AI, para. 9.

ISER, para. 9, ELIZKA, page 2, JS41, para. 11.

JS41, para. 18.

JS41, para. 11, JS10, para. 1.5.

ISER, para. 9, JS41, para. 11, JS10, para. 1.5.

JS10, para. 2.3.

AI, page 5, AI, para.9, ADF, para.16, ADF, para.29 (c).

JS41, para. 18, ELIZKA, page 2, JS39, paras. 5-7.

JS42, para.56.

JS19, page 6.

JS42, paras. 50-52.

JS41, paras. 4.14 and 6.4.

JS40, page 14.

ADF, para. 29 (c).

AI, para. 28, ISER, para. 10.

AI, page 5, ISER, para.11, AI, page 5.

For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/34/10, paras. 115.123, 115.126-115.128.

JS1, para. 28, JS1, para. 28, JS13, para. 1.18, ELIZKA, page 4, JS24, para. 8, ISER, para.13, JS39, para. 29, JS41, paras. 34 and 35, JS42, para. 54, JS44, paras. 18 and 19.

JS13, para. 1.26 (a) and (b).

ISER, para. 13.

JS13, page 8, JS13, para.1.26 (a) and (b).

JS1, para.31, JS13, para. 1.13 (a), ISER, para. 25.

JS1, para. 36.

ELIZKA, page 1, ISER, para. 12.

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JS42, para. 55.

JS13, para. 1.19 (b).

JS13, para. 1.6.

JS13, para. 1.6 (a).

JS13, para. 1.10 (a).

JS13, para. 10 (b), JS41, paras. 38 and 40.

JS9, pages 8 and 9.

JS31, para. 7.1.


JS17, paras. 45 and 55, JS28, para. 54, JS42, para. 39, Violence against women: JS23, para. 74, JS28, para. 54, JS37, para. 26, JS39, paras. 17 and 23, JS41, para. 31, JS42, para. 73, MAAT, page 5.

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JS17, para. 56.

JS17, para. 57 (e), JS41, paras. 86-94, ECLJ, para. 17.
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169 JS23, para. 72.
170 JS23, paras. 75-77.
171 JS41, para. 32, MAAT, page 8.
172 JS41, para. 69.
173 MAAT, page 8.
174 JS35, page 6, JS41, para. 68, JS19, page 5.
175 JS41, para. 53.
176 JS41, paras. 56,57 and 60, JS42, para. 20 and 29, MAAT, page 1, JS41, para. 51.
177 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/34/10, paras. 115.14, 115.20, 115.58, 115.71, 115.78-115.80, 115.98 and 116.2.
178 SOS Children’s Village, para. 11.
179 JS28, see also JS13, para. 1.3.
180 JS28, see also JS13, para. 1.3 and 2.5.
181 JS28, see also JS13, para. 1.3.
182 ISER, para. 3, SOS Children’s Village, page 6, JS37, para. 27, JS28, paras. 66 and 68, JS13, paras. 1.5 and 2.5.
183 SOS Children’s Village, page 6.
184 HRW, pages 7 and 8.
185 JS9, pages 8 and 9.
186 JS39, paras. 5-7, JS10, page 6.
187 JS1, para. 32.
188 JS15, para. 1.3.
189 JS19, page 6, HRW, page 9.
190 HRW, page 9.
191 JS19, page 6, JS41, para. 37.
192 JS19, page 6, JS41, para. 38.
193 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/34/10, paras. 115.21, 115.129-115.131 and 116.18.
195 JS35, page11.
196 JS35, page 12.
197 JS42, paras. 57 and 58.
198 HRW, page 11.
199 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/34/10, para. 117.22.
200 JS31, para. 1.3.
201 JS31, para. 4.2.
202 JS33, para. 1.7, JS31, para. 1.3 and JS8, page 6.
203 JS33, page 4, JS33, para. 5, JS31, para. 7.3, JS33, page 4, JS33, para. 5.
204 JS31, para. 7.0.
205 JS12, paras. 12.1, 12.7, 12.10, and 12.14-12.16.
206 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/34/10, paras. 115.132 and 115.133.
207 AI, para. 36.
208 AI, para. 37.
209 AI, page 5.
210 JS27, para. 33.
211 JS27, page 12.
212 JS30, pages 4 and 5.
213 For relevant recommendations see A/HRC/34/10, paras. 115.99 and 115.100.
214 JS27, paras. 11 and 12.
215 JS27, para. 18.
216 JS27, para. 35, JS1, para. 15.
217 JS27, page 12, JS1, paras. 20 and 21, JS27, para. 44 II.