

# Uganda: Violence against Women and Information and Communication Technologies

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## **Preface**

Information and communication technologies (ICT) are changing the ways women experience and confront violence. Despite this, there has been little attention paid to issues arising from the intersection of ICT and violence against women. The Association for Progressive Communications Women's Networking Support Programme (APC WNSP) regards this intersection as a critical site of intervention both for women's rights activists and those working in the ICT development and policy arena. In this context, the APC WNSP commissioned the following overview paper as part of its 12-country project, "Strengthening women's organisations use of ICTs to end violence against women and girls" supported by the Dutch government's MDG3 Fund to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. The two-and-a-half year project is being carried out in Africa, Asia and Latin America and includes ICT technical training, support for ICT-enabled initiatives to end violence against women and policy advocacy. Papers from each of the participating countries provide an initial scoping of the current state of ICTs and violence against women to generate further reflection, discussion and action by stakeholders in women's rights and ICT arenas. While the research undertaken in the writing of the country papers is not exhaustive, reports do map the existing legislation and policy landscape in both areas, provide examples of strategic use of ICTs to end VAW, highlight incidents of VAW perpetrated via ICT and unearth specific concerns regarding women's rights with the emergence of new technologies. The papers are a starting point for learning and exploration and a step towards increased awareness of the potential and risks of ICT in each country.

Opinions expressed in the paper are those of the author(s) and do not represent the opinion of APC WNSP.

For more information about the "Strengthening women's organisations use of ICTs to end violence against women and girls" project visit [www.apcwomen.org/ictstoendvaw](http://www.apcwomen.org/ictstoendvaw) or write [ictstoendvaw@apcwomen.org](mailto:ictstoendvaw@apcwomen.org).

## **Executive summary**

Uganda's national constitution guarantees freedom of expression, provides for gender equality and affirmative action for women and outlaws discrimination based on sex. But enacting laws is slow and on going. The National Gender Policy recommends gender mainstreaming as a strategy for addressing gender imbalances. Uganda also has a National Equal Opportunities Policy. It has ratified CEDAW and the Beijing Platform. Of a total population of over 32 million people, there are an estimated 8 million mobile subscribers in Uganda and 2 million PC internet users but no gender-disaggregated statistics are available.

### **Violence against women**

Traditional and extended family systems may provide checks and balances that ensure women's security of tenure but they can also threaten women's safety and security. Cultural practices include female genital mutilation, early marriage, widow inheritance, forceful property grabbing from widows and orphans. Domestic violence prevalence is estimated at 57% and sexual violence at 61%. The majority of the violence against women is committed by an intimate partner. Twenty-four percent of women say their first sexual intercourse was forced against their will. Paying bride price, which is still widely practiced in Uganda, is used to legitimise domestic violence against women. Ongoing military violence in Northern Uganda sees women experiencing rape and related social and health diseases.

### **VAW and ICTs**

Privacy invasion through SMS stalking and monitoring and control by spouses is growing. Men control women's use of mobile phones and give or withhold permission to their wives to use them, when and how. The link between mobile phones and killing of women are not incidents in isolation. Some women have acquired two SIM cards to forestall domestic violence. This is a sign of women's empowerment as telephones provide a means through which to break male control by opening contacts to the outside world. Women use mobiles to contact police officers in the event of domestic violence. Women's organisations use the internet in combination with TV, radio, newspapers and other print media to highlight VAW. Sexual minorities have a presence on the internet to articulate their concerns members and raise awareness.

Uganda's ICT policy emphasises private-sector-led growth. This implies that government theoretically plays only a regulatory role leaving actual ICT development to private firms. Uganda's National ICT Policy has gender provisions but the absence of a gender sensitive monitoring and evaluation mechanism makes it difficult to implement such provisions. The Rural Communications Development Policy providing for the establishment of the Rural ICT Access Fund is totally gender blind.

Information on the intersection of VAW and ICT is still scanty though there are emerging sources and anecdotes. Three draft laws relating to ICTs pay limited attention to gender in general and do not address gender-based violence. Cybercrime laws are just being proposed, with the Computer Misuse Bill criminalising child pornography but ignoring adult pornography. There is more focus on child protection online than on issues of violence against women.

## **Recommendations**

### **Civil society**

Carry out ICT policy advocacy to ensure that all national ICT-related policies respond to gender needs; promote strategic use of ICTs to combat VAW in educational institutions; forge a strong public-private partnership around issues of VAW; promote use of mobile phones in reporting VAW and providing safety and services; train domestic violence advocates in the use of technology; conduct deep and nuanced research into connection between VAW and ICTs

### **Government**

Support reports including provision of toll free call; explore working with law enforcement agencies to track people that use ICTs to perpetuate VAW while ensuring that surveillance will not be used to abuse freedoms and women's privacy in particular; recognise that VAW is anchored within the broader societal systems that privilege men over women; put in place ways of enabling women to acquire the technologies they need and use them as they wish.

## 1. Overview

Uganda's national constitution guarantees freedom of expression, provides for gender equality and affirmative action for women and outlaws discrimination based on sex. In spite of this, the enactment of laws to make the 1995 constitution fully operational is moving slowly, especially for gender specific laws. For instance the Domestic Relations Bill whose process started in the 1960s is yet to be enacted by parliament, legislation on violence against women is pending and the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) is the only commission that has never been set up since the promulgation of the new constitution over fifteen years ago.

While traditional and extended family systems may provide checks and balances that ensure women's security of tenure, customary and cultural practices threaten women's safety and security at the same time. For example the cultural practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) in the highlands of eastern Uganda, early marriage, widow inheritance, forceful property appropriation from widows and orphans and domestic violence (which affects 40-45% of marriages) are common (Ellis et al 2006). A hospital-based study among expectant mothers put domestic violence prevalence at 57% (Kaye et al 2005). Some of these violent practices are important issues for women in Uganda who may be both victims and perpetrators such as in FGM and in relations between married women and the mothers of their husbands, or housewives and housemaids.

The Uganda Demographic and Household Survey 2006 report shows that 60% of women in Uganda and 59% of married women have experienced physical violence since age fifteen mostly perpetuated by their husband or partner. Similarly 59% of married women have experienced physical or sexual violence at the hands of their husband or partner (UBOS and Macro International 2007a). While 61% of the rural women reported instances of violence against women (VAW), 54% are located in the urban areas showing that the phenomenon cuts across the urban-rural divide. The majority of violence against women is committed by an intimate partner. Two thirds of women who have experienced physical violence since age fifteen say that an intimate partner committed violence against them, while 16% of women reported having experienced physical violence during pregnancy with women in rural areas being three times more likely than urban women to experience violence during pregnancy. Sexual violence begins the first time a woman has sexual intercourse and as such 24% of women say their first sexual intercourse was forced against their will (UBOS and Macro International 2007b).

Other forms of VAW in the country include burning, ritual murders, robberies, adultery/extra marital relations and verbal abuse. Cases of sexual violence include rape directed at lesbians or cited as a result of "sexual starvation" implying unreasonable denial of sex to a partner over a long period of time.

Ironically, even when available anecdotes show that VAW is a widespread phenomenon, the Uganda Law Reform Commission, which is charged with reforming laws of Uganda, is apparently still examining the nature and extent of domestic violence, victims and perpetrators, causes and possible interventions in order to propose a domestic violence law (Ellis et al 2006). Domestic violence disempowers women and negatively affects women's health and productivity, sometimes

resulting in death. Paying bride price, still a popular practice in Uganda, is used to legitimise domestic violence against women (Ellis et al 2006, Kaye et al 2005). Many Ugandans perceive bride price as indicating that a woman has been “bought” into the man’s household, which reduces her household decision-making role, limits independence and perpetuates unequal gender power relations (Kaye et al 2005).

Information on the intersection of VAW and ICT is still limited, though there are emerging sources and anecdotes. One source shows that cyber crime is growing in Uganda. A study on myths and realities of cyber crime in Uganda alarmingly concluded that 90% of internet users in Uganda have suffered losses caused by Internet crimes while 25% confessed to having initiated cyber crimes (Tushabe and Baryamureeba 2005). While the study does not disaggregate data by gender, its claims are worthy of attention. In spite of the belief that cyber crimes are escalating there are no substantive laws to counter the trend. Three draft cyber laws, namely the Computer Misuse, the Electronic Transactions and the Electronic Signatures Bills have been tabled in parliament in 2009. One critical comment is that these bills pay very limited attention to gender in general and no attention to gender-based violence. Of the three, only the Electronic Signatures Bill has one direct reference to females in section 86 (4), which is in respect to a search warrant for suspected offenders. It states that “a female person shall not be searched under this section except by another female person.” The pre-occupation of the bills is with e-government, e-commerce and data protection and the bills remain quite oblivious to the social and gender context.

A study of gender relations and adoption of computing and mobile telephony in two districts of eastern Uganda shows that the link between ICT and VAW is double edged. On one hand, the phenomenon of e-partners is beginning to emerge, especially among young women and men. While some couples married through meaningful relationships cultivated through internet connections or in relations mediated by mobile telephony, it is also possible that some of these relations have ended badly. Some women learned to distinguish between quacks and real contacts, but it is not known to what extent. The same study has found that women use mobile phones to contact police officers in the event of domestic violence to ask for help and indeed some men’s aggression has been checked for fear of being apprehended (Madanda 2009).

A range of women’s organisations in Uganda have also used the internet in combination with television, radio, newspapers and other print media to highlight VAW including rape, victimisation and harassment by security agencies. For example, a website by Makerere University lesbian students proclaims that they are an association of students to fight for rights of lesbians and gays.<sup>2</sup> The internet has also been used by sexual minorities to disseminate information about their work, mission, as well as court victories and rulings.<sup>3</sup> Another organisation, Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG),<sup>4</sup> an umbrella organisation for lesbian, gay, transgender and bisexual (LGTB) people, also has a presence on the internet through which it articulates concerns of members and raises awareness.

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<sup>2</sup> See: [www.geocities.com/muslauganda/muslauganda.html](http://www.geocities.com/muslauganda/muslauganda.html).

<sup>3</sup> See: [www.hivos.nl/english/content/download/7637/50427/file/Press%20Release%20Uganda%20Human%20Rights%20Court](http://www.hivos.nl/english/content/download/7637/50427/file/Press%20Release%20Uganda%20Human%20Rights%20Court)

<sup>4</sup> See: [www.smug.4t.com/](http://www.smug.4t.com/)

Within the domestic sphere, information available indicates that whereas ICT is a good avenue for opening virtual spaces for women's reach to the outer world, it can also be associated with male control and VAW. For instance, in some homes spouses control women's use of mobile phones and dictate when and how their wives use them. In some cases, there has been violence triggered around mobile phones including death. The link between mobile phones and killing of women is not just in isolated cases. There are chilling stories in the media and Uganda's entertainment industry detailing such incidents. For instance, in the story *Man Kills Wife Over Love SMS* aired on New Vision, Monday 15 December 2008, Abdulkarim Ssengendo describes a man who smashed the head of his wife causing her death because he had allegedly read a love SMS on her mobile.<sup>5</sup> Honourable Godi Akbar, a Member of Parliament for Arua Municipality in northern Uganda, is currently in court accused of murdering his wife, Rehema Nasur, on December 3, 2008 on Kayunga Road in Mukono district. He reportedly shot her twice using his pistol. Godi complained of having read text messages in his wife's phone from her lover. The wife had also reported to police that Godi had on many occasions threatened to kill her through SMS messages.<sup>6</sup> Singers have also composed music on conflict around mobile telephones. An example is a song in Luganda by Fred Sebbaale named *Akasimu* or "a phone." Whereas the lyrics are in a Ugandan Luganda language, the video available on YouTube tells the story of a domestic dispute triggered by the use of mobile phones.<sup>7</sup>

While male control over women's use of mobile phones is widespread, many women who have control over resources do not necessarily need permission from anyone to use their phones. A study in Iganga and Mayuge districts of Uganda found that some women have acquired two SIM cards to forestall domestic violence. One line is used at home or when with the husband, and given to people considered "safe" even if they call when the spouse is around. The second number is given to all and sundry including those who would cause suspicion if they were to call when the husband is present. This line is received when in office or in the absence of the husband (Madanda 2009). There are many violence-related tales. For example: fighting has been reported and phones smashed. There have been separations and divorces around mobile phone conflicts. Although local council leaders state that most cases in their courts are about spousal neglect, telephone-related cases are new but increasing, particularly affecting young male adults and their spouses (Madanda 2009).

Marital problems, quarrels, separations, divorce and broken relationships have also been blamed on telephones. There are feelings that previously women used to consult their husbands on everything but with mobile telephones, women have direct contact to others and make independent decisions. It can be argued that this is a sign of women's empowerment as telephones provide a means through which to break male control by opening contacts to the outside world. Indeed some women were using their telephones to call police officers to intervene during

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<sup>5</sup> Abdulkarim Ssengendo "Man kills wife over love sms" The New Vision 15 December 2008 [www.newvision.co.ug/D/8/12/664815](http://www.newvision.co.ug/D/8/12/664815)

<sup>6</sup> A print media story with a photo from their wedding is available here: [www.monitor.co.ug/artman/publish/news/Godi\\_trial\\_State\\_lines\\_up\\_ballistics\\_evidence\\_86006.shtml](http://www.monitor.co.ug/artman/publish/news/Godi_trial_State_lines_up_ballistics_evidence_86006.shtml)

<sup>7</sup> Fred Sebbaale: *Akasimu* [www.youtube.com/watch?v=fAha3XvLSbI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fAha3XvLSbI)



situations of domestic violence. The telephones were therefore tearing down formal structures providing women with direct access to authorities for help (Madanda 2009).

In homes, men dominate to the extent that they control mobile telephone adoption through permutations of threats, coercion and gender-based violence. Mobile telephones are not only communicative tools but also instruments of monitoring and control. Some women who earn high incomes from use of mobile telephones also hand the money to their husbands to keep conjugal peace. In a way, computers and telephones are reinforcing existing gender asymmetries. Therefore, the impact of adoption of ICT on gender relations is mixed. While on one hand ICTs enhance women's empowerment, existing patriarchal privilege is also being reinforced. It is unclear how gender relations will be affected as adoption levels rise. Gender ideologies and stereotypes ensure that women are constrained either through compliance or coercion and violence both in the public and domestic arena of adoption (Madanda 2009). Most subscribers for mobile phone services in Uganda are on prepaid services that keep no records of the callers. While this arrangement provides freedom and enjoyment of liberty, it is potentially difficult to trace abusers.

New social tensions, criminality and gender-based violence have grown around mobile telephony. The ease with which pornography can be accessed through the internet chills those that believe their moral fibre is being torn apart by foreign erotic material and nudity (Madanda 2009).

## **2. Legal and policy framework**

In relation to the Millennium Development Goal Three, to "promote gender equality and empower women," there are a number of policies and legislation in Uganda to that effect. Uganda's constitution provides for equality between women and men and for affirmative action. Chapter four of the constitution is devoted to protection of fundamental and other human rights and freedoms and there are specific provisions that relate to gender. Chapter XV of the National Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy states that: "the state shall recognise the significant role that women play in society." Article 21 (2) of the Constitution of Uganda states that: "a person shall not be discriminated against on the ground of sex..." Article 32 (1) states that: "... the state shall take affirmative action in favour of groups marginalised on the basis of gender, ... or any other reason created by history, tradition or custom, for the purpose of redressing imbalances which exist against them."

Article 33 (1-5) states that:

Women shall be accorded full and equal dignity of the person with men; the state shall provide the facilities and opportunities necessary to enhance the welfare of women to enable them to realise their full potential and advancement; the state shall protect women and their rights, taking into account their unique status and natural maternal functions in society; women shall have the right to equal treatment with men and that right shall include equal opportunities in political, economic and social activities; ... women shall have the right to affirmative action for the purpose of redressing the imbalances created by history, tradition or custom; laws, cultures, customs or traditions which are against the dignity, welfare or interest of women or which undermine their status, are prohibited ...

Uganda also ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1985 without any reservations (Ellis et al 2006).

Government approved the first National Gender Policy (NGP) in 1997 and issued a second one in 2007 along with The National Plan of Action on Women 2007 following the National Equal Opportunities Policy 2006. The NGP recommends gender mainstreaming as a strategy for addressing gender imbalances. Gender mainstreaming is a strategy that was established at the Fourth United Nations International Conference on Women held in Beijing, China in 1995.

Commenting on the strategy, Helen Derbyshire writes that:

Mainstreaming gender equality is a commitment to ensuring that women's and girls' as well as men's and boys' concerns and experiences are integral to the design, monitoring and evaluation of all legislation, policies and programmes in all circumstances. The aim is to ensure that women and girls and men and boys benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated (Derbyshire 2003).

Uganda's National Information and Communication Technology policy defines ICT broadly as "technologies that provide an enabling environment for physical infrastructural and services development for generation, transmission, and processing, storing and disseminating information in all forms, including voice, text, data, graphics and video" (ROU 2003:8). ICTs consist of traditional and modern technologies including radio, television, mobile and fixed telephones, letters, posters, brochures, and computers. As is the case for many developing nations which take their inspiration from international neoliberal economic thinking, Uganda's ICT policy emphasises private sector led growth. This implies that government theoretically plays only a regulatory role leaving actual ICT development to private firms. This stance is in consonance with the thinking that individual freedom is paramount in ICT innovation. Contrary to the common view that gender exclusion is the norm, Uganda's National ICT Policy has gender provisions. Section 2.3 shows that its rationale is to "stimulate industrial growth, commerce, infrastructure and linkage of rural and urban communities as well as uplifting of disadvantaged groups, while taking care of gender balance" (ROU 2003:11). Gender balance is a quantitative measure, which focuses on the number of women and men. Section 3.3.5 addresses communication infrastructure, and names the National Cultural Centre, under the Ministry of Labour, Gender and Social Development to coordinate activities of performing artists in the country. In consonance with the National Gender Policy, policy objective 4.2(x) aims "to ensure gender mainstreaming in information and communication programmes and in ICT development."

The policy pledges to "ensure that facilities for communication are provided at levels of cost, which match the ability of their users to pay, so as to reduce gender and spatial disparities in information access." Strategies for gender mainstreaming are listed as:

- Taking into account gender information needs and interests of both men and women in all information and communication programmes
- Developing mechanisms of increasing women's access to information especially in rural areas so as to reduce the gender information gap
- Use of non-discriminative gender sensitive language in information and communication programmes
- And ensuring equal participation in all aspects of ICT development.

However, analyses of the policy suggest that the absence of a gender sensitive monitoring and evaluation mechanism makes it difficult to implement the gender specific provisions (Bakesha 2006 and Madanda 2006).

Another important policy is the Rural Communications Development Policy (RCDP), 2001 which provides for the establishment of the Rural ICT Access Fund and aims to provide access to affordable basic communication services within reasonable distance to all people in Uganda. Uganda's RCDP has been internationally acclaimed and showcased by multilateral institutions including the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) as a best practice model for ensuring ICT accessibility to poor rural populations in low income countries (UCC 2005 and Parkinson 2005). But, in stark contradiction with the intentions of major national initiatives like the Constitution, the NGP and the national ICT policy, the RCDP is totally gender blind. Moreover a study conducted in fourteen districts of Uganda found that government subsidies provided to the rural areas under the policy by the end of 2006 had never been extended to any women's organisation (Madanda et al, 2007). Furthermore, district capitals which are the first targets for the RCDP expanded services and hubs to surrounding areas, are all in urban areas thereby failing to address the rural-urban divide in ICT accessibility. Thus, whereas Uganda's overall national ICT policy environment is defined by a gender sensitive constitution and a national ICT policy which recommends gender mainstreaming, some related ICT policies have no cognisance of gender needs, though it is possible to address gender at implementation even when such a move has no firm guarantees (Madanda et al 2007 and Hafkin 2002).

Cybercrime laws in Uganda are just being proposed. The only gender specific provision in the proposed law is in respect to searching which is section 86 (4) of the Electronic Signatures Bill, 2008, and states: "a female person shall not be searched under this section except by another female person." A related aspect is in another proposed cyber law, the Computer Misuse Bill, 2008, which criminalises child pornography but ignores adult pornography. Section 20(1-3) states that:

A person who produces child pornography for the purposes of its distribution through a computer system; offers or makes available child pornography through a computer system; distributes or transmits child pornography through a computer system; procures child pornography through a computer system for himself or herself or another person; possesses child pornography on a computer system or on a computer-data storage medium commits an offence. The bill adds that: child pornography includes pornographic material that visually depicts:

a child engaged in sexually suggestive and explicit conduct; a person appearing to be a child engaged in sexually suggestive and explicit conduct; or realistic images representing children engaged in sexually suggestive and explicit conduct.

### **3. Key issues on VAW and ICT in Uganda**

Information on the intersection of VAW and ICT in Uganda is beginning to emerge. There is awareness that the internet can be a useful tool to get information about gender-based violence as well as raise awareness around such issues to the general public and the global community. Mobile phones have provided women with an opportunity to circumvent domestication by opening links with the outside world for business, social networking and reporting or obtaining support in abusive relationships. However, in spite of the potential and actual opportunities provided by ICT, there are some emerging negative trends especially when ICT is used to entrench gender stereotypes and existing unequal power relations in the communities.

For instance the rapid adoption of mobile telephones has been accompanied with growing vices, including a growing invasion of privacy through SMS stalking, monitoring and control of spouses. Women are expected to be available at all times and account for their whereabouts wherever contacted by their spouses. Alongside this has been the growing number of gender-based violence cases triggered around phone use, including fights, battering, psychological torture, separations, divorces and death. Whereas this seems to be a growing phenomenon, there is less discussion of the link between mobile telephony and violence against women as companies, governments and development agencies push for their adoption and use without placing much attention on the negative aspects of it.

While there are an estimated eight million mobile subscribers in Uganda, internet users are estimated at about two million and data on PCs is not available as is on the gender distribution of users of ICT in the country. Even with the internet use, ever-present pornography and internet-based abuses are of concern to some, though less discussed in the Ugandan public. As is articulated in the proposed cyber law on computer misuse, there is more focus on child protection online than on issues of violence against women. This could be because of the low penetration of the internet, thereby making the current focus to be more on expanding accessibility than focusing on issues of abuse. But even with a higher mobile phone penetration, there seems to be less focus on the issues. Gender-based violence is recognised, but the government is more laid back when dealing with such issues. It seems an issue that has attracted more attention is defilement, which is, sex with a female below the age of 18 irrespective of the age of the male offender. This is where many offenders have been apprehended. However, an active women's movement has been quite articulate and to some degree effective in compelling authorities to act on visible VAW cases through raising the issues in the various media.

#### **4. Best practices**

There are a range of examples which have demonstrated that the use of the internet, websites, email, SMS and mobile phones is useful in cutting through bureaucratic barriers that are faced in addressing VAW and mobilising local, national and international attention. Below are four case studies of best practice in Uganda.

##### **4.1 Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET) and the use of SMS in raising awareness on VAW.**

ICTs have been used in the struggle against VAW in Uganda by WOUGNET. WOUGNET administers discussion lists to which subscribers contribute free of charge. Some discussion lists are administered by WOUGNET members and are used for advocacy purposes; for example, the women's movement list and the list for the task force of the African Protocol on Women's Rights. Both discussion lists share and discuss gender and rights related issues. The WOUGNET mailing lists stimulate debate and discussions and are accessed by a wide audience including policy makers, parliamentarians, civil society actors as well bilateral and multilateral donor agencies. Through the lists, topics on VAW are discussed widely and women's organisations have used them to raise awareness on VAW, to report abuse and to mobilise support for action.

WOUGNET has also used SMS for advocacy to participate in the global campaigns in support of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence in 2007 and 2008 that run from November to December each year. On each of the sixteen days, SMS messages are dispatched on topical issues and some of the responses are also sent out to subscribers. In order to increase the scope of the outreach effort as well as to integrate mobile and internet applications, all SMS messages posted or received during these campaigns are posted to a blog on the WOUGNET website. The campaigns have drawn participants from over twenty countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America thereby integrating the Ugandan perspective with the international activism on violence against women. The above campaigns were carried out in partnership with Association of Progressive Communications (APC), the East African Sub Regional Support Initiative (EASSI) and Raising Voices and attracted 740 participants with 487 on them women. In 2007 the SMS campaign had 281 females, 1 male and 149 anonymous participants while in 2008, there were 177 females, 107 males and 24 anonymous participants.<sup>8</sup>

SMS has also been used to support women rights organisations to send out awareness messages in commemorations of on International Women's Day celebrations and to stand up as a unified voice against cases of gender-based violence. A peaceful demonstration against the escalation of cases of violence against women in form of domestic violence and sexual violence (defilement and rape) was carried out by women and men in civil society organisations on 10 June 2008 to put the plight of women on the government agenda. SMS was used to mobilise people for the demonstration.

The above examples show that SMS can strategically be used to promote women's rights. Using SMS is relatively affordable and enables many people to speak out on issues of concern to them, even without internet connectivity. The women's day campaign was carried out in collaboration with EASSI and drew participants from 21 countries: Austria, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, Trinidad and Tobago, Kenya, South Africa, Zanzibar, Zimbabwe, Burundi, Gambia, Cameroon, Nigeria, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. A total of 246 people participated, 40 male and 206 female. Following the demonstration women and civil society organisations organised a press conference and presented a petition to the Speaker of Parliament and other law makers calling upon them to hasten the enactment of laws that protect women and children against all forms of violence.

#### **4.2 Two examples from the Isis-Women's International Cross-Cultural Exchange (Isis-WICCE)**

The Isis-WICCE examples demonstrate instances where internet and email were leveraged and played a critical role in addressing violence against women. The case studies were compiled by Isis-WICCE.

Women have mobilised to advocate against violation of collective and individual rights. Two successful stories in Uganda bear testimony. The first relates to the failure of justice in a case involving a man who perpetually battered his wife Margaret and eventually killed her mother and sister. In this case, the victim had failed to access justice due to the rampant corruption in the

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<sup>8</sup> Information on WOUGNET SMS Campaigns is available at: [www.wougnet.org/cms/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=blogcategory&id=63&Itemid=104](http://www.wougnet.org/cms/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=63&Itemid=104)

relevant organs that were responsible for assisting her. Isis-WICCE came to learn about the case through its rural women information units where the use of tape recorders enabled Isis-WICCE to access rural women's concerns. In this particular case, Isis-WICCE used the recorded information to contact the relevant government organs but in vain. Isis-WICCE then shared the information with its global online human rights networks. The World Organisation Against Torture based in Geneva took up the matter and registered it as a Uganda case that needed government response (UG020699/VAW). Many other networks demanded justice from the government of Uganda. It was only then that this case was given the urgency it required and justice was eventually done. This is a success story depicting the power of the internet in fighting against violence and abuse of women's rights.

Another case involves a traditional rite in the Buganda Kingdom that if carried out would have violated the rights of a 13-year-old girl in the name of culture. The Uganda women's movement took it up and strategised via email interaction to reverse the decision by cultural loyalists. Isis-WICCE shared and called for support from its global networks through Uganda-Online. An outcry ignited when the case was made public, a success achieved and initiated through email advocacy. As such, the little girl was saved from the ritual she was to perform and went back to school. Meanwhile, a rite that had existed for centuries in the kingdom was done away with by kingdom loyalists. The above examples are clear evidence to show that indeed ICTs are vital tools in fighting VAW<sup>9</sup>

#### **4.3 Action Aid programme on VAW in northern Uganda**

Another example is the Action Aid Uganda office, story that was carried in the Guardian Newspaper 7 March 2008 where ICTs were used to curb violence against women .<sup>10</sup> Action Aid Uganda launched a three-month programme in the Lira in northern Uganda district focusing on violence against women, empowering women by providing them with information on access to justice. Discussion groups were initiated to assess factors that hindered women's access to justice against violence. A radio listeners' club for women was set up providing information on where to go for help on issues ranging from land rights to sexual violence. Two hundred radios were distributed to women who could listen to the show together. The police force was also engaged, equipping them with 100 training manuals and sexual assault information collection kits to help when women came to them with claims of abuse. Six police kiosks were constructed to give women a private area in which to talk and report cases of violence.

Overall, the programme was a success as it increased the number of women reporting violence cases to police and other authorities. There is no hard evidence to support a reduction or increase in the number of incidents, but three months after the programme there was a dramatic increase in the number of cases reported to the police, from 30 cases to 315 indicating that more women were not only accessing services but also using them.

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<sup>9</sup>Ruth Ojambo Empowerment of Women through Internet: the Africa Women Experience Paper Presented on International Women's Day Geneva: International Telecommunications Union 8th March 2000

<sup>10</sup>Mark King, "Violence Against Women in Uganda" guardian.co.uk 7 March 2008  
[www.guardian.co.uk/society/katineblog/2008/mar/07/violenceagainstwmeninugan](http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/katineblog/2008/mar/07/violenceagainstwmeninugan)

Testimonies of the results from the programme were also reported. Apio, one of the survivors of violence reported, "My husband cut me on the neck with a machete but when I was in hospital I wrote to the police and ordered them to release him because I needed someone to look after me. Before he was released, however, he was cautioned and we underwent counseling together. This would never have happened before the programme."

Another survivor, Hellen Odwor, also reported, "It is very different here now. My husband doesn't raise his hand to me anymore and instead we talk about our problems."

#### **4.4 Mayuge Women using mobiles to fight VAW**

During doctoral research field interviews carried out in Mayuge district of eastern Uganda in mid 2007 by Aramanzan Madanda, women explained how they use their mobile phones to forestall VAW. It was reported that when the head of the Uganda Police Force visited Mayuge district, women complained about domestic violence and were given a hotline to contact him whenever there was a problem. It was reported that some women had taken the opportunity and called him. In turn the police sent in officers to intervene to the chagrin of some residents. Some women have also telephoned local police contacts and other authorities to help in situations of violence against them. By providing the opportunity for such grassroots action to access law enforcement help from the highest office possible, mobile telephones are playing a critical role in knocking down bureaucracy and are showing their potential for addressing gender based violence. <sup>11</sup>

The above examples demonstrate how various ICTs can be harnessed in the fight against VAW and for promoting women's empowerment. They show how the disabling nature of bureaucracy can be navigated to raise issues of concern to even the international level, sometimes drawing attention of the highest authorities leading to inevitable action. The examples also raise the issue of affordability as shown in the WOUGNET example where use of SMS enabled many who would not afford to take part because SMS is relatively cheaper than internet. The innovative communal approach used by Action Aid shows how building solidarity amongst women enhances their power through collective action. It is important though to note like in the Mayuge and other examples, that the initial motivation to address VAW came from women and not the technology. This means that the wider initiatives aimed at remedying structural obstacles that would make victims suffer in silence need to be included. This is where ICT can play a role as well by igniting the confidence and support for redress of abused women's rights.

### **5. Action points**

ICT policy advocacy should be conducted on a continuous basis to ensure that all national ICT related policies respond to gender needs as well. For instance, Uganda's National ICT Policy has provisions for gender mainstreaming in line with the constitution. But the crucial Rural Communications Development Policy under which access to underserved areas that form most of the country is totally gender blind and does not mention women or gender anywhere. Most of the proposed cyber laws now in the process of being enacted by parliament do not recognise gender.

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<sup>11</sup>Source: Aramanzan Madanda, doctoral research interview notes July 2007

Continuous ICT policy advocacy is necessary to ensure that all related policies pay attention to gender and especially VAW, which is not explicit.

There is need to target and promote strategic use of ICTs to combat VAW in educational institutions. There is significant presence of sexual harassment and severe limitations on girls' and women's use of the internet and mobile phones in schools, ostensibly because there is a belief that they will get spoiled. Yet schools are a critical point of first contact with ICTs. Strategic use of ICT at this level targeted at VAW can bear huge returns as schools also contain the largest number of youths. Educational programmes that show the value as well as raise issues of abuse will be necessary.

There is also a need to forge a strong public-private partnership around issues of gender and VAW in particular. Telecommunications companies and government in Uganda seem not to be focusing seriously on addressing any possible negative effects that arise from technology adoption. Rather, they seem to be preoccupied with profits, licensing and tax collection, namely with the so-called development part of the argument. This partnership could include initiatives that bring down the cost of access and particularly internet access where prices are still largely prohibitive to the majority of users and would-be adopters.

There is a need to promote use of mobile phones in reporting VAW. Individual women and girls need to be provided with help to report abuse. This can be through toll free call lines and local contacts with authorities to forestall violence. Some women are already using their phones to consult authorities to forestall VAW on their own.

While surveillance can be used to abuse freedoms and women's privacy in particular, there is need to explore the possibility of working with law enforcement agencies to track people that use the internet and mobile phones to perpetuate VAW such as online verbal abuses, cyber bullying, cyber stalking, human trafficking and other crimes against women and girls. Necessary laws will have to be enacted as the relevant laws regarding telephone surveillance and using communications evidence in courts of law are just being proposed. However, care should be taken such that a preoccupation with security does not compromise individual freedoms by ensuring that there are necessary safeguards in the law as well as robust activism against any excesses.

There is need to recognise that violence against women is anchored within the broader societal systems that privilege men over women. These systems are nurtured by structures such as the family, the state, religious institutions, the legal regimes, and government policies. A sustained effort at all these levels is necessary to combat VAW, and the enabling capacity of ICTs could foster awareness. Through the internet and other media, the dangers of VAW can be exposed to all. Women as well as men interested in enriching the debate and making suggestions can be involved in discussion of causes, manifestations and possible remedies. Women's organisations with capacity to utilise ICT to carry on this agenda such as WOUGNET can utilise these technologies to deepen awareness.

At the family level, relevant legislations and programmes that eliminate gender-based violence and instil gender-sensitive education and property rights of women relative to men are crucial as they



put money in the hands of females to be able to acquire the technologies they need and use them as they wish.

Education about technology for domestic violence advocates and for the organisations with which they interact is essential to providing safety and services for survivors. Most domestic violence advocates have had little or no training related to the use of technology as a component of intimate partner violence. A concerted effort is needed to organise training opportunities in local communities. Training should include some focus on the technologies and include advocates against gender-based violence, volunteers, civil society leaders, law enforcement agents and legislators.

There are vast gaps in the research on VAW in Uganda. Two reports, namely the Uganda Law Reform Commission report 2006 entitled *A Study Report on Domestic Violence* and the Uganda Demographic and Health Survey 2006 seem to be the key sources of information as are various reports that have addressed the phenomenon from the health perspective. Clearly the intersection between ICT and VAW has anecdotal sources at best. There is need for more nuance and deeper studies on the link between ICT adoption and its role in perpetuating or forestalling VAW. Of particular focus should be the link between mobile telephone and internet adoption and VAW, alongside continuous ICT policy research that feeds into ICT policy advocacy activities.

## 6. Stakeholders

	Name of Organisation	Summary of Role/Scope of Work in relation to VAW	Contact
1	<b>Raising Voices</b>	<p>Raising Voices (RV) works to prevent violence against women by focusing on primary prevention approaches that attempt to change attitudes and behaviors that perpetuate VAW.</p> <p>The organisation publishes communication materials to assist in developing effective VAW prevention programmes. RV has a training video and also has a learning centre for organisations and individuals interested in building skills. RV has established a gender-based violence (GBV) prevention network with a membership of over 130 organisations and individuals from more than eighteen countries.</p>	<p>Raising Voices Plot 16 Tufnell Drive, Kamwokya P.O. Box 6770 Kampala, Uganda Tel: +256 41 531 186 / +256 41 532 183 Fax: +256 41 531 249 Email: info@raisingvoices.org</p>
2	<b>MIFUMI Project</b>	<p>MIFUMI is an NGO working to end violence against women and children in eastern Uganda. Its niche has been on issues of domestic violence and abuse around bride price violations.</p> <p>MIFUMI has undertaken a number of projects aimed at fighting domestic violence since 1990 which include: MIFUMI Domestic Violence Intervention Pilot Project (MDVIP) established as a pilot with the aim of promoting protection for women and children; Community Advocacy Against Violence which strengthened the capacity of women and children's organisations to deliver domestic violence services across five districts in Uganda; and legal aid clinics providing legal services through lawyers, paralegals and women advocacy workers. Over 13,000 women and children have been supported through the advice centres. MIFUMI also contributes research on domestic violence, health, and how to help women disclosing abuse; training police, judiciary and health professionals, lobbying for improved legislation for women and children including the Domestic Relations Bill (DRB).</p> <p><a href="http://www.mifumi.org/index.php?prgm=brief-history">www.mifumi.org/index.php?prgm=brief-history</a></p>	<p>MIFUMI Uganda P.O. Box 274 Tororo, Uganda Tel: +256 392 966 282 Fax: +256 4540 05 520 E-mail: mifumi@mifumi.org</p>
3	<b>Uganda Women's Network (UWONET)</b>	<p>Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) is an advocacy and lobbying network of national women's NGOs and individuals in Uganda.</p> <p>UWONET focuses on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engaging the structures, systems and processes of policy formulation and lawmaking with an emphasis on building gender consciousness, gender analysis and mainstreaming</li> <li>Increasing the influence of women in politics and decision-making through advocacy for affirmative action, establishment of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), and for budgetary allocations to issues of concern to women as well as research.</li> </ul> <p>UWONET has been active on issues of women's rights, gender violence, the Domestic Relations Bill, and tracking implementation of key regional and international women's rights treaties and conventions to which Uganda is signatory to (such as CEDAW) as well as tracking of key policies and programmes such as the Gender Policy and the National Plan of Action on Women in addition to advocating for the ratification of relevant international laws.</p>	<p>Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) Plot 198 Old Kiira Road Ntinda Kampala, Uganda Tel: +256 414 286 539 Email: info@uwonet.or.ug</p>
4	<b>CEDOVIP</b>	<p>The Center for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP), which works closely with Raising Voices, is a local civil society organisation committed to preventing domestic violence. The Center's work is based on "Mobilising Communities to Prevent Domestic Violence."</p> <p>Through its mobilisation efforts community members in Kawempe Division in Kampala city Uganda, have made great strides to formally outlaw domestic violence in their</p>	<p>Ms Betty Akullo, CEDOVIP Plot 16 Tufnell Drive, Kamwokya P.O. Box 6770 Kampala, Uganda Tel: +256 41 531186 / +256 41 532183</p>

		community and their efforts have borne fruit. The first ever Domestic Violence By-law in Uganda was passed by Kawempe Division Council on 5th October 2007. <a href="http://www.raisingvoices.org/cedovip.php">www.raisingvoices.org/cedovip.php</a>	Fax: +256 41 531249 Email: <a href="mailto:cedovip@raisingvoices.org">cedovip@raisingvoices.org</a>
5	<b>Hope After Rape</b>	<p>Hope After Rape (HAR) is a women's NGO that was formed in 1994 to empower children, women and communities to prevent sexual and other forms of abuse and facilitate the rehabilitation of survivors through advocacy, training and psycho-social support</p> <p>This is done through</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Raising awareness of government, NGOs and communities about the psychological effects of sexual abuse and other forms of gender based violence</li> <li>2. Conducting training related to psychological aspects of sexual abuse and other forms of gender based violence</li> <li>3. Networking with similar organisations and researching on sexual abuse and other forms of gender based violence with specific emphasis on the psychological abuse.</li> </ol> <p>HAR works with local and international organisations including Ugandan police, Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA-Uganda), hospitals, Save the Children Denmark, Save the Children Norway, and The British Council.</p>	<p>Hope After Rape Head Office with Hope Counselling Centre. Plot Number 1C Kiira Road P.O. Box 7621 Kampala, Uganda</p> <p>Tel: +256 41 251 201 / +256 41 233 669 Fax: +256 41 234799 Email: <a href="mailto:har@uol.co.ug">har@uol.co.ug</a></p>
6	<b>Isis-Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange (Isis-WICCE)</b>	<p>Isis-WICCE's mission is to promote justice and empowerment of women through investigating and documenting women's realities and facilitating the exchange of skills and information to strengthen women's capacities, potential and visibility.</p> <p>Isis-WICCE's activities are mainly run in response to four international frameworks, namely: the 1993 Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, CEDAW, the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action and UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security of 2000. Areas of operation include peace building and conflict resolution, human rights, violence against women, and information and communication. Isis WICCE has a collection of print, audiovisual and electronic materials related to women's human rights issues.</p>	<p>Ms Ruth Ojambo Ochieng Executive Director P.O. Box 4934 Kampala, Uganda</p> <p>Street Address: Plot 32 Bukoto Street, Kamwokya Kampala, Uganda</p> <p>Tel: +256 41 543 953 Fax: +256 41 543 954 Email: <a href="mailto:isis@starcom.co.ug">isis@starcom.co.ug</a></p>
7	<b>Law and Advocacy for Women in Uganda (LAW-U)</b>	<p>LAW-U's mission is to work for reform of laws and practices that discriminate against women. Issue areas include domestic violence; female genital mutilation; Islamic Sharia law and activities of the Khadi courts; strategic litigation; polygamy and women's land rights; reproductive rights; women's/girl's child education; women's economic empowerment; and general women's human rights.</p> <p>LAW-U is involved in media campaigns in support of candidates that advocate for women's human rights by educating the women who form the majority of the voters</p>	<p>Ms Dora Kanabahita Byamukama Law and Advocacy for Women in Uganda P.O. Box 25324 Kampala, Uganda</p> <p>Street Address: Raja Chambers, Plot No. 3, Parliament Avenue</p>

		<p>about their voting rights and how their vote can determine the next parliamentarian and president.</p> <p>Other activities include research on domestic violence, property inheritance, polygamy and bridal wealth as well as advocacy for the enactment of laws and/or revision of discriminatory laws.</p>	<p>(Opposite the British High Commission) Kampala, Uganda Tel: +256 41 235 445 Fax: +256 41 345 605 Email: dorabyam@infocom.co.ug</p>
8	<b>The Association of Uganda Women Lawyers - FIDA (U)</b>	<p>FIDA (U) is a civil society organisation of Ugandan women lawyers aimed to achieving observance of the law, human rights, gender equality and equity. FIDA (U) assists women, children and other destitute groups in attaining effective legal protection. It has a national coverage and issue areas of operation include legal aid, legal education, human rights, gender, publicity, research and advocacy.</p> <p>Activities undertaken by FIDA (U) include litigation, mediation, arbitration, counselling, legal awareness, training, research and advocacy for women and children related cases.</p> <p>FIDA International and its various chapters scattered in over 80 countries in the world have initiated programmes to contribute to the realization of the objectives of CEDAW.</p>	<p>The Association of Uganda Women Lawyers P.O. Box 2157 Kampala, Uganda Street Address: Plot 54 Bukoto Street Kampala, Uganda Tel: +256 41 530 848 Fax: +256 41 530 848 Email: fida@fidauganda.or.ug</p>
9	<b>Women and Children's Crisis Centre (WCC)</b>	<p>Women and Children's Crisis Centre (WCC) is a non-governmental organisation that rehabilitates women and children who suffer domestic violence so that they can lead a better life and gain self esteem. Activities carried out include providing temporary shelter, counselling, advocacy, legal aid, information provision, first aid, and training.</p>	<p>Dr Josephine Kasolo Women and Children's Crisis Centre P.O. Box 1191 Kampala, Uganda Street Address: Plot 196, Upper Mawanda Road, Kamwokya Kampala, Uganda Tel: +256 41 530 500 Fax: +256 41 230 784 Email: w_wcc@hotmail.com</p>
10	<b>Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET)</b>	<p>Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET) is a non-governmental organisation initiated in May 2000 by several women's organisations in Uganda to develop the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) among women as tools to share information and address issues collectively. WOUGNET has over 90 members (women organisations) spread in urban and rural areas of Uganda.</p> <p>WOUGNET makes use of a variety of ICT tools to share information ranging from websites, mailing lists, electronic and print newsletters, radio programmes, and SMS. Information is shared in the areas of ICTs, agriculture, health, entrepreneurship, gender and human rights.</p> <p>The WOUGNET website is an interactive site that enables network members to share ICT for development (ICT4D) issues, gender issues, and actions taken by the government and other agencies, information of its network members and current events.</p>	<p>Women of Uganda Network P.O. Box 4411 Kampala, Uganda Street Address: Plot 53, Kira Road, Kamwokya Kampala, Uganda Tel: +256 41 4532 035 Fax: +265 42 4530 474 Email: info@wougnnet.org</p>
11	<b>Council for Economic Empowerment for Women in Africa - Africa -</b>	<p>Council for Economic Empowerment for Women in Africa - Uganda (CEEWA-UGANDA) is a non-governmental organisation whose mission is to promote the economic empowerment of women in the development process through advocacy, training, research, documentation and information dissemination</p> <p>CEEWA - Uganda implements an ICT project that is aimed at</p>	<p>Ms. Goretti Karuhanga Council for Economic Empowerment for Women in Africa - Uganda P.O. Box 9063</p>

	<b>Uganda (CEEWA-UGANDA)</b>	<p>bridging the information gap between information sources and the end users. The project facilitates linkages with women at the grassroots level and assists in establishing the effects of government policies and programmes and how the use and application of ICTs create an avenue for bridging the information gap.</p> <p>The main objective of the project is to enable rural women entrepreneurs and women organisations that promote enterprise development to explore ways and means of exploiting ICTs for community economic empowerment.</p>	<p>Kampala, Uganda Street Address: Plot 4384 Kiwafu road, Kansanga Kampala, Uganda Tel: +256 41 269 477 / +256 41 269 507 Fax : 256-41-269469 Email: info@ceewauganda.org</p>
12	<b>Action for Development (ACFODE)</b>	<p>Action for Development (ACFODE), which formed in 1985, is one of the oldest women's non-governmental organisations in Uganda. Its formation was stimulated by the United Nations Third World Conference on Women held in Nairobi in 1985. ACFODE's main activities are advocacy on legal and women's rights, sexual violence including defilement, rape and sexual harassment, as well as the establishment of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC).</p>	<p>Action for Development P.O. Box 16729 Kampala, Uganda Tel: +256 41 532 311 Fax: +256 41 530 460 Email: acfode@inul.com</p>
13	<b>Department of Women and Gender Studies, Makerere University</b>	<p>Established in 1991 to ensure gender is an integral part of all development processes, the Department of Women and Gender studies is largely considered as an academic arm of the women's movement. Over the years the department has built capacity and conducted research on various issues including VAW. The department is represented in most if not all major women's organisations in Uganda.</p>	<p>Department of Women and Gender Studies, Makerere University P.O. Box 7062 Kampala, Uganda Tel: +256 414 531 484 Fax: +256 414 543 539 Email: wgs@ss.mak.ac.ug</p>
14	<b>Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD)</b>	<p>The MGLSD is the government ministry charged with the duty of mainstreaming gender in all government programmes and policies in Uganda. The ministry works closely with women's organisations on all issues of gender, including VAW.</p>	<p>Permanent Secretary Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development P.O. Box 2475 Kampala, Uganda Tel: +251 41 267 015 Fax: +251 41 267 015</p>
15	<b>Media Houses, including the Monitor, New Vision, WBS TV and NTV</b>	<p>Media houses have been key in raising public awareness on issues of VAW. There are numerous media organisations in Uganda but key amongst them are: The Monitor Newspaper, New Vision Printing and Publishing Company, WBS Television and NTV.</p> <p>The Monitor was established in 1992 as an independent not for government newspaper. The Monitor has published various stories on VAW in Uganda.</p> <p>The New Vision Printing and Publishing Company is a government owned newspaper which started in March 1986. The paper has published stories exposing VAW in Uganda</p> <p>WBS TV station is a privately owned commercial TV station incorporated in October 1997.</p> <p>WBS TV has been critical in airing stories on violence against women in various parts of Uganda.</p> <p>A recent addition in Uganda is NTV which has been instrumental in broadcasting abuses including VAW stories. It should be note that though important print and TV reach is mostly to the elite sections of society as compared to other mediums especially radio that has more coverage</p>	<p>Monitor Publications LTD P.O. Box 12141 Kampala, Uganda Street Address: Plot 29-35, 8th Street Industrial Area Kampala, Uganda Tel: +256 41 232 367 Fax: +256 41 232 369 Email: info@monitor.co.ug New Vision Printing and Publishing Company Industrial Area Plot 19/21, 1st Street Kampala, Uganda Tel: +256 414 337 000 Fax: +256 414 232 050 Email: news@newvison.co.ug WBS Television</p>

			<p>P.O. Box 5914 Kampala, Uganda Street Address: Spear House Plot 22, Jinja Road Kampala Uganda Tel: +256 41 344 313 ext. 4 Fax: +256 41 345 672 Email: email@wbs- tv.com</p> <p>NTV Uganda P.O. Box 35933 Kampala, Uganda Tel: +256 414 563 400 Fax: +256 414 235 217 Email: info@ntvuganda.co.ug</p>
16	<b>Slum Aid Project (SAP)</b>	<p>SAP is a local women and child focused non-governmental organisation started in 1991 by four female students, then studying at Makerere University. The project's major goal is to address problems faced by women and children in the slums.</p> <p>SAP is currently implementing a programme on domestic violence in Kampala's slums. It is centred on the protection and promotion of human rights, reduction of HIV/AIDS among the women and empowering child commercial sex workers.</p>	<p>Rubaga Wakaliga Road P.O. BOX 10388 Kampala, Uganda Tel: +256 41 270 537 Fax: +256 41 540 297 Email: sap@sap.or.ug</p>
17	<b>The Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC)</b>	<p>The UHRC is an independent constitutional body established to promote and protect human rights. It is established under article 51 (1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda (1995) and by the Uganda Human Rights Commission Act No. 4 of 1997.</p> <p>The function of UHRC is to empower the public by giving them basic knowledge about their rights. It is also responsible for investigating violations of human rights.</p>	<p>The Uganda Human Rights Commission P.O. Box 4929 Kampala, Uganda Street Address: Plot 20/22/24 Buganda Road (opposite African Crafts Village) Kampala, Uganda Tel: +256 414 348007 ext. 8 Fax: +256 414 5255261 Email: uhrc@uhrc.ug</p>
18	<b>Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI)</b>	<p>FHRI is a non-governmental, non-partisan, and independent non-for-profit organisation committed to the protection and promotion of human rights and democracy in Uganda.</p> <p>Since its inception in December 1991, FHRI has developed and implemented human rights advocacy strategies and programmes. It has also spearheaded efforts to promote and protect internationally recognised human rights norms and standards in Uganda and has been able to successfully implement a number of relevant programmes.</p>	<p>Foundation for Human Rights Initiative P.O. Box 11027 Kampala, Uganda Street Address: Human Rights House Plot 1853, Block 15, Lulume Road, Nsambya Kampala, Uganda Tel: +256 41 510 498 / +256 41 510 263 / +256 41 510 267 Fax: +256 41 510 498</p>
19	<b>Akina Mama</b>	AMWA is an international Pan-African non-governmental	Akina Mama Wa Afrika

	<p><b>Wa Afrika (AMWA) / African Women's Leadership Institute</b></p>	<p>development organisation for women based in Africa and in the United Kingdom. Akina Mama Wa Afrika (Swahili for 'solidarity among African women') was established in 1985 to create space for African women to organise themselves and to identify issues of concern to them.</p> <p>The programmes carried out by AMWA include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Women' leadership development</li> <li>2. Feminist leadership and organisational development</li> <li>3. Strengthening feminism in Africa</li> <li>4. Influencing policy at national, regional and international levels</li> <li>5. Institutional strengthening.</li> </ol> <p>AMWA brought gender activists together in Kampala to launch a three-year gender based violence programme in the Great Lakes region and West Africa. It will document abuse and strengthen advocacy for better policies in order to embolden the women's movement in conflict and post-conflict Africa. Currently, in concert with other women's movement in Uganda, AMWA is spearheading the ratification of the African protocol on women's rights.</p>	<p>(AMWA) / African Women's Leadership Institute P.O. Box 24130 Kampala, Uganda Street Address: Plot 18 Bukoto Street Kampala, Uganda Tel: +256 41 543 681 ext. 3 Fax: +256 41 543 683 Email: amwa@amwa- ea.org</p>
20	<p><b>Uganda Gender Resource Centre – (URGC)</b></p>	<p>UGRC was started in 1991 to articulate the relevance of the principles of gender equality and equity to the development process through training, research, documentation and information dissemination. It was established out of a need to advance women's rights and empowerment. The centre's aim is to make gender and women related information available. In addition, the centre runs legal aid centres and micro-credit projects. Among its core activities are networking and training decisions makers.</p> <p>Some of the issues of concern at URGC include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Human Rights,</li> <li>2. Policy/Government</li> <li>3. Political Participation,</li> <li>4. Violence Against Women</li> <li>5. Research</li> <li>6. Training</li> <li>7. Promotion of women's rights</li> <li>8. Information and documentation</li> <li>9. Advocacy and lobbying.</li> </ol>	<p>Uganda Gender Resource Centre P.O. Box 9933 Kampala, Uganda Street Address: National Theatre 2nd Floor, Room 2 Kampala, Uganda Tel: +256 41 543897 Fax: +256 41 543898 Email: ugrc@swiftuganda.com</p>
21	<p><b>National Association of Women's Organisations in Uganda (NAWOU)</b></p>	<p>Members of non-governmental and community-based organisations formed NAWOU in 1992 with a network of grassroots women's organisations spread across the country. NAWOU works to raise awareness of the needs, rights and responsibilities of women and monitoring the status of women with special focus on legislation, implementation, conventions and human rights, and sustainable development (social, economic and political)</p> <p>NAWOU is working in partnership with Action AID Uganda and Raising Voices to prevent domestic violence and promote safety within homes.</p>	<p>National Association of Women's Organisations in Uganda P.O. Box 1663 Kampala, Uganda Street Address: Plot 1, Perryman Gardens (Off Hoima Road) Bakuli, Old Kampala, Uganda Tel: +256 41 258463 / +256 41 257729 Fax: +256-41-345293 nawou@uol.co.ug</p>

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The APC WNSP is made of feminists and activists who believe that ICTs have a strong role to play in transforming gender and social relations. In our ranks are techies and trainers who help women's organisations and other civil society groups take control of the tools they use to advance their missions and advocacies. More than 175 women from 55 countries – librarians, programmers, journalists, trainers, designers, scholars, communicators – come together to work online jointly in various projects in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe and Latin America.

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