

TERMS OF REFERENCE

CONSULTANCY TO DEVELOP AN ISSUES PAPER ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN NORTHERN UGANDA (LANGO SUB REGION)

1.0. INTRODUCTION

The Human Rights Centre Uganda (HRCU) is a nongovernmental and non-profit organization that has formed in 2008 with the aim of contributing to a conducive and favourable working environment for promotion and protection of human rights, especially the rights of human rights defenders in Uganda.

With funding support from Austrian Development Agency (ADA), The Human Rights Centre Uganda (HRCU), Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), and African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV) are together implementing a two-year project (running from 1st October 2023 to 30th September 2025) titled ***"Reduction of cases of human rights violations and abuses in selected districts in Northern Uganda."*** These districts are Lira (Lango sub region), Pader (Acholi sub region), Moroto (Karamoja sub region) and Kampala (central region as the coordinating district).

This is the third phase of projects implemented by the partners, building up on two previous interventions. The first phase (2014-2017) and the second phase (June 2018 to June 2021) aimed at promoting human rights awareness and understanding in order to improve the access to and delivery of justice in the Eastern region of Uganda in the districts of Soroti, Tororo, Mbale and Jinja and later in the Central districts of Kampala, Wakiso, Mukono and Gulu in Northern Uganda achieving a marked positive effect on the relationship between district law enforcement agencies, civil society and the public.

The overall goal of this current project is reduction in cases of human rights violations and abuses in selected districts in Northern Uganda. The overall project objective is to enhance human rights awareness for improved access to justice in Northern Uganda.

The expected results of the project are to enhance capacity of access to justice actors, duty bearers and human rights defenders (HRDs) to apply human rights standards in the implementation of Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act, the Human Rights Enforcement Act and Public order management, enforcement and implementation; Increased awareness among community members including women and men of the human rights standards to be respected and protected under the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act, the Human Rights (Enforcement) Act, and public order management generally and knowledge creation, dissemination and networking amongst human rights actors.

A total of 5,482 (2,349F/3,133M) direct beneficiaries will be targeted in the course of the project. From the above overall total of direct beneficiaries, 1,322 (661F/661M) will be duty bearers and 4,160 will be rights holders. A total of 394,450 (179,725 F/179,725M) are the anticipated indirect beneficiaries of the project.

The project will target members of the public, law enforcement officers, Access to justice implementing agencies, human rights defenders at local level and local government officials in the project districts of Lira, Pader, Moroto and Kampala.

The direct beneficiaries include: Police, Prisons and Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces (high, middle and lower ranking officers), Magistrates, Judges, Registrars, Officers from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (State Attorneys), Advocates, Local Government Officers (Chief Administrative Officers, Resident District Commissioners, District Community Development Officers), Youth, Human Rights Defenders, journalists, women, indigenous groups, community members including the elderly, children, persons with disabilities, among others.

A total of 359,450 (179,725 F/179,725M) are the anticipated indirect beneficiaries of the project and these include all the listeners outside the project district with radios who will be tuned in and listening to the project's radio talk shows and radio programmes and those who have subscribed and follow the Human Rights Centre Uganda's social media Pages like X (formerly Twitter), Facebook and YouTube.

2.0. RATIONALE FOR THE CONSULTANCY

As HRCU and its implementing partners continue to implement the project interventions among which include organising and conducting district public dialogues in project districts, HRCU shall compile and produce bi-annual issues papers resulting from discussions during the said district public dialogues and later inform round table meetings with justice, law and order sector actors.

The main objective of the consultancy is to compile, develop and produce one issues paper that shall be used during the discussions at the round table discussion with justice actors.

3.0. SCOPE OF WORK

The consultancy shall cover the following:

- i. Assessment of the state of human rights and access to justice in Northern Uganda with a bias or special focus on Lira district.
- ii. A review and analysis of traditional and social practices affecting human rights and access to justice in Lira district.

- iii. The most prevalent human rights violations during the enforcement of the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act, the Human Rights (Enforcement) Act, and public order management.
- iv. The perpetrators of human rights, how the violations manifest, causes, contributing factors and the most violated rights in Lira district.
- v. Documentation of the challenges, barriers and needs faced when accessing justice and promotion of human rights in the district.
- vi. A highlight of statistical data to back up the issues and incidents relating to human rights in Lira district.
- vii. Evaluation of the adequacy and effectiveness of existing laws, policies, and institutions in safeguarding human rights.
- viii. Identification of gaps, weaknesses, and challenges in the legal and policy framework.
- ix. The relevance of adherence to international, regional and national human rights standards and obligations.

4.0. KEY TASKS

The consultant will be required to:

- i. Prepare and submit a detailed issues paper regarding the human rights and access to justice issues in Lira district/Lango sub region
- ii. Make a presentation of the issues paper to the duty bearers/stakeholders at the roundtable meeting with Access to Justice sub programme actors as shall communicated by HRCU

5.0. METHODOLOGIES AND APPROACHES

- The consultant shall use the most appropriate method to ensure that he/she document all the relevant issues as shall be raised at the district public dialogue
- The approach will also be based on the consultant's personal experience.
- HRCU is open to innovation and other approaches but specifically approaches leading to the effective implementation of this exercise

6.0. CONSULTANCY OUTPUT AND DELIVERABLES

- i. Technical and financial proposal
- ii. Inception report and presentation of the same to HRCU and ADA implementing team
- iii. Data collection tools detailing how the assignment shall be conducted
- iv. A detailed report comprising of an introduction, contextual analysis, identification of human rights violations; analysis of root causes of human rights violations and abuses; contributing factors and their manifestations; assessment of the impact of human rights violations on individuals,

communities and society; legal and policy framework for human rights promotion and protection in Lira district; responses and interventions by government, CSOs among other key actors and; actionable recommendations

- v. An extract of the key issues and recommendations (an issue paper)

7.0. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- The applicant should possess appropriate technical, professional, academic and working experience in relevant fields of Law, Human Rights, Human Rights Monitoring and Public Policy, among others.
- The applicant must have proven experience and background in completing similar assignments or tasks within the required timeframe
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English

8.0. FEES AND COSTS ESTIMATE

- The total fees to be paid for the assignment shall depend on the consultant's experience and application submitted.
- Each applicant is expected to quote an estimated cost in Uganda Shillings for this particular work.

9.0. DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT

This assignment is shall be executed over a period of twenty-one (21) working days from the date of its commissioning/signing of the contract.

10.0. APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested applicant(s) (Only individuals and no firms) should send their expression of interest in undertaking the assignment and a detailed technical and financial proposals (in Ugandan shillings) with a copy of the recent CV and similar work/report to snalukwago@hrcug.org and copied to info@hrcug.org not be later than **Friday 5th September 2025 at 5:00pm.**