



THE HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE UGANDA

PRESS RELEASE

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY 2026

(Kampala, 12 August 2026) The Human Rights Centre Uganda (HRCU) joins Uganda and the global community in marking International Youth Day 2026 under the theme ***"Different Contexts, Common Aspirations."***

Since its founding in 2008, HRCU has placed young people at the centre of its human rights work. Under its project on access to justice and human rights in Kitgum and Lamwo districts, HRCU has supported young people with hands-on skills to advocate for their rights and improve access to justice in their communities, with training and mentorship.

HRCU has also created space for young women to take part in national conversations on human rights, including at forums such as the Annual Women Human Rights Defenders Conference, where young women and girls have spoken directly about the issues affecting them.

As we mark International Youth Day 2026, HRCU calls for the following:

1. Investment beyond skills training. Young people need actual spaces to put their knowledge into practice, in addition to the academic papers that they have.
2. A seat in decision-making. Young people request to participate directly in the decision-making process from the grassroots level to national policy.
3. Protection of their rights and freedoms. Young people need the space to express their views and exercise their fundamental freedoms without fear of restriction.
4. Digital literacy and access to AI tools. Young people request to be provided with resources and access they need to effectively use digital and AI tools in order to keep up with a changing digital world.

For Uganda, this matters even more given how young the population is and the demographic dividend that comes with it. HRCU remains committed to supporting young people, with focus on those engaged in human rights work, and to partnering with others to ensure they have the knowledge and space needed to contribute to Uganda's development journey.

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