

EFFICACY OF LAWS IN CURBING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AMONG WOMEN IN KATANGA, KAWEMPE DIVISION

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DECLARATION

I **MAWULULU ISAAC KHATONDI** declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, this is my original work and it has never been produced or presented by any other researcher for an award at any University

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APPROVAL

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Date:

DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to my parents and Uganda Christian University, as a token of my appreciation for the significant impact they have had on my life. Your steadfast support has motivated me to pursue greatness, and I am truly grateful to have been nurtured under your guidance

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to my academic supervisor, **Ms. Sarah Taboswa**, for her guidance throughout my journey. I am also thankful to the University for the skills I have acquired through my research experience as well as for the invaluable mentorship and support from the lecturers that have played a crucial role in my growth and development.

ABSTRACT

Gender-based violence in all its forms has significantly affected women in Katanga, Kawempe Division, and throughout the country. This has resulted in greater dependency, limited access to decision-making, restricted political participation, and obstacles in achieving career aspirations

Consequently, there are rising instances of women's submission to male decision-making, a decline in girls' education, inadequate representation of women's needs, and elevated rates of violence against adult women.

In light of these issues, this study aims to raise awareness about the suppression of women, identify the factors contributing to this problem, and develop various strategies to address it. The research is organized as follows: Chapter One offers a comprehensive background along with the objectives, literature review focusing on existing academic studies regarding the effectiveness of laws in combating gender-based violence among women and outlines the methodology and various methods for data collection and analysis. Chapter Two presents the Non- Legal Aspects of GBV. Chapter Three presents the legal framework surrounding gender-based violence in Uganda. Finally, Chapter Four presents findings from the exploration of gender-based violence occurrences, highlighting key factors that contribute to this issue and includes conclusions and recommendations based on the data analysis.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

GBV - Gender-Based Violence

UN - United Nations

CEDAW - Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against

Women ICCPR - International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

ICESCR - International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural

Rights DEVAW - Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against

Women UPF - Uganda Police Force

SDGs - Sustainable Development

Goals NGO - Non-Governmental

Organization IDP- Internally

Displaced People

UHRC - Uganda Human Rights Commission

UDHR- Universal Declaration of Human

Rights EOC - Equal Opportunities

Commission

UNICEF- United Nations International Children's Emergency

Fund UNDP- United Nations Development Fund

GREVIO- Group of Experts on Action against Violence against

Women and Domestic Violence

SAPS- South African Police Services

CFPU- Child and Family Protection

Unit

CIID-Criminal Intelligence Investigations Directorate

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 Introduction

The chapter presents the background to the study, problem statement, purpose and specific objectives of the study, research questions, and scope of the study, justification of the study and significance of the study

1.1 Back Ground

Gender-based violence (GBV) is an umbrella term that refers to any form of violence that is directed against individuals or groups based on their gender identity or presentation, or based on their social roles and the expectations their society or culture has for them¹. This includes physical violence, sexual, psychological harm or arbitrary deprivation of liberty whether occurring in public or private life and domestic violence among others²

Gender- based violence remains very common in Uganda, with 56% of women aged 15- 49 reporting physical or sexual violence³. Despite the strong laws, including the Domestic Violence Act Cap.123 and amendments to the Penal Code Act Cap.128, systemic inefficiencies prevent prosecutions. For instance, only 2% of reported GBV cases result in convictions⁴. GBV has continued to affect Ugandan society which has resulted into social and isolation, psychological distress, spread of HIV and STD infections. Victims normally face unwanted pregnancies and trauma which can even affect their immediate family members⁵. This continues to be a problem to the survivors even with the strong legislative and policy framework that promotes gender equality and women empowerment.

This was highlighted by the **1993 UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women** and the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights, which represented a crucial turning point in acknowledging gender-based violence as a violation that requires state intervention with the **1995 Beijing Platform for Action** further stressed the importance of global initiatives to eradicate such violence. However despite these advancements, the

¹ Domestic Violence Act Cap.123

² Heise, L.L. Violence against women: An integrated, Ecological framework, Violence Against women, 4(3),547-290 (1998)

³ Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) <https://www.ubos.org> & Uganda Demographic and Health Survey <https://www.unicef> (2022) Accessed on 21st Dec. 2025

⁴ FIDA Uganda, <https://fidauganda.or.ug> (2021) Accessed on 26th Dec.2025

⁵ World Health Organization(WHO) <https://www.who.int> (2010) Accessed on 26th Dec. 2025

prevalence remains alarmingly high with recent WHO updates for 2023-2025 showing only slight progress and underscoring the need for greater funding for prevention due to emerging risks such as technological changes⁶

In Africa, gender-based violence has been shaped by pre-colonial patriarchal norms which were exacerbated by colonial legacies of racial and gender control and further aggravated by post-colonial conflicts. Pre-colonial societies were diverse, with some allowing women to hold economic or social roles, although subordination was widespread. Colonial rule established stricter hierarchies, treating African women as legal minors and reinforcing inequality through restrictions on labor and mobility. After gaining independence, armed conflicts weaponized sexual violence, while harmful practices like female genital mutilation and early child marriage continued due to poverty and cultural traditions. Progress has been made at the continental level, such as the **2003 Maputo Protocol** to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, which directly addresses violence against women and the growing number of legal reforms in many countries. However, Sub-Saharan Africa still reports high rates of gender-based violence; with lifetime intimate partner violence affecting around 33% in some areas, driven by harmful gender norms and instability.

In Uganda, gender-based violence (GBV) illustrates a historical path from pre-colonial subordination through colonial reinforcement to the escalation of conflicts in the post-colonial period. In pre-colonial societies like Buganda, women were often placed in subordinate roles, although some did have economic responsibilities. Additionally, non-conforming gender expressions were present without being widely criminalized. British colonial policies entrenched patriarchal

control, limiting women's agency. Post-1962 independence brought political instability and conflicts, notably the Lord's Resistance Army insurgency in the north, where sexual violence surged in conflict zones and **Internally Displaced People (IDP)** camps

Presently, **1995 Constitution** recognizes equal rights between men and women from discrimination,⁷ affirmative action in favor of marginalized groups on the basis of gender created by history, tradition or custom for the purpose of redressing imbalances which exist

⁶ World Health Organization (WHO), Violence against women prevalence estimates for intimate partner violence against women and non -partner sexual violence against Women <https://www.who.int> (2023) Accessed on 26th Dec.2025

⁷ Article 21

against them⁸ and Women shall be accorded full and equal dignity of the person with men with the state shall provide the facilities necessary to enhance the welfare of women to enable them to realize their full potential⁹

This was followed by landmark laws like the **Domestic Violence Act Cap.123** and the **National Policy on Elimination of Gender-Based Violence (2016)**. Despite these laws, a high prevalence continues. National surveys highlight prevalent experiences that emphasize the need for stronger enforcement, shifts in social norms, and coordinated efforts across various sectors to address deep-seated inequalities.

This study investigates the legal, institutional, and sociocultural obstacles that obstruct justice for survivors and seeks to examine the gaps between policy and practice while proposing practical reforms to improve Uganda's justice system.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Gender-based violence (GBV) remains a serious violation of human rights in Uganda, affecting women and girls in both public and private life despite ongoing efforts by the government and civil society organizations to combat GBV through progressive legislation and policies aimed at protecting women and girls with challenges such as illiteracy, deeply rooted cultural norms and poverty which continue to persist particularly within low-income households and rural areas¹⁰

These challenges are further complicated by barriers to the effective implementation and enforcement of laws designed to prevent GBV with such barriers weakening the protection of women's rights and increases the vulnerability of women and girls to violence¹¹ with recent reports, including police crime data and studies conducted in urban areas revealing troubling

continuation and in some instances and an increase in GBV cases especially in Kampala's informal settlements and among at-risk populations.

This trend underscores the urgent need to assess the effectiveness of existing laws aimed at reducing GBV specifically among women in the capital city.

⁸ Article 32

⁹ Article 33

¹⁰ Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) <https://www.ubos.org> (2022) Accessed on 21st Dec, 2025

¹¹ Supra(10) UBOS (2022)

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The study seeks to identify the effectiveness of applied laws on advocating for reduced Gender based violence among women in Katanga, Kawempe Division

1.4 Objectives of the Study

1.4.1 General objective

This research will address the efficacy of laws in addressing Gender based Violence which is becoming very rampant in Kampala and encourage fair treatment for all in relation to reducing isolation, low self-esteem in females, children and increase awareness thus calling for the unified effort to put an end gender-based violence

1.4.2 Specific objectives

1. To identify and analyze the key legal frameworks and laws applied in addressing Gender- Based Violence (GBV)
2. To assess the efficacy of these legal frameworks and court practices in curbing GBV, including implementation challenges, enforcement mechanisms, prosecution outcomes, and judicial barriers.
3. To determine the predictors of the effectiveness of the existing legal frame works in addressing GBV among women in Kampala.

1.5 Research Questions

1. What are the primary legal frameworks and laws in Uganda designed to address Gender- Based Violence (GBV), and how are they applied in the courts and justice system within Kampala's urban context?
2. How effective are the current legal frameworks and laws in reducing Gender- Based Violence (GBV) in urban Kampala, and what are the primary challenges and

gaps in their implementation and enforcement?

3. What factors influence the effectiveness of these legal frameworks in addressing GBV in Katanga?

1.6 Significance of the Study

This study is important as it will provide empirical evidence regarding the effectiveness of current legal frameworks in addressing concerns related to gender-based violence among women in Katanga, Kawempe Division with the findings being crucial in guiding

Policymakers, legal professionals and civil society organizations to enhance law implementation and improve access to justice for survivors.

1.7 Justification of the Study

Despite having laws and policies to combat gender-based violence in Uganda, many women still encounter violence and have limited access to justice where this study is crucial for evaluating whether the existing legal and policy frameworks effectively protect women or if there are gaps that need addressing focusing on Katanga in the Kawempe division highlighting the experiences of women living in an urban environment with a perspective that they are often neglected in national studies on gender-based violence.

1.8 Scope of the Study

1.8.1 Geographical Scope

The study concentrated on Katanga, a neighborhood in the Kawempe Division of Kampala. This location was chosen because of its varied socio-economic dynamics, which affect both the prevalence of and responses to gender-based violence.

1.8.2 Content Scope

The research explores how effective legal frameworks are in tackling gender-based violence against women analyzing the existing laws and policies with their enforcement and their effect on reducing instances of such violence with the study investigating barriers to justice and the role of support services.

1.9 Literature Review

1.9.1 Introduction

This literature review aims to provide an overview of the existing scholarship and research including grey literature, on gender-based violence (GBV) and the effectiveness of laws in mitigating it by analyzing the current literature seeking to highlight key themes and identify gaps in understanding. It explores the relationships between legal and policy deficiencies, survivor experiences and the broader implications for addressing GBV as a global issue related to gender and human rights.

Additionally, this literature review serves as a foundation for the next stages of the research directing the study's focus in Uganda, examining the legal framework, survivor perspectives, and potential legal reforms needed to confront this urgent issue through this comprehensive review aiming to contribute to the ongoing dialogue surrounding gender-based violence, encourage legislative progress and ultimately work towards creating a safer and more equitable society for all survivors

Effectiveness of current legal and policy frameworks in addressing issues of gender- based violence against women remains a significant concern

Despite various legal initiatives on the continent, gender-based violence continues to be a significant problem. In South Africa, progressive laws such as the Domestic Violence Act (1998) and Sexual Offences Act (2007) were adopted, in the respective years to help protect women against any form of domestic violence, but GBV remain high. The South African Police Annual reported that over 50,000 sexual offences were reported in 2022¹² and only 13.8% of rape cases led to conviction¹³.

Similarly, in Kenya several laws have been enacted over the years aimed at curbing GBV including the Domestic Violence Act 2015

Uganda has enacted several laws aimed at addressing GBV, including the Domestic Violence Act Cap. 123, Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act Cap. 131, These laws provide a foundation for protecting individuals from various forms of GBV and outline mechanisms for prevention and response unfortunately 56% of ever-married women aged 15- 49 have experienced spousal violence but only 28% sought help, and few used formal channels¹⁴

¹² South African Police Services (SAPS) Annual Report (2022)

¹³ Deane, T. Sexual Violence and the limits of laws' Powers to alter behaviour <https://www.scirp.org> (2018) Accessed on 30th Dec. 2026

¹⁴ Lansink & Nampewo, Makerere School of Law Annual Report (2021)

A study about critical examination of the legal framework on gender inequality in Uganda found that it has comprehensive legal provisions against GBV, such as the Penal Code and Domestic Violence Act, despite the laws are not effectively enforced. It was reported that cases involving intimate partner violence, wife battery and domestic abuse cases are underreported, and when reported, they rarely lead to conviction, many women lack awareness of their legal rights, which limits access to justice. Cultural norms and patriarchal attitudes continue to hinder the realization of legal protections for women¹⁵

A case study carried out in central Uganda, aimed at analyzing legal protection of women against gender and sexual based violence showed that Uganda's laws criminalize GBV, but their implementation in central Uganda is inadequate¹⁶. Police officers often trivialize GBV cases, especially sexual violence, thereby discouraging more women from reporting. Victims face stigmatization, and community leaders often mediate rather than refer cases to court. Since these mediation processes are often imbued with patriarchal beliefs and attitudes, the victims end up either receiving partial justice or no justice from them¹⁷. The Domestic Violence Act Cap.123 is not fully utilized because of the limited legal awareness among both the public and local authorities, as well as a disconnect between policy and practice, which is influenced by resource limitations and cultural resistance¹⁸.

Traditional norms and gender roles affect how laws are enforced and how victims are treated¹⁹. Furthermore, parenting programs that emphasize early childhood development and promote gender-equitable norms can play a significant role in preventing gender- based violence in the long run. These interventions support legal frameworks by fostering behavior change at the

household level, where law enforcement is often the least accessible.

However, without stronger legal enforcement, preventive programs alone are insufficient for addressing acute GBV cases. Similarly, in a study about access to Justice for Female Victims of Sexual Violence with a strong GBV policy framework, including the 2016 national policy on elimination of GBV, yet systemic barriers persist. However, victims face challenges such as; Limited access to police and courts, especially in rural areas, slow

¹⁵ Nakagulire, J, Implementation of the Domestic Violence Act and access to justice for women in Uganda. *Makerere Journal of law, Gender & Society*, 5(2), Pg.44-58 (2018)

¹⁶ Sempijja, D, An analysis of the law protecting women against gender and sexual based violence in Uganda: A case study of central region [Unpublished undergraduate thesis] Kampala International University (2019)

¹⁷ Supra (16)

¹⁸ Supra (16)

¹⁹ Ahikire & Mwine, The politics of promoting gender equity in contemporary Uganda: Cases of Domestic law and the policy on Universal Primary Education <https://scholar.google.com> (2019) Accessed on 2nd Jan. 2026

judicial processes and case backlogs²⁰

In the Urban Specific dynamics, much GBV research in Uganda focuses on rural settings with less focus on the unique Urban GBV in Kampala where anonymity and economic migration alter victim perpetrator dynamics. Narrowing this scope in Kampala in Katanga can provide a granular look at how the urban informal economy creates a unique barrier to legal recourse that national level studies miss

The Predictors of the effectiveness of the existing legal frameworks in addressing gender-based violence among women

The predictors of the effectiveness of existing legal frameworks in addressing gender- based violence (GBV) among women is critical to explaining why well-developed laws often fail to translate into meaningful protection.

The measurable or observable factors such as institutional capacity, legal awareness, socio-cultural norms and access to justice that either enhance or hinder the practical implementation of GBV laws²¹. These predictors influence how effectively progressive laws like Uganda's Domestic Violence Act Cap. 123 and Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act Cap 131 fulfill their goals of protection, prosecution and prevention²².

Legal clarity with comprehensiveness is essential indicators of how effective GBV laws can be when laws explicitly define offenses outline survivor rights and offer procedural guidance their implementation is generally more successful²³. However the differences between statutory and customary law often hinder enforcement in Uganda and other East African nations where in certain communities, customary practices are prioritized which can result in the trivialization of GBV cases²⁴. This shows that although Uganda's legal framework criminalizes GBV

ambiguity in enforcement mechanism and conflicting normative systems hinder its practical effectiveness

²⁰ Kabaseke & Kitui, Access to justice for female victims of Sexual Violence in Uganda <https://www.researchgate.net> (2022) Accessed on 3rd Jan. 2026

²¹ Klugman, J. Gender based violence and the law policy brief. World Bank <https://www.researchgate.net> (2020) Accessed on 3rd Jan. 2026

²² Supra(21)

²³ World Bank, Gender Based Violence and Access to Justice in East Africa Policy and Implementation Review. World Bank Publications <https://wdr2021.worldbank.org> (2021) Accessed on 3rd Jan. 2026

²⁴ Supra(21)

Institutional capacity, especially regarding the training, resources, and responsiveness of police, prosecutors and courts are key factor in determining legal effectiveness. In Uganda, the establishment of police child and family protection units is notable; however, limited staffing, insufficient training, and logistical challenges hinder the effective management of GBV cases²⁵. In a similar vein, case backlogs and poor coordination between the police and the judiciary in Kampala lead to delays in justice which highlights that even robust laws cannot be effective without the necessary institutional capability to enforce them²⁶

The accessibility and quality of survivor services influence the effectiveness of legal frameworks addressing GBV²⁷with Integrated services like medical care, psychosocial counseling, legal assistance, and safe shelters are crucial for promoting reporting and aiding survivors throughout the legal process thus the lack of coordinated services in East Africa leads to low conviction rates and a drop in survivor participation. In Uganda, especially in central areas such as Kampala, the shortage of specialized shelters and affordable legal aid restricts survivors' opportunities to seek justice²⁸and improving survivor services is crucial for achieving the goals of GBV legislation

The awareness and understanding of the law among survivors and frontline workers are also important factors with lack of awareness of GBV guidelines among health workers in East Africa led to poor documentation and weak referrals, ultimately undermining legal outcomes²⁹. Similarly, in Kampala, limited public awareness campaigns mean that many survivors remain unaware of their rights and available legal mechanisms which demonstrate that legal frameworks cannot be effective without deliberate dissemination of information

and training of those charged with implementation³⁰.

Socio-cultural norms and gendered power relations significantly predict the degree of legal effectiveness. Despite Uganda's progressive GBV laws, patriarchal beliefs and victim-blaming attitudes persist, discouraging survivors from reporting violence. A study in Kampala demonstrates that community mobilization interventions that challenge

²⁵ UNFPA, Gender Based Violence Country case study: Uganda, United Nations Population Fund (2022)

²⁶ Rockowitz, A scoping review on sexual and gender based violence services in East Africa, Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 37 (Pg.13-14), NP11013-NP11045 (2022)

²⁷ Supra(26) Pg.15

²⁸ Supra(26) UNFPA

²⁹ Mtaita, C.K, Knowledge, implementation and gaps of gender based violence guidelines among health workers in East Africa. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, Pg. 20 (8), 5421(2023)

³⁰ Supra (29)

harmful gender norms enhance the effectiveness of GBV responses³¹. Therefore, laws must be supported by cultural transformation and gender-sensitive advocacy to shift entrenched power dynamics that sustain violence³².

Economic and logistical constraints remain some of the most powerful predictors of poor law utilization. Survivors often face prohibitive costs related to transport, legal representation, and time lost from work when pursuing justice. A report shows that economic hardship contributes to case withdrawal and reconciliation outside the legal system. Addressing these material barriers through subsidized services and decentralization of GBV courts could therefore enhance the accessibility and effectiveness of the law³³

The existence of reliable data systems and civil-society oversight mechanisms also predict implementation effectiveness. Where government agencies and NGOs collect and use GBV data for planning and monitoring, accountability improves³⁴. In Uganda, however, fragmented data systems and limited inter-agency coordination impede progress tracking³⁵. This suggests that strengthening monitoring frameworks is not merely administrative but a determinant of legal effectiveness.

Institutional capacity particularly the training, resources, and responsiveness of police, prosecutors, and courts are another critical predictor of legal effectiveness. Uganda has established police child and family protection units, limited staffing, inadequate training, and logistical challenges impede effective handling of GBV cases³⁶. Similarly, case backlogs and weak coordination between police and the judiciary in Kampala contribute to delayed justice. This shows that even strong laws are ineffective without corresponding institutional capability to enforce them³⁷

The availability and quality of survivor services also predict the effectiveness of GBV legal frameworks³⁸ with integrated services such as medical care, psychosocial counseling, legal aid, and safe shelters play a significant role in encouraging reporting and supporting

³¹ Kyegombe, N. S. The impact SASA, A community mobilisation intervention on intimate partner violence and relationship dynamics in Kampala, Uganda Global Public Health <https://prevention-collaborative.org> (2014) Accessed on 28th Dec. 2025

³² Abramsky, T.D. Findings from the SASA study: a cluster randomized trial to assess the impact of a community mobilisation intervention to prevent violence against women and reduce HIV risk behaviours, BMC,12 (122) <https://makir.mak.ac.ug> (2014) Accessed on 29th Dec.2025

³³ Supra (UNFPA, 2022 and World Bank, 2021)

³⁴ Supra (UNFPA,2022)

³⁵ Supra (World Bank, 2021)

³⁶ Supra (UNFPA 2022)

³⁷ Supra (Rockowitz 2022)

³⁸ Supra (Rockowitz 2022)

survivors through the legal process and the limited access to coordinated services in East Africa results in low conviction rates and survivor attrition where in Uganda particularly in central regions like Kampala, the absence of specialized shelters and affordable legal aid services limits survivors' ability to pursue justice,³⁹ therefore improving survivor services is essential for realizing the objectives of GBV legislation.

Awareness and knowledge of the law among survivors and frontline actors are equally significant predictors. The lack of awareness of GBV guidelines among health workers in East Africa led to poor documentation and weak referrals, ultimately undermining legal outcomes⁴⁰. Similarly, in Kampala, limited public awareness campaigns mean that many survivors remain unaware of their rights and available legal mechanisms. This demonstrates that legal frameworks cannot be effective without deliberate dissemination of information and training of those charged with implementation⁴¹

Socio-cultural norms and gendered power relations significantly predict the degree of legal effectiveness. Despite Uganda's progressive GBV laws, patriarchal beliefs and victim-blaming attitudes persist, discouraging survivors from reporting violence. A study in Kampala demonstrates that community mobilization interventions that challenge harmful gender norms enhance the effectiveness of GBV responses⁴². Therefore, laws must be supported by cultural transformation and gender-sensitive advocacy to shift entrenched power dynamics that sustain violence⁴³

Economic and logistical constraints remain some of the most powerful predictors of poor law utilization. Survivors frequently encounter high costs associated with transportation, legal representation, and lost work time when seeking justice. A

report indicates that financial difficulties often lead to case withdrawals and settlements outside the legal framework. Therefore, tackling these material obstacles through subsidized services and the decentralization of GBV courts could improve both the accessibility and effectiveness of the law⁴⁴

The presence of dependable data systems and civil-society oversight mechanisms also indicates how effective the implementation will be. When government agencies and NGOs gather and utilize GBV data for planning and monitoring, accountability tends to

³⁹ Supra UNFPA

⁴⁰ Supra (Mtaita, 2023)

⁴¹ Supra (Mtaita, 2023)

⁴² Supra (Kyegombe et al. (2014) and Abramsky et al. (2014), through the SASA)

⁴³ Supra (Abramsky, 2014)

⁴⁴ Supra (UNFPA, 2022 and World Bank, 2021)

improve⁴⁵. In Uganda, the fragmented data systems and lack of coordination between agencies hinder the tracking of progress⁴⁶ which indicates that enhancing monitoring frameworks is not just an administrative task but a crucial factor in ensuring legal effectiveness

There is a significant shortage of comprehensive empirical data regarding how the specific requirement for medical evidence, along with its related costs, acts as a legal barrier preventing women from effectively pursuing their cases where this research proposes a model tailored to Kampala for tackling gender-based violence, suggesting the establishment of integrated one-stop centers that combine health, legal and police services in a single location to address the transportation and coordination challenges identified in the Literature Review

Legal reforms and policy interventions

Legal reforms and policy interventions are essential in establishing a robust and supportive environment for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). They also ensure that perpetrators are held accountable for their actions. Strong legislation, such as Uganda's Domestic Violence Act and workplace policies against sexual harassment, provides women with clear legal protections. These laws facilitate the reporting of cases, enable survivors to seek justice through the courts, and grant access to services like medical care, counseling, and safe shelters⁴⁷. When these laws are enforced, they send a powerful message that violence against women is unacceptable and will not be tolerated⁴⁸

However, having good laws on paper is not sufficient. The true effectiveness of

these legal measures relies on proper implementation and enforcement. This involves training police officers to handle gender-based violence cases with sensitivity and respect, ensuring that courts address cases promptly and fairly, and providing adequate resources to support services for survivors.

Without proper enforcement, laws remain ineffective, perpetrators often escape punishment, and women continue to encounter obstacles in accessing justice. In many instances, delays within the justice system, lack of awareness about rights, or fear of stigma prevent survivors from stepping forward. Thus, a strong commitment from the government, police, courts, and

⁴⁵ Supra (UNFPA,2022)

⁴⁶ Supra (World Bank, 2021)

⁴⁷ Human Rights Watch <https://www.hrw.org> (2021) Accessed 20th Jan. 2026

⁴⁸ UN Women, Progress of worlds women: Towards Gender Equality Analysis,

<https://www.unwomen.org>

(2021) Accessed 20th Jan. 2026

communities is essential to transform legal reforms into genuine protection and change for women in Kampala and throughout Uganda.

Much of the existing literature tends to concentrate on the law itself instead of exploring the specific institutional barriers in Kampala that impede its effectiveness rather than simply reviewing the statutes, this research will employ a process tracing analysis that tracks a case from a local police post in a suburb of Kampala to the High Court, aiming to identify precisely where effectiveness declines.

Legal and Institutional Responses

The effectiveness of legal and institutional responses to gender-based violence (GBV) in Uganda varies greatly depending on the region and context although there are several laws designed to protect women and girls, their implementation is often hindered by challenges such as inadequate resources for police, courts, corruption, cultural attitudes that neglect women's rights, and a lack of awareness among survivors regarding how to seek assistance.

One common form of gender-based violence related to these issues is property disputes which particularly impact widows in various regions of Uganda is when a husband dies, his relatives frequently push the widow and her children out of the family home or land where they might use threats, physical intimidation, or even destroy property to take control. This situation leaves women and children homeless and without farming income, heightening their vulnerability to poverty and additional abuse.

Although there are laws such as the Succession Act are measures in place to protect widows' inheritance rights, cultural norms in many communities continue

to favor male relatives which can result in insufficient intervention from police or local leaders, therefore to improve responses, it is essential to strengthen the justice system by offering training for police and judges on gender-based violence cases, increasing funding for support services, and ensuring that perpetrators face accountability through fair trials and suitable penalties. This would help reduce GBV, protect women's rights, and make women in places like Kampala safer from violence tied to economic vulnerability

Scant literature exists on how GBV laws fail specifically for marginalized groups such as female sex workers, women with disabilities or urban refugees as the Intersectionality gap in Kampala. This research intends to investigate why Local Council Courts in Kampala are often preferred over formal magistrate courts despite the LCs having limited legal jurisdiction over criminal GBV which explains the gap in legal pluralism

1.10 Research Methodology

This summarizes how the research was conducted and comprises of study design, study area, study population, sample size, methods & Instruments of data collection, Justification of the Research Methodology

1.10.1 Study design

This research study adopted narrative qualitative research design. The qualitative component included in-depth interviews to gain deeper insights into exploring the effectiveness of the existing legal and policy frame works in addressing gender-based violence concerns among women in Katanga, Kawempe division, Kampala. Qualitative methods where be used to get in-depth information from the study participants.

1.10.2 Area of Study

The study will be conducted in Kampala, which is located within the in the Central Region of Uganda., the capital city of Uganda the study's focus on Efficacy of laws to Curb gender-based violence (GBV) and its influence on women's empowerment within urban setting.

1.10.3 Study Population

This study targeted police officers, local leaders, women and girls 15+ years in Katanga who have experienced or are vulnerable to GBV. This enabled collection of required data.

1.10.4 Data acquisition

The most important sources of data used in this research were observation,

questionnaires and interviews helped the researcher to obtain valid information in light of gender-based violence.

Field proposal also involved interviewing gender-based violence victims and people who interact with victims and its perpetrators (One hundred people will be interviewed; Officials from relevant institutions will be interviewed for example Federation of Women Lawyers Association (FIDA-Uganda), Raising Voice for Children, Center for Domestic Violence and the Uganda Police, Officers)

1.10.5 Methods and instruments for data collection

In order to collect valid and reliable data, the following will be used.

1.10.6 Questionnaire is a research instrument consisting of a series of questions and other

Prompts will be designed for gathering information from Respondents.

Questionnaires with structured and unstructured questions that will address the objectives of the research proposal will be developed and distributed to the respective respondents. These questionnaires will be used in obtaining information from the target groups that is the Police, Public Relations Office, Family Protection Units, Courts and Non-governmental Organizations such as FIDA, ACFODE. The questionnaires will identify the causes of Domestic violence, the experience of those involved, the challenges in curbing Gender based Violence and recommendations on how to combat this vice.

1.10.7 Interview Guide. A conversation occurs between two or more individuals where the interviewer asks questions to draw out facts or statements from the interviewee. In-depth interviews were carried out to enhance the data collected from questionnaires and textbooks. This approach used semi-structured and open-ended questions. Adult women, women leaders, and local chairpersons (men) in Kampala were interviewed. The researcher sought comprehensive information on the topic.

Interview guides were valuable for following up with specific respondents, allowing for a deeper exploration of their answers

1.10.8 Justification of the Research Methodology

The cross-sectional design effectively reflects the current state of gender-based violence (GBV) in Katanga and assesses institutional responses by integrating qualitative and quantitative methods, the study will provide objective data for measurable analysis as well as detailed insights into the experiences of victims and stakeholders with focus on women impacted by GBV and officials from

courts, NGOs, and police will ensure a range of perspectives, addressing both personal and systemic dimensions. Utilizing questionnaires, interviews, and observations will offer well rounded triangulated data, thereby increasing the study reliability. This multi-method approach allows for well rounded, evidence based recommendations suited to Kampala urban context and the Complexities of GBV Intervention.

CHAPTER 2

NON LEGAL ASPECTS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

2.0 Introduction

This Chapter examines non- legal aspects of Gender Based Violence focusing on the efficacy of laws which serves as the theoretical and empirical bedrock. GBV is deeply entrenched in social, cultural and economic systems that normalize violence and hinder reporting

In the Ugandan context, GBV is rarely and purely legal failure because it is a complex intersection of tradition, economics and psychology. The following are the non-legal aspects of GBV

2.1 Socio - Cultural Framework

In many Ugandan Communities with Katanga inclusive are deeply entrenched with patriarchal norms which define power dynamics between men and women. The law often hits the a cultural ceiling where community practice overrides statutory rights with the concept of Domestic privacy that what happens in a home stays in the home acts as a barrier to reporting

Bride price and Commodification which is perceived as ownership of women is used as a justification of physical and emotional abuse and Traditional Dispute Resolution where many victims are pressured by elders to use local mediation systems rather than the police, often resulting in reconciliation that leaves the victim in a dangerous environment

2.2 Economic Dependencies and Structural Inequality

Laws against GBV are often unenforceable if the victim cannot afford to leave. Land ownership despite legal reforms, many women in rural Uganda access land only through their husbands or male relatives which is a threat of homelessness often outweighs the desire for legal justice.

Economic coercion where many abusers use financial infidelity or withholding of basic needs like food, school fees for children as a tool of control and the cost of justice with the law being free, the transport to a Magistrate court or the hidden costs of dealing with the police and economic barriers that the law itself does not solve

2.3 Psychological and Behavioural factors

This explores why the law is often a late stage intervention with the normalization of violence, a significant percentage of both men and women believe a husband is justified in

hitting his wife under certain circumstances⁴⁹. Learned Helplessness with psychological impact of prolonged abuse can lead to a breakdown in agency, making it difficult for a victim to testify or allow through with a prosecution

2.4 Institutional and Service Delivery Gaps

The existence of good laws like Domestic Violence Act Cap.123, the infrastructure of care determines efficacy. The aspect of Healthcare will impact legal efficacy with lack of forensic evidence collection in the health centres leads to case failure in courts

Shelters impact on legal efficacy with massive shortage of state run shelters hence no safe place to go of victims who often withdraw cases under duress and the Education aspect with high illiteracy rates regarding legal rights mean many women do not even know a specific act is a crime

2.5 Conclusion

The analysis of the non-legal aspects of Gender Based underscores a critical reality in the Ugandan context, law does not operate in a vacuum with Uganda having an established robust legal framework with the efficacy of these legal instruments heavily mediated by socio cultural and economic environment with several barriers that continue to undermine legal intervention with supremacy of custom, poverty traps and institutional fragility.

⁴⁹ Uganda Demographic and Health Survey(UDHS) <https://dhsprogram.com> (2016)

Accessed on 21st Dec. 2025

CHAPTER THREE

LEGAL FRAME WORK ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN UGANDA

3.0 Introduction

Uganda has established a robust Legal and policy framework to combat GBV which is a mix of specific statutes, international treaties and operational policies designed to protect Victims and punish perpetrators

3.1 International Legal Frame Work

Uganda has ratified international human rights instruments that protect human rights generally and which have been interpreted as prohibiting domestic violence.⁵⁰ Uganda has ratified several human rights instruments that specifically address women's rights, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights concerning the Rights of Women in Africa.

Article 4 of the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa requires states parties, including Uganda, to eliminate violence against women⁵¹. In its latest periodic report to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Uganda outlines the steps it has taken to prevent and address domestic violence. Accordingly, under both the Constitution and international law, Uganda is obligated to combat gender-based violence. It is in this context that the Domestic Violence Act was established.

3.1.1 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.⁵² Every single person is inherently entitled to every right and freedom outlined here. These rights are yours, regardless of your race, color,

sex, language, religion, political views,
where you were born, your social standing, wealth, or any other personal
characteristic. And it doesn't stop there. Your rights aren't affected by the
political or international status of your country or territory, whether it's
independent, a trust, non-self-governing, or has

⁵⁰ Such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

⁵¹ African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights

⁵² Article 1 of UDHR

limitations on its sovereignty and everyone equally deserves.⁵³

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.⁵⁴

3.1.2 Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Article 2⁵⁵ states that; Each State Party must implement effective legislative, administrative, judicial, or other measures to prevent acts of torture in any territory under its jurisdiction. No exceptional circumstances, including a state of war, threats of war, internal political instability, or any other public emergency, may be used to justify torture. Additionally, an order from a superior officer or a public authority cannot be cited as a justification for torture.

3.1.3 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)

Right to Security and Liberty, Right to Security and Liberty, ICCPR states that no one shall be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In particular, no one shall be subjected without their free consent to medical or scientific experimentation.⁵⁶

The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights outlined in the present Covenant.⁵⁷ Equal protection empowers women to challenge laws that treat domestic violence less seriously than stranger violence and right to Life & Liberty is used to argue that states are complicit in GBV if they fail to protect women from threats, such as domestic stalkers or honor killings⁵⁸

Empowerment through resource access, the ICESCR prevents GBV by addressing the poverty trap many women remain in abusive relationships because they lack the economic means to survive alone.

Right to work and fair conditions ensures women can access independent income, which is

⁵³ Article 2 of UDHR

⁵⁴ Article 5 of UDHR

⁵⁵ Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

⁵⁶ Article 7 of the ICCPR

⁵⁷ Article 3 of the ICESCR

⁵⁸ Article 6 & 9

the single most significant factor in a woman's ability to leave an abusive household⁵⁹, Right to health including access to reproductive healthcare and mental health service which are critical for survivors to recover and regain agency⁶⁰ and protection of the family with marriage entered into with free consent with acts as legal barrier against forced and child marriage.⁶¹

3.1.4 Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (1979)

This is an International Bill of Rights for Women. It clarifies that GBV is a form of discrimination that prevents women from enjoying their rights.⁶²

Structural Empowerment, It prevents GBV by mandating improvements in women socio economic status showing that women with independent income and education are less vulnerable to domestic entrapment ensuring equal pay and protection against sexual harassment at work.⁶³

It challenges discriminatory laws regarding divorce, property ownership allowing women the financial agency to leave abusive relationships.⁶⁴

CEDAW requires states to change social and cultural patterns⁶⁵ which targets the stereotypes and toxic masculinity that often triggers violence through legislative reform and preventative education.

3.1.5 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (DEVAW)

This was the first international instrument to explicitly define violence against women, specifically including violence occurring in family of domestic nature adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1993. It established that states have due diligence obligation to prevent, investigate and punish acts of violence whether committed by the state or private individuals.

3.1.6 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

Direct Prevention targets, target the elimination of all forms of violence against all

⁵⁹ Article 6 & 7 ICESCR

⁶⁰ Article 12 ICESCR

⁶¹ Article 10 ICESCR

⁶² Recommendation No.19 & 35

⁶³ Article 11

⁶⁴ Article 16

⁶⁵ Article 5

women and girls in the public and private spheres⁶⁶

Direct Prevention Targets, It focuses elimination of harmful practices on preventing child, early and forced marriage and FGM which are foundational forms of gender violence.⁶⁷ End violence against children recognizing that Violence is often intergenerational; this target focuses on protecting the most vulnerable from trafficking and exploitation.⁶⁸

3.1.7 Maputo Protocol (Africa)

Legal Mandate, protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights of Women in Africa is one of the most progressive. It mandates states to enact laws to prohibit all forms of violence against women, whether it takes place in private or public.⁶⁹

It establishes the Right to Dignity, life, Integrity and Security of persons defining violence against women to include economic abuse and exploitation, alongside physical and sexual harm.⁷⁰ State Responsibility requires governments to identify the causes of violence and take active measures to prevent, eliminate and punish them.⁷¹

Eradicating Harmful Practices⁷², it prohibits FGM and requires states to punish those who perform it, it sets the minimum age of marriage for all women with no exceptions effectively preventing the forced marriage as a form off GBV and Cultural Change requires states to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct to eliminate practices based on the idea of inferiority of women

Reproductive Rights as Violence Prevention⁷³, It recognizes that denying a woman control over her body is a form of Violence. Safe abortion explicitly protects a women's right to medical abortion in cases of sexual assault, rape or

incest, or where the pregnancy endangers the mother life and autonomy by protecting reproductive health prevents the GBV that stems from forced pregnancies or lack of body autonomy

Protection in Conflict,⁷⁴ it recognizes that GBV spikes during war, the protocol mandates protection of women in armed conflict, the prosecution of those who use rape as a weapon

⁶⁶ Target 5.2

⁶⁷ Target 5.3

⁶⁸ Target 16.2

⁶⁹ Article 4

⁷⁰ Article 3

⁷¹ Article 4(2)

⁷² Article 5

⁷³ Article 14

⁷⁴ Article 11

of war and inclusion of women in peace building and conflict resolution.

3.1.8 Istanbul Convention (Europe)

It is regarded as the most comprehensive legal framework in the world specifically dedicated to domestic violence. It organizes its prevention strategy into 4 Pillars creating a legally binding standard for **4 Ps of Prevention,**

Protection, Prosecution and providing integrated policies

Prevention, the convention argues that you cannot stop violence without changing the culture that allows it. It requires states to eradicate prejudices, customs and traditions based on the idea that women are inferior or have stereotyped roles.⁷⁵ It mandates regular campaigns to educate the public about the different forms of Violence;⁷⁶ it requires schools to include teaching material on gender equality, non-violent conflict resolution, and the right to personal integrity⁷⁷ and uniquely it requires states to set up treatment programs for abusers to prevent them from re offending.

Protection, when prevention fails, the Convention ensures women have a n immediate way out. It forces governments to provide enough women shelters in easily accessible locations,⁷⁸ It mandates the creation of 24/7 free telephone helplines that offer expert advice in multiple languages⁷⁹ and Giving the police the power to remove a perpetrator of domestic violence from their home in situations of immediate danger, prioritizing the victims safety over property rights.⁸⁰

Prosecution, it creates a legal no excuse zone for GBV. It criminalizes specific acts like forced marriage, FGM and forced abortion⁸¹ and explicitly forbids using culture, custom & religion as a justification for violence.⁸²

Providing Integrated Policies, it ensures that the government does not just pass a law and forget about it. Requires that all government departments of health, education, police and justice work together than in silos⁸³ and States must collect & publish data on GBV⁸⁴

⁷⁵ Article 12

⁷⁶ Article 13

⁷⁷ Article 14

⁷⁸ Article 23

⁷⁹ Article 24

⁸⁰ Article 52

⁸¹ Articles 37-39

⁸² Article 42

⁸³ Article 7

⁸⁴ Article 11

The Convention established an independent committee of **Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO)** that monitors how well countries are actually following these articles, preventing them from making empty promises.

Uganda has successfully formalized the international framework into its national books but it has not yet fully institutionalized it with the law in existence with the protection is often absent in practice due to underfunding and cultural resistance. Domestic Violence Act Cap.123 was specifically designed to fulfill obligations under **CEDAW** and the **Maputo Protocol** with a broad definition of Violence, protection orders and Constitutional support under Article 33

3.2 DOMESTIC LEGAL FRAME WORK IN UGANDA

3.2.1 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda

It provides the bedrock for gender equality. **Article 21** guarantees equality before the law and prohibits discrimination based on Sex with **Article 33** protecting the rights of women in full and equal dignity of the person with men and mandating the state to provide facilities for their welfare. **Article 32** prohibits customs, cultures and traditions that are against the dignity or welfare of women.⁸⁵

Article 180(2) provides for one-third of the membership of each local government council shall be reserved for women, any law enacted by virtue of this article shall provide for affirmative action for all marginalized groups referred to in **article 32** of this Constitution and Parliament shall exercise similar powers of review as stipulated in **article 78(2)** that one woman representative for every district. This provides for the empowerment of Women

as a marginalized group⁸⁶.

Article 2 states the supremacy of the Constitution as a grand norm and if any other law or custom is inconsistent with the Constitution is void⁸⁷.

⁸⁵ 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda

⁸⁶ Supra

⁸⁷ Supra.

3.2.2 Domestic Violence Act Cap. 123

It defines domestic Violence broadly (Physical, Sexual, emotional, Sexual and economic). It empowers Local Council Courts to handle cases and provides for protection Orders to keep perpetrators away from victims

To better protect individuals from domestic violence, Uganda introduced the Domestic Violence Act. This essential legislation was enacted to fill the gaps left by earlier laws, which proved inadequate in preventing and combating such abuse.⁸⁸ The Domestic Violence Act (DVA) is essential for protecting fundamental human rights in Uganda. It directly enforces **Articles 24 and 44** which guarantee everyone the right to be free from torture, cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment⁸⁹. The DVA effectiveness lies in its hybrid nature which integrates both civil and criminal provisions providing a variety of procedures and remedies to tackle domestic violence.

This enables it to implement punitive measures against offenders while also offering protective and compensatory support for victims, Punishment of perpetrators, as well as clear procedure and guidelines for courts concerning the protection and compensation of victims

The case of **Uganda V Aurien James Peter**⁹⁰ which brings to light a tragic instance of domestic Violence of Aurien James Peter a District Police Commander who shot and killed his wife following a domestic dispute in which the High Court acknowledged the premeditated nature of the murder and during the sentencing, the prosecution fervently advocated for the maximum penalty, stressing that cases of domestic violence are on the rise throughout Uganda after the enactment of the Domestic Violence Act Cap 123 where this plea underscored the pressing need for tougher measures to prevent such

violence and safeguard victims.

3.2.3 Penal Code Act Cap.128

Criminalizing Sexual Violence, This is a primary tool for prosecuting serious sexual offences. Rape⁹¹ and defilement covers nonconsensual sexual acts with Aggravated defilement against children under 14 years of age or by someone who is HIV positive can carry a maximum penalty of death⁹². Indecent Assault covers non penetrative sexual violence

⁸⁸ Hansard of 8th Parliament of the Republic of Uganda, 11th/11/2009, P.10202

⁸⁹ Supra

⁹⁰ (Crim. case No.12 of 2010) [2010] UGHC

⁹¹ Section 110

⁹² Section 116

Such as unwanted touching or groping prevents the escalation of GBV by punishing minor sexual offenses with up to 14 years in prison⁹³

Preventing Physical Violence, Common Assault covers slapping, pushing or minor physical harm used in domestic violence cases to stop abusers early, Assault causing actual bodily harm is used when victims sustain visible injuries carrying a sentence of up to 5 years and Grievous harm for severe violence resulting in permanent disability, disfigurement or broken bones which is a felony carrying a maximum of 7 years or more depending on circumstances. **Uganda V Maxwell Barugo**,⁹⁴ the accused was indicted of Rape contrary to the Penal Code Act alleging that Barugo had unlawful Sexual intercourse with the Victim without her consent with the accused being familiar to her despite her protestation and the forceful nature of the act which the court found credible. The Court found that the prosecution had proved all essential ingredients of the offence beyond a reasonable doubt hence being convicted of rape for 33 and 3 months of imprisonment.

3.2.4 Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act Cap. 131

GBV often occurs in domestic or workplace settings, this Act addresses the most extreme forms of gendered violence of sexual exploitation, forced labor and modern day slavery. Because women and children are disproportionately target for trafficking with the Act serves as a tool for preventing and punishing Gender based crimes

Criminalizing Sexual Exploitation⁹⁵, the Act targets the Commercial side of GBV by making it severe crime to recruit or transport someone for the purpose of exploitation by defining exploitation broadly to include forced prostitution, pornography and any form of sexual abuse. The Act does not just go after

traffickers but also criminalizes anyone who knowingly engages the services of trafficking victim, which directly combats the market for sexual violence. It targets the exploitation of women and children, often a major driver of GBV with heavy penalties for traffickers.

3.2.5 Succession Act Cap.268

It corrected historical imbalances, ensuring women and girls have equal rights to inherit land and property, reducing economic vulnerability to GBV.

Eliminating Property grabbing by Securing the principal residence giving guarantee that the surviving spouse (widow) and lineal descendants have a right to remain in the

⁹³ Section 115

⁹⁴ Criminal Session Case 120 of 2017

⁹⁵ Sections 3 &4

Matrimonial home hence evicting them is now a criminal offence⁹⁶ and Equal distribution moving away from favoring male heirs mandating that both sons and daughters inherit equally preventing impoverishment of female children that often leads to early marriage or exploitation⁹⁷

Best Kemigisha V Marble Komuntale & Another,⁹⁸ It pitted the Queen mother of Toro against the sister of the late King in a battle to re define women's inheritance rights under Customary law, Justice J.B. Katutsi ruled in favor of the Queen mother that the custom discriminates against women repugnant to natural justice, equity and good conscience according to Section 14 of the Judicature Act further affirming that 1995 Constitution in Article 33 protects rights of women and prohibits cultures or customs that undermine their status or welfare

3.2.6 Employment Act Cap. 226

It defines Harassment to include unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that creates a hostile environment.

Mandates all employers to have measures to prevent and manage Sexual harassment in workplace, covering even informal and domestic workers.⁹⁹It's a policy requirement that any employer with 25 or more employees must have a written sexual harassment policy **Protection from discrimination** because GBV stems from power imbalances hence prohibiting discrimination based on sex in any aspect of employment including recruitment and hiring, promotions and assignments and termination of employment thus enforcing equal treatment reducing the economic vulnerability that often forces employees to endure abuse.¹⁰⁰ **Prohibition of Forced labor**¹⁰¹, Economic GBV and exploitation are addressed through the strict prohibition of forced or compulsory labor

prevents situations where individuals predominantly women are held in abusive working conditions under threat of penalty **Protection of Maternity Rights**, It prevents a specific form of institutional GBV, the firing or mistreatment of women due to pregnancy. It guarantees 60 working days of fully paid maternity leave which protects women from being dismissed solely for being pregnant, ensuring they maintain economic independence.¹⁰²

⁹⁶ Section 22

⁹⁷ Section 23

⁹⁸ HCCS No.5 of 1998

⁹⁹ Section 6

¹⁰⁰ Section 5

¹⁰¹ Section 4

¹⁰² Section 55

Magoba Editor V Tusker Mattresses (U) Ltd,¹⁰³ a former employee of Tuskys sued the company for unfair dismissal and sexual harassment alleging that she consistently harassed by the supervisor and then terminated after reporting the behavior. Industrial Court ruled in favor of Magoba Editor finding her dismissal to be illegal and procedurally unfair hence being awarded 8 million in General damages and additional 4million as Severance allowance.

3.3 Complaint's Procedure, Policies and Institutions

A person in a domestic relationship shall not engage in domestic violence¹⁰⁴ even where there is proof of consent to the violence,¹⁰⁵ the perpetrator is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding forty-eight currency points or imprisonment not exceeding two years, both or compensation.¹⁰⁶ The complaints may be to Local courts, Police and Magistrate's court

3.3.1 Local Council Court

A complaint to the local council court may be oral or written.¹⁰⁷ Where an oral complaint is made the person receiving it shall reduce it into writing and read the complaint to the complainant who shall sign it and the person who has received the complaint shall counter sign it.¹⁰⁸ If the complainant is unable to sign the complaint, they should place a thumbprint or verify the authenticity of the recorded complaint in any feasible manner, and the individual who received the complaint must sign it¹⁰⁹

The local council courts shall have jurisdiction for the trial and determination of the following domestic violence matters of civil nature namely; Debts, Contracts, Assault or battery, Conversion, Damage to property and Trespass, with authority to issue various orders aimed at supporting victims, addressing

the actions of perpetrators. These orders are designed to promote healing, accountability, and reconciliation within the community.

Some of the actions a local council court can take include; Caution involving a formal warning to the perpetrator, Apology to the victim, Counseling, Community service, Fine

¹⁰³ Labour Dispute Reference No. 243 of 2015 [UGIC]

¹⁰⁴ Domestic Violence Act, Section 3(1)

¹⁰⁵ Supra, Section 5

¹⁰⁶ Supra, Section 3(3)

¹⁰⁷ Regulation 5(1) of Domestic Violence Regulations

¹⁰⁸ Regulation 5(2) of Domestic Violence Regulations

¹⁰⁹ Regulation 5(3) of Domestic Violence Regulations

with a maximum of twenty-five currency points, Compensation with the perpetrator ordered to pay the victim for any damages or losses incurred, Reconciliation¹¹⁰.

Declaration of the court to make a formal statement about the rights of the victim or the responsibilities of the perpetrator, Restitution, Attachment and sale as a form of execution and finally any other order provided for under the Local Council Courts Act, 2006¹¹¹

These measures aim to ensure that justice is served in a way that prioritizes the well-being of those affected and encourages responsible behavior.

3.3.2 The Police

The Uganda Police Force (UPF) has a primary specialized unit responsible for handling GBV which is the Child and Family Protection Unit (CFPU) while the Criminal Intelligence Investigations Directorate (CIID) handles the technical prosecution of capital offences like rape the CFPU is the front line for response, mediation and Victim support

Whether you prefer to speak your complaint aloud or put it in writing, the police are there to listen. If you tell an officer your story, they'll carefully record it for you. After they've written it down, they'll read it back so you can ensure every detail is correct. To finalize the complaint, you'll simply need to sign it, use a thumbprint, or acknowledge that the recorded complaint is accurate in a way that's comfortable for you¹¹² and the police officer who has recorded the complaint shall countersign it¹¹³ and the police shall respond immediately¹¹⁴

The authority of the police to enter a private home is generally restricted;

however, in cases of domestic violence, this limitation can unfortunately protect the abuser leaving the woman vulnerable. In order to improve protections for victims, laws now permit police entry if requested by a resident or if an officer has reasonable grounds to believe that someone inside is in immediate danger or being attacked with a significant concern in domestic violence situations is the quick release of an offender on bail which pose a serious risk to the woman and releasing the offender without prior notification can have dire consequences for her safety.

Therefore, it's essential to carefully consider the interests of both the offender and the

¹¹⁰ Regulation 7 of Domestic Violence Regulations

¹¹¹ Section 6(5) of Domestic Violence Act

¹¹² Regulation 21(1) of Domestic Violence Regulations

¹¹³ Regulation 21(2) of Domestic Violence Regulations

¹¹⁴ Regulation 21(3) of Domestic Violence Regulations

victim safety of the women which requires setting clear conditions for an offender's release that are specifically designed to protect her from any further harm

There is Corruption and Police bond abuse of misusing the legal procedures often allows perpetrators to escape justice before the case even reaches a prosecutor with bribery in criminal cases like rape and defilement or intimidate witnesses and bond loophole with suspects often released on police bond to return home to threaten the survivor into withdrawing the case

3.3.3 Courts

Every Magistrates Court has jurisdiction to hear and determine a matter of domestic violence¹¹⁵ and at hearing; the Court shall apply the procedure prescribed by Family and Children Court Rules and issue a protection order¹¹⁶

Where the court finds it necessary, it may refer the parties for mediation and counseling to an appropriate person or authority which shall be done within 5 days after receiving the reference¹¹⁷ and in the event it fails, the court shall proceed to hear the complaint on its merits¹¹⁸

The court shall hear domestic violence cases in public, except where the sensitivity of the matter requires that it be heard in camera.¹¹⁹ A party to a matter shall make oral presentations to the court in person or by a representative which shall be heard expeditiously¹²⁰

3.3.4 Interim Protection Order

The court shall issue an interim protection order, where the court is satisfied that, prima facie¹²¹ and where the perpetrator has committed, is committing or

is threatening to commit an act of domestic violence, it is necessary or desirable to issue an immediate order to protect the victim from harm or discomfort or inconvenience, as a result of such domestic violence

An interim order shall specify a hearing date for the application for a protection order¹²² however, the maximum duration for an interim order is three months, but the court may prescribe a lesser period and such application for a protection order shall not in any way bar

¹¹⁵ Section 9(1) of Domestic Violence Act Cap 123

¹¹⁶ Section 9(3) of Domestic Violence Act Cap 123

¹¹⁷ Regulation 12(3) of Domestic Violence Regulations

¹¹⁸ Regulation 12(7) of Domestic Violence Regulations

¹¹⁹ Regulation 13(1) of Domestic Violence Regulations

¹²⁰ Regulation 14(8) of Domestic Violence Regulations

¹²¹ Section 11(1) of Domestic Violence Act

¹²² Section 11(3) of Domestic Violence Act

criminal proceedings against a perpetrator¹²³

3.3.5 The Protection Order

On the date of the hearing mentioned in the interim protection order, the court may issue a protection order if it is convinced that an act of domestic violence has occurred, is being threatened, or is currently taking place by the perpetrator. This order shall be delivered to the respondent immediately, but no later than forty-eight hours¹²⁴

There is conflict between formal and informal justice, the local council courts and traditional leaders often interfere with the formal judiciary work whereby there is illegal settlements in criminal cases like rape or defilement with a fine of goats or money which is illegal but prevents the case from ever reaching a formal court of law where actual imprisonment could occur

3.3.6 National Policies

The national policy on elimination of gender based violence in Uganda (2016); it provides a comprehensive framework to prevent and respond to GBV, focusing on legal, social, and health aspects in the prosecution of GBV cases, it enhances coordination among police, judiciary, and social services to improve case handling and it calls for capacity building of law enforcement to effectively prosecute GBV cases

The Uganda Vision 2040, this is a long-term development framework aimed at transforming Uganda into a modern and prosperous country by 2040 with various importance for example promoting gender equality as a cornerstone for sustainable development and encouraging investment in education and

awareness campaigns to reduce cultural practices that perpetuate GBV

The National Male Involvement Strategy for the Prevention and Response to GBV (2017-2022), this strategy aims to engage men and boys as active participants in preventing and responding to GBV, promoting gender equality. Its role is to minimize stigma and under-reporting by creating supportive environments

3.3.7 Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC)

It is a constitutional body that examines human rights violations i.e. systemic GBV and has the authority to mandate remedies and compensation. Under **Article 52**, the Commission uses several soft but effective strategies to protect women and girls outside of the formal

¹²³ Section 11(6) of Domestic Violence Act Cap 123

¹²⁴ Section 12(3) of Domestic Violence Act Cap 123

Court room setting¹²⁵

Human Rights Education and Sensitization¹²⁶ through community barazas to educate men and women about the illegality of GBV, Media campaigns through radio skits, road shows and TV programs to inform women of their rights and where to report abuse and Challenging Social norms through actively campaigning against harmful traditional practices like FGM, Early forced marriages by engaging cultural and religious leaders **Monitoring and Inspection** as watch dog over government Institutions like Police, monitoring the child and Family Protection Unit handling GBV Reports and if Police are negligent or demand bribes from survivors, UHRC can intervene

Policy Advocacy and Law Reform, the Commission advises Parliament on whether existing laws actually protect women through Legislative Review analyzing bills to ensure they align with International human rights Standards and Annual reports it submits to Parliament detailing the state of human rights which often highlight GBV trends and name specific government gaps forcing a national level discussion.

3.3.8 Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC)

It's mandated to eliminate discrimination and inequalities by handling complaints regarding gender based marginalization in workplaces and public life

Gender and Equity Budgeting is a preventive tool under the Public Finance Management Act ensuring the government money actually fights GBV, Compliance Certificates given after assessing every government sector and Local Government budget and if a budget does not include specific funding for gender issues, it holds the Certificate of Compliance thus forcing sectors to allocate funds for women programs to ensure they the prevention of GBV is in line item in the

National budget not just a theoretical goal

The **EOC** is affected by deeply rooted Cultural norms and Traditions with the presence of patriarchal social norms where by in many communities, certain forms of GBV like domestic discipline or early marriage are still viewed as private family matters or cultural traditions rather than human rights violations with silence, stigma and normalization of harmful practices making it difficult for the Commission to mobilize community support for legal intervention

There are also specialized Support and Civil Society Organizations such as National GBV

¹²⁵ 1995 Constitution of Uganda

¹²⁶ Supra

Shelters which are approximately government partnered shelters run by NGOs like **Action Aid, MIFUMI & UWONET** that provide temporary housing, Rehabilitation, counseling & legal aid and **FIDA Uganda (Uganda Association of Women Lawyers)** which is primary non state actor providing free legal counsel, mediation and advocacy for the women's rights outside the formal court session

3.4 Conclusion

Analyzing International instruments such as CEDAW and Maputo Protocol alongside domestic legislation, it's evident that the legal text for protection is largely in place.

However many challenges still exist that prevent these laws from being effective and even though the constitution proudly supports equality amongst people, many survivors find it difficult to report these cases due to social stigma and shame, fear of reprisal, concerns about confidentiality and being believed, and, in some cultural settings. Uganda has signed international treaties to protect women's rights but they have low implementation since GBV still exist in real life situations yet to help the survivors, the laws have to be improved in order to create awareness

CHAPTER FOUR

FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents Findings, conclusions and recommendations of the study findings in accordance with the study objectives

4.1 Summary of Findings

This section presents a comprehensive summary of the findings derived from primary research phase of this study. The data was gathered through semi structured interviews, guided by a framework designed to explore the core research questions in accordance in Katanga, Kawempe Division

Weak enforcement among the enforcement agencies which lacks the training, resources or political will to effectively enforce the laws much as parliament in the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda mandates it to make laws that promote and protect human rights¹²⁷ with strides made to promulgate the laws such as the Penal Code Act, Domestic Violence Act and the Employment Act, implementation and enforcement is still lacking

Ineffective enforcement of Protection orders for the victims of GBV is not always enforced to ensure their safety, because enforcement of these orders is inconsistent in a way that the police and law enforcement agencies may not prioritize these orders, leaving victims to be exposed to danger

Gaps in Specific Legal areas, digital GBV where by the legal frameworks often fail to address the emerging rapid rise of technology facilitated GBV such as non-consensual sharing of intimate images or online harassment due to outdated legal

definitions

Procedural delays with slow, inefficient judicial processes often result in high rates of abandoned cases or failed prosecutions, fostering impunity for perpetrators. The constitution empowers individuals, institutions and agencies to institute cases in the courts of law upon violations of human rights¹²⁸. Though initiatives are taken to bring these cases before the courts, the timely rendering of justice is elusive with frustrations and loss of faith in the legal

¹²⁷ Article 79

¹²⁸ Article 50

system and resulting to the adjournment and backlog of cases

Minimum sentences for perpetrators which are often not applied fail to curb the violence especially if they are not part of a broader and holistic approach and others set free by the Police when being arrested and reported

Sociocultural norms, the legal frameworks often fail because they clash with deep rooted cultural, patriarchal norms that normalize violence particularly intimate partner violence i.e. Early Marriage often results in girls being removed from school at a young age, limiting their educational opportunities and consequently their economic independence, Social empowerment. They also perpetuate gender inequality by reinforcing traditional roles where women are expected to prioritize family obligations over personal development and career aspirations

Traditional gender roles and patriarchal norms support male dominance and female subordination, resulting into the acceptance of violence against women, where men are often seen as the primary authority in households. The older women significantly pressure family and neighbors to maintain their marriages regardless of the level of violence for preservation of family unity perceived as more important than safety or justice

The stigma associated with being a victim of GBV, along with societal tendencies to blame victims, can lead to underreporting and a lack of action, perpetuating the cycle of Psychological violence emerging as one of the most pervasive yet least acknowledged forms. Women reported experiencing constant insults, humiliation, verbal threats, ridicule, and social isolation imposed by their partners as emotional abuse often occurred alongside or prior to physical violence

Mistrust of the legal system with victims frequently refraining from reporting incidents due to fear of stigma, shame, distrust of the police and judicial system and the fight against GBV is undermined by the courts' reluctance to convict perpetrators especially in the cases of sexual violence. Courts have been accused for engaging in victim-blaming conduct because of the question they ask the survivors that led to the abuse

Ignorance among many women who are unaware of their rights in the law conversely with the perpetrators ignorant of the legal consequences of the acts of violence, limited access to education and a lack of awareness about rights and gender equality can perpetuate harmful

practices and attitudes that lead to GBV

Financial constraints is a significant obstacle with many survivors failing to afford transport to police posts, medical examinations, costs associated with completing official reporting forms and legal fees for lawyers

Legal pluralism in which customary or traditional laws and informal dispute resolution mechanism over ride statutory law discouraging formal, legal prosecution which is done by the local leaders and the elderly members of society they dwell in. Anti-GBV laws are seen as being in conflict with cultural expectations of women's roles in marriage which cultural framing weakens their confidence in the justice system

High economic dependence was another major theme, especially among low-income households with the male partners who manage and control household finances limit access to income or undermine their small businesses

4.2 Conclusions

This Study critically examined shows conclusion of the findings in accordance with research objectives and questions for enhancing the effectiveness of legal and policy frameworks in addressing GBV in Katanga, Kawempe Division.

The study reveals that despite having robust legal framework in Uganda designed to prevent and address gender-based violence these laws are largely underutilized highlighting a disconnect between legal provisions and their practical implementation.

Firstly, there is a significant lack of awareness among women about their legal rights and the processes for reporting abuse with many survivors feeling uncertain about which institutions to approach what documentation or evidence is necessary

Secondly, the enforcement of GBV laws is ineffective due to systemic limitations within government structures like Police departments, courts and health facilities often struggle with insufficient staffing, inadequate training and limited resources which leads to delays, unaddressed cases and minimal follow-up and many survivors have reported facing bureaucratic hurdles even when attempting to report incidents, which often dissuades them from taking further action.

Thirdly, deeply ingrained cultural attitudes and social norms continue to normalize GBV and reinforce male dominance making women reluctant to seek justice like the patriarchal beliefs which exact pressure to maintain family unity and fear of community stigma often lead survivors to endure abuse in silence.

Additionally, socio-economic challenges further increase women's vulnerability with many survivors financially dependent on their partners and lack the means or transportation to reach reporting centers; they also cannot afford medical

examinations required for legal proceedings where this economic dependence strengthens power imbalances, leaving women with limited options for protection or recourse.

All these factors highlight a complex justice gap where legal frameworks may exist in theory but fail to provide genuine protection or empowerment for survivors in which this study underscores that women's persistent vulnerability is not merely due to individual circumstances but reflects wider structural, institutional and socio-cultural inequalities.

It is clear that tackling GBV necessitates a comprehensive approach that extends beyond just legislation. Effective prevention and response depend on strengthening institutional capabilities, enhancing community awareness, challenging harmful social norms, providing economic and psychosocial support to survivors with laws only protecting women if there is sufficient awareness, enforcement is strong and societal pressures do not discourage reporting.

In conclusion, the study emphasizes that while Uganda has made significant legislative progress in tackling gender-based violence, real change in Katanga will occur when legal frameworks are implemented effectively, backed by functional institutions, and embraced by communities that recognize and uphold women's rights. Without such a comprehensive approach, women continue to be at risk of violence, hindered by dependency, fear of stigma, and systemic shortcomings, leaving the promise of justice remains largely unmet

4.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the study recommendations are proposed to enhance the effectiveness of legal and institutional frameworks in addressing gender-based violence (GBV) in Katanga. These recommendations target community awareness, institutional capacity, inter- agency coordination with survivor support mechanisms.

Increase of budgetary allocations to institutions that are mandated to fight GBV which are stifled by bottle necks such as inadequate police training and the overarching influence of customary laws that frequently contradict statutory protection which must move beyond protection and ensure the active ability to exercise rights. These improve enforcement and implementation in combating impunity and actively prosecute perpetrators to break the cycle

Redesigning Legal and Justice Systems, laws look great on paper but they need teeth and heart. Specialized GBV Units of police units staffed by trained female officers to reduce the secondary trauma women often face when reporting crimes, creating dedicated legal tracks for GBV cases ensuring swifter accountability for perpetrators and Survivor centric legislation moving beyond just punishment to include mandatory protection orders that are actually enforced

Technology and Safe Infrastructure, in the modern age, safety should be accessible at the touch of a button by promoting apps that link directly to the local authorities with GPS tracking and Safe public spaces with better street lighting with women only transport options in high risk areas and urban planning that prioritizes visibility

Shifting Cultural norms and prevention, through engaging male allies, actively in

prevention initiatives and promote their role in fostering respectful, non-violent relationship done through expanding community education involving men and boys in advocacy, and utilizing anonymous reporting systems to create a safer environment for women thus challenging the harmful definitions of masculinity and promoting healthy relationships

Economic empowerment strengthens women's economic security as financial independence increases a woman's ability to leave abusive situations and this harmonizes with contradictory customary, religious or traditional laws that discriminate women and perpetuate impunity

Establishment of specialized GBV courts to handle GBV cases, speeding up processes, reducing case backlogs and lessening the burden on survivors. To understand the emotional or psychological and legal challenges faced by GBV survivors, Judges, prosecutors and Counselors in these courts may be trained to handle GBV cases with care, skill and expertise¹²⁹. These ensure survivors are protected, heard, cases handled speedily and justice is administered without unnecessary delays or insensitivity. Focusing only on GBV, these courts would provide a more secure and encouraging atmosphere by focusing only on GBV which would make it easier for survivors to seek justice

Specialized training and sensitization of judicial officers to handle GBV cases with care, Judges, magistrates and police officers play an essential role to eliminate bias and ensure a survivor centered approach, avoiding secondary victimization when handling GBV cases. Many of these authoritative personnel lack training on gender sensitivity and trauma informed approaches¹³⁰. The mandatory training to them will ensure survivors are treated with dignity, and handled well without being re-traumatized

Media reporting, this brings about awareness campaigns to implement educational programs and public awareness targeting the root causes of violence such as gender inequality and patriarchal structures. The media plays a crucial role in shaping public attitudes on GBV as it's listened to by the majority of the people in Kampala being an Urban setting

Improve multi-sectorial coordination, through cross Agency collaboration between institutions developing formal mechanisms for communication with coordination between police, health services, social services and NGOs to prevent fragmentation in support. Monitor Implementation through civil society and particularly women's organizations in monitoring the implementation of

laws holding governments accountable. The need for collaboration from government agencies, NGOs and community organizations to ensure that the survivors receive support which is provided for in **Article 50(2)** which states that

¹²⁹ Uganda Judiciary, ‘Judiciary Roots for Specialized SGBV Court’
<https://judiciary.go.ug/data/news/393/Judiciary%20Roots%20for%20Specialized%20SGBV%20Court.html> Accessed 20th Jan, 2026

¹³⁰ Rebecca Clayton, ‘A Critical Legal Analysis of Marital Rape in Uganda’
https://www.mcgill.ca/humanrights/files/humanrights/rebecca_clayton_a_critical_legal_analysis_of_marital_rape_in_uganda Accessed 17th Jan, 2026

any organization may bring an action against the violation of another persons' or group human rights¹³¹. **Article 79**, the parliament shall have power to make for peace, order, development and good governance this includes passing laws that protect and promote rights like Domestic Violence Act¹³²

Enhancing Support and services for survivors, establishment of one stop centers that combine medical, legal and psychosocial support to facilitate survivor recovery, implementation of standardized data collection on GBV incidents at all levels to inform policy as currently, the many forms of violence go unreported and undocumented and Legal aid access with provision of free or affordable gender sensitive legal aid to help victims navigate the justice system. These services into our justice system and community support structures, we create a society where survivors are not abandoned but empowered hence making it necessity for a more just and compassionate society than leaving it just as an option

Changing public attitudes and encourage reporting, many survivors of GBV may hesitate or refuse to speak out due to fear of being blamed or stigmatized by the public where existence of awareness campaigns that challenge harmful beliefs and encourage communities to support survivors rather than silence them because the more we educate people, the more likely survivors are to seek justice without fear

Translate legal frame works into formats that are easily accessible for the local community by the Local authorities, the government and NGOs should simplify key legal provisions into Luganda and share them in brochures, posters, and visual charts which will help ensure that even women with limited literacy can grasp reporting procedures, available protections and institutional responsibilities

Strengthen monitoring and accountability mechanisms, many factors that predict effectiveness such as responsiveness of officers, record-keeping, follow-up systems and community trust should be monitored on regular basis with Local councils, police, and NGOs maintaining updated case records and undergo periodic audits to identify gaps and ensure accountability

¹³¹ 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda.

¹³² Supra

Survivor Centered Procedural Reforms where by instead of making survivors visit police, the scaling of integrated centers where all services including legal statement taking happen in one safe location and with reform of evidentiary rules where physical evidence is often absent by allowing expert psychological testimony.

Conclusion, the enactment of specialized anti- GBV laws such as domestic Violence Act demonstrates a strong state commitment to protecting women, the implementation gap is driven by deep rooted patriarchal norms, lack of specialized judicial support and systemic barriers like victim blaming by law enforcement. In order for the laws to be effective deterrents, they must be integrated into a broader ecosystem of social and economic support

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INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR ADULT WOMEN, COMMUNITY LEADERS AND WOMEN LEADERS ON THE EFFICACY OF LAWS IN CURBING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN KAMPALA

Introduction

I am Mawululu Isaac, a student at Uganda Christian University, perusing a Bachelors of Laws. I am conducting a study on the Efficacy of laws in curbing gender based violence among Women in Kampala. It is made up of semi structured and open ended questions. The semi structured questions will point at specific answers; the open ended questions will seek wider knowledge or a broader perspective.

i. What is your age bracket?

18-28 ☐

29-38 ☐

39-50 ☐

ii. Do you know any specific law in Uganda designed to combat GBV?

iii. Do you believe the current legal frame work of GBV adequately cover all forms of abuse?

iv. Where did you learn about these laws?

v. How do you rate the responsiveness of police when a GBV incident is reported?

vi. In your experience, are the protection orders effectively

- enforced by authorities?
- vii. What are the biggest challenges in prosecuting GBV cases?
 - viii. Do law enforcement and judicial officers receive training to handle GBV cases sensitively?
 - ix. Do survivors have easy access to legal aid and medical support?
 - x. How safe do you think a survivor feels reporting a case to the authorities?
 - xi. Have the current laws reduced the frequency of GBV in your community?
 - xii. Are there Conflicts between formal law and customary law that hinder justice?
 - xiii. What is the most important factor in improving the efficacy of GBV laws?