



# **Analysis of Cases of Sexual Violence Reported in Major Print Media in Uganda 2014**



## FOREWORD



As ACFODE marks 30 years of existence this year, we are proud to celebrate our effort in promoting women's rights and gender equality. We salute our development partners that have supported us in this journey and the community members who have joined us in the campaign to defy Gender Based Violence amidst several challenges. In our endeavors to promote women and girls' rights, ACFODE has steadily embarked on the drive to end sexual violence against women and girls in Uganda. Through her intervention "Prevention and handling cases of sexual violence against women and girls in Kisoro", ACFODE has engaged influential men and women known as CODERASH (Combating all forms of Defilement, Rape and Sexual harassment), who were oriented and commissioned as community activists in the fight against sexual violence. We also brought on board Key stakeholders at district level in Kisoro to support our initiatives on ending sexual violence. Additionally, we have been lobbying and advocating for the passing of the sexual offences bill by engaging Parliamentarians and other likeminded partners in the civil society sector.

Our advocacy work at national level on ending sexual violence goes beyond influencing policies but also raising massive awareness including media on the issue of sexual violence and how it is presented. This we have accomplished through conducting studies on cases of sexual violence reported or published in print media and how frequent this is done. This initiative started in 2013 and the analysis report was produced and disseminated among stakeholders nationwide, sparking off discussions on ending sexual violence against women and girls. During the analysis, ACFODE appreciated the importance of citizens in breaking the silence on sexual violence cases and ensuring that perpetrators are brought to book. It is unfortunate that minors aged (0 to 9) years and young girls aged (10 to 19) years are the most sexually violated persons; this puts our future generation at stake. While we assume that fathers and uncles have a role as parents and mentors, alas! They have turned on their own daughters and nieces.

***This has to stop! The power in your hands; we all have the power to say NO and erase sexual violence against women and girls, for a peaceful and developed Uganda.***

As you read this report, I hope you will be inspired to be an advocate for the protection and promotion of women and girls' rights by joining the campaign against sexual violence and reporting cases to relevant duty bearers, who in turn should handle cases to their conclusion.

**REGINA BAFAKI**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

<b>ACFODE</b>	Action for Development
<b>CODERASH</b>	Combating all forms of Defilement, Rape and Sexual Harassment
<b>UBOS</b>	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
<b>UDHS</b>	Uganda Demographic Health Survey
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organisation





## SECTION ONE

### INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

#### 1.1 Overview

During the year 2014, ACFODE continued to determine whether and how the topic of “sexual violence against women and girls” was presented in the print media. This was similar to a study conducted in 2013; through the approach of reviewing daily newspapers particularly Bukedde, Monitor, New Vision and Observer to record information on published cases of sexual violence during the year 2014 (i.e. January to December). The choice of these newspapers was based on their wider coverage of news throughout the country compared to the rest. This report presents findings from the study and also highlights recommendations in regard to the prevention of sexual violence against women and girls in Uganda.

#### 1.2 Background of the Study

The Penal Code Act indicates acts of sexualized violence to include rape, aggravated rape, attempted rape, defilement, aggravated defilement, attempted defilement, incest, sexual harassment, indecent assault, forced under-age marriages, having sex with a woman during her postnatal period, sex in the presence of children, unwanted sexual touches and use of vulgar language. (See full definitions under appendix 2).

According to the WHO Fact Sheet on Intimate partner and sexualized violence against women (2013), the recent global prevalence figures indicate that 35% of women worldwide have experienced either intimate partner violence or non-partner sexualized violence in their lifetime, while 30% of those who have been in a relationship report to have experienced some form of physical or sexualized violence by their partner.

In Uganda, serious crimes have had a gradual reduction over the years from 2009 to 2013, however defilement remains the most common serious crime accounting for more than half of all the serious crimes in 2013; 7564 cases of defilement were recorded in 2009, 7,360 in 2010, 7,690 in 2011, 8076 in 2012 and 9598 in 2013 (UBOS: Statistical Abstract 2014). Important to note is that the total number of offences is unknown since a lot of cases go un-reported and/or are settled at family or community level.

ACFODE has undertaken different interventions to increase awareness on sexualized violence among women and men, girls and boys in Uganda some of which are under the project *“Prevention and handling of cases of sexualized violence against women and girls in the rural areas of Kisoro district”*. ACFODE trained and commissioned






Combating all forms of Defilement Rape and Sexual Harassment (CODERASH) committees composed of influential men and women in communities such as LC 1s, religious leaders and parents, senior women and senior men teachers in 41 primary schools in the sub counties of Busanza, Kirundo, Nyakanbande and Nyarusiza in Kisoro District, to carry out sensitisation campaigns on prevention of sexualized violence against women and girls. ACFODE also networked with key stakeholders at local level in Kisoro district to enforce laws that prevent sexualized violence against women and girls. At national level, ACFODE has been advocating for the passing of the Sexual Offences Bill into law and also creates awareness on sexual offences against women and girls in Uganda by analysing and disseminating findings on newspaper reports on sexual violence.

In 2013, findings from the analysis of newspaper reports on sexual violence showed that aggravated defilement was the most committed sexual offence accounting for 50.9% (87 of 171 cases reported). ACFODE disseminated findings from the analysis report during a public event at Fairway Hotel in Kampala in 2014. The event was honoured by the Inspector General of Police, Kale Kaihura who also launched ACFODE's publication titled "Power of the pen in breaking sexual violence against women and girls in Kisoro district." The publication contains true life stories of survivors of sexual violence in Kisoro district. The findings from the analysis report sparked off discussions among key stakeholders including members of parliament, development partners, representatives from relevant ministries, academia and media, on preventing sexual violence against women and girls. The findings also helped ACFODE to document evidence on the presentation of the issue of sexualized violence against women and girls in Ugandan print media. Following this background, ACFODE has produced and published the 2014 report to highlight on cases of sexual violence published in the print media and to show comparisons with 2013 findings. This report will also be disseminated among strategic partners in order to facilitate advocacy on ending sexual violence against women and girls in Uganda.

### 1.3 Justification

The main purpose of the study was to document evidence on the presentation of the issue of sexualized violence against women and girls in Ugandan print media. The study report will help to dialogue with media on why they document cases of sexual violence and why cases documented are far less than actual cases reported to police; ACFODE will also be in position to interact with media and give recommendations on the terminologies to use when documenting cases of sexual violence for example naming 'survivors' and not 'victims'. Further, ACFODE will have discussions with media



on how to ensure protection of identity for survivors for instance not publishing their names in news papers. ACFODE also envisages lobbying government and other relevant ministries to establish guidelines/mechanisms on prevention of sexualized violence against women and girls in Uganda. .

## **1.4 Methodology**

Data was collected through daily review of articles on sexualized violence published in Uganda's major print newspapers including; Bukedde, Monitor, New Vision and Observer. The data collector in the Gender and Economic Policy department at ACFODE, captured cases of sexual violence namely rape, defilement, child prostitution, child marriage and sexual harassment; she also captured different regions where the cases occurred, background characteristics of the survivors and offenders namely age, sex, employment status and education level, places where the cases were reported as well as their status. The data covered the period of January to December 2014. This data was captured and analyzed using Microsoft Excel to draw interpretations and conclusions.

# SECTION ONE



## ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This section presents results from the study in form of tables and charts and also provides the interpretation of the findings. Shown in the subsequent sections are; the frequencies of sexual offences that were published, their regional representation, background characteristics of survivors and offenders, institution of reporting and status of reported cases, the newspapers where cases were published, terminologies used and identity facts of survivors and offenders published/exposed in the news papers such as age, name and village.

### 2.1 Cases of Sexual Violence Published in the Newspapers

In 2014, aggravated defilement persisted as the major sexual offence reported in the major print media estimated at 61.9% as shown in table 1. This was followed by rape (14.4%) and defilement (13.6%). A few cases of aggravated rape were reported on (4.2%), as well as sexual harassment (2.5%), attempted rape (0.8%), attempted defilement (0.8%), child prostitution (0.8%) and child marriage (0.8%). 15.3% of the cases were incest and 5.9% included disability of the survivor.

**Table 1: Frequencies and percentages of cases of sexual violence published in the newspapers**

Sexual offence published	Frequency	Percentage
Rape	17	14.4
Aggravated rape	5	4.2
Attempted rape	1	0.8
Defilement	16	13.6
Aggravated defilement	73	61.9
Attempted defilement	1	0.8
Child prostitution	1	0.8
Sexual harassment	3	2.5
Child marriage	1	0.8
Incest*	18*	15.3*
Disability of the victim*	7*	5.9* <sup>1</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 2.2 Regional Representation of Cases of Sexual Violence

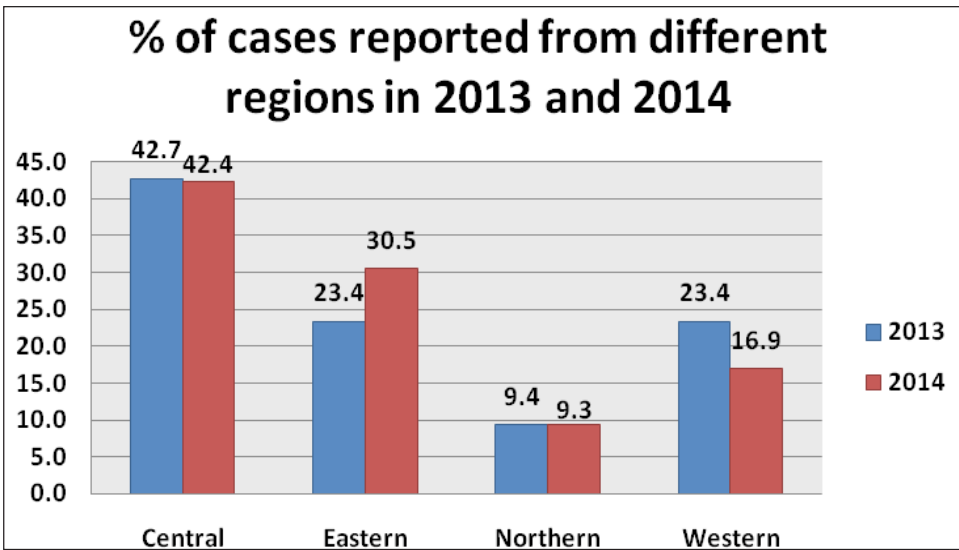


Figure 1

Figure 1 shows that most of the cases were reported from central region (42.4%), followed by Eastern region (30.5%), Western region (19.9%) and Northern region (9.3%). 13 out of 50 cases in Central region were reported from Kampala. The highest number of cases reported from central region is explained by easy access to cases by journalists and media and also influential people/organizations that push for the publishing of the cases.

## 2.3 Background Characteristics of Survivors and Offenders

The background characteristics recorded included sex, age, educational level, employment status and relationship between survivors and offenders.

Table 2: Frequencies and percentages of survivors and offenders by sex

Sex	Survivors		Offenders	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Males	5	4.2	116	98.3
Females	113	95.8	2	1.7
Total	118	100.0	118	100.0

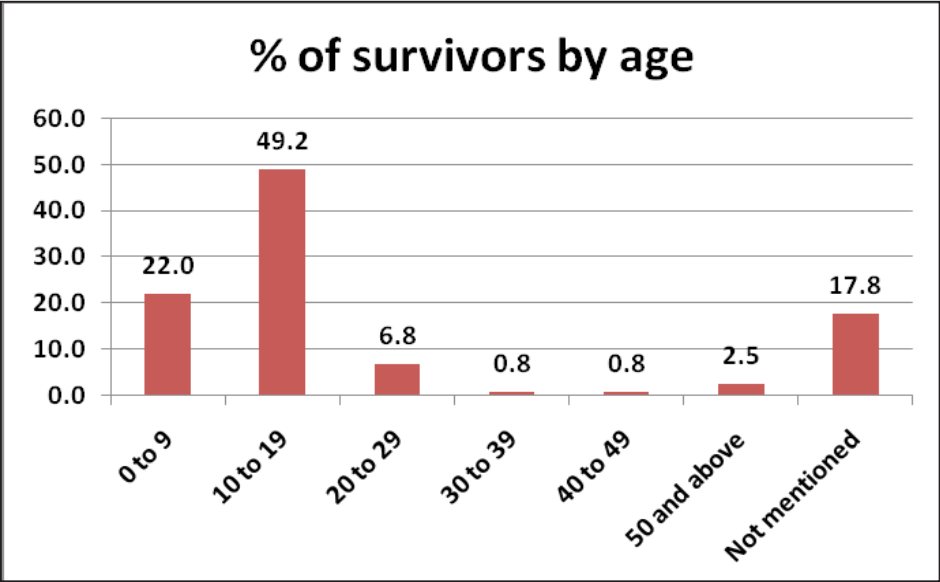
Table 2 shows that majority of the survivors were females (95.8%) while majority of offenders were males (98.3%). Only 4.2% of survivors were males and only 1.7% of



offenders were females. This corresponds to 2013 findings where 95.3% of survivors were females and 97.7% of offenders were males. It is therefore evident that women and girls are the most vulnerable group to sexual violence, which is mainly perpetrated by men.

**Survivors of sexual violence according to age**

Findings revealed that most of the survivors (49.2%) were aged (10 – 19) as shown in figure 2. 22% of them were aged (0 – 9), 6.8% of them were aged (20 – 29), 2.5% of them were aged 50 and above and 0.8% of them were aged (30 to 39) and (40 – 49). The highest percentage of survivors aged (10 – 19) corresponds to 2013 findings where 76% of survivors were also aged (10-19). The enormous decline in number of cases published after the survivor reaches the age of 19 could be a sign of vulnerability of minors; it could also be a sign that upon reaching marriage age or even for married women within age brackets of (30 - 39) and (40 - 49), reporting an incident of sexual violence can be of a disadvantage to the survivor or they are even shy to report. At this age, survivors also risk not getting married if they report being abused sexually. A baseline study conducted by ACFODE in Kisoro in 2009 revealed that when a woman or girl reports a case of sexual abuse like rape or defilement, she is ridiculed and if she is still not married she can't get someone to marry her once it is known. Therefore the tendency is to keep quiet. The society tends to look at a woman who has been raped with a negative attitude. Further studies and engagement of media houses are recommended to establish the cause of this phenomenon.



**Figure 2**

## Offenders of sexual violence according to age

Findings also revealed that most of the offenders (28%) were aged (20 to 29). This also corresponds to 2013 findings where 56% of offenders were aged (20-29). This could be a sign of the sexually very active men between ages 20 and 39 being the most offenders (UDHS 2011:56 – Marriage and sexual activity). Figure 3 shows the percentages of offenders in different age brackets.

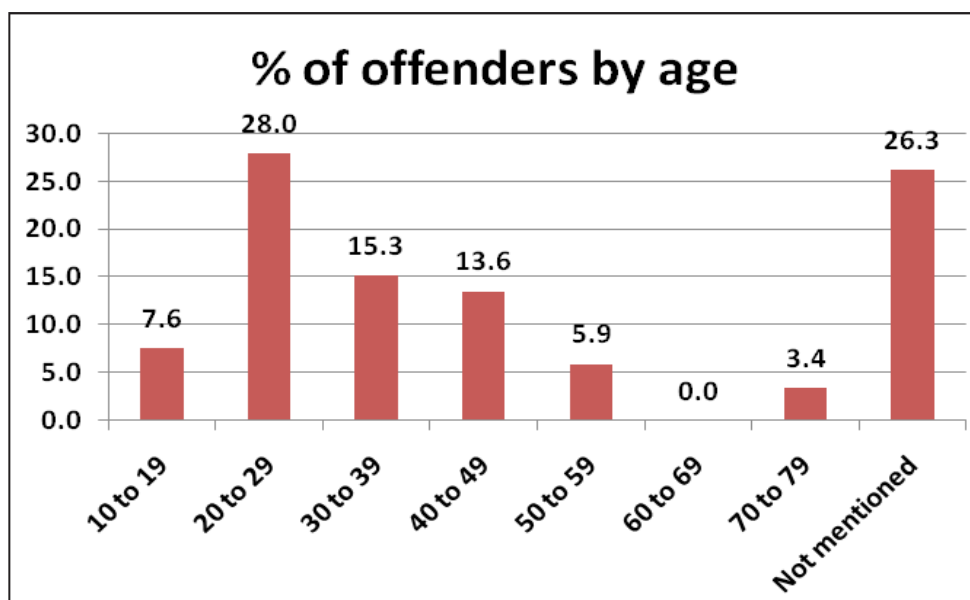


Figure 3

## Highest education level attained by survivors and offenders

14.4% of the survivors were reported to have attained primary education and only 3.4% secondary education as indicated in table 3. None of the survivors was reported to have attained tertiary education. 8.5% of the offenders were reported to have attained tertiary education and 0.8% secondary.

Table 3: Frequencies and percentages of survivors and offenders by education level

Education level attained	Survivors		Offenders	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Primary	17	14.4	-	-
Secondary	4	3.4	1	0.8
Tertiary	-	-	10	8.5
Not mentioned	97	82.2	107	90.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>100.0</b>



### Employment status of survivors and offenders

Findings showed that all the newspapers considered did not report on the employment status of survivors. Only 16.1% of the offenders were reported to be employed as shown in table 4.

**Table 4: Frequencies and percentages of survivors and offenders by employment status**

Employment status	Survivors		Offenders	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Employed	-	-	19	16.1
Unemployed	-	-	-	-
Not mentioned	118	100.0	99	83.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### Relationship between survivors and offenders

The study also established relationship between survivors and offenders. These included; offender being a stranger to the survivor, a relative (father, uncle and cousin), a teacher, a Pastor/church leader and others including prison warden, herdsman and caretaker.

**Table 5: Frequencies and percentages of offenders according to their relationship to survivors**

Relationship between offenders and survivors	Frequency	Percentage
Stranger	79	66.9
Relative	18	15.3
Teacher	7	5.9
Pastor	3	2.5
Others	11	9.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 5 shows that majority of the offenders (66.9%) were strangers to survivors, 15.3% were relatives, 5.9% were teachers and 2.5% were pastors. The findings therefore show evidence that some parents/guardians and mentors for example relatives and teachers are not fulfilling their responsibility but instead are perpetrating sexual violence.

### 2.4 Institutions where Cases of Sexual Violence were reported and their Status

The study also established the institutions/referral points of cases of sexual violence and the status of reported cases at the time when they were published.



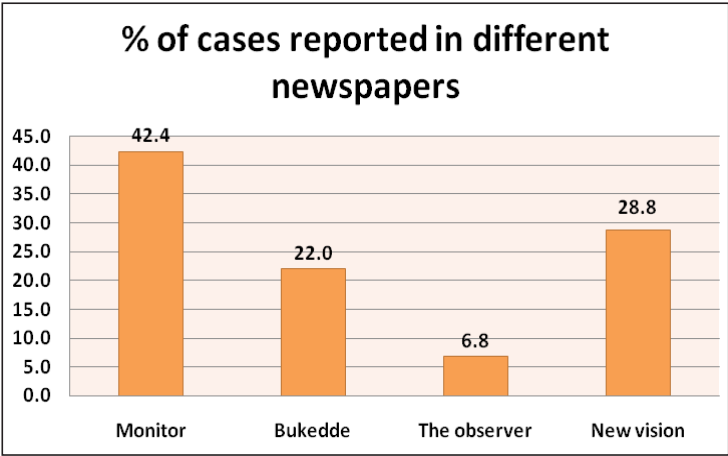
**Table 6: Frequencies and percentages of cases of sexual violence vis-à-vis the referral points**

Referral point/Institution where case was reported	Frequency	Percentage
Local authorities/stakeholders	3	2.5
Parents/guardians	3	2.5
Court	5	4.2
Police	38	32.2
Not mentioned	69	58.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 6 shows that most of the cases (32.2%) were reported or referred to police, 4.2% to court and 2.5% to parents/guardians and local authorities/stakeholders. Of the cases reported, 36.4% of offenders were under police custody, while 29.7% were sentenced and 15.3% of the cases were in court. In addition 15.3% of the cases were ignored and this was mainly due to lack of evidence.

**2.5 Coverage of Cases of Sexual Violence in the Newspapers**

Bukedde, Daily Monitor, New Vision and Observer were the newspapers considered for the study. Findings showed that Daily Monitor published the highest number of cases of sexual violence estimated at 42.4%. This was followed by New Vision (28.8%), Bukedde (22%) and Observer (6.8%). This is demonstrated in figure 4.



**Figure 4**

It should be noted that some cases were published in more than one type of news paper. This study however treated cases published in each news paper independently irrespective of whether it appeared in another news paper.



## 2.6 Language use and identity facts of survivors

### *Terminology used in reporting*

Terminologies describe whether the person involved in the case is a victim, survivor or offender. The term “victim” is a convenient short hand despite its negative association with powerlessness. “Survivor” is used to convey the meaning that a person has survived a violation of their human rights and dignity (Reproductive Health in Refugee Situations-Inter Agency Field Manual, 2010). In this study, 28.8% of sexually violated persons were referred to as ‘victims’ as shown in table 7. For the rest of the cases where no terminology was mentioned, words like ‘the girl’ or ‘the woman’ were used.

**Table 7: Frequencies and percentages of survivors of sexual violence vis-à-vis terminology used**

Terminology used	Frequency	Percentage
Survivor	-	-
Victim	34	28.8
Not mentioned	84	71.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### *Identity facts of survivors and offenders published/exposed in the news papers*

The study also helped to establish whether identity of survivors is protected in the news papers in comparison with offenders. This was achieved by collecting and analysing data on identity facts of survivors and offenders published including age, name and village/place of residence. The analysis showed that 82.2% of the cases highlighted the survivor’s age while 73.7% of the cases highlighted the offender’s age. Only 6.8% of the cases highlighted the survivor’s name while 66.9% of the cases highlighted the offender’s name. Only 19.5% of the cases highlighted the survivor’s village 61.9% of the cases highlighted the offender’s village. This is shown in table 8.

**Table 8: Frequencies and percentages of identity facts of survivors and offenders exposed**

Background characteristic	Survivors		Offenders	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Age				
Published	97	82.2	87	73.7
Not published	21	17.8	31	26.3
Name				
Published	8	6.8	79	66.9
Not published	110	93.2	39	33.1
Village				
Published	23	19.5	73	61.9
Not published	95	80.5	45	38.1

Out of 118 cases published, 47 cases revealed all the identity facts of the offender namely age, name and village while only 5 cases revealed all the identity facts of the survivor. This corresponds to 2013 findings where 6 out of 171 cases revealed all three identity facts (age, name and village) of survivors. This therefore shows that survivors' identity is relatively more protected in news papers compared to offenders.

## 2.7 Summary of Findings

Aggravated defilement was the most published sexual offence accounting for 61.9%. Most of the cases of sexual violence published were recorded from Central region (urban area) accounting for 42.4% for which most of them were published by Monitor (42.4%). Most of the offenders were males (98.3%), strangers to survivors (66.9%) and lied in the age bracket of 20-39 years. Most of the survivors were females (95.8%) and lied in the age bracket of 10-19 years. According to the study findings, the major institution where cases were reported was the police (32.2%) and 36.4% of the offenders were still under police custody at the time of conducting the study. Finally, the survivors' identity is relatively more protected since only 5 cases out of 118 exposed the survivors' name, age and village.

## SECTION THREE



# CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## 3.1 Conclusions

From this study, it can be concluded that some citizens in Uganda have decided to break the silence on sexualized violence by reporting cases to police, court or local authorities. It can also be concluded that aggravated defilement is the commonest form of sexual violence reported in the news papers and most of the cases involve minors. Other forms of sexual violence are under reported. Further, most articles protect the identity of survivors compared to offenders.

By publishing these cases, the media also contributes to raising awareness on the issue of sexual violence. In this study, it is observed that coverage of sexualized violence acts is higher in and around Kampala city which could be associated with easy accessibility to survivors by the media.

According to study findings, women and girls are mostly sexually violated compared to men and boys. This therefore calls for existing policies, programs and actions to protect girls' and women's rights to be strengthened. Sexually violated boys and men should also speak up and share their experiences and not suffer in silence. Everyone deserves justice!

## 3.2 Recommendations

ACFODE together with other women's organizations, women activists and human rights defenders need to step up advocacy initiatives on issues of sexualized violence against women and girls in Uganda.

Government ministries, Members of Parliament together with Civil Society Organisations should aim at raising awareness on and addressing harmful cultural practices that violate women and girls' rights like forced and child marriages.

Community members to work hand in hand with Police so that cases of sexualized violence are reported and not silenced in order to grant justice to survivors.

Government together with Civil Society Organisations should aim at organizing and spearheading campaigns on promotion of women's rights by saying 'No to sexualized violence'.



To ensure effective allocation of resources to programmes on ending violence against women and to ensure effective implementation of laws against violence against women, the government should take action.

It would be advisable for the media to have a stronger focus on cases that happen in areas outside Kampala. They should also document stories of survivors and ensure sensitive but informative reporting about cases of sexual violence.

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## APPENDIX

### Cases of sexualised violence according to districts and regions of Uganda

Central	No. of cases	Eastern	No. of cases	Northern	No. of cases	Western	No. of cases
Bukomansimbi	1	Manafwa	1	Amuru	1	Fort Portal	1
Kalungu	1	Buyende	1	Apac	1	Hoima	1
Sembabule	2	Iganga	8	Arua	1	Ibanda	1
Wakiso	5	Jinja	8	Gulu	4	Kabale	2
Rakai	1	Kamuli	2	Moyo	1	Kabarole	8
Kalangala	4	Mayuge	8	Agago	1	Kamwenge	1
Kampala	13	Namutumba	2	Adjumani	2	Kasese	1
Kayunga	2	Tororo	5			Kibaale	1
Kiboga	1	Namayingo	1			Kisoro	1
Luweero	5					Mbarara	1
Masaka	6					Rukungiri	2
Mityana	1						
Mukono	3						
Nakaseke	3						
Mubende	1						







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