

**THE UGANDA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND THE
PROTECTION OF ABUSED CHILDREN IN KAMPALA DISTRICT,
CENTRAL DIVISION**

**A Thesis
Presented to the College of Higher Degrees and
Research, Kampala International
University Kampala, Uganda**

**In Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Master of Arts in Human Rights
And Development**

BY:

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February 2012

DECLARATION A

"This thesis is my original work and has not been presented for a Degree or any other academic award in any University or Institution of learning"

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8th February, 2012

Date

DECLARATION B

"I confirm that the work reported in this thesis was carried out by the candidate under my supervision"

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Name and Signature of Supervisor

February 10, 2012

Date

APPROVAL SHEET

This thesis entitled "Uganda human rights commission and the protection of the abused children in Kampala district" prepared by Elizabeth Nkhonjera in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the Degree of Master of Arts in Human Rights and Development has been examined and approved by the panel of oral examination with a grade of PASSED.


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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my dearest father, Stephen Mbalwire Nthakomwa, my sister Jane Ngonyikwe Nthakomwa, father-in-law, Augustine Nkhonjera;, and mother-in-law, Christina Zimba; all gone! They would have been proud of my determination to succeed in life.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACRWC	African Charter on the Rights and the Welfare of the Child
ANPPCAN	African Network for Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect
ARV	Antiretroviral
DFID	Department for International Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
MPs	Members of Parliament
NGOs	Non Governmental Organizations
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Scientists
UHRC	Uganda Human Rights Commission
UCRNN	Uganda Child Rights NGO Network
UN	United Nations
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

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ABSTRACT

The research study examined "Uganda Human Rights Commission and the protection of abused children in Kampala district, Central Division. Descriptive research design was applied to a research population which included; Uganda Human Rights the UHRC officials, media officials, NGO workers, the police, community members, MPs, and the children both from the streets and Naguru Reception Centre.

On the effectiveness of Uganda Human Rights Commission in protecting the rights of abused children, the study revealed that UHRC still performs below expectations as far as protecting abused children is concerned. On the extent of children's rights protection in Kampala city, the study revealed that there still exists poor coordination between UHRC and other human rights agencies like the NGOs and the police in protecting the rights of abused children in Kampala city. On significant relationship between UHRC and protection of abused children's rights in Kampala city, the study showed that; considering the negative correlation between UHRC activities and the extent of UHRC protection of abused children's rights, led to the conclusion that there is no significant relationship between UHRC and the protection of abused children's rights in Kampala city.

The study concluded that the rights of abused children are not fully protected by Uganda Human Rights Commission. Recommendations were later made and they included; UHRC and the government should embark on a project to have Conventions on the Rights translated into major local languages among others.

CHAPTER ONE

THE PROBLEM AND ITS SCOPE

Background

Uganda is highly rated in terms of her efforts to translate international commitments into domestic legislation. Legal provisions relating to the protection of children can be found in an array of domestic legal instruments. The Uganda Constitution (1995) comprehensively provides for the protection of all children in general; The Children's Act (2003) operationalises constitutional issues concerning children in Uganda; other relevant legislations include the National Council for Children Statute (1996), the National Youth Council Act (2003), the Penal Code Act (Cap.160), the Local Governments Act (1997), and the Succession Act (1964).

The country also has an impressive record with regard to the ratification of international instruments relating to children's rights. Some of the key international instruments related to child protection that Uganda has ratified include the following; The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (2000); The Optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of children in armed conflict; The African Charter on the rights and welfare of the child; ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (2000); ILO Convention 138 on the minimum age

of Employment (1973); and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979).

But despite the commendable legal framework, the situation for children in Uganda still is anything but desirable. Uganda is lacking a comprehensive and effective child protection system; children's rights continue to be extremely abused. Children continue to live in conditions characterized by inadequate access to health services, while biting poverty in homes, increased pupil dropout rates leading to low completion rates, and unacceptably high number of cases of child abuse and neglect which undermine the four cardinal rights of a child to survival, development, protection and participation (ANPPCAN, 2011).

Children comprise up to 56% of Uganda's population and, therefore, by implication, are the biggest number of Ugandans. But of these, over 2 million children are orphans; over 2.7 million children are caught up in Child Labour; approximately, 135 children die in every 1000 live births. In other words, one in seven children will die before they reach the age of five years; over 90% of the children grow up in poverty, with one in every five suffering from chronic hunger; and approximately, 320 children dying per day contributing to about 70,000-110,000 deaths per year (ANPPCAN, 2011). According to the data from ANPPCAN, (2011), of more than 50,000 children in need of antiretroviral (ARV) treatment, only about 13,000 children receiving this essential intervention; out of 200 antiretroviral treatment sites approved by the Ministry of Health only 30 provide pediatric services; approximately, 67.6% of children who enroll for

primary education dropout before they complete primary seven; while as many as over 69,248 cases of child sexual abuse were registered from 2003 to 2009, with less than 10% convictions of the perpetrators. Quite clearly, there is ground for concern about the welfare of children in Uganda.

Statement of the Problem

The matter of children's rights in Uganda is an issue that is known to virtually every Ugandan; but the perpetrators of the abuse of children's rights are instead increasing. Many children have left their homes and have taken refuge in town streets. Moreover, others have begun their own homes, a development which has accelerated the problem of child headed homes in the country. This has been as a result of poor protection from the homes, from the police, and from other children's rights protection bodies, like the NGOs. The Uganda Police report 2010 reveals that there were 185 victims of combined cases of child abduction, kidnap, disappearance, trafficking and sacrifice during the period between January and September 2006, meaning that children's rights were highly violated (UHRC, 2005).

Most of the children abused internally were from Buganda, accounting for 36%, followed by those from Acholi (18%) and those from Ankole (8%). In the UHRC Annual Report for 2010, it was revealed that 176 children (20.2%) had been denied maintenance, 16 (3.0%) were denied basic education, hence leaving an urgent need to design strategies for protecting the rights of these children in order to make them grow up

into responsible citizens. Under this atmosphere, many children have decided to live their own lives which have in the long-run turned out to be hostile, hence forcing children into child labour, child prostitution, theft, drug abuse among others. Given this situation, there is urgent need to protect the rights of those children in order to make them responsible citizens. The search for such appropriate strategies constitutes the problem of this study.

Purpose of the Study

The Reason for proposing this study was to examine the effectiveness of Uganda human rights commission and the extent of children's rights protection in Kampala district so as to generate new information from the field research as well as from existing body knowledge on children's rights protection in Uganda today.

Research Objectives

General: This study investigated the role of the UHRC in protecting abused children's rights in the central division of Kampala District.

Specific objectives: To be sought further in this study were as follows:

1. To identify the demographic characteristics of respondents in terms of gender, age, and number of years' experience in working with children.
2. To determine the effectiveness of the Uganda Human Rights Commission in protecting the rights of the abused children.
3. To determine the extent of children's rights protection in Kampala district.

4. To establish if there is a significant relationship between the operation of the UHRC and level of children's rights protection in Kampala district.

Research Questions

The main questions which were addressed in this research are;

1. What are the demographic characteristics of respondents in terms of gender, age, and number of years experience in working with children?
2. What is the effectiveness of Uganda Human Rights Commission in promoting and fulfilling the rights of children?
3. What is the extent of children's rights protection in Kampala district?
4. Is there a significant relationship between the operation of UHRC and level of children's rights protection in Kampala district?

Null Hypotheses

1. There is no significant relationship between UHRC and children's rights protection in Kampala city, central division.
2. There is a significant relationship between UHRC and children's rights protection in Kampala city, central division.

Scope

Geographical Scope

The study was conducted in Kampala district, which has five divisions. But the research concentrated on the Central Division. The UHRC is located in Kyagwe road, in Kampala city centre.

Theoretical scope

The research was based on *interests theory approach* of human rights which states that the principal function of human rights is to protect and promote certain essential human interests.

Content Scope

The study examined the correlation between the operations of Uganda Human Rights and protection of the rights of abused children in the central Division of Kampala city.

Significance of the Study

The study will suggest more and better modes of protecting the rights of abused children in the central Division of Kampala and, hopefully in Uganda at large.

The information should be useful to such institutions as are concerned with the protection and promotion of the rights of children.

It should also provide information that may be useful to other researchers, government Institutions, and Non-Government

Organizations, to improve on the human rights sector in Uganda and Kampala in particular.

Operational Definitions of key terms

Protection -The act of protecting, or the state of being protected; preservation from loss, injury, or annoyance; defense; shelter; as, the weak need protection.

Human rights –These are basic rights to which all human beings are entitled, often held to include, among others, the right to life and liberty, freedom of thought and expression, and equality before the law.

Child abuse- The action by any human being, in this study referred to as the perpetrator, which does not hold the best interests of the child as the primary consideration.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Introduction

This chapter is a review of literature related to the topic. It starts of with a look at the concepts, opinions, and ideas from authors/experts in relation to abused children's rights and protection.

Concepts, Opinions, Ideas from Authors/ Experts

Children's dignity should be respected and their views heard within the limits of their ability to express themselves (Melton, 1991 & 1996). Tremper (1988) argues in his analysis of children's rights that protection of dignity and legal protection of individual rights are fundamental. But throughout history, children below the age of eighteen years have been exposed to human rights violations of one kind or another, in fact, historically, child abuse has for a long time been recorded in literature, art and science in many parts of the world, as evidenced by reports of infanticide, mutilation, abandonment and other forms of violence against children that date back to ancient civilizations (Lee, 1994). Hence, for a long time, there have existed charitable groups and others concerned with children's well-being who have advocated the interest of such children. This concern received a general public attention in 1962, with the publication of a seminal work, "*The battered child syndrome*," by Kempe *et al.* (2010). This motivation looked into abuse in young children, and now there is more than ample evidence that child abuse is a global problem. As Krug (2010) reports, it occurs in a variety of forms and it is deeply rooted in cultural, economic and social practices.

According to a major report by UNICEF (2006), hundreds of millions of children are suffering from severe exploitation and discrimination and have become virtually invisible to the world. The report '*The State of the World's Children 2006: Excluded and Invisible*' explores the causes of neglect and the abuses children experience. It is a sweeping assessment of the world's most vulnerable children, whose rights to a safe and healthy childhood are exceptionally difficult to protect. Such children are growing up beyond the reach of development campaigns and are often invisible in everything from public debate and legislation, to statistics and news stories. Accordingly, without focused attention, millions of children will remain trapped and forgotten in childhoods of neglect and abuse, with devastating consequences for their long-term well-being and the development of nations. The report argues that any society with an interest in the welfare of its children and its own future must not allow this to happen. As Rees (2000) correctly observes, "Meeting the Millennium Development Goals depends on reaching vulnerable children throughout the developing world".

But as Melton (1996) rightly recognizes children are in a relatively powerless position because of their dependency on adults or caregivers in society. This implies that all children need care and protection against any form of abuse by adults and caregivers in society. On the contrary, the concept that children possess rights is viewed by some people as a radical notion. This is based on the fact that in some cultures children are treated as the property or possession of parents rather than holders of specific rights (Detrick, Dook & Cantwell, 1992; Newell, 1993; Van Bueren, 1995).

Human rights do not apply however, to all age groups; and children have the same general human rights as adults. But children are particularly vulnerable, and so they also have particular rights that recognize their special need for protection. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, (2004) sets out the rights that must be realized for children to develop their full potential, free from hunger and want, neglect and abuse. It reflects a new vision of the child. Children are neither the property of their parents, nor are they helpless objects of charity (Hampton R.L, 1983). They are human beings and are, therefore the subject of their own rights. The Convention offers a vision of the child as an individual and as a member of a family and community, with rights and responsibilities appropriate to his or her age and stage of development. By recognizing children's rights in this way, the Convention firmly sets the focus on the whole child.

The roots of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) can be traced back from 1923, when Eglantyne Jebb, founder of Save the Children, summarized the rights of children in five points. Her Declaration of the Rights of the Child was adopted by the League of Nations in 1924; and the five points subsequently became known as the Declaration of Geneva. Following World War II, and its atrocities, the United Nations (UN) concentrated on producing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted in 1948. Although the rights of children were implicitly included in this Declaration, it was felt by many to be insufficient and that the special needs of children justified an additional, separate document. In this way, in November

1959, the UN General Assembly adopted the second Declaration of the Rights of the Child. This consisted of ten principles and incorporated the guiding principle of working in the best interests of the child. However, this 1959 Declaration was not legally binding and was only a statement of general principles and intent.

Theoretical Perspectives

Advocates of the *interests theory approach* argue that the principal function of human rights is to protect and promote certain essential human interests. Securing human beings' essential interests is the principal ground upon which human rights may be morally justified. The interests approach is thus primarily concerned to identify the social and biological prerequisites for human beings leading a minimally good life. The universality of human rights is grounded in what are considered to be some basic, indispensable, attributes for human well-being, which all of us are deemed necessarily to share. Take, for example, the interest each of us has in respect of our own personal security. This interest serves to ground our claim to the right. It may require the derivation of other rights as prerequisites to security, such as the satisfaction of basic nutritional needs and the need to be free from arbitrary detention or arrest, for example. The philosopher John Finnis provides a good representative of the interests theory approach. Finnis (1980) argues that human rights are justifiable on the grounds of their instrumental value for securing the necessary conditions of human well-being. He identifies seven fundamental interests, or what he terms 'basic forms of human good', as providing the basis for human rights.

These are: life and its capacity for development; the acquisition of knowledge, as an end in itself; play, as the capacity for recreation; aesthetic expression, sociability and friendship; practical reasonableness, the capacity for intelligent and reasonable thought processes; and finally, religion, or the capacity for spiritual experience. According to Finnis, these

are the essential prerequisites for human well-being and, as such, serve to justify our claims to the corresponding rights, whether they be of the claim right or liberty right variety. Other philosophers who have defended human rights from an interests-based approach have addressed the question of how an appeal to interests can provide a justification for respecting and, when necessary, even positively acting to promote the interests of others. Such questions have a long heritage in western moral and political philosophy and extend at least as far back as the 17th.

Typically, this approach attempts to provide what James Nickel (1987:84) has termed 'prudential reasons' in support of human rights. Taking as the starting point the claim that all human beings possess basic and fundamental interests, advocates of this approach argue that each individual owes a basic and general duty to respect the rights of every other individual. The basis for this duty is not mere benevolence or altruism, but individual self-interest. As Nickel writes, 'a prudential argument from fundamental interests attempts to show that it would be reasonable to accept and comply with human rights, in circumstances where most others are likely to do so, because these norms are part of the best means for protecting one's fundamental interests against actions and omissions that endanger them.'

Protecting one's own fundamental interests requires others' willingness to recognize and respect these interests, which, in turn, requires reciprocal recognition and respect of the fundamental interests of others. The adequate protection of each individual's fundamental interests

necessitates the establishment of a co-operative system, the fundamental aim of which is not to promote the common good, but the protection and promotion of individuals' self-interest.

Conceptual Framework

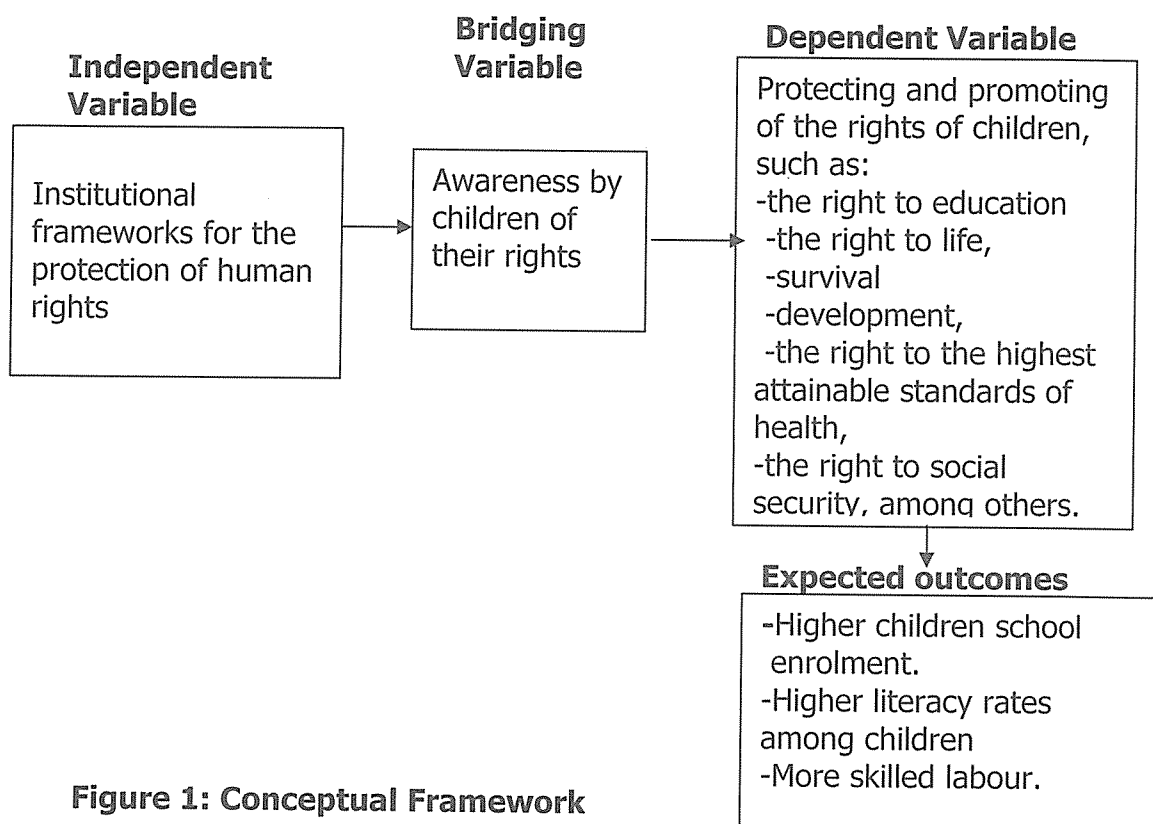


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

Source: Researcher's Design

The government of Uganda through the UHRC uses different institutional frameworks for the protection of human rights, such as: the right to education, the right to life, survival, development, the right to the highest attainable standards of health, the right to social security, and the right to rest, among others. If all these factors are to be adhered to, the following would be the outcome; higher children school enrolment, higher literacy rates among children and more skilled labour.

Related Studies

Uganda Human Rights Commission in protecting the rights of children in Uganda

The wide mandate of the Uganda Human Rights Commission is vested in it by the Constitution of Uganda (Article 52 of the 1995 Constitution). This includes investigations, visiting places of detention, research and education, making recommendations to Parliament and monitoring Government compliance with international treaties. But this mandate needs financial and human resources, which are not adequately provided for within the budget allocations to the Commission. This in turn has inevitably affected the effectiveness of the Uganda Human Rights Commission in responding to demands from various groups such as women, children, refugees, people with disabilities and ethnic minorities.

Under Article 53 of the Constitution, the Uganda Human Rights Commission has powers of a court in the performance of its functions of protecting and promoting Human Rights. In effectively disposing of its functions under Article 52 and 53 of the Constitution, the Commission has dual roles which include that of an administrative/advocacy body and that of a quasi-judicial institution. The effective evaluation of claims of human rights violations requires that the Commission sit as a judicial tribunal, comprised of a single hearing Commissioner, assisted by legal counsel (UHRC, 2011).

Protecting the human rights of children is to invest in the future. Children's rights are the building blocks for a solid human rights culture,

the basis for securing human rights for future generations. Children are entitled to all the rights guaranteed by the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* and the various treaties that have developed from it. Children are also guaranteed additional rights, notably under the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child* – the most widely ratified human rights treaty – because they need special protection and care. They must be able to depend on the adult world to look after them, to defend their rights and to help them develop and realize their potential. Governments are obliged to protect all the rights of the child - economic, social and cultural rights as well as civil and political. States are not only responsible for the violations committed by their own state officials, but they are also obliged to take positive measures to prevent abuses against children by private individuals, whether in the community or in the family (Amnesty International, 2006).

Almost all governments pay lip service to children's rights, but most fail to live up to their words. Children suffer many of the same human rights abuses as adults, but are often targeted because they are dependent and vulnerable or because children are not seen as individuals with their own rights. Children are tortured and ill-treated by state officials, detained in appalling conditions, and sentenced to death. Countless thousands are killed and maimed in armed conflicts. Millions are forced by poverty or abuse to live on the streets where they are vulnerable to abuse. Millions more work at exploitative or hazardous jobs or are victims of child trafficking and forced prostitution. Discriminatory attitudes and practices mean girl children suffer gender-specific abuses,

such as female genital mutilation, and are particularly vulnerable to other forms of abuse, including rape (Amnesty International, 2006).

According to Kibria (1987:7) 'a vast majority of the many countries' population is not fully aware of the rights of children and the legislation pertaining to these rights'. It could be speculated that because what is and is not child abuse varies from culture to culture some people believe that giving children rights would cause conflicts in some families because of the different cultural practices (Van Bueren, 1995). It is traditional within the African culture that children are expected to adhere to the cultural beliefs and norms of the society (Chavunduka, 1995; Chinyangarara, 1995a; Khan & Nyanungo, 1995; PiIlay, 1992; Sebonego, 1994). This implies that although the Children's Act expands on existing human rights and norms and focuses exclusively on children, it is viewed by some people as a radical notion that violates the African culture and tradition which is further supported by an equally strong cultural value of the respect to be accorded to the extended family. Culture has been identified to be one of the major obstacles in enforcing children's human rights in African countries. The state has an obligation under the African Charter on the Rights and the Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) to protect the child against cultural practices that will result in sexual abuse and exploitation while in the care of parents, guardians or others under the guise of culture (Himonga, 2001).

In a similar study carried by Sebonego (1994), on child abuse and neglect of children in Botswana, it was found that corporal punishment is a universal way of punishing that was employed by parents and is

enshrined in the Tswana customs and tradition. From the number of children interviewed in Sebonego's study, 47 % were thrashed sometimes; 17 % were rarely beaten; 13% were always beaten; 10 % were never beaten and 13 % of them were unclassified. Both studies clearly show that beating of children is culturally and traditionally accepted in Botswana as part of the child-rearing practices.

The extent of children's rights protection

Pozzulo (2005) argued that children who lack protection are often invisible. Millions of children are invisible to the world because their plight is hidden, under-reported, or openly neglected. Children who are most likely to become invisible have no formal identity, grow up without the loving care of parents or family, are pressed too early into adult responsibilities, and exploited for profit. The world cannot afford to let children slip from view. By allowing children to disappear from view and failing to reach and protect them, societies condemn children to more neglect and abuse, with lasting consequences for their well-being and for the development of their communities and countries.

It is well documented in the literature that what is and is not child abuse varies from culture to culture (O'Brien and Lau, 1995; Sebonego, 1994; Shakeshaft & Cohen, 1995; Zindi and Shumba, 1999). For example, O'Brian and Lau (1995) in their study of a Chinese sample of children found that shaming and physical punishment are accepted as part of the child rearing practices in the Chinese culture. Similarly, Payne (1989) in her study of the use and abuse of corporal punishment using a sample of

499 Barbadian adults of African descent found that approximately 70 % of the respondents generally approved of corporal punishment and three quarters of the remainder considered it as occasionally appropriate.

Children need a protective environment to shield them from harm. *The National Centre for Children Exposed to Violence*, accordingly states that all levels of society from families and governments to teachers and the media have a part to play individually and collectively to prevent abuse and to ensure that children are not made invisible or forgotten. Children deserve to live in safety and with dignity. Abuse and exploitation are an affront to every child's dignity and an intolerable violation of their rights. Protecting children is essential to their physical and emotional health, their general well-being, and their ability to develop to their fullest potential. It is therefore essential to the human and economic development of nations.

According to Goldman *et al*/ (2003), parent or caregiver variables relate to personality characteristics and psychological well-being, history of maltreatment, substance abuse, attitude and knowledge and age. The authors emphasize that children whose parents abused alcohol and other drugs were almost three times likelier to be abused, and more than four times likelier to be neglected than children of parents who were not substance abusers. They also argue that social isolation and community characteristics contribute to child abuse.

The UNCRC itself also gives recognition to the family and the “rights” of the family to bring up, socialize and develop children in a manner consistent with local values, customs and traditions. Articles 5 and 14 (2) provide the state parties shall respect (and presumably protect) the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents or members of the extended family as may be regulated by local customs, to provide appropriate direction, socialization and guidance to the child in this exercise by the child of the rights recognized in the convention, however today in Uganda’s perspective many children are not given such privileges thus exposing them to neglect.

The most important environmental variable that contributes negatively to children's protection and well-being is poor housing (in the form of overcrowding and lack of privacy). Unsafe and dirty open recreational spaces and facilities and low standard of conditioning of health and hygiene affect the nurturing of children. Most of these are provided by the government social system. Zebell, (2009) reported that, poor housing makes it difficult to maintain high standards of health, hygiene and warmth. Many parents could provide better care for their children, if they lived in a more favourable environment. As part of the framework of human rights law, all human rights are indivisible, interrelated and interdependent. Understanding this framework is important to promoting, protecting and realizing children's rights.

In recent years, Uganda's children have been let down by the systems that should be protecting them although their rights are

recognized by law (Welsman, 1998). For example, the right to education, the right to life, to survival and development, the right to the highest attainable standards of health, the right to social security, the right to rest, play, recreation and leisure among others-many of the organizations that ought to be enforcing these rights are not up and running. And, when childcare issues are raised at the village level, local councils are consistently weak at handling them. As a result, many of Uganda's children suffer abuse/neglect without anything being done about it. An agency supported by the Department for International Development (DFID)-is currently working in Uganda to alert more people to child abuse, and to ensure that action is taken against it. The African Network for Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect provides support to abused children, engages with communities to increase awareness, and lobbies for changes in policy. Child neglect being recognized rightly as a growing problem in Uganda (ANPPCAN, 2011).

Conclusion

Although, seen earlier in the chapter, Uganda is a signatory to many international treaties that govern and protect the rights of children, it has continued to stagger in its implementation of policies, as cases of children's rights abuse continue to rise instead of reducing. The UHRC has, without doubt, done something to save the children; but more effort is needed to improve the status of children and to observe the relevant provision of the international instruments regarding the protection of children in Uganda. This work attempted to identify some of the areas where such improvement is required.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research design

The study employed a descriptive research design in order to provide systematic description that is factual and accurate about the UHRC in the protection of abused children's rights in Uganda. A content analysis of the existing documents such as UHRC annual reports, media articles were applied for a systematic description.

Research Population

The target population of this study consisted of personnel of the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), Nongovernmental organizations, Members of Parliament (Legislators), law enforcement officers (police), media persons, children from the street and Naguru reception centre, and community members.

Sample size

The sample size was 150 respondents. This was selected using stratified sampling technique. They comprised of both sexes but of different marital statuses and age groups representing officials from the Human Rights (Staff), street children and children from Naguru reception centre, and other categories like the NGOs, legislators, police, media and community members with information on children's rights.

Table 1; Categories of respondents who were considered in the study

Category	Total population	Sample size
Officials from UHRC	23	15
NGOs (World vision, Save the children, Plan international and Ugandan Child Rights NGO Network).	31	20
Legislators (Members of Parliament)	15	10
Police officers	31	20
Media (New Vision, WBS, NTV, and Bukedde TV)	15	10
Community Members	47	31
Children (street children and Naguru children's reception centre	69	44
Total	231	150

Table 1: above shows the criteria for selection of the respondents. The sample size were chosen according to the following procedure; (Total number of the categories divided by total population times 150 equals to the population sample)

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(0.05)^2}$$

n – Sample size

N – Total population

0.005 – Margin of Error

Sampling Procedures

Purposive sampling was utilized to select the respondents based on the following criteria:

1. Sex. Male and female respondents in the organizations were included in the study.
2. Age. Children with understanding ranging from 12 year and above.

From the respondents chosen based on the inclusion criteria, a stratified sampling was used to finally determine the number of the respondents with consideration to the computed minimum sample size. Only selected respondents were included in the study.

Research Instruments

A standardized instrument (Appendix IV A) on Ugandan Human Rights Commission in protecting children's rights was used to determine the level of children's rights protection in Kampala district. The scoring system of this instrument was as follows: strongly agree (4); agree (3); disagree (2); strongly disagree (1).

Validity and reliability of the instrument

i. Testing the validity of the research instrument

The validity is the extent to which a measurement instrument actually measures what is designed to measure (Amin, 1999). The validity of the instruments of this study referred to the content of the Questionnaire. To make sure that the questionnaire measured what was intended to measure, to ensure the clarity of questions, their effectiveness

and the time required to complete the questionnaire, the study assessed its content validity and reliability. To test the content validity, the study used a panel of ten experienced researchers in the domain in Uganda to assess their suitability and relevancy of the research objectives of the study and research questions. They were asked to assess the validity of the questions in the questionnaire by ranking them from 1 to 4 against objectives of the study and the research questions. 1 stood for strongly disagree, 2-Disagree, 3-Agree, and 4 for strongly agree. From there, a Content Validity Ratio (CVR) and Content Validity Index (CVI) were calculated.

CVR was calculated by subtracting the total number of items judged to strongly disagree (1), and disagree (2) from the total number of items judged to strongly agree (4) and agree (3), which was four. CVI was then calculated by dividing CVR from half of the people asked to judge the questionnaire. For the purpose of this study, using this formula, the CVI was 0.8. This CVI was accepted because normally it should be greater than 0.5, which means that the questionnaire can be administered.

ii Testing the reliability of the research instruments

Reliability refers to the consistency of a measure. A test is considered reliable if we get the same result repeatedly. In order to test the reliability of the questionnaire, the researcher conducted a preliminary testing of the questionnaire before constructing the final copies to be

distributed later in the field for actual data collection. The questionnaire was tested to a selected sample, which the study used.

Fourteen people were selected, 2 from each category of respondents and were given questions for testing. This enabled the researcher to improve the questions.

Data Gathering Procedures

Before the administration of the questionnaires

1. An introduction letter was obtained from the School of Post Graduate Studies and Research for the researcher to solicit approval to conduct the study from respective UHRC officials.
2. After the approval, the researcher secured a list of the qualified respondents from the selected children's rights protection bodies in charge and select through systematic random sampling from this list to arrive at the minimum sample size.
3. The purpose of the study was explained to the respondents who were requested to sign the Informed Consent Form (Appendix III).
4. More than enough questionnaires were produced for distribution.
5. Research assistants who assisted in the data collection were selected. They were briefed and given an orientation in order to help them to be consistent in administering the questionnaires.

During the administration of the questionnaires

1. The respondents were requested to answer completely and not to leave any part of the questionnaires unanswered.

2. The researcher and research assistants emphasized retrieval of the questionnaires within five days from the date of distribution.
3. On retrieval, all returned questionnaires were checked if all were answered.

After the administration of the questionnaires

The data gathered was collated, encoded into the computer, and statistically treated, using means, frequencies, and percentages with the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

Data Analysis

Data was edited, coded and tabulated data in a computer package called statistical package for social sciences (SPSS). The frequency and percentage distribution was used to determine the demographic characteristics of the respondents.

The mean and frequencies were applied for UHRC in protecting the rights of abused children in Kampala district. An item analysis illustrated the strengths and weaknesses based on the indicators in terms of mean and rank. From these strengths and weaknesses, the recommendations were derived. The independent variable was correlated with dependent variable to get the significant values.

Ethical Considerations

To ensure confidentiality of the information provided by the respondents and to ascertain the practice of ethics in this study, the following activities were implemented by the researcher:

1. The respondents and institutions were coded instead of reflecting their names.
2. Permission was solicited through a written request to the concerned officials of the selected children's rights protection bodies.
3. Respondents were requested to sign the *Informed Consent Form* (Appendix 3)
4. Authors quoted in this study were duly acknowledged through citations and referencing.
5. Presentation of the findings in a generalized manner.

Limitations of the study

In the process of carrying out this investigation, a number of limitations were met. These included the following:

Some targeted respondents were not willing to set aside time to respond to the investigator's questions.

The study was also hampered by a problem of some rude and hostile respondents.

There was also problem of public apathy, where by some respondents did not know the rights governing them, for instance some were not aware of free services from Police when he/she is abused.

The study required a lot of time to be dedicated to collecting substantial data from one respondent to another making observations, continuous review of literature, data analysis and report writing.

All these limitations that threatened to obstruct the progress and speed of the study was successfully managed in a way that enabled the researcher to come up with the results reported here.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS, AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Introduction

This chapter presents the findings of the research as well as their analysis and interpretation. Where necessary, aids such as tables and figures are used to illuminate the meaning of the data presented. The findings presented in the tables and figures are further explained to equip the reader with a clear picture and understanding of the phenomenon under analysis.

I Variance between the targeted and actual respondents

The researcher targeted a total of 150 respondents, getting 6 UHRC officials, 20 from NGOs (World Vision, Save the Children, Plan International and Uganda Child Rights NGO Network), 10 Parliamentarians, 10 media officials, 20 Police officers, 31 community members, and 44 children (street children, and children from Naguru Reception centre). Nonetheless, not all the targeted sample responded; the actual sample responses were therefore, 141 out of the targeted 150. There is a response rate of 94%, which is good and this is indicated in Table 2.

Table 2 Targeted and Actual Respondents

Category of respondents	Target sample	Actual response	(%)
Officials from the UHRC	15	6	40
NGOs (World Vision, Save the Children, Plan International, and Uganda Child Rights NGO Network)	20	20	100
Legislators (Members of Parliament)	10	10	100
Police officers	20	20	100
Media (New Vision, WBS, NTV, and Bukedde TV)	10	10	100
Community Members	31	31	100
Children (street children and Naguru children's Reception Centre)	44	44	100
Total	150	141	

Source: field data, 2011

Table 3: Demographic information of the respondents

Background information	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	61	43
	Female	80	57
	Total	141	100
Age	12-15	31	22
	15-18	13	9
	19-24	5	4
	25-29	20	14
	30-34	29	21
	35-39	18	13
	40-44	13	9
	45-49	7	5
	50-above	5	3
	Total	141	100
Position	Police officers	18	19
	News Reporters	10	10
	Casual worker	16	17
	MP	9	9
	Business Persons	18	19
	Project Facilitator	9	9
	Human Rights officers	9	9
	Managers	4	4
	Program officers	4	4
	Total	97	100
Experience	Less than a year	7	7
	1-4	32	33
	6-10	20	21
	11-14	18	18
	15-19	16	17
	20 and above	4	4
	Total	97	100

Source: Field data, 2011

The field data portrayed in Table 3 shows that out of 141 respondents chosen for the study, 61 of them were male (representing 43%) and 80 were female (representing 57%). The table shows a fair gender representation in the organizations, although females had a better representation as compared to the males.

Table 3 also indicates that the ages of the respondents were divided into nine categories; (12-14, 15-18, 19-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, and 50 and above. 31 of the respondents were aged between 12-15 years (representing 22%), 13 of the respondents were aged between 15-18 years (representing 9%), 5 of the respondents were aged between 20-24 years (representing 4%), 20 were aged between 25-29 years (representing 14%), 29 were aged between 30-34 years (representing 21%), 18 were aged between 35-39 years (representing 13%). Furthermore, 13 respondents were aged between 40-44 years (representing 9%), 7 were aged between 45-49 years (representing 5%), and 5 were aged between 50 and above years (representing 3%). These figures show that all the working age groups were considered when employing human resource in the organizations where the research was carried out and also that the majority of the respondents are in their youthful ages where they are considered most effective at work.

The respondents were asked of their present positions held in the organizations they worked for and this excluded the children. The results from Table 2 show that; 18 were police officers (representing 19%), 10 were news reporters (journalists) (representing 10%), 16 were casual workers (representing 17%), 9 were Members of Parliament (MPs) (representing 9%), 18 of the respondents were Business persons (representing 19%), 9 were Project Facilitators (representing 9%), another 9 were Human Rights officers (representing 9%). Furthermore, 4 were Managers/Directors (representing 4%), and 4 were Programme officers (representing 4%).

Note: the casual worker and business persons were mainly respondents from the community members. These results therefore show that many stakeholders were involved in the study to give divergent views on the protection of abused children's rights in Uganda.

The information in Table 3 also considers the numbers of years worked in the present positions of the respondents. 7 of the respondents had worked for less than a year (representing 7%), 32 of the respondents (representing 33%) have at least 1-4 years working experience, 20 (representing 21%) have worked for 5-9 years, 18 had worked for at least 10-14 years (representing 18%), 16 have worked for at least 15-19 years (representing 17%), and 4 have worked for 20 and more years (representing 4%). These results show that a minority of the respondents have worked for at least more than 4 years, implying that they have

reasonable experience in the protection of abused children' rights in Uganda.

The effectiveness of Uganda Human Rights Commission in protecting the rights of the abused children

This sub section targets objective 2 of the study. The independent variable in this study was the Uganda Human Rights Commission establishment (its activities, laws/policies) in Kampala city. The respondents were asked whether the establishment/operation of Uganda Human Rights Commission protect the rights of abused children in Kampala city by rating their responses to the level of children's rights protection. Responses were scaled ranging from 1-4; where 4=Very Good, 3=Good, 2=Fair and 1=Poor. The key to the rating is: poor (1:00-1.75), Fair (1.76-2.50), Good (2.51-3.25), Very good (3.26-4.00). The responses were analyzed using the mean computed through the SPSS program, and are shown in Table 4, below.

Table 4: The effectiveness of Uganda Human Rights Commission in protecting the rights of abused children

Indicators	Mean	Interpretation	Rank
The UHRC reaches out to children	2.56	Good	3
The UHRC prosecutes perpetrators of children's rights	2.61	Good	3
There are many children's rights documents availed by the UHRC	2.69	Good	3
The UHRC coordinates with police, judiciary and NGOs in fulfilling its duties	2.80	Good	3
There are stringent laws on children's rights	2.75	Good	3
The UHRC works with the media to fulfill its mandate	2.64	Good	3
The UHRC helps children know their rights	2.71	Good	3
Conferences and seminars are often held by the UHRC in children rights protection	2.59	Good	3
The UHRC reaches even in the villages	2.55	Good	3
Workforce of the UHRC is large to cover all the children in Uganda	2.49	Fair	2
Average mean	2.63		
Children's views			
Children receive many documents on their rights	2.20	Fair	2
The UHRC works with police to protect children against abuse	2.14	Fair	2
The UHRC takes children's rights campaigns to schools	2.45	Fair	2
Children's rights are taught in homes	2.57	Good	3
Media campaigns are organized for children	2.64	Good	3
Sensitizations of children's rights are done by communities	2.86	Good	3
There are children's centers that handle children's complaints	2.93	Good	3
Children are taught about their rights	2.77	Good	3
Children understand their rights	2.77	Good	3
Parents are aware of their children's rights	2.48	Fair	2
Average mean	2.58		

Mean Range	Response Mode	Interpretation	Rank
3.26 – 4-0	Strongly Agree	Very Good	4
2.51 – 3.25	Agree	Good	3
1.76 – 2.50	Disagree	Fair	2
1.00 – 1.75	Strongly Disagree	Poor	1

The results in Table 4 show that the respondents agreed that the UHRC reaches out to children in Uganda (mean 2.56), they also agreed that the UHRC prosecutes perpetrators of children's rights (mean 2.61), there are many children's rights documents availed by UHRC (mean 2.69). Furthermore, the respondents agreed that UHRC coordinates with police, judiciary and NGOs in fulfilling its duties (mean 2.80), there are stringent laws on children's rights (mean 2.75), UHRC was found to be working with the media to fulfill its mandate (mean 2.64). The same respondents noted that UHRC helps children know their rights (mean 2.71), UHRC was found to be organizing conferences and seminars are in children rights protection (mean 2.59), UHRC reaches even in the villages (mean 2.55). Finally, on whether workforce of UHRC is large to cover all the children in Uganda, UHRC workforce was found to be inadequate reach out all the children in Kampala city and this was poorly ranked with (mean 2.49).

On the children's views on the effectiveness of the Uganda Human Rights Commission in protecting the rights of abused children, Table 4 shows that many of the children disagreed with the work, activities and policies of the UHRC in protecting the rights of abused children in Uganda. Many of the children disagreed that they receive many documents on their

rights (mean 2.20), the same respondents also disagreed that UHRC works with police to protect children against abuse (mean, 2.14), and they disagreed that UHRC takes children's rights campaigns to schools (mean 2.45). However the children agreed that children's rights are taught in homes mean (2.57), and that UHRC organizes media campaigns for children (mean 2.64), sensitizations of children's rights are done by communities (mean 2.86), there are children's centers that handle children's complaints (mean 2.93), children are taught about their rights (2.77), and children understand their rights (mean 2.77). Finally, the respondents disagreed that parents are aware of their children's rights (mean 2.48).

In both responses of the UHRC officials, media officials, NGO officials, the police, community members, MPs, and the children, the UHRC is still performing poorly in its effort to protect the rights of the abused children in Uganda. The commission received poor ranking by the 44 children from the streets and the Naguru children's reception center who were involved in the study. Many of them disagreed with the work of the UHRC in protecting the rights of the abused children in Uganda. Even where some of these abused children take refuge, the commission's effort to reach out to them is still poor, as many of the children denied being reached by the commission, but rather agreed being reached by the NGOs and other sympathizers from the community.

This poor ranking/performance of the UHCR in protecting the rights of abused children in Uganda has been as a result of many factors. The

respondents noted some of them as being poor relationship with the media, deliberate refusal to reach out to communities, failure to organize seminars on children's rights, even though UHRC participates in organized seminars by the NGOs. The increased abuses of children's rights coupled with the denial of children to express their views are still dominant key factors affecting children in Kampala. This can be linked with the Melton (1991 & 1996) that children's dignity should be respected and their views heard within the limits of their ability to express themselves. Tremper (1988, in Melton, 1996) argues in his analysis of children's rights that protection of dignity and legal protection of individual rights are fundamental.

Table 5: The extent of children's rights protection in Kampala city

Indicators	Mean	Interpretation	Rank
There are reduced cases of child abuse in Kampala district	2.45	Fair	2
Law enforcement authorities adhere to children's rights protection	2.21	Fair	2
Abused children have been taken to rehabilitation centres	2.30	Fair	2
The police operates children's protection unit	2.38	Fair	2
Many perpetrators of children's rights have been prosecuted	2.27	Fair	2
Many people are aware of children's rights	2.15	Fair	2
Cases of children's rights are reported by every-one	2.05	Fair	2
Many abused children have been reconciled to their families	2.15	Fair	2
The community acts as a watch dog in children's rights protection	2.23	Fair	2
The community arrests the abusers of children's rights	2.00	Fair	2
Average mean	2.00		
Children's views			
Children have freedom of expression	2.61	Good	3
Parents respect the rights of their children	2.18	Fair	2
Children have rights to make decisions	2.36	Fair	2
There is reduction in cases of children's rights abuse	2.39	Fair	2
The communities deal with perpetrators of children's rights	2.30	Fair	2
Parents are always there for their children	2.27	Fair	2
The police closely works with communities to protect children's rights	1.90	Fair	2
Schools observe children's rights	2.09	Fair	2
Children are well handled in the society	2.34	Fair	2
Children have freedom in the society	2.32	Fair	2
Average mean	2.28		

The results in Table 5 addressed objective 3 of the study. Basing on the findings, the respondents disagreed on the extent of children's rights protection by UHRC. The findings reveal that there are reduced cases of child abuse in Kampala district (mean 2.45), law enforcement authorities adhere to children's rights protection (mean 2.21), abused children have been taken to rehabilitation centres (mean 2.20). The respondents further disagreed that the police operates children's protection unit (mean 2.38), many people are aware of children's rights (mean 2.15), cases of children's rights are reported by everyone (mean 2.05), many abused children have been reconciled to their families (mean 2.15). The remaining respondents here disagreed that the community acts as a watch dog in children's rights protection (mean, 2.23), and that the community arrests the abusers of children's rights (mean 2.00).

On the other hand, many children also disagreed with the extent of abused children's rights protection by Uganda Human Rights Commission. The findings in Table 5 also show that some children agreed that children have freedom of expression (mean 2.61). However, the rest of the children disagreed with the extent of abused children's rights protection by UHRC. The findings indicate that parents respect the rights of their children (mean 2.18), children have rights to make decisions (mean 2.36), there is reduction in cases of children's rights abuse (mean 2.39), the communities deal with perpetrators of children's rights (mean, 2.30), parents are always there for their children (mean, 2.27). Furthermore, the findings reveal that; the police closely work with communities to protect children's rights (mean 1.90), schools observe children's rights (mean,

2.09), children are well handled in the society (mean 2.34), and that children have freedom in the society (mean 2.32).

In both responses from the children and the other respondents, the findings show poor performance by the UHRC in protecting the rights of abused children in Kampala city. There still exists poor coordination between UHRC and other human rights agencies like the NGOs and the police which has exacerbated the problem of mass children's rights abuse in Kampala city. Uganda Human Rights Commission is said not to be reaching out to families where the problem of children's rights abuses are imbedded. The respondents mainly from the NGOs revealed that UHRC does not reach out to children and find how their rights are abused. They cited cases where many children are detained with adults in the same police cells, children are mistreated in the judicial processes as many of them are forced to narrate whatever they know about the crime being handled. In case of rape, many children have been psychologically traumatized.

Some respondents cited many cases being ignored by the commission and this has worsened the problem of poor reporting of cases in country for example the respondents quoted Kamuli district receiving 400 cases of rape in 2010 and only four were taken to courts of law for trial. The findings from children's responses show that their situations are still pathetic as many of them disagreed on having freedom, expressions, make decisions, whether schools, communities respect their rights. The high number of cases of children's rights abuse could be a result of many

people not being aware of children's rights. This can be supported by Kibria (1987) who stated that a vast majority of the many countries' population is not fully aware of the rights of children and the legislation pertaining to these rights.

Table 6: Significant relationship between the operation of the UHRC and level of children's rights protection in Kampala district

Variables correlated	r. Value	P. Value	Interpretation of Correlation	Decision on Ho
UHRC reaches out to children Vs there are reduced cases of children's rights abuse in Kampala city	.071	.005	Significant	Rejected
UHRC prosecutes perpetrators of children's rights Vs adhere to children's protection	.009	.000	Significant	Rejected
There are many children's rights documents availed by UHRC Vs abused children have been taken to rehabilitation centres	.042	.002	Significant	Rejected
UHRC coordinates with police, judiciary and NGOs Vs police operates children's protection units	.199	.040	Not significant	Accepted
There are stringent laws on children's rights Vs many perpetrators of children's rights have been prosecuted	.096	.009	Significant	Rejected
Children receive many documents on their rights Vs children have freedom of expression	.081	.007	Significant	Rejected
UHRC works with police to protect children against abuse Vs parents respect the rights of their children	.136	.019	Not significant	Accepted
UHRC takes children's rights campaigns to schools Vs children have rights to make decisions	.155	.024	Not significant	Accepted
Media campaigns are organized for children Vs there is reduction in cases of children's rights abuse	.056	.003	Significant	Rejected
Sensitizations of children's rights are done by communities Vs the communities deal with perpetrators of children's rights	.164	.027	Not significant	Accepted

Source: Field data, 2011

Table 6 shows that UHRC activities are positively and significantly correlated with the extent of trust in the protection of children's rights in Kampala city. For example, the views that the UHRC reaches out to children correlates positively and significantly ($r=0.071$, significant= 0.005) with the view that there are reduced cases of the abuse of children's rights in Kampala city. Similarly, the statement that the UHRC prosecutes perpetrators of the abuse of children's rights correlates again positively and significantly with the adherence to children's protection (with $r=0.009$, significant= 0.000). Furthermore, the notion that there are any children's rights documents availed by UHRC also collates positively and significantly with abused children have been taken to rehabilitation centres ($r=0.042$, significant= 0.002). However, the statement that whether UHRC coordinates with police, judiciary and NGOs was found not to be correlating police operates children's protection units ($r=0.199$, not significant= 0.040).

In addition, the statement that there are stringent laws on children's rights was further found to be correlating and positively significant with many perpetrators of children's rights have been prosecuted ($r=0.096$, significant= 0.009). But the view that children receive many documents on their rights was found did not correlate with children have freedom of expression ($r=0.081$, significant= 0.007). Similarly, whether UHRC works with police to protect children against abuse did not also correlate with parents respect the rights of their children ($r=0.136$, not significant= 0.019), the notion that UHRC takes children's rights campaigns to schools did not correlate with children have

rights to make decisions ($r=0.155$, not significant= 0.024). However, the view that the media campaigns are organized for children correlated and was positively with there is reduction in cases of children's rights abuse ($r=0.056$, not significant= 0.003); but sensitizations of children's rights are done by communities did not correlate with the communities deal with perpetrators of children's rights ($r=0.164$, significant= 0.027).

The r -values in Table 6 indicate a positive significant relationship between UHRC activities, work, policies and the extent of abused children's rights protection (r -values >0.005), suggesting that the various UHRC activities directly affect the extent to which children's rights in Kampala city are protected. Considering all the significant values, in Table 5, there is a significant correlation between the two variables (significant values <0.005), hence leading to a conclusion that there is a significant relationship between UHRC and protection of abused children's rights in Kampala City. Considering the negative correlation between UHRC activities and the extent of UHRC protection of abused children's rights, this leads to conclusion that there is no significant relationship between UHRC and the protection of abused children's rights in Kampala city.

CHAPTER FIVE

FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter includes the major findings, conclusions and the recommendations of the study.

Findings

To begin with the demographic profiles of the respondents in terms of gender, the majority were, 43% male while 57% were female, meaning there was a fair gender representation in the organizations involved in the study. On respondents' age, the study revealed that 22% of the respondents were aged between 12-15 years, 9% of the respondents were aged between 15-18 years, 4% of the respondents were aged between 20-24 years, 14% were aged between 25-29 years, 21% were aged between 30-34 years, 13% were aged between 35-39 years. The study further concludes that revealed that 9% respondents were aged between 40-44 years, 5% were aged between 45-49 years, and 3% were aged between 50 and above years.

The study also discovered that 19% of the respondents were police officers, 10% were news reporters or journalists, 17% were casual workers, 9% were Members of Parliament (MPs), 19% of the respondents were Business persons 9% were Project Facilitators, another 9% were Human Rights officers. Also, 4% were Managers/Directors (representing 4%), and finally 4% were Programme officers.

With regard to the more substance matter of the effectiveness of Uganda Human Rights Commission in protecting the rights of the abused children (which was objective 2 of the study) the study found that the overall effectiveness of Uganda Human Rights Commission in protecting the rights of the abused children was good, given the means which were ranked as good in Table 4.

On the views of the children in relation to the effectiveness of the Uganda Human Rights Commission in protecting the rights of the abused children. The study found that the overall performance of the commission in protecting the rights of abused children was considered to be performing below expectations due to poor mean scores recorded in Table 4. Then, in all responses of the UHRC officials, media officials, NGO officials, the police, community members, MPs, and the children, the performance of UHRC is still considered performing below expectations.

The extent to which the UHRC protects the rights of the abused children in Kampala city was found to be poor as presented by low means (Table 5) from both categories of the respondents (UHRC officials, media officials, NGO officials, the police, community members, MPs, and the children). Children mainly disagreed with the extent to which UHRC protects the rights of the abused children in Kampala city.

Relationship; on the whole, the finding revealed that to some extent, there was a significant relationship between UHRC role and protection of abused children's rights in Kampala city considering the

positive correlations between UHRC activities and the extent to which UHRC protects the rights of abused children. This led to the conclusion that there is a significant relationship between UHRC and the protection of abused children's rights in Kampala city.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the study findings presented, the following conclusions were drawn;

On the respondents profiles the study concludes that the majority the respondents were female with 57%, meaning that the study had more females as compared to men. On respondents' age, the study concludes that 22% of the respondents were aged between 12-15 years and these were mainly children. Furthermore, the study also concludes that 19% of the respondents were police officers, and the 19% of the respondents were Business persons 9% were Project Facilitators, another 9% were Human Rights officers.

On the effectiveness of Uganda Human Rights Commission in protecting the rights of abused children, the conclusion in the overall is that the UHRC still performs below expectations as far as protecting the rights of abused children is concerned. On the extent of children's rights protection in Kampala city; the study concluded that there still exists poor coordination between the UHRC and other human rights agencies like the NGOs and the police in protecting the rights of abused children in Kampala city.

On the relationship between the operation of the UHRC and protection of abused children's rights in Kampala city, the study concluded that to some extent, there is a significant relationship between UHRC and the protection of abused children's rights in Kampala city.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are suggested in view of the findings.

The government together with the Uganda Human Rights Commission should embark on a project to have Conventions on Human Rights as they relate to children, in particular, translated into major local languages so that they can easily be read by the majority of the people who have no knowledge on children's rights in Kampala city and Uganda in general.

The Uganda Human Rights Commission should from time to time organize seminars, workshops, and conferences in which parents, children, the relevant government Ministries, NGO's and all other interested organizations can discuss children's rights throughout the country.

There is urgency, therefore, for national laws that protect children against all forms of child abuse to be compatible with international laws as enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Considering that professional journalism and freedom of the press are essential to the creation of democratic societies in which universal and fundamental rights are respected fully, it is vital to separate clearly the

exercise of political power and the work of journalists at all levels to promote children's rights and other human rights.

The Uganda Human Rights Commission and the government should provide open access to official information on children's rights abuse and should train official spokespersons on the need to provide media and the public with up-to-date and reliable information relating to human rights obligations in Uganda.

Non-Governmental Organizations should develop more effective and more integrated programmes of assistance to encourage the protection of abused children's rights and other human rights issues, particularly through;

- a) Co-coordinated assistance programmes to the media in Uganda and
- b) Confidence-building measures to promote high standards through, for example, the sponsorship of research activities, journalism prizes and liaison between the media and other organizations.

There has to be conscience obligation on every-one working with children to report any form of abuse against children. The obligation should be on nurses, teachers, health professionals, social workers or even religious leaders and day care centers to report any child abuse that they come across. Accordingly children specific rights involve the setting

up of enforcement agencies to supervise the care that is provided by families as children lack the capacity to enforce rights on their own.

Areas for further research

The role of Uganda Human Rights Commission in protecting the rights of the abused children is a very wide subject area and the study did not exhaustively and accurately cover it, taking into account the limitation of the study.

Therefore, based on the findings of the study, more research needs to be done on the relationship between Uganda Human Rights Commission and the NGOs in protecting the rights of the abused children. This is because this study found that there is no strong cooperation between UHRC and the NGOs in reaching out to abused children in Kampala city.

Furthermore, more research needs to be done on the availability of children rights documents and the extent of their rights protection in Kampala city. This is because the study discovered that there is public ignorance of the rights of children due to lack of sensitization and awareness on children's rights by Uganda Human Rights Commission.

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UNICEF Legislative Reform Initiative

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I A TRANSMITTAL LETTER



KAMPALA
INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY

Ggaba Road - Kansanga
P. O. Box 20000, Kampala, Uganda
Tel: +256- 414- 266813 / +256- 772 322563
Fax: +256- 414- 501974
E- mail: admin@kiu.ac.ug
Website: www.kiu.ac.ug

OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE DEAN, SOCIAL SCIENCES COLLEGE OF HIGHER DEGREES AND RESEARCH (CHDR)

June 20, 2011

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: REQUEST FOR ELIZABETH NKHONJERA MHD/14487/DU
TO CONDUCT RESEARCH IN YOUR ORGANIZATION**

The above mentioned is a bonafide student of Kampala International University pursuing a Master of Arts in Human Rights and Development.

She is currently conducting a field research of which the title **"The Uganda Human Rights Commission and the Protection of abused Children in Kampala District, Central Division."**

Your organization has been identified as a valuable source of information pertaining to her research project. The purpose of this letter is to request you to avail her with the pertinent information she may need.

Any information shared with her from your organization shall be treated with utmost confidentiality.

Any assistance rendered to her will be highly appreciated.

Yours truly,


Dr. Roseann Mwaniki
Associate Dean Social Sciences, CHDR



APPENDIX IB
KAMPALA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF HIGHER DEGREES AND RESEARCH
MASTERS PROGRAM
TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR THE RESPONDENTS

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a student pursuing a degree of Masters of Arts in Human Rights and Development at Kampala International University and presently embarking on my thesis entitled, **Uganda Human Rights Commission and the protection of abused children in Kampala district, central division**. In view of this empirical investigation, may I request you to be part of this study by answering the questionnaires? Rest assured that the information you provide shall be kept with utmost confidentiality, and will be used for academic purposes only.

As you answer the questionnaire, please be reminded to respond to all of the items in it thus not leaving any item unanswered. Further, may I retrieve the filled questionnaires within 5 days from the date of distribution?

Thank you very much in advance.

Yours faithfully,



Elizabeth Nkhonjera

APPENDIX II

CLEARANCE FROM ETHICS COMMITTEE

Date _____

Candidate's Data

Name _____

Reg.# _____

Course _____

Title of Study _____

Ethical Review Checklist

The study reviewed considered the following:

- ☐ Physical Safety of Human Subjects
- ☐ Psychological Safety
- ☐ Emotional Security
- ☐ Privacy
- ☐ Written Request for Author of Standardized Instrument
- ☐ Coding of Questionnaires/Anonymity/Confidentiality
- ☐ Permission to Conduct the Study
- ☐ Informed Consent
- ☐ Citations/Authors Recognized

Results of Ethical Review

- ☐ Approved
- ☐ Conditional (to provide the Ethics Committee with corrections)
- ☐ Disapproved/ Resubmit Proposal

Ethics Committee (Name and Signature)

Chairperson _____

Members _____

APPENDIX III

INFORMED CONSENT

I am giving my consent to be part of the research study of Ms. Elizabeth Nkhonjera that will focus on Uganda Human Rights Commission and the protection of abused children in Kampala district, central division.

I have been assured of privacy, anonymity and confidentiality and that I will be given the option to refuse participation and have the right to withdraw my participation anytime.

I have been informed that the research is voluntary and that the results will be given to me, if I ask for it.

Initials: _____

Date _____

APPENDIX IV A
RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS

Date Received by Respondent: _____

PART A: RESPONDENT'S PROFILE

(Please Tick): Age: _____ Gender: _____
Marital Status: _____ Religion: _____
Nationality: _____
Highest Educational Qualifications _____
Name of the organization _____
Present Position _____
Number of Years In Present Position _____

.....
.....

**PART B: QUESTIONNAIRE TO DETERMINE UGANDA HUMAN
COMMISSION'S RIGHTS ROLE IN PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF
ABUSED CHILDREN**

**(For UHRC, NGOs, Media, community members, police officers,
and legislators)**

Direction: Please respond to each item by using the scoring guide below.
Kindly tick and write your best choice on the space before or after each
item. Be honest about your options as there are no right or wrong
answers.

Response Mode Rating

Strongly agree (4)

Agree (3)

Disagree (2)

Strongly disagree (1)

Argument	Strongly agree (4)	Agree (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly disagree (1)
UHRC reaches out to children				
UHRC prosecutes perpetrators of children's rights				
There are many children's rights documents availed by UHRC				
UHRC coordinates with police, judiciary and NGOs in fulfilling its duties				
There are stringent laws on children's rights				
UHRC works with the media to fulfill its mandate				
UHRC helps children know their rights				
Conferences and seminars are often held by UHRC in children rights protection				

UHRC reaches even in the villages				
Workforce of UHRC is large to cover all the children in Uganda				
UHRC has done much to improve the children's rights climate in the community				
UHRC works with other international children's rights conventions				
UHRC lobbies support from parliament to effectively perform its duties				
These media channels are key promoters of children's rights				
Television				
Radio				
Newspapers				
Magazines				

The extent of children's rights protection in Kampala district

Argument	Strongly agree (4)	Agree (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly disagree (1)
There are reduced cases of child abuse in Kampala district				
Law enforcement authorities adhere				

to children's rights protection				
Abused children have been taken to rehabilitation centres				
The police operates children's protection unit				
Many perpetrators of children's rights have been prosecuted				
Many people are aware of children's rights				
Cases of children's rights are reported by every one				
Many abused children have been reconciled to their families				
The community acts as a watch dog in children's rights protection				
The community arrests the abusers of children's rights				
Rehabilitation homes have been constructed by NGOs				

APPENDIX IV B

Date Received by Respondent: _____

PART A: RESPONDENT'S PROFILE

(Please Tick):

Age: _____

Gender: _____

Religion: _____

Nationality: _____

Class reached _____

.....
.....

PART B: QUESTIONNAIRE TO CHILDREN

Direction: Please respond to each item by using the scoring guide below. Kindly tick and write your best choice on the space before or after each item. Be honest about your options as there are no right or wrong answers.

Response Mode	Rating
Strongly agree	(4)
Agree	(3)
Disagree	(2)
Strongly disagree	(1)

Argument	Strongly agree (4)	Agree (3)	Disagree (2)	Strongly disagree (1)
Children receive many documents on their rights				
UHRC works with police to protect children against abuse				
UHRC takes children's rights campaigns to schools				
Children's rights are taught in homes				
Media campaigns are organized for children				
Sensitizations of children's rights are done by communities				
There are children's centers that handle children's complaints				
Children are taught about their rights				
Children understand their rights				
Parents are aware of their children's rights				

Extent of children's rights protection

Children have freedom of expression				
Parents respect the rights of their children				
Children have rights to make				

decisions				
There is reduction in cases of children's rights abuse				
The communities deal with perpetrators of children's rights				
Parents are always there for their children				
The police closely works with communities to protect children's rights				
Schools observe children's rights				
Children are well handled in the society				
Children have freedom in the society				

APPENDIX V

ACCEPTANCE LETTER



UGANDA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Plot 20/22/24 Buganda Road, P.O.Box 4929, Kampala
Tel: 256-414-348007/8, 233757, Fax: 256-414-255261
Email: uhrc@uhrc.ug Website: <http://www.uhrc.ug>

SEC/240/00

Our Ref:.....

Your Ref:.....

6th September, 2011.

Date:.....

Ms. Elizabeth Nkhongera,
Kampala International University,
P.O. Box 2000,
Kampala

RE: REQUEST TO ADMINISTER QUESTIONNAIRES TO UHRC STAFF

Reference is made to your letter to the Uganda Human Rights Commission received on 29th August, 2011.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Uganda Human Rights Commission has accepted your request to circulate questionnaires amongst its responsible staff to collect data for your research on the UHRC's mandate in protecting and fulfilling Children's Rights in Kampala District.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "G.T. Mwesigye".

G.T. Mwesigye

SECRETARY, UGANDA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

Copy to: The Chairperson, UHRC
Director, M&I
Acting Director, CIL
Head Vulnerable Persons Unit
RHRO, Central Regional Office

APPENDIX VI

CURRICULUM VITAE

Elizabeth T Nkhonjera

Address: C/O Save the Children in Uganda, P.O Box 12018, Kampala -
Uganda

E-mail: bnkhonjera@yahoo.co.uk

Mobile: +256774984900

Profile

Proven track record in catering and institutional management, including implementing HIV/AIDs programs in the work place, I am a results-oriented lady with strong leadership skills. I am a team player, with a high sense of responsibility and determination to face new challenges.

Academic and Professional Credentials

- ▶ **Master of Arts (Human rights and Development) - Pending** Kampala International University
2011-2012
- ▶ **Certificate of Basic Security in Staff Safety, Health, and Welfare Programme** UN
2011
- ▶ **Certificate in Different Needs- Equal Opportunities Committee (IASC)** Inter-Agency Standing Committee
2011
- ▶ **Bachelor of Arts (Guidance & Counselling)** Kampala International University
2007-2010
- ▶ **Certificate of Placement (HIV/AIDS counselling)** Joint Clinical Research Centre, Kampala
2007

- ▶ **HIV/AIDS Care and Counselling Certificate**
 South Africa
 University of
 2005-2006
- ▶ **Management Certificate in Stores/Kitchen Supervision**
 Johannesburg
 Alpine Caterers,
And Accounting and catering Management
 1989-1990
- ▶ **Diploma in Institutional Management**
 Polytechnic, Nairobi
 Kenya
 1983-1985

Employment History

Teaching Assistant, Kampala International University - Department of Guidance & Counselling, February 2011- present

My duties include:

- ▶ Teaching first year Bachelor of Arts students in guidance and counseling
- ▶ Invigilating test and examinations
- ▶ Marking of exam scripts and coursework assignments
- ▶ Providing academic support to students

Catering Manager at Support Systems Worldwide (Eurest) – Maputo, Mozambique, July 2003 – August 2006

- ▶ Provided catering services for more than 160 staff at Cimentos de Mozambique. I was responsible for the efficient and cost-effective operation of the cafeteria. This included: supervision of staff, planning and costing of menus, purchasing of food stuffs and ensuring proper storage and record keeping. I provided oversight during preparations and serving of food, by ensuring correct portioning while avoiding pilferage and waste. Planning and budgeting for special functions. Ensured personal hygiene and safety of staff and cleanliness of kitchen and cafeteria at all times. I for training HIV/AIDS in the workplace (program for staff) and safety measures in the past.

Private Catering Services -Maputo, Mozambique, January 1999 - August 2003

- ▶ I run my own catering services outfit from home, on request. I catered for children's parties, weddings, and business dinners.

Shareholder at A&B Caterers – Blantyre, Malawi, September 1994 – September 1997

- I provided catering services for more than 800 staff members at the Blantyre Print & Publishing Company. My duties included: planning weekly menus, supervision of kitchen staff, and provision of oversight to staff on procurement of food stuffs, storage, and stock control, food service and ensuring portion control. I was also responsible for the maintenance of high standards of hygiene of staff, cafeteria and kitchen.
- I was responsible for: budget preparation and budget control, keeping of accounting records, including bank reconciliation, preparation of weekly and monthly summaries of coupons and submitting to Blantyre Print for payment and processing of tenders by commodity suppliers

A&B Caterers in partnership with Air Malawi – Blantyre, Malawi, October 1994 – March 1997

- I was responsible for the management of the Air Malawi staff cafeteria and provided meals for over 50 people. I was in charge of the general management of the cafeteria, and provided oversight to 15 employees

Catering Manager at College of Medicine - Blantyre, Malawi, October 1991 – November 1997

- Reporting to the college registrar I attended management meetings, recruited staff, supervised and trained staff, prepared job descriptions for new staff, prepared work schedules, duty rosters and holiday schedules. I compiled and costed menus, prepared, and monitored the budget.
- I was responsible for selecting/ordering kitchen equipment. I ensured the quality of meals and maintenance of high standards of hygiene in the kitchen and cafeteria. I also ensured maintenance of safety measures in the use of kitchen equipment.
- I was also involved in conflict resolution on issues emanating from medical student's complaints and requests. This entailed instilling discipline in the cafeteria.

Matron at College of Nursing - Lilongwe, Malawi, November 1996 – October 1991

- Reporting to the College Registrar, I was in charge of the smooth running of all housekeeping work. My duties were to maintain co-operation with other departments, welfare of staff, training of staff, compilation of duty rosters, provision of oversight on cleanliness of offices, lounges, guest and staff rooms,

checking of room occupancy lists, dealing with students/guest complaints and requests, reporting and checking all

maintenance work, control and supervision of the work of linen room and laundry, dealing with lost property, responsible for keys in my department, ordering and issuing of stores in my department, keeping inventories and records of equipment, redecoration and any other relevant details of department and floral decoration.

- I later was transferred to work in the catering department where I was reporting to the college registrar and was responsible for the smooth running of the kitchen and cafeteria. I ensured that quality meals were prepared and served on time, while maintaining high standards of hygiene and safety. I was also responsible for ordering food stuffs and kitchen equipment. I planned and provided outside catering for special functions.

Key skills and qualities

- Windows XP, MS Office
- Fax/e-mail/internet
- Results-oriented
- Strong leadership skills
- Education support
- Ability to provide counselling support to groups and individuals
- Proven track record in catering and institutional management
- Team player
- Flexibility and adaptability
- Good interpersonal communication skills
- Passion to serve others

Languages

English	Portuguese	Swahili	Chichewa	Luganda	Tumbuka
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Referees

Mr Telesphore Kabore

Save the Children in Mali

Phone: +223-72098292

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