

HRAPF LAWYERS TO USE BICYCLES AND MOTORCYCLES TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY LEGAL AID SERVICES TO CLIENTS WHILE FOLLOWING THE DIRECTIVES IN PLACE TO FIGHT COVID-19

Kampala

3rd April 2020

Since the declaration of a ban on private cars on Uganda's roads as a measure to combat the spread of the Coronavirus and COVID-19, HRAPF has struggled to provide support to its clients who need its services due to transportation challenges. HRAPF's application to the Ministry of Works and Transport for stickers to allow its cars to move during this period was rejected, as its services were deemed 'not to be essential.'

This has made HRAPF to devise other means to ensure that the organisation continues to support its clients, some of whom are currently in jail on charges related to the COVID-19 directives. The measures that HRAPF has adopted are:

- 1. HRAPF staff including lawyers will be working from home and HRAPF offices will remain closed to all persons including staff, except in emergency situations.
- 2. HRAPF lawyers shall continue to provide emergency legal support. This will be restricted to criminal arrests and proceedings. To this end, efforts will be made to use all available legal means of transport including walking on foot. HRAPF has procured bicycles and motorcycles, which are an accepted form of transportation during this period, to ensure mobility of the lawyers. When no such means are allowed, HRAPF staff commit to walk on foot in order to reach the clients.
- 3. In all cases involving a visit to the field, HRAPF staff shall follow the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health from time to time and use the protective equipment provided by HRAPF to protect themselves against COVID-19.
- 4. For all other cases that are not emergencies, legal service provision shall be done using the phone. The HRAPF toll free **line 0800 130 683** shall remain available to receive calls at all times. All other staff's official numbers will remain available. Please contact any of the following persons on the numbers below:

Name	Position	Telephone Contact
Ms. Justine Balya	Legal Officer/Head, MARPS Unit	0706 536 303
Mr. Arajab Kamya	Legal Officer/Head, Marginalised Persons Unit	0700 53 63 24
Ms. Winnie Nabukeera	Legal Associate (Sex Workers)	0706 53 63 12
Ms. Martha Taremwa	Legal Associate (LGBTI)	0700 59 00 38
Ms. Prossy Nabachwa	Community Paralegal (Sex workers)	0706 53 63 17
Mr. Clovice Nyakatura	Community Paralegal (LGBTI)	0700 59 00 35
Ms. Patricia Kimera	Director, Access to justice	0706 536 304
Mr. Edward Mwebaza	Deputy Executive Director	0703011 788
Dr. Adrian Jjuuko	Executive Director	0782 169505

HRAPF will also be available on social media and cases can be brought to its attention there. Our social media accounts shall be monitored at all times.

Facebook: Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum - HRAPF - Uganda

Twitter: @hrapf_uganda

HRAPF continues to reiterate our commitment to work within the confines of the law and international human rights standards in order to ensure that our clients access justice in all circumstances.

Taking Human Rights To All

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