



# 20 | Annual 15 | Report

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## ABOUT HRAPF

### Background

Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (HRAPF) is a voluntary, not for profit, and non-partisan Non-Governmental Organisation. HRAPF works for the promotion, realisation, protection and enforcement of human rights through human rights awareness, advocacy and legal aid service provision, with a particular focus on minorities and disadvantaged groups. It was established in 2008 with a vision of improving the observance of human rights of marginalised persons in Uganda. The organisation's activities target sexual minorities, women and girls living with HIV/AIDS, indigent women, children and the elderly facing land justice challenges. The organisation's offices are located in Kampala but it works with partners in other areas of Uganda.

### Legal Status

HRAPF is incorporated under the laws of Uganda as a company limited by guarantee.

### Vision

A society where the human rights of all persons including marginalised groups are valued and respected.

### Mission

To promote respect and observance of human rights of marginalised groups through legal and legislative advocacy, research and documentation, legal and human rights awareness, capacity building and partnership.

### HRAPF's Objectives

1. To sensitise Ugandans on the international and national human rights regime in order to promote a culture of respect for human rights of marginalised groups.
2. To undertake research and document human rights abuses suffered by marginalised groups for appropriate remedial action.
3. To influence legal and policy developments in Uganda to ensure compliance with human rights principles.
4. To offer legal assistance to marginalised groups in order to enhance access to justice.
5. To share information and best practices on the rights of marginalised groups in order to strengthen the human rights movement in Uganda.
6. To network and collaborate with key strategic partners, government, communities and individuals at a national, regional and international level.
7. To build a strong and vibrant human rights organisation.

### HRAPF Values

1. Non -discrimination
2. Equal opportunity
3. Justice
4. Practical Approach
5. Team work

### Slogan

Taking Human Rights to all

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## ACRONYMS

ACHPR:	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
AGM:	Annual General Meeting
AJWS:	American Jewish World Service
ATRI:	Action for Transgender Rights Initiative
BUSITIHA:	Bulo Sexually Transmitted Infections Organisation of People Living with HIV/AIDS
HESI:	Help the Sick, Mpigi
CCEDU:	Citizens Coalition on Electoral Democracy
CEHURD:	Centre for Health, Human Rights and Development
CEON:	Citizens Election Observers Network
COPTC:	Come Out Post Test Club
CCSMUA:	Coalition to Stop Maternal Mortality due to Unsafe Abortion
CSO:	Civil Society Organisation
FARUG:	Freedom and Roam Uganda
FGHR:	Fund for Global Human Rights
FHRI:	Foundation for Human Rights Initiative
GIZ:	The German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation
GLISS:	Great Lakes Institute for Strategic Studies
HURINET:	Human Rights Network Uganda
LASPNET:	Legal Aid Service Providers Network
LSN:	Legal Support Network
NED:	National Endowment for Democracy
NGO:	Non-Governmental Organisation
PILAC:	Public Interest Law Clinic
RLP:	Refugee Law Project
SIPD:	Support Initiative for People with Atypical Sex Development
SOGIE:	Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity/Expression
UGANET:	Uganda Network on Law Ethics and HIV/AIDS
UHSPA:	Uganda Health and Science Press Association
ULA:	Uganda Land Alliance
UN:	United Nations
UNNGOF:	The Uganda National NGO Forum
UPR:	Universal Periodic Review
WONETHA:	Women's Organisation Network for Human Rights Advocacy

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

HRAPF wishes to acknowledge the following groups, which greatly contributed to its work in the year 2015:

*Our Donors for 2015:* The Fund for Global Human Rights (FGHR); American Jewish World Service (AJWS); The East African Sexual Health and Rights Initiative (UHAI-EASHRI); Humanistic Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries (Hivos); Open Society Initiative for East Africa (OSIEA); National Endowment For Democracy (NED); Benetech; GIZ, and the Out in Africa Ride Project all supported HRAPF financially during the year. We appreciate the financial and technical support accorded to us during the year and for the partnerships.

*Government organs:* HRAPF also closely worked with a number of governmental institutions during the year 2015. These are: the Uganda Police Force; the Judiciary; the Ministry of Lands; the Uganda Registration Services Bureau; and the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development.

*Independent Commissions:* HRAPF also engaged the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) and the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) during this period.

*Networks to which HRAPF belongs:* These are: The Uganda National NGO Forum (UNNGOF); The Human Rights Network Uganda (HURINET-Uganda); East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Network (EHAHRD-NET); Legal Aid Service Providers Network (LASPNET); Uganda Network on Law, Ethics and HIV/AIDS (UGANET); National Coalition for Human Rights Defenders (NCHRD); Access to Medicines Coalition, Citizens Coalition on Electoral Democracy (CCEDU); Uganda Land Alliance, Citizens Election Observers Network (CEON); and the Coalition to Stop Maternal Mortality due to Unsafe Abortion (CSSMUA). Your contribution to our cause is invaluable.



*National Partner organisations:* HRAPF continued to work with different organisations in Uganda during the year. Key among these were: Refugee Law Project (RLP); Centre for Human Rights and Development (CEHURD); Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI); East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP); Uganda Health and Science Press Association (UHSPA); Public Interest Law Clinic (PILAC); Bulu Sexually Transmitted Infections Organisation of People Living with HIV/AIDS (BUSITIHA); Butooro Health Center; Help the Sick Mpigi (HESI); Bukomero Health Center; Buwama Health Center (Mpigi); Nabwendo Health Center (Kiboga); Nyimbwa Multipurpose Center for People living with HIV/AIDS (Luwero); Luwero HIV/AIDS District Forum (Luwero); Mityana Forum for People Living with HIV/AIDS; Most at Risk Populations Initiative (MARPI); Uganda Harm Reduction Network (UHRN); Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG), Freedom and Roam Uganda (FARUG), Queer Youth Uganda (QYU), Rainbow Health Foundation (RHF); Ice Breakers Uganda (IBU); Spectrum Initiatives Incorporated; FEM Alliance; GALA Initiative Uganda; and SCARLET Uganda. There are many other organisations with which HRAPF worked in 2015 and we appreciate their support.

*International partners:* HRAPF closely worked with a number of international partners who supported our work and who also collaborate with us on a number of initiatives. These include: Human Rights Watch; Amnesty International; International Service for Human Rights (ISHR); CREA; Ipas Alliance, Arc International; and the International Gay and Lesbian Association (ILGA).

*HRAPF Clients:* We also wish to extend our appreciation to all our clients who used our services in 2015. Our clients are the reason we exist. We therefore wish to sincerely thank and appreciate the entire LGBTI community and organisations; the sex worker community and organisations; women and girls living with HIV/AIDS in the districts of Mityana, Luwero, Kiboga and Mpigi; and women, children and elderly persons facing land related injustice in the districts of Wakiso, Mubende, and Nakasongola. We are thankful for your feedback on our services. Your individual stories and resilience is what inspires us to do

our work and pursue justice with passion.

*HRAPF Trained community paralegals:* We thank our trained community paralegals among LGBTI persons, sex workers, and women living with HIV/AIDS. They extend services to their communities even in the absence of HRAPF lawyers and they thus play an important role as our link, eyes and ears in the communities that we serve.

Thank you so much, friends, colleagues and partners, for working with us as we strive to take human rights to all.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON BOARD OF DIRECTORS



I am delighted to present to you HRAPF's Annual Report for the year 2015. This is the seventh Annual Report for the organisation.

The year 2015 was successful for us and we hope you enjoy reading about our achievements and feel as inspired and proud as we do.

HRAPF continued to be a vibrant and fast growing human rights organisation in the year 2015 and for this I would like to thank all our partners, our clients, the board members, trustees and HRAPF members for their unwavering dedication and support to the successes HRAPF registered in 2015.

During the course of the year, HRAPF stuck true to its Strategic Plan 2013-2017. 2015 was the third year of implementation of the Strategic Plan. The progress made in the year made the organisation to firmly continue on its path towards full implementation of the Strategic Plan by the end of 2017.

One of the most notable developments at the strategic level was the completion of the midterm review of the Strategic Plan. The

Strategic Plan was adopted in 2013 to streamline and guide HRAPF work. Its implementation ends in 2017. The review was necessary to ascertain the implementation progress of the plan and make an assessment of whether it was still relevant and whether there were any implementation changes needed moving forward, especially from an outsider's view point. The report from the review revealed the following: that HRAPF's work was still very relevant to the nation and its target groups; HRAPF's clients and beneficiaries appreciated the services offered and regard HRAPF as a valuable vehicle for them to access justice and improve their daily lives; HRAPF was steadily achieving the targets set in the Strategic Plan under all the programmatic areas; and that HRAPF as an institution was growing every year and the growth and success was felt and reflected in all its organs. The report noted that HRAPF's BOD was very supportive as it continued to motivate and guide management. A number of challenges were also noted including the rapidly changing operating environment. Solutions and recommendations were made and the Board ensured their implementation.

One of the key recommendations was the need to match the staffing structure to the current needs of the organisation. As a result, HRAPF's staffing structure was reviewed to ensure effective work. New positions were created and others removed and more flexible staffing mechanisms like temporary appointments and flexible working hours were introduced. All staff went through an internal interview process after which the best performers were retained. New staff members were hired to fill the new and vacant positions.

A number of new policies were adopted by the Board to guide the secretariat in its work and to further HRAPF's mission, vision and values. These were: The Asset Management Policy, the Monitoring and Evaluation Policy and the revised Human Resource Policy.

The sixth Annual General meeting was held in July and the Board of Directors (BOD) reported to the members, carrying forward the tradition of accountability and transparency that is part and parcel

of HRAPF. A lot was done in 2015 and this report gives an in depth account of what transpired during the year.

I thank my fellow BOD members for their commitment and the Executive Director and the team at the Secretariat for the commendable work during 2015. The Development Partners who financed our programs are highly appreciated. And finally to our partners who continue to support our work, we appreciate you.

We thank you all for continuing to help HRAPF remain visible and relevant in the civil society arena as we take human rights to all.

Sheila Muwanga  
Chairperson, Board of Directors

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



HRAPF'S Annual Report 2015 summarises all the activities and achievements of 2015 and also our financial position as at the end of 2015.

During the year 2015, HRAPF carried out a midterm evaluation of its Strategic Plan 2013-2017. The evaluation was aimed at assessing progress of implementation of the Strategic Plan with specific attention to relevance of activities, effectiveness in implementing activities to achieve the objectives, and efficiency in implementation of activities. It was also meant to review the institutional arrangements and the organisation's ability to support its ever-demanding work as well as to assess HRAPF's strategic positioning. The review found that HRAPF's key strengths lay in its: conscious management of growth and development of the organisation; identifying a niche and strategically investing in it; attention to detail and quality of reports; investment in staff welfare and well being; building and managing relationships, even with those groups that are considered very difficult to work with, donors and partners; research, analysis and documentation; developing and maintaining funding relationships and building enough confidence to expand the funding base; and professionalism. The review report made a number of recommendations key of which were: doing research, advocacy work and networking within one unit; strengthening the strategic litigation component; and having a

staffing structure as well as human resource management that reflects the stage of development at which the organisation was. This review therefore guided work in the second quarter of 2015.

HRAPF's work continued to be implemented under the three programmatic areas: the Access to Justice Program; the Research and Advocacy program; and the Organisational Development and Capacity Building program.

The Access to Justice Program aims at promoting sustainable access to justice for marginalised groups in Uganda. The groups targeted are sexual minorities; women and children living with HIV/AIDS from the districts of Mityana, Luwero, Kiboga and Mpigi; and indigent women and the elderly with land problems in the districts of Wakiso, Mubende and Nakasongola. During the course of 2015, work under the program continued with provision of pro-bono legal assistance; documentation of violations and advocacy; community paralegal trainings; legal and human rights awareness and provision of technical support for marginalised groups. A total of 335 cases were handled by the legal aid clinic during the course of the year. These were: 132 LGBTI cases; 118 cases concerning land justice; 47 cases concerning sex workers and 38 involving women and girls living with HIV/AIDS. The total number of beneficiaries both direct and indirect was 1,413 persons. Violations against the target groups continued to be documented. 18 more community paralegals working with sexual minorities were trained and HRAPF gave technical support to more than 10 organisations working with our target groups. 28 outreaches and awareness sessions were conducted reaching out to 910 people from our target communities; 14 radio talk shows were held on different radio stations discussing HRAPF work and human rights issues; one training was held for Local Council leaders in Wakiso on land rights and one advocacy training was held for LGBTI leaders on the Uganda Human Rights Commission and the Equal Opportunities Commission.

2015 saw a surge in the Research and Advocacy component of HRAPF's work. The Legislative Advocacy and Networking programme aims at

working with like-minded organisations and institutions to advocate for and influence the adoption of policies and legislations that promote equality and non-discrimination in order to prevent discrimination of marginalised groups. The program focuses on policy and legislative analysis, strategic interest litigation, building strategic alliances for policy and legislative advocacy, and supporting publicity and dissemination of information. The program was very instrumental in bringing to the fore HRAPF's concerns on key legislative developments in the country especially the then Non Governmental Organisations (Registration) Bill and creating visibility for the organisation and its work on different platforms and in different coalitions and networks. HRAPF analysed 4 laws/bills and distributed the analyses to different stakeholders. It also analysed two court judgments affecting LGBTI persons. Four strategic cases concerning LGBTI persons were directly pursued and supported in courts of law in Uganda and at the East African Court of Justice (EACJ). HRAPF attended and participated at the 56<sup>th</sup> and 57<sup>th</sup> sessions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the 30<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Human Rights Council. The programme actively worked with 11 networks and coalitions in 2015 for joint advocacy on a range of issues. HRAPF developed 10 publications during the year and physically distributed a total of 11,445 copies of these publications and many more through social media, mailing lists and the website.

The Organisational Development and Capacity Building programme aims at creating the appropriate institutional development and capacity framework for the efficient and effective implementation of the program activities and realisation of the programme goals. The program focuses on five management priorities which are: Policy Development, Human Resource Management and Development, Strengthening Governance Structures & Building membership, Strengthening HRAPF's Monitoring and Evaluation Systems and Increasing Resources for Increased Needs. The Assets Management Policy and the Monitoring and Evaluation policy were developed and approved by the Board of Directors, and the Human Resources Policy was revised. Under Human Resource management, the



programme focused on staff welfare and capacity development. Staff retention was at 90% during the year. Our internship and volunteer programmes remained competitive, attracting three interns and two volunteers from different institutions around the world. Four Board of Directors meetings were held, and the sixth Annual General meeting was also held. Steps and efforts were taken to involve members in organisational activities. The approved Monitoring and Evaluation Policy was implemented with the development of new tools and with a focus on M&E within the Programmes Department. HRAPF continued to look for more diversified sources of funding including expanding funding from local sources, and private individuals. All the donors for the year 2014 were maintained and two new donors brought on board in 2015. The financial audit for 2014 was successfully completed.

In terms of staffing, the staff structure was reviewed in order to meet the organisation's current level of development. New positions were created to address rising need, most notable of which were the positions of Deputy Executive Director (Programmes) and Deputy Executive Director (Finance and Administration) and that of Executive Officer. The administrative structure of the organisation also changed to increase efficiency. The different programmatic areas were divided into smaller implementation and administrative units. Under the Access to Justice Programme, two units were created: the Sexual Minorities Unit and the Land and HIV Unit. The Organisational Development and Capacity Building Program was also divided into two units i.e. the Finance Unit and the Human Resource and Administration Unit. The Legislative Advocacy and Networking program only has one unit, which is the Research and Advocacy Unit. All these units have unit heads that report to the respective Deputy Executive Directors.

Collectively, all the above activities and achievements made for a successful year for the organisation as they intensified HRAPF activities within its target communities and increased the visibility and impact of HRAPF's advocacy on the national, regional and international levels.

2015 was therefore a year that helped to strengthen and sustain HRAPF and to shape the direction that the organisation takes. I would like to thank our donors, partners, clients, members, Board of Directors, Trustees and everyone who was part of these achievements. Without you we would not be able to achieve all that we achieved.

Taking Human Rights to All.

Adrian Jjuuko  
Executive Director

## OVERVIEW OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS WITH AN IMPACT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN UGANDA IN 2015

The year 2015 in Uganda was dominated by political activity, as it was the run up to the country's parliamentary and presidential elections that were due in February 2016. As different political stakeholders used the period to highlight their varying political interests and positions, the political frenzy also highlighted the deteriorating respect of civil and political freedoms in the country. 2015 was thus characterised by a substantial number of human rights violations especially against actual or perceived opposition politicians, supporters and activists. These violations were majorly at the hands of the Police. Most notably on 9 July, presidential candidates Amama Mbabazi and Kizza Besigye were prevented from attending their respective political rallies by Uganda Police and arrested in the process. According to Police, these were preventive arrests. The arrests were more often than not made in an arbitrary and inhuman manner, where victims or suspects were subjected to a plethora of intimidation, violence and degradation. One of the most notable of such incidents was the arrest of opposition political party, Forum for Democratic Change (FDC)'s activist Fatuma Zainab, who, during her arrest, was undressed by three police officers, prompting national outrage. All these acts, expressly and implicitly sanctioned by the state security institutions, were evident of the lack of respect for human rights in the country.

There were also reported attacks on media, especially regarding the prevalent political activity, grossly violating the right to freedom of speech and expression. On 21 July, police arrested a talk show host and his panellists from Jal Fresh radio and detained them for three days on allegations that they used abusive language against the president when they criticised on the government road projects. The

attacks on journalists were in particular incidents physical and one culminated into a criminal trial of the police officer that perpetrated the attack. This was when on 12 January, cameraman Andrew Lwanga was assaulted while filming a gathering of youth activists, the Jobless brotherhood. At its pinnacle, on 8 July, the Executive Director of the Uganda Communications Commission issued a directive to all media broadcasting houses against 'negative and unprofessional trends such as lack of balance, sensationalism, incitement, abusive language, and relying on unauthorised and unreliable sources of information'. Although this did not directly put a ban on the broadcasting of certain information, it created an environment of uncertainty and self-censorship.

2015 also saw a surge in break-ins into offices of various NGOs. On 30 June, the offices of Human Rights Network for Journalists were broken into; on 17 July, the offices of Uganda Land Alliance were broken into and a security guard killed in the process; while on 17 October, the offices of Soroti Development Association and NGOs Network were broken into. Despite such worrying trends, Police did not carry out any substantial investigations or release any reports on the attacks, although these were seemingly suspicious. This created an apprehensive environment for NGOs and potentially affected their work. In addition, the Uganda Registration Services Bureau also launched an investigation into the Great Lakes Institute for Strategic Studies (GLISS) for allegedly decampaigning government programmes. This created a de facto sense of attack on NGOs from government.

The above attacks on NGOs were compounded by the tabling and eventual passing of the NGO (Registration) Act 2015, the new law that governs and regulates the NGO sector in Uganda. The introduction of the new law created discomfort within civil society as it was seen as a show of mistrust and suspicion on the part of the government towards NGOs. The law was justified as necessary as many NGOs were starting to engage in 'subversive activities'. The bill however seemed more like a tool to control rather than regulate NGOs. It had various

problematic provisions that sought to narrow civil society space, for example the provisions on registration of organisations, powers of inspection, and powers of the NGO Board to dissolve organisations. Most of these provisions were successfully challenged by civil society organisations and were not passed as part of the final law. However, the law as passed still has problematic provisions that could easily be manipulated by law enforcement agencies to clamp down on organisations especially working on political and human rights issues, and those working with and on criminalised/marginalised communities and/or communities like drug abuse, abortion, sex work, and LGBTI persons. An example of these provisions is the provision that prohibits organisations from engaging in work that is prejudicial to the interests, security and dignity of Ugandans.

It is however important to note that the law acted as a stimulus for Civil Society Organisations as it brought them together as they galvanised efforts to challenge the problematic provisions that were tabled with it as a bill. This increased the strength, presence and visibility of the sector. The law also re-introduced the homosexuality debate in Parliament as it was reiterated that with the annulling of the Anti-Homosexuality Act, there was still need to have a law that would effectively deal with organisations that work on homosexuality. Some of the provisions were therefore left in the law as a safeguard against homosexuality.

2015, therefore, continued to add to the years of increasingly regressing respect of basic human rights in Uganda. This was even more highlighted by the existent political environment, the advent of parliamentary and presidential elections. From the events that happened in the year, it is quite evident that most human rights violations in Uganda are the result of direct state action or implicit sanction. While this does not and should not discount the part played by individual and non-state actors in the violation of rights, it does show that the Ugandan government together with its agencies still need to do much to be able to fulfil their human rights obligations under domestic and international law. We continue to hope for better years going forward.

## KEY PROGRAMME ACTIONS IN 2015

### HRAPF Programmatic Areas

Under the HRAPF Strategic Plan 2013-2017, activities are implemented under three broad programmes to promote equality and non-discrimination. These are:

1. The Access to Justice Programme
2. The Legislative Advocacy and Networking Programme
3. Organisational Development and Capacity Building Programme

#### HRAPF Strategic Objectives

1. To promote sustainable access to justice for marginalised groups in Uganda
2. To influence the adoption of policies and legislation that promote equality and non-discrimination in order to prevent discrimination of marginalised groups in Uganda
3. To create the appropriate organisational framework and institutional structures for the efficient and effective implementation and realization of the programme goal of HRAPF

#### Outcomes for the Strategic Objectives

1. Access to justice of marginalised persons enhanced
2. A strengthened policy and legislative framework that promotes equality and non-discrimination
3. A strong and vibrant human rights advocacy organisation

#### Implementation of Programmes

Implementation of the activities was done under the three programmatic areas through a number of projects supported by our different donors. Implementation was done in the different programmes as described in the following sections:

## Access to Justice Programme

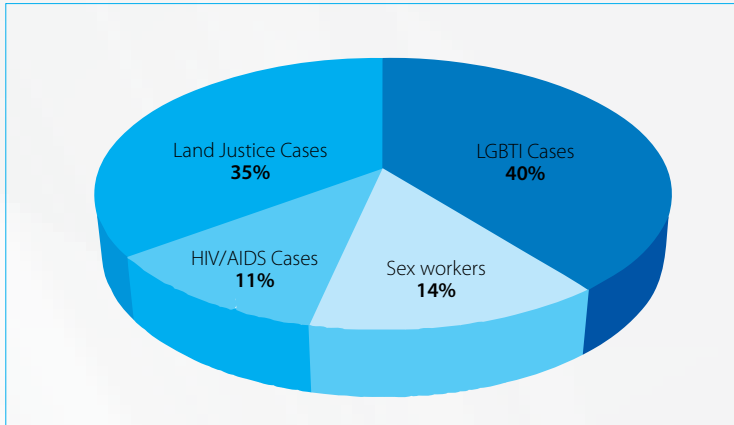
The Access to Justice Programme aims at promoting sustainable access to justice for marginalised groups in Uganda. The programme targets LGBTI persons, sex workers, poor women and girls living with HIV/AIDS and poor women and the elderly facing land injustice. The programme is implemented under two units: the Sexual Minorities Unit, and the Land & HIV Unit. The following was achieved under the program:

### Provision of pro-bono legal assistance to marginalised groups

The main activity under this program is provision of legal aid services to marginalised groups. In 2015, **the legal aid clinic received and handled a total of 335 cases**. This was an 8.5% decrease from cases handled in 2014, which were 365. This can be attributed to the reduction in the number of cases of women living with HIV/AIDS by 65% as the legal interventions had reduced as the project was being re-organised. The legal aid clinic handled more LGBTI cases than any other category. These were 132 cases. They were followed by land justice cases which were 118, sex worker cases which were 47, and finally cases concerning women and girls living with HIV/AIDS which were 38. The total number of beneficiaries was **1,413 persons**. Of these, 610 were direct beneficiaries while 803 were indirect beneficiaries who in most cases were children and relatives of our clients.

HRAPF's legal aid services for LGBTI persons and sex workers were offered to all throughout the country, while those relating to women and girls living with HIV/AIDS were limited to Kiboga, Luwero, Mityana and Mpigi districts and those relating to indigent women and the elderly with land justice issues were limited to Mubende, Nakasogola and Wakiso districts.

**Figure 1: Percentage distribution of Cases handled in 2015 per category of cases**



**a) Provision of pro bono legal assistance to LGBTI persons**

In 2015, HRAPF handled 132 LGBTI cases. This was a 19% increase in cases handled annually compared to 2014 where 107 cases were handled. The increase in the number of cases can be attributed to HRAPF's increased engagement with the LGBTI community during the year and focusing more on all cases concerning LGBTI persons rather than focusing largely on only arrests as it was before. Of the 132 cases received, 113 were completed and only 19 remained pending, putting the **case completion rate at 86%**.

A total number of 136 persons directly benefited from this legal aid service provision. Of these, 64 identified as Gay, 21 identified as Transgender, 18 identified as Lesbians, 12 as Bisexuals, 2 as Intersex, 1 as Queer and 18 were organisations working on LGBTI issues.

In terms of the nature of cases handled, arrests still ranked highest in 2015 at 34 cases, although they were less than the arrests registered in 2014, which were 46. This is a positive development for it implies that fewer arrests than before are being carried out against LGBTI persons.



Cases related to organisational matters also increased from 4 in 2014 to 19 in 2015. This indicates that LGBTI persons are increasingly being empowered to form more organisations and are willing to adopt modern corporate governance principles. Cases concerning asylum were 11, forming 8.3% of all cases which was quite a leap considering that these cases were almost non-existent before. This could be explained by the apprehension created in the aftermath of the passing and subsequent nullification of the Anti-Homosexuality Act. There was also a new trend of cases that could safely be regarded as fabrications. HRAPF makes efforts to verify cases but in these 18 cases, it found no evidence that the alleged incidents had indeed occurred. These accounted for 13.6% of all cases handled. Such cases waste time and resources and could negatively impact situational analyses.

**Figure 2: Nature of LGBTI cases handled in 2015**

NO	NATURE OF CASE	NUMBER RECEIVED	COMPLETED	PENDING
1	Criminal arrests	34	29	12
2	Organisational matters	19	09	10
3	Asylum Matters	11	11	00
4	Assault	09	07	02
5	Threatening violence	09	09	00
6	Blackmail	07	06	01

NO	NATURE OF CASE	NUMBER RECEIVED	COMPLETED	PENDING
7	Employment matters	02	02	00
8	Legal advice	02	02	00
9	Media outing	02	02	00
10	Name change	02	02	00
11	Threatening with arrest	02	01	01
12	Banishment from village	01	01	00
13	Criminal summoning by police	01	01	00
14	Custody	01	01	00
15	Divorce	01	01	00
16	Eviction	01	01	00
17	Educational matters	02	02	00
18	Family rejection	01	01	00

NO	NATURE OF CASE	NUMBER RECEIVED	COMPLETED	PENDING
19	House break-in	01	01	00
20	Land matters	01	01	00
21	Outing to family	01	01	00
22	Security and relocation	01	01	00
23	Sexual harassment	01	01	00
24	Summoning by minister	01	01	00
25	Support for a community member	01	01	00
26	Cases that could not be verified	18	18	00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>132</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>19</b>

In terms of remedies to the cases, HRAPF represented clients in court, intervened in cases at police stations and police posts, mediated between the victims and perpetrators, made prison interventions and gave legal advice. As a result, 29 police bonds were secured for our clients, 8 cases were reported to different police stations on behalf of our clients, court representation was done in 5 cases where 3 bail applications were granted and 3 cases were dismissed for want of prosecution. We gave legal advice in 18 cases, successfully mediated 8 cases, referred 5 cases to partner organisations, made prison visits

in 3 cases and changed names for 2 transgender persons. We also recommended 3 clients that were seeking asylum.

**b) Provision of pro bono legal services to women and the elderly facing land justice challenges**

In 2015, HRAPF **received and handled a total of 118 cases** of indigent women and elderly on land rights. Of the 118 cases, 72 were brought by women and 46 by men. Out of the 46 cases brought by men, 23 were by elderly men. The other cases, although brought by men had women and children as direct beneficiaries. From Wakiso district, 64 cases were received, 41 being for women and 23 for men; in Kampala 22 cases were received, 13 for men and 9 for women; in Mubende 19 cases were received, with 11 for men and 8 for women; in Nakasongola, 7 cases were received, with 5 cases for women and 2 for men; while in Mukono, 5 cases were received, with 3 for women and 2 for men. The **direct beneficiaries in the 118 cases were 123 and the indirect beneficiaries were 803 persons**. Of the 118 cases, 78 were completed and 40 remained pending giving a **completion rate of 66%**.

The biggest numbers of land justice cases handled were cases of trespass (43 cases) and illegal evictions (32 cases). These were especially suffered by *bibanja* holders at the hands of their powerful landlords or other powerful entities like banks. HRAPF majorly solved them through mediations and court legal representation.

**Figure 3: Nature of Land injustice cases handled**

NO	NATURE OF CASE	NO RECEIVED	COMPLETED	PENDING
1	Trespass	43	23	20
2	Illegal evictions	32	21	11
3	Succession disputes	18	13	5
4	Destruction of property	08	7	1

5	Boundary conflicts	05	04	01
6	Criminal trespass	03	01	02
7	Bank related issues	02	02	00
8	Others	07	07	00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>118</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>40</b>

HRAPF provided different remedies including conducting mediations, giving legal advice, providing legal representation in court, and drafting wills. All the remedies were aimed at achieving the best interests of the client and restoring their rights. HRAPF tries to avoid adversarial remedies and this has helped keep disputing families and communities together, while ensuring that the rights of all persons are respected. In terms of land cases, 55 mediations were conducted. Out of these only 5 were court mediations. There were 30 court cases while legal advice was offered in 33 cases.



*Faridah Ikyimana, HRAPF's Head, Land and HIV Unit (central in pink), conducts a mediation with Land justice clients.*

*In a landmark case in Mubende district, HRAPF managed to secure compensation for 145 people whose land had been affected by the rural electrification services carried out by the Rural Electrification Agency. These were residents along Myanzi-Kasanda Road in Mubende who had been promised compensation by the Agency in 2012 but never got it. In February 2015, HRAPF held an awareness session and a legal aid camp in which we took up this matter and engaged the agency. In September 2015, the Executive Director of the Agency wrote to the HRAPF Legal Officer in charge of the case and confirmed that they were going to pay compensation to our clients. This was a big victory for the 145 clients who had failed to access justice to demand for their compensation. One of the clients that had benefited in this case appreciated HRAPF by offering a goat as a gift on their own volition.*



*HRAPF staff receiving a goat from land clients from Mubende appreciating the work done for them by HRAPF lawyers.*

**c) Provision of pro bono legal services to sex workers**

A total number of **47 cases for sex workers** were received and handled by the legal aid clinic in 2015. A total number of **134 sex**

**workers benefited directly from the cases.** Of the 47 received cases, 41 were completed and only 6 remained pending giving a case **completion rate of 87%**. The number of cases received and handled in 2015 increased by 15 cases compared to those handled in 2014.

In terms of the nature of cases, criminal arrests had the highest registered numbers (18 cases), followed by assault (6 cases), theft (4), and child neglect (3). The table below shows the number of cases received and handled and their categories.

**Figure 4: Nature of Sex workers cases handled in 2015**

NO	NATURE OF CASE	NUMBER RECEIVED	COMPLETED	PENDING
1	Criminal arrests	06	06	00
2	Criminal arrests with prosecution	12	10	02
3	Child neglect	03	03	00
4	Threatening violence	02	02	00
5	Change of name	01	00	01
6	Registration	02	01	01
7	Obtaining money by false pretences	01	01	00
8	Assault	06	06	00
9	Rape	03	02	01
10	Theft	04	04	00
11	Trafficking in obscene publications	01	01	00
12	Affray	01	01	00
13	Custody	01	01	00
14	Malicious damage to property	01	01	00

NO	NATURE OF CASE	NUMBER RECEIVED	COMPLETED	PENDING
15	Frequenting a place used for smoking opium	01	01	00
16	Land matter	01	01	00
17	Anti Pornography Act	01	00	01
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>47</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>5</b>

In terms of remedies to the cases, HRAPF made police interventions where 46 sex workers were cautioned and released without charges and 9 were released on police bond. HRAPF's lawyers represented sex workers in courts of law in 13 cases and bail was secured for 10 sex workers. HRAPF lawyers also mediated 5 cases and as a result of the mediations, a child was taken back to school in one case, a father agreed to take care of a sex worker's child in another and a sex worker was given compensation for damage to her property in another case.

**d) *Provision of pro bono legal services to women and girls living with HIV***

HRAPF provided legal aid services in a total of 38 cases for women and girls living with HIV/AIDS in the districts of Kiboga, Luwero, Mityana and Mpigi. Of the 38 cases, 31 were directly reported by women, while 7 cases were reported by men whose direct beneficiaries included women. There was a 65% decrease in the number of cases handled in 2015 compared to those in 2014 under the HIV component. This was as a result of scaling down on the HIV related cases handled due to the project being redesigned and reorganised. Most of the cases handled under the HIV component were related to land rights (16 cases), inheritance (7 cases) and will making (4). These women and girls are often denied their rightful inheritance because of the existing patriarchal tendencies and myths around HIV/AIDS. Such cases have been mainly handled through mediation, and through encouraging HIV/AIDS affected persons to make wills.



*In one case, a woman living with HIV/AIDS in Mpigi district was threatened with banishment on suspicions of witchcraft. The community members had vandalised her house, threatened to kill her and her five children, and asked her to pay compensation for a death they alleged she caused with her witchcraft. HRAPF intervened and conducted mediations with the locals and the woman kept her home and the mediation improved her relationship with her neighbours. In her own words she remarked that; 'the only problem is that many times, we do not know the law. Even our community leaders cannot guide us because they do not know.'*

The table below shows the number of HIV cases handled per category. A total of 255 people benefited from the cases directly.

**Figure 5: Nature of HIV/AIDS Cases handled**

NO	NATURE OF CASE	NO RECEIVED	COMPLETED	PENDING
1	Land rights	16	06	10
2	Inheritance	07	03	04
3	Will making	04	04	00
4	Child neglect	02	01	01
5	Banishment from village	02	01	01
6	Arrest	02	01	01
7	Access to medicine	01	00	01
8	Labour disputes	01	01	00
9	Domestic violence	01	01	00
10	Family disputes	01	01	00
11	Breach of contract	01	01	00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>38</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>

## Documentation of human rights violations

HRAPF continued to document violations suffered by the marginalised groups that we work with. All cases received and handled under all the components were documented in physical case files and entered into an electronic case database, Martus. The documentation of these cases helps HRAPF develop different reports, like violation reports, which are a rich source of information regarding the human rights violations of marginalised groups of persons in Uganda, particularly those that HRAPF works with. For example in 2015, a total of 91 violations of the rights of LGBTI persons were recorded and documented. The violations were by both state and non-state actors especially the Uganda Police. Of the 20 violations that were documented, the police perpetrated 12. These were: 2 cases of parading of LGBTI persons before the media leading to the violation of their rights to a fair trial (the presumption of innocence) and privacy, 2 cases of anal examinations which were violations of the rights to freedom from inhuman and degrading treatment and privacy, 5 cases involved violations of the right to liberty as they concerned detention beyond the recommended 48 hours and 1 case involved denying a detained client access to medical treatment while in detention.

On the other hand, non-state actors perpetrated 8 of the documented violations. Of these, 6 were violations of the right to privacy where in 5 cases the media outed LGBTI persons, and in one case, a lesbian woman was paraded in a clan meeting and asked about her sexual behaviour. Two of the cases involved discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation for example when a sponsor stopped paying tuition for an LGBTI person because of their sexual orientation. Such reports are shared with different partners and stakeholders and used for advocacy.

## Strategic Litigation

Strategic litigation is one of the major advocacy tools used by HRAPF to advance the promotion and observance of human rights for our target communities. It is the vehicle through which we have the legal and human rights issues affecting the communities we work with

addressed. Through strategic litigation, we seek not just legal redress but also raise awareness on human rights and involve communities in the justice system. While the 335 individual cases we handled last year were aimed at solving individual problems, our public interest litigation cases aim at bringing long-term reforms in the legal regime in Uganda for all. Individual cases and public interest litigation cases go hand in hand to ensure access to justice for individuals but also to contribute to the larger picture of creating favourable and supporting legal and policy frameworks for our target communities. In 2015, HRAPF worked on five strategic litigation cases. All the cases were filed in earlier years but were continuously worked on in 2015. They were the following:

**a) *Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum v Attorney-General, Reference No.006 Of 2014***

HRAPF filed this reference with the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) to challenge some provisions of the Anti-Homosexuality Act (AHA). HRAPF argues that the passing of the AHA with certain provisions which promoted impunity, threatened the work of civil society organisations and threatened the provision of health and other services contravened the East African Treaty in articles 6(d), 7(2) and 8(1)(c), which enjoin partner states to govern their populace through the principles of good governance, democracy, the rule of law, social justice and the maintenance of universally accepted standards of human rights. In 2015 HRAPF's lawyers appeared in court 4 times to attend the hearing of the applications filed by different entities and individuals to join the case as amici curiae. Three of the applications were dismissed and one accepted. The main reference itself is still pending hearing.

The case has been very instrumental in galvanising regional and continental efforts regarding advocacy for the protection of the rights of LGBTI persons. The case has brought together persons from different parts of Africa and the world to support the challenge to the provisions of this law, which went beyond criminalisation of same sex relations to curtailing civil society space. For instance, the amicus applications came from Kenya (UHAI-EASHRI), Tanzania (Dr.

Ally Possi), South Africa (the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria) Rwanda (Health and Development Initiative (HDI)), and UNAIDS (Switzerland). Although three of these four applications were dismissed, their filing was evidence of the impact the case is creating on regional and continental forums. It is the first case brought before the African courts on an issue directly related to laws criminalising consensual same sex relations. The decision of the court is pending but the case has already set precedents in the region.

*The principles developed in the amicus curiae rulings were relied on by the Supreme Court of Uganda to decide amicus curiae applications in the case challenging the election of President Yoweri Museveni as President in February 2016.*

**b) *Jjuuko Adrian v Attorney-General, Constitutional Petition 001 of 2009***

Filed in 2009, the case challenges the constitutionality of section 15(6) (d) of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) Act, 2007 which denies groups, whose conduct is regarded as ‘immoral’ or socially unacceptable by the majority, access to the EOC. In 2015, HRAPF continued to follow up on the case and it was scheduled for re-hearing on the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2015. HRAPF was represented in court that day but the case was adjourned to a further date since there was no quorum of judges. Advocacy around the case continued during the year. HRAPF held one consultative meeting with LGBTI persons and sex workers to brainstorm on strategies that should be adopted to push the case forward and also get more publicity around it. At the meeting, they agreed to mobilise members of the sexual minorities community to attend court sessions on the case in order to create public interest in the case. The meeting also resolved that new evidence should be filed for the re-hearing. Thus three affidavits were filed- from an activist living with HIV, a sex worker and a transgender man who was denied employment. The case has still not been heard.

This case and the advocacy around it continue to create awareness about the EOC and its mandate and how it can be used to address

marginalisation in Uganda. It also continues to highlight the marginalisation of sexual minorities and the difficulties encountered in an effort to use the judicial system to try and address this marginalisation.

**c) *Simon Ochieng & John Tusiime v Attorney-General, Reference No.11 of 2015***

HRAPF supported this application at the EACJ. The applicants contended that the refusal by the President of Uganda to appoint judges to Uganda's Supreme Court, Court of Appeal/Constitutional Court and the High Court contravened various provisions of the East African Community Treaty and rights enshrined under the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda. The court, however, concluded that the applicants did not adduce cogent and credible evidence to show that the delay in effecting the judicial appointments was because of refusal by the president to appoint judges. However, the court also held that refusal by the President to appoint judges in any of the member countries of the East African Community would be a violation of the provisions of the EAC Treaty. This was an important precedent.

**d) *Kasha Jacqueline & 3 Ors v Attorney-General & Another (Lokodo appeal)***

This is an appeal from the June 2014 decision of Judge Musota of the High Court in which he held that the closing down of an LGBTI skills training workshop by the Minister of Ethics and Integrity, Rev. Fr. Simon Lokodo, was a justifiable limitation on the applicants' rights to freedom of expression, political participation, freedom of association, assembly and equality before the law. This was on the basis that section 145 of the Penal Code Act criminalises consensual same sex relations. This decision deviated from earlier High Court decisions where the High Court upheld the basic rights of LGBTI people regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. The decision threatens Uganda's human rights gains over the years and sets a dangerous precedent for not just LGBTI rights but the rights of other minorities whose very existence may be deemed criminal.

The applicants appealed to the Court of Appeal and the appeal is still pending hearing. Conferencing notes were filed and a joint scheduling conference was set to take place on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2015. Unfortunately, it was not held as the Attorney General was not represented. The case was adjourned and after several adjournments without the Attorney General being represented, the Registrar heard the matter in chambers and forwarded it to the justices for further management.

**e) *Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG) registration case***

Sexual Minorities Uganda is a network of LGBTI organisations in Uganda. It sought to be incorporated as a company limited by guarantee in 2012 and instructed HRAPF to handle the process. HRAPF undertook the process but the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) refused to reserve the name on the basis that the name was 'not clear.' Efforts were made to clarify the name and finally at the beginning of 2015, HRAPF wrote a letter seeking the URSB's final position on the matter. The Registrar General of the URSB, in a letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> February 2015, informed HRAPF that they could not reserve the name Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG) since Section 145 of the Penal Code criminalises same sex relations, and the objectives of the organisation were to work with persons that engage in acts that are criminalised under that section. During the year, HRAPF together with SMUG, organised two strategic meetings with lawyers and activists, to discuss the way forward. It was agreed that a case be filed in the High Court challenging the decision of the URSB.

### **Capacity strengthening and technical support for marginalised groups**

HRAPF offers capacity building for marginalised groups in Uganda through training, creating awareness and offering legal support. In 2015 HRAPF did the following:

**a) *Community paralegal trainings***

HRAPF identifies individuals from our target communities and trains them as community paralegals. The community paralegals are trained in basic law and procedures and also exposed to the practicalities

in the field. The community paralegals then use this knowledge to support and assist other community members with legal first aid and to train others in basic law principles. In 2015, HRAPF trained 18 community paralegals. These were 2 sex workers and 16 LGBTI persons. 7 of the community paralegals fully completed all the modules, while the remaining 11 completed only the first module by end of 2015 and are due to complete the rest in 2016. This brings the total number of HRAPF fully trained community paralegals to 45. The individuals trained are chosen by their respective organisations, which are identified by HRAPF depending on the existing community needs.

**b) *Continuous engagement with community paralegals***

HRAPF continued to monitor the work of previously trained community paralegals. **4 quarterly community paralegal sharing sessions** for community paralegals working with sex workers and LGBTI persons were held. These sessions were used by the community paralegals to share the work they had been engaged in, the challenges faced and suggestions for improvement of the project. The sessions also acted as a platform to continuously introduce the new community paralegals to those already existing.

In 2015, the community paralegals working with LGBTI and sex worker communities handled a **total of 161 cases**. In these cases, the community paralegals gave legal advice, made referrals, and secured police bond for their community members. 10 of the community paralegals were also involved in conducting outreach sessions. Together with HRAPF, they organised and facilitated at the sessions about laws that affect their communities, HRAPF's services and the new developments in the legal system affecting their communities. A total number of **180** LGBTI persons were reached out to during the 10 community paralegal outreaches conducted during the year.

HRAPF also followed up on the community paralegals working with women and girls living with HIV/AIDS. These community paralegals also handled cases in their communities and majorly solved the cases through mediations. These community paralegals continue to be very

instrumental in their districts of operation as they teach community members about the rights of persons living with HIV/AIDS.

The community paralegal project has widened HRAPF's reach in terms of service provision as community paralegals are widely distributed and easily accessed by their community members. The continued employment of a community paralegal coordinator at HRAPF has been pivotal in sustaining communication with the community paralegal network, which helps to keep HRAPF abreast of the changes in community needs. This informs changes in HRAPF service provision and helps keep our work relevant to our target communities. Community paralegal trainings have also increasingly empowered community members as evidenced by their capability to teach their community about laws that affect them and effectively engage with duty bearers like police to enforce their rights. Increasingly, community paralegals are effectively handling their community cases to completion, which is commendable.

Also, identification as a HRAPF trained community paralegal has offered platforms for many of our community paralegals in their different communities. In 2015, one HIV/AIDS community paralegal was employed as an Enforcement Officer at Kyankwanzi district headquarters after presenting her community paralegal certificate as a qualification. She was subsequently given duties of educating members of the community about human rights and ensuring that the district duties and service provision measure up to the required human rights standards. Another community paralegal in Kiboga was chosen to head the HIV/AIDS Network in that district because of the work she was doing as a HRAPF trained community paralegal. Other HIV/AIDS community paralegals in Mpigi have now been included in the district administration structure and their community paralegal work is now considered part of the district work.

One of our LGBTI community paralegals started up the Action for Transgender Rights Initiative which is an organisation working with transgender sex workers, and three sex worker community paralegals



spearheaded the formation of a sex workers' network called the Uganda's Network for Sex workers' Organisations. HRAPF is thankful for all these milestones and takes pride in being a contributor to them through the community paralegal project.



*Some of the trained community paralegals at one of the sharing sessions in 2015.*

### Legal and human rights awareness

In 2015, HRAPF carried out a total of 28 awareness-raising sessions on laws and human rights. 18 of these targeted LGBTI persons and sex workers, 6 were for indigent women and the elderly for land justice while 4 were for women and girls living with HIV. In total, HRAPF reached out to 910 people with information on the law and human rights. Of these, 388 were sexual minorities (180 LGBTI persons and 208 sex workers); 247 were women and the elderly under the land justice component; and 275 were women and girls living with HIV. The awareness focused on different laws affecting the different communities and human rights in general. Through these awareness sessions, HRAPF empowered the target groups with knowledge to demand for their rights.



*HRAPF Legal Assistant Ms. Jolly Nawatti facilitating at one of the awareness sessions in Wakiso.*



*Community members attending an awareness session on land justice in Wakiso.*

### **Technical support to organisations of marginalised groups**

The HRAPF Legal aid clinic reaches out to organisations run by members of our target communities. HRAPF offers capacity building and technical support in areas of the law and human rights. In order

to better understand their organisational needs, HRAPF conducted a mapping of LGBTI organisations in Uganda during the year. This was done to create a database of LGBTI organisations and their contacts, to reconnect and check in with the LGBTI organisations that had been registered by HRAPF and to assess the needs of the various LGBTI communities and determine how best to meet those needs. A total of 28 LGBTI organisations were mapped and their specific legal needs were captured, which included understanding the legal implications of being a company limited by guarantee. HRAPF helped the organisations solve these institutional and technical challenges by teaching them the rights and obligations that come with their legal status including the required structures, holding Annual General Meetings, filing annual returns and tax obligations. HRAPF's training strengthened the institutional capacity of the organisations and their compliance with the law.

Now, the organisations strive to file returns on time. Some have appointed Boards of Directors while for others, plans are still underway. Mapping of LGBTI organisations also formed the basis for HRAPF to improve its legal aid service provision to LGBTI people. Information from the mapping guided HRAPF to start handling other legal issues from the LGBTI community besides arrests. The mapping revealed that LGBTI persons needed legal advice on other issues such as employment, land and family matters among others.

HRAPF also facilitated at 9 partner-organised outreach sessions. These were sessions organised by partner organisations at which HRAPF provided legal expertise in form of facilitation of the sessions. These sessions were organised as follows:

For sex workers: WONETHA in Kireka, Nakulabye, Buikwe, Makindye, Abayita Ababiri, Mukono and 2 at WONETHA main offices. The facilitation was about the laws that affect Sex workers and human rights. HRAPF reached out to 243 sex workers during these sessions and they were empowered with knowledge on their rights.

For LGBTI persons: HRAPF facilitated at sessions organised by SMUG, International AIDS Alliance, FEM Alliance and FARUG. HRAPF shared knowledge with SMUG on the best practices for LGBTI persons when dealing with court and police. The meeting reached out to 30 SMUG and LGBTI community members. The meeting organised by the International Aids Alliance brought together activists from Southern and Eastern Africa to discuss the legal issues affecting LGBTI persons, which HRAPF ably discussed. HRAPF also joined FARUG on the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT) celebrations where HRAPF facilitated about laws affecting LGBTI persons, the main violations they face, and how HRAPF addresses them. This was the same content discussed at the meeting by FEM Alliance. These engagements have increased HRAPF's visibility within the target communities and strengthened partnerships.

### **Operating a minority rights resource centre**

HRAPF continued to maintain a minority resource centre in 2015. More books were added in the resource centre and these included: 24 copies of the Compendium of laws in Criminal legislation, labour practice legislation, family practice legislation and civil practice legislation. 20 copies of the Kampala law reports from 1989 to 2009 and 10 compilations of Acts of Parliament from 2001 to 2010 were purchased. The resource centre therefore served as a reference library for students, interns and members of the sexual minorities' communities in accessing materials on laws, policies and studies on discrimination.

## Legislative Advocacy and Networking Programme

The Legislative Advocacy and Networking programme aims at achieving a legal and policy framework that promotes equality and non-discrimination for marginalised groups.

The program aims to achieve this through policy and legislative analysis, strategic interest litigation, building strategic alliances for policy and legislative advocacy, and supporting publicity and dissemination of information. 2015 was a very successful year for the programme as it saw increased visibility of the organisation and its work, and increased presence of HRAPF in different spaces and forums advocating for rights of marginalised persons. Below is a detailed account of what the program accomplished in 2015:

### Policy and legislative analysis

In order to aid the legal and policy analysis, a checklist on equality and discrimination was developed to guide staff doing the analyses on what to look out for, as most laws might not directly mention our target communities but still have adverse effects on their rights. During the year, HRAPF analysed four different bills on how they impacted on the human rights of groups that HRAPF targets. It also analysed two judgments made by courts of law in two criminal cases brought under Section 145 of the Penal Code, which attracted public attention. These analyses were used to inform advocacy on these laws. The laws analysed were:

#### a) ***The Non-Governmental Organisations (Registration) Bill 2015***

The NGO Bill was one of the controversial bills tabled in Parliament in 2015. It sought to replace the existing NGO Act as the law regulating NGOs in Uganda. HRAPF made an analysis of the bill and its implications on organisations working with marginalised groups and published a report. The analysis showed that the Bill, if passed in the form in which

it was tabled would have a disproportionate effect on organisations working with marginalised groups. HRAPF also analysed the report of the Committee on Defence and Internal Affairs on the Bill to see how much of the CSO recommendations had been included in the report. The analysis showed that most of the recommendations given to the committee had indeed been included in its recommendations to Parliament however some problematic provisions had remained. After the bill was passed by parliament, HRAPF made an analysis of the resultant Act comparing it to the bill that had been originally tabled. The analysis showed that despite the changes made to the Act, certain problematic provisions remained which could still affect the work of organisations working on issues concerning marginalised groups. HRAPF widely distributed these analyses online and also in physical form and also used them for consultations with LGBTI and sex worker groups.

**b) *The Registration of Persons Bill, 2014***

The bill was intended to harmonise and consolidate the laws governing the registration of persons in Uganda. HRAPF examined the bill and its potential effect on transgender people, noting that they risked being accused of impersonation because their preferred gender would not tally with their legal sex and yet there is no option to change the gender markers in the documents for adults. The bill also only allowed sex changes for children when there has been a surgical intervention. This limits the possibilities for intersex children to legally change their gender after registration. The analysis was also widely shared. The Bill was later passed into law with these provisions.

**c) *Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Bill, 2007***

This bill was intended to control drugs and drug use. HRAPF examined it for its effects on drugs users. It was found that the bill would further criminalise the actions of drug users and therefore cause further stigma and discrimination against them as well as worsen the HIV crisis by sending drug users further underground. The bill was later passed into an Act with these provisions. The analysis was used to develop a bigger project of a study into all laws affecting drug users in Uganda,

which will be implemented in 2016.

**d) *The Constitutional (Amendment) Bill 2015***

The Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2015 was passed in parliament to amend certain provisions of the Constitution. HRAPF reviewed the Bill and suggested the inclusion of a clause deleting the provision prohibiting same sex marriages and to demand that the right to health should be included in the Constitution. It was amended without these provisions being included.

### Analysis of court judgments

The two court judgments that HRAPF analysed were: that of *Shabaz Muhammad v Uganda* and that of *Mubiru v Uganda* which both concerned non-consensual same-sex relations and where both accused persons were convicted. A distinction was made between cases involving consensual same sex relations and those where there is no consent. The judgments were also distributed widely to different stakeholders.

### Strategic Litigation

HRAPF under the advocacy and networking arm supported the five strategic cases through updating different stakeholders through the media, social network sites, listervs and the website and mobilised people to support the cases. The programme also developed strategic litigation guidelines to be used by lawyers to identify strategic litigation cases. It also organised two stakeholders' meetings to discuss the SMUG registration case and lay down both legal and advocacy strategies for the cases.



*Panel of lawyers discussing options available for the filing of the SMUG case. From left to right, Ladislaus Kiiza Rwakafuuzi, Onyango Owor, Adrian Jjuuko and Joaninne Nanyange.*

HRAPF also attended two meetings on the proposed challenge to the HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Act 2014.

### **Building strategic alliances for policy and legislative advocacy**

HRAPF continued to build and maintain alliances nationally, regionally and internationally to influence and advocate for fair and just policies for marginalised groups. This was done through maintaining, joining, participating in networks and coalitions' activities. HRAPF also worked with different allies, government agencies and consortiums to advocate for the rights of marginalised groups. The following was done in 2015:

#### **a) Working with coalitions and networks**

In 2015 HRAPF maintained and continued to build new alliances and partners nationally, regionally and internationally. HRAPF worked with 12 networks and coalitions and one Consortium during the year. HRAPF was already part of 9 coalitions and joined 3 more in 2015. The coalitions HRAPF was part of in 2015 were: the Legal Aid Service



Providers Network (LASPNET); the Human Rights Network (HURINET); the Uganda National NGO Forum (UNNGOF); the Coalition to Stop Maternal Mortality due to Unsafe Abortion (CSMMUA); the Legal Support Network (LSN); the Coalition on Access to Medicines; the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights defenders Network (EHARDNET); Uganda Network on Law, Ethics and HIV/AIDS (UGANET); and the Civil Society Coalition on Human Rights and Constitutional Law (CSCHRCL). HRAPF joined three new networks in the year, which are Uganda Land Alliance, the Uganda National Stakeholders' Forum on the Universal Periodic Review and the Citizens Election Observation Network (CEON). HRAPF also worked closely with other organisations working on LGBTI issues in the working group on LGBTI security.

**b) Working with state institutions**

HRAPF worked closely with four state institutions. These were:

- i) The Uganda Human Rights Commission:* HRAPF held two meetings with the Uganda Human Rights Commission. The meetings were held to discuss the various violations that LGBTI persons face in Uganda. HRAPF also shared materials with the commission on laws and rights of LGBTI persons. This created rapport with the commission and during the year, the Commission involved HRAPF in training their staff on human rights focusing on the rights of LGBTI persons. HRAPF also prepared a test case on the violation of rights of LGBTI persons to be filed with the commission.
- ii) The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC):* HRAPF also continued to work with the EOC in 2015. Two meetings were held with the commission. In the meetings HRAPF shared information on marginalisation of sexual minorities and discussed ways on how the EOC can intervene. During the meetings updates on the case of *Jjuuko Adrian vs. Attorney General* which challenges section 15(6)(d) of the EOC Act 2007 were shared and the commission was

called upon to support the case.

As part of a deeper engagement with the UHRC and the EOC, HRAPF also developed and published a toolkit for LGBTI persons on how to do advocacy using the UHRC and the EOC. The booklet discussed the two commissions and their mandates and the work they have so far done on the rights of LGBTI persons. The booklet was used to conduct a two-day training for LGBTI leaders on advocacy in general and advocacy using the two commissions in particular. 20 LGBTI persons were trained. The training discussed the basic concepts of advocacy including what it means, who can do it, how they can do it, measures to be taken when engaging in advocacy, and how the two commissions can be used for advocacy. Among the facilitators was the Director of the Legal Complaints Directorate at the UHRC who facilitated about the Commission.



*HRAPF Project Officer Advocacy, Ms Joanne Nanyange facilitating at the training of LGBTI leaders on advocacy using the EOC and the UHRC.*

- iii) **The Uganda Police Force:** HRAPF continued to work with the Uganda Police Force (UPF) to respond to arrests and violations of rights of sexual minorities and other HRAPF

target clients. Collaboration was mainly with the Legal and Human Rights Department of the Uganda Police Force, which helped to respond to cases involving violations of the rights of sexual minorities at different police stations. HRAPF also worked with Kibuli Police Land Division to respond to land matters for clients in Mubende District. In addition, we continued working closely with individual police officers at different police stations where HRAPF had clients.

- iv) The Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development: The Ministry permitted HRAPF to participate in the Women's Day Celebrations of Wakiso District and to showcase its work. This contributed to the visibility of the organisation in the district and established a close working relationship with Wakiso District Local Government.*



*Hon. Nansubuga Seninde Rosemary— Woman Representative of Wakiso district and other women celebrating Women's Day.*



*The guest of Honour, Hon. Minister Mariam Najjemba Mbabaali receiving the HRAPF publications during the Women' Day Celebrations in Wakiso District.*

- v) *Ministry of Justice:* The Law Council inspected and approved HRAPF as a legal aid service provider. Various magistrates also referred cases that deserved legal aid to HRAPF.
- vi) *Ministry of Lands:* HRAPF worked with different land registries while working on various land cases. This was especially so in Nakasongola and Mityana.
- vii) *Different District Local Councils:* HRAPF worked closely with the leadership of the districts where it worked. These included: Wakiso, Mpigi, Kiboga, Nakasongola, and Mityana.

c) ***The Consortium on Monitoring Violations based on Sex Determination, Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation***

In 2015, HRAPF chaired a consortium of five organisations monitoring and documenting violations of rights of LGBTI persons in Uganda. The members of the consortium were: Support Initiative for People with Congenital Disorders (SIPD); Rainbow Health Foundation Mbarara (RHFM); the Civil Society Coalition on Human Rights and Constitutional Law (CSCRCL); Benetech and HRAPF. It was supported by Benetech and used Martus software to document violations. The consortium's aim was to develop the capacity of members to document the violations in order to put in place an evidentially record of violations to support advocacy for rights of LGBTI persons in Uganda.

Under the consortium HRAPF led the process of documenting and verifying violations of LGBTI rights in 2014 after the passing and consequential annulment of the Anti Homosexuality Act. HRAPF further coordinated the process of developing and publishing a violations report 2015. The report documented 89 cases of violation and abuse of rights of LGBTI persons in 2014. The report was launched on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2015 at Imperial Royale Hotel Kampala where over 100 people attended.



*HRAPF Executive Director Mr. Adrian Jjuuko with other members of the consortium launching the violations report*



*Participants during the launch of the report at Imperial Royale Hotel*

**d) *Engaging in other partner activities relevant to HRAPF's work***

As part of its networking work, HRAPF engaged in a number of activities organised by partners, coalitions and networks that HRAPF is part of. Some of the key activities that promoted our work include the following:

- i) *The National Civil Society Fair 2015*: HRAPF participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> National Civil Society Fair 2015 organised by NGO Forum. The Fair was held from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2015 at Hotel Africana. HRAPF participated by holding an exhibition of its publications, materials and work. As a result, HRAPF distributed 823 publications and 279 participants visited the HRAPF tent.



*The chief guest Hon. Hillary Onek Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and (centre) visiting HRAPF's tent during the CSO fair 2015 exhibition.*

- ii) *Participation in the second Annual Human Rights Expo at Makerere University:* HRAPF participated in the Makerere University Annual Human Rights Expo. Various participants visited HRAPF's tent and they included those from the academia, other organisations, development partners, government officials and the general public. 509 participants visited our tent during the two days of our participation in the Expo. All those who visited our tent went with HRAPF publications.



*Participants registering for publications during the Annual Human Rights Expo at Makerere University.*

- iii) *Annual General meetings of networks where HRAPF is a member:* HRAPF participated in two Annual General Meetings: the Uganda National NGO Forum (UNNGOF) AGM that took place at Pope Paul Hotel Rubaga on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2015 and the HURINET AGM that took place on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at its secretariat.
- iv) *Activities of the Coalition to Stop Maternal Mortality due to Unsafe Abortion (CSMMUA) and the Legal Support Network (LSN):* HRAPF attended 3 meetings for the coalition. The meetings were intended to discuss the legal framework on abortion in Uganda and what can be done to reduce maternal mortality due to unsafe abortions and to improve access to safe abortions for Ugandan women. A meeting was also held to discuss the Ministry of Health Standards and Guidelines on preventing maternal mortality due to unsafe abortion in Uganda. These engagements ushered HRAPF



into a new area of health rights advocacy specifically on access to safe abortion services. HRAPF has two lawyers on the Legal Support Network providing legal aid on abortion related issues.

- v) *Activities of the Citizens Election Observation Network (CEON):* HRAPF joined the network and attended two planning meetings for CEON. HRAPF also attended the launch of the pre-election observation report developed by CEON.
- vi) *Pride 2015:* HRAPF actively participated and supported Pride 2015. It participated in different activities during the pride week. Together with other staff members, 2 advocacy staff attended the pride cocktail, facilitated at the transgender rights and health day where Uganda's human rights and legal framework regarding transgender persons was discussed and participated in the pride parade where different HRAPF items were exhibited. HRAPF also financially contributed to the organisation of the pride activities by purchasing different pride items and through direct contribution by the organisation.



*HRAPF staff together with Pride 2015 team at HRAPF offices after HRAPF making a financial contribution to the organising of Pride 2015.*



*HRAPF publications displayed during the Pride Parade 2015.*

- vii) *Involving sexual minorities in Developing the National Action Plan for Human Rights (NAP):* HRAPF participated in the consultations leading to the development of the National Action Plan for Human Rights. This was a commitment that Uganda had made during the first cycle of the Universal Periodic Review. The plan is intended to streamline the achievement of human rights for all. Working with the Human Rights Network Uganda, HRAPF led consultations with LGBTI persons and sex workers. Two meetings were therefore held in 2015, one with LGBTI persons and the other with sex workers to consult them on what they wanted to see in the NAP. A total of 64 leaders of sexual minorities organisations attended the meetings. Of these 34 were LGBTI persons and 30 were sex workers. A report of the concerns of the sexual minorities' community was compiled which HURINET used to feed into the nation-wide consultations with different civil society organisations and submitted to the national NAP technical committee.



*Mr. James Nkuubi from our partner HURINET facilitating at the consultation workshop on the NAP for LGBTI persons.*

viii) *Attending meetings by the National Stakeholders Forum on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Uganda:* In light of the upcoming Universal Periodic Review (UPR) for Uganda, HURINET convened a National Stakeholders Forum on the UPR. HRAPF participated in the Forum's workshop at Fairway Hotel in which a roadmap for NGO participation in the 2016 UPR for Uganda was discussed. The meeting also created three new clusters: the Minorities, Refugees and Persons living with disabilities clusters. HRAPF was voted by the stakeholders to head the cluster for minorities, which was a very important opportunity for HRAPF to take part directly in the UPR process and also to ensure that issues concerning our target communities are part of the larger civil society report presented on behalf of the country. Inclusion of the minorities' cluster also helped bring issues of minorities to the attention of government as the stakeholders' forum had continuous engagement with the government agencies working on the UPR.

- ix) *Supporting a partner organisation with equipment:* In 2015, HRAPF supported a partner organisation, Nyimbwa Multipurpose Organisation for People living with HIV/AIDS, one of the organisations we have worked with under the HIV/AIDS project with equipment. The community-based organisation aims at preventing further spread of HIV and also deals with the adverse social-economic impact of HIV/AIDS on the community through supporting self-help initiatives. The organisation requested HRAPF to facilitate them to get a computer so as to improve their organisational capacity and better run the organisation and HRAPF honoured the request. The donation is meant to not only build the capacity of the organisation but also strengthen HRAPF's partnership with them.



*Staff of Nyimbwa Multi-purpose organisation receive the donated computer from the Human Resources and Administration Manager, Ms Flavia Zalwango (Right) and the Administrative Officer Ms Catherine Mukankusi.*

e) **Regional Advocacy**

HRAPF participated at both the East African Community level (EAC) and the African regional level.

- i) *East African Community level:* HRAPF continued working on the Anti-Homosexuality Act case at the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) and also supported a case challenging the president's refusal to appoint judges to the High Court, Court of Appeal/Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court. These cases increased the presence of the issues HRAPF advocates for at the regional level and brought together East African and African activists. For example the case against the Anti-Homosexuality Act attracted amici applications from Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Geneva and South Africa. These concerted efforts increase HRAPF's visibility and its work, and increases support for the causes regarding rights of marginalised persons.

Two HRAPF lawyers also visited the East African Law Society offices in Arusha as well as those of the Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU).



*HRAPF's Executive Director Mr. Adrian Jjuuko and the Head of the Access to Justice Department Fridah Mutesi visiting the East African Law Society Secretariat in Arusha after the hearing of the UNAIDS, Dr. Ally Possi and the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria's applications to join the HRAPF v Attorney General case as amicus.*

- ii) *The African regional level:* HRAPF continued its engagement at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. As part of the Pan- African Advocacy Programme that supports activists from East Africa to engage in advocacy on SOGIE issues at the African Commission, HRAPF participated in two sessions of the African Commission (56<sup>th</sup> and 57<sup>th</sup> sessions) and also participated in the side activities organised by the NGO Forum in preparation for the sessions.



*Left-Right: HRAPF Chairperson of the BOD, Ms Sheila Muwanga; HRAPF Human Resource Manager, Ms Flavia Zalwango; Ms Angella Nabwowe (partner from the Initiative on Social Economic Rights (ISER); HRAPF Legal Officer, Ms Patricia Kimera and HRAPF Head of Advocacy and Networking, Mr Edward Mwebaza, attending the NGO Forum preceding the 57th session of the African Commission.*

HRAPF also participated in the side event organised by the Coalition for African Lesbians on the implementation of Resolution 275 of the African Commission on the protection of LGBTI persons. The event was an opportunity for HRAPF to network with other LGBTI activists on the continent, discuss the different situations of LGBTI rights in their countries, and strategise on how to make the situations better. Such a platform increases

visibility for HRAPF and our work and increases our presence and influence in continental advocacy.

At the 57<sup>th</sup> session, HRAPF prepared a statement on the situation of LGBTI rights in Uganda, which was shared with the Commissioners. In addition, together with other members from Ugandan NGOs, we organised a side event on the situation of Human Rights in Uganda. Ugandan politicians, government representatives, and members of civil society from different countries attended the session. HRAPF representative, Ms. Flavia Zalwango was part of the panellists at the side event and she presented on the situation of human rights defenders in Uganda. The session provided a platform for HRAPF to directly share on issues affecting LGBTI rights with participants from Uganda and other African countries.

HRAPF also submitted an application for observer status at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, which was granted. This will give HRAPF a chance to be able to independently engage in commission activities like organising side events and presenting statements to the commission.

As a follow up activity and also as a need to build capacity of LGBTI persons to advocate at that level, HRAPF held a training workshop for LGBTI persons on using the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights for advocacy on rights of LGBTI persons. The workshop was supported by UHA1.

HRAPF also visited the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACtHPR), in Arusha. This was to see how the court works. HRAPF staff interacted with court staff and toured the premises.



*HRAPF's Executive Director, Adrian Jjuuko and the Head, Access to Justice, Ms. Fridah Mutesi visiting the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.*

- iii) *Changing Faces Changing Spaces (CFCS)*: HRAPF attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Changing Faces Changing Spaces regional conference organised by UHAI EASHRI. The meeting took place between 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> June 2015 and it brought together over 500 sex worker and LGBTI activists and development partners from all over Africa and other parts of the world. HRAPF was represented by Mr. Adrian Jjuuko and Ms. Flavia Zalwango who are the HRAPF representatives at the Pan- African Advocacy Programme. From this meeting, general human rights of sexual minorities were discussed and a lot of experience sharing and learning was done by activists from different parts of the world. This meeting is so far the largest convening of human rights and sexual minorities activists in Africa. At the meeting, the Executive Director made a presentation on Uganda's legal framework regarding rights of LGBTI persons. The HRAPF team was also able to meet with a wide range of partners and donors.



f) **International Advocacy and partnerships**

HRAPF participated in a number of events and activities around the world to advocate for the rights of marginalised groups. Engagements were made with the UN Human Rights Council and other advocacy avenues around the world.

- i) *The United Nations Human Rights Council:* In 2015 HRAPF resumed engagement at the UN Human Rights Council and attended its 30<sup>th</sup> session. Three staff represented the organisation at the session and these were: The Executive Director; Head Access to Justice; and the Head Advocacy and Networking. While in Geneva, the HRAPF Executive Director spoke about Uganda's NGO Bill 2015 and LGBTI rights at the International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)'s consultation, training and advocacy workshop for human rights defenders working to prevent deterioration in civil society space. As a result, new allies were created for advocacy work at the UN and many partnerships built with various organisations. For instance, HRAPF is currently partnering with ISHR to prepare for Uganda's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in October 2016.



*The Head Access to Justice Ms Fridah Mutesi and the Head Advocacy and Networking Mr Edward Mwebaza with ILGA Geneva staff after a meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.*

HRAPF is now working on the Universal Periodic Review to follow up with the processes at the UN Council for 2016 when Uganda will be reviewed. HRAPF also joined the National Stakeholders Civil Society Forum on the UPR under HURINET where HRAPF leads a cluster for minorities. HRAPF is also planning to work under the consortium to submit a report on the situation of sexual minorities in Uganda ahead of Uganda's review in the October 2016.

- ii) *Other international meetings and partnerships:* HRAPF also participated in a number of international events. HRAPF's Executive Director participated in the Child Rights International (CRIN)'s 'Challenging Violations of Children's Rights through Legal Advocacy in East Africa, 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2015 in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania; facilitated at the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria's Sexual Minorities Short Course on February 12<sup>th</sup> 2015; attended and presented during the Institute of Development Studies (IDS)'International Symposium on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2015, in Brighton, UK; participated in the Sexual and Reproductive Rights Lawfare meeting at the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, 15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016; presented at the Law & Society Association Annual General Meeting in Seattle, Washington, USA May 26<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2015; participated in the White House Conversation on Combatting Bias-Motivated Violence Against LGBT Persons Around the World at the White House, Washington DC, USA, 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015; participated and presented during the Bergen Exchanges on Law and Social Transformation, 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> August 2015 at the University of Bergen Norway; participated and presented during the Lawyering on the Margins Meeting organised by the Open Society Foundations in Skopje, Macedonia, 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> August 2015; and participated in the Legal Strategy Workshop organised by the Human Dignity Trust in Port Louis, Mauritius, 5<sup>th</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2015. All these meetings

improved on HRAPF's visibility as HRAPF's work was discussed and also led to increased partnerships with the organisers of the meetings.



*HRAPF's Executive Director, Adrian Jjuuko stands outside the White House ahead of the White House Conversation on Combatting Bias-Motivated Violence Against LGBT Persons Around the World at the White House, Washington DC, USA, 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015.*

### Supporting publicity and dissemination

The program supports publicity through development of publications, disseminating them and media engagements for visibility and dissemination of HRAPF's work. In 2015, the following were done:

#### *a) Developing Publications*

In total, HRAPF developed 7 publications and published 6 out of them accounting for 5300 copies of HRAPF publications produced during the year. These were; 300 copies of the violations report 2015; 1000 copies of the second issue of the Human Rights Advocate magazine; 1000 copies of a compilation on the legal framework for the human rights of LGBTI persons in Uganda; 1000 copies of the HRAPF Annual Report 2014; 1000 copies of the Analysis of the NGO Bill; and 1000 copies of the fact sheet on the NGO Bill 2015. An advocacy booklet for LGBTI persons on engaging the EOC and UHRC was developed and was pending printing by the end of 2015. All these publications are available for download on HRAPF's website, [www.hrapf.org](http://www.hrapf.org).



*The HRAPF Executive Director Mr Adrian Jjuuko sharing the LGBTI Legal Framework booklet with visitors from the Fund for Global Human Rights, one of HRAPF's donors*

**b) Dissemination of publications**

In 2015 a total of 11,445 copies of publications were distributed to different stakeholders. The publications that HRAPF disseminated in 2015 included the two HRAPF annual reports for 2013 and 2014, the HRAPF profile, the compilation on LGBTI rights, *Ekiraamo* booklets, the analysis and fact sheet of the NGO Act, Community paralegal reference handbooks, Human Rights Advocate magazine, LGBT violations report 2015, posters on patients rights and posters on the EOC. This increased visibility of HRAPF's work during the year.

**c) Media visibility**

HRAPF actively engaged with the media to create visibility for its work and awareness of the law and human rights of marginalised groups in Uganda. This included both mainstream and online media. The different media platforms engaged were:

- i) *Social media*: HRAPF continued engaging and creating awareness and visibility through Facebook and twitter in 2015. The organisation's Facebook page was updated 112 times in the year and the posts attracted a total of 1560 likes, 324 comments and 173 shares. The organisation's account reached 2177 friends. The organisation's twitter page was updated 217 times and the tweets attracted 191 retweets and 73 favourites. The twitter profile has reached 372 followers. This has increased the visibility of the organisation and its work and also increased networking.
- ii) *Website*: The website was updated 60 times with information on the organisation's work. This included both news items and uploading documents like reports, legal publications and analyses of laws, bills and judgments. According to Google Analytics, the website received 789 users in the year in 963 sessions and 999 page views were made.
- iii) *Radio talk shows*: HRAPF held a total of 14 radio talk shows in

the year. These were on Kingdom FM, Buwama FM, Mboona FM, Joy FM and Family Radio. The guest presenters from the organisation managed to present about HRAPF's work and particularly on the NGO Bill 2015 and Elections. During the talk shows, HRAPF representatives interacted with the audience through direct call ins. 68 people called in during the talk shows and their issues were addressed. 17 clients reported their legal issues to the legal aid clinic for legal support as a result of the radio talk shows.



*HRAPF Executive Director Mr. Adrian Jjuuko discussing with the Uganda Police's ASP Enock Tumwesigye at Kingdom FM on the role of the Uganda Police in promoting and protecting human rights.*

- iv) *Press statements:* Three press statements were issued on HRAPF's work. The first one was issued on 8<sup>th</sup> March Women's Day, the second one was issued on the judgment delivered in the case challenging the president's refusal to appoint judges and the third one on Human Rights Day on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2015. The press statements increase visibility and knowledge of HRAPF's work.

## Organisational Development and Capacity Building

The major objective of the programme is to create the appropriate institutional development and capacity framework for the efficient and effective implementation of the programme activities and realisation of the programme goals. In 2015, the programme continued to focus on its five management priorities to achieve its major objective as follows:

### Policy development

Under policy development, the Board of Directors approved the Asset Management Policy and the Monitoring and Evaluation Policy. The BOD also revised and approved the Human Resource policy. These policies are now being implemented at the secretariat and have been instrumental in streamlining the managing of the organisation's affairs.

### Human resource management and development

#### a) ***Staff retention and recruitment***

At the beginning of 2015, the organisation had 19 staff members, however by end of year, the organisation had 21 staff members. At the end of the year one of our long serving staff members, Ms. Fridah Mutesi, left the organisation. Ms. Mutesi had served HRAPF since 2011 and will always remember her for her dedicated service in various capacities and passion for her work in bringing access to justice to minorities.



*Ms Fridah Mutesi (extreme left) receiving an accolade in appreciation of her service at HRAPF from the Executive Director, representatives from the BOD, Trustees and HRAPF management.*

#### **b) Staff welfare**

HRAPF ensured that staff had everything they needed to carry out the year's activities. Administration staff were on standby to ensure that the offices were clean, lunch was served on time daily and HRAPF staff are happy, comfortable and well motivated. HRAPF held a staff retreat in January to prepare staff for the year ahead. The programme also organised ten recreation activities for staff and these included sports and indoor games. These gave staff an opportunity to relax, interact and bond beyond the office. All staff were enrolled on the medical insurance scheme, and granted annual, sick, maternity and paternity leave.

#### **c) Staff performance**

Regular formal and informal staff meetings and appraisals were held throughout the year to ensure quality delivery from staff and for staff to report on progress of their performance. Two staff appraisals were conducted at midyear and end of year. The staff meetings were held on weekly, monthly and quarterly basis. There were also midyear and end of year staff meetings.



HRAPF rewarded its best staff for their outstanding performance. Mr. Edward Mwebaza (Head, Advocacy and Networking Unit) was awarded as the best staff of the year, Mr. Gerald Isabirye (Ag. Finance Officer) was awarded as the most improving staff of the year and Ms. Joannine Nanyange (Project Officer, Advocacy) was also awarded for being the second best performing staff of the year.



*Mr. Edward Mwebaza displaying his award for best staff of the year 2015 during the HRAPF end of year staff party.*

#### **d) The HRAPF internship programme**

HRAPF runs a robust internship and volunteer programme, attracting students and professionals from all over the world and exchanging with them knowledge on human rights and the law. There were three interns taken on in 2015 and these were: Ms. Jeneveive Discar from university of California, Ms. Natasha Agatha Ahimbisibwe and Mr. Allan Daniel Buyenyenzi from Makerere University. We also had two volunteers, Ms. Martha Matsiko from Uganda Christian University and Mr. Winton Kiiza from Kampala

International University.

## Strengthening governance structures and building membership

HRAPF has four major governing structures that anchor the organisation so that it runs smoothly and remains accountable. These are:

### a) **The General Assembly**

This is the supreme governance body of the organisation. In 2015, HRAPF had 53 members of the General Assembly. HRAPF organised the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting for all members which was attended by 57 people, who were: 37 HRAPF members, 10 staff members, 5 BOD members and 5 partners. During the AGM, members launched fundraising items to mobilize funds for the organisation. These included branded mugs, T-shirts and Key holders. The secretariat continued to sell these items as a way of raising funds for the organisation and increasing its financial independence.



*HRAPF members, staff and partners at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting.*

**b) *The trustees***

The organisation's trustees continued serving the organisation and meeting alongside the Board of Directors. The trustees were the following:



Ms. Fridah Kewodi



Mr. Kafuruka B.  
Biryomumaisho



Mr. Bukenya Jacob

**c) *Board of Directors***

In 2015, four Board of Directors' meetings were organised and HRAPF provided all the administrative and logistical support. The meetings were used to report about the secretariat's work to the BOD. The BOD also reviewed and approved various policies for the smooth running of the organisation. The organisation BOD has 7 directors. They are the following:



Ms. Sheila Muwanga  
Chairperson



Mr. Stuart Kanya  
Vice Chairperson



Mr. Walter Richard  
Alier  
Treasurer



Mr. Edward  
Ssemambo  
General Secretary



Ms. Patricia Atim  
Member



Ms. Nuruh Nakiwala  
Member



Mr. Adrian Jjuuko  
Ex-Officio

**d) The secretariat**

The secretariat operated with 24 members of staff, 2 interns and 2volunteers. They were the following:



Mr. Adrian Jjuuko  
Executive Director



Ms. Flavia Zalwango  
Head Human  
Resources and  
Administration



Mr. Anthony  
Mutimba  
Head Finance



Mr. Edward  
Mwebaza  
Head Advocacy and  
Networking



Ms. Fridah Mutesi  
Head Access to  
Justice



Mr. Julius  
Ssentamu  
Ag. Project  
Officer  
Advocacy and  
Networking



Ms. Fariida  
Ikyimaana  
Legal Officer



Ms. Patricia  
Kimera  
Legal Officer



Ms. Joaninne  
Nanyange  
Legal Officer  
Advocacy



Mr. Gerald  
Isabirye  
Ag. Finance  
Officer



Ms. Rashidah Nakasagga  
Legal Associate



Ms. Catherine Mukankusi  
Administrative Associate



Ms. Susan  
Baluka  
Legal Assistant



Ms. Jolly  
Nawati  
Legal Assistant



Mr. Kharim  
Ainomugisha  
Legal Assistant



Mr. Kato  
Muyinda  
Hussein  
Ag. Legal  
Assistant



Mr. Oscar  
Walukhu  
Wakooli  
Legal Assistant



Mr. Clovice  
Nyakatura  
Administrative  
Assistant/Driver



Mr. Andrew Martin  
Mubiru  
Office Assistant



Mr. Patrick Kyagaba  
Administrative  
Assistant/Driver



Mr. Charles  
Wabwire  
Law Clerk



Mr. Shawn Mugisha  
Paralegal



Ms. Abisagi Kukolakwe  
Administrative Assistant



Mr. Denis Kisubi  
Driver



Ms. Natasha  
Ahimbisibwe  
Volunteer



Mr. Winton Kiiza  
Volunteer



Mr. Allan  
Bunyenyezi  
Intern



Ms. Jenevieve  
Discar

### Strengthening HRAPF's monitoring and evaluation

HRAPF worked to strengthen its M& E systems. The following were done:

#### a) **Midterm Review (MTR) of the strategic Plan**

In 2015 HRAPF undertook a Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the Strategic Plan 2013-2017. The MTR aimed at assessing progress of implementation of the Strategic Plan with specific attention on relevance of activities, effectiveness in implementing activities to achieve the objectives and efficiency in implementation of activities. It was also meant to review the institutional arrangement and ability to support its ever-demanding work as

well as to assess HRAPF's strategic positioning.

The findings revealed that the strategic plan and HRAPF's work were still relevant to the target communities and that HRAPF services had impacted on their lives. All HRAPF programmatic areas had been effectively implemented and there were visible results to prove this. The findings also revealed that the modalities used to implement the activities were appropriate and a few recommendations were made for better results.

The report made various recommendations and one of them was a change in the staff structure for appropriate managing of the ever-growing demands of the organisation. This resulted into creation of the new staff structure and fresh recruitment of staff through a formalised process. This saw several staff leaving at the end of the year and others coming on board.

**b) *Routine monitoring and evaluation activities***

In 2015, HRAPF continued to implement its routine monitoring and evaluation activities. These were:

- i. Weekly staff reporting and planning meetings
- ii. Monthly project progress review meetings for staff
- iii. Quarterly project progress review meetings
- iv. Board of Directors Quarterly meetings
- v. Midyear progress review meetings
- vi. Annual progress review meetings
- vii. Bi- annual staff appraisals
- viii. Monthly Management review meetings

All these activities were conducted to review progress of activities for project progress and review staff performance for monitoring and evaluation.



### **Mobilising increased resources for increased needs**

During the year 2015, the organisation mobilised funds from different sources, which included local and international donors, private donations, membership subscription and consultancies to be able to implement different activities to achieve its goals:

#### **a) *Fundraising***

During the year 2015, the organisation mobilised funds from different sources, which included local and international donors, private donations, and membership subscription and consultancies to be able to implement activities to achieve its goals. All existing donors were maintained and new ones were sought. The projects were implemented according to the agreements made with the donors and HRAPF ensured good budget monitoring practices and accountability. This included timely submission of all donor reports. The accounting books for the year 2014 were audited by BIZ &Co certified public accountants who gave an unqualified opinion on HRAPF finances for the year ending December 2014.

#### **b) *Launch of fundraising items***

These were launched during the sixth Annual General Meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2015 at the Secretariat. These were: branded mugs, T-shirts and key holders. The items were sold to different persons at the meeting and the secretariat continues to sell them to raise funds for the organisation.



*The HRAPF Chairperson of the BOD Ms. Sheila Muwanga (extreme left) and the Executive Director Mr. Adrian Jjuuko (centre) launch the items at the AGM together with members and partners.*

# FINANCIAL POSITION OF HRAPF IN 2015:

**Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (HRAPF)**  
**Report and Finance Statements for the year ended December 31, 2015.**

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**5.0 STATEMENT OF MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Board of Directors of HRAPF are required to prepare financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the organisation and the operating results as at the end of the reporting period. In respect of those financial statements, the Board is required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the organisation will continue in existence.

The Directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of HRAPF and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with accounting policies and guidelines of HRAPF and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Directors are ultimately responsible for the internal controls. The Directors delegate the responsibility for the internal controls to management. Standards and systems of internal control are designed and implemented by management to provide reasonable assurance as to the integrity and reliability of the financial statements and to adequately safeguard the organisation's assets

The Directors accept the responsibility for the financial statements which have been prepared using appropriate accounting policies. The Directors are of the opinion that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of financial affairs of HRAPF and of its operating results for the year ended December 31 2015. Management further confirms the accuracy and completeness of the accounting records and accepts the responsibility for the maintenance of accounting records which may be relied upon in the preparation of the financial statements as well as adequate systems of internal financial controls.

Nothing has come to the attention of the Directors to indicate that HRAPF will not remain a going concern for at least next twelve months from the date of this statement.

Approved by the Board of Directors on.....9/10/2016.....2016 and signed on its behalf by:



Ms. Sheila Muwanga

Board Chairperson



Mr. Edward Ssemambo

Secretary



 Plot 31 Ntinda Road | Block A | 3rd Floor  
 office F3-01 | Ntinda Complex  
 +256 312 104 097  
 +256 752 555 202  
 P.O. Box 1239 Kampala  
 admin@dativaassociates.com  
 www.dativaassociates.com

#### 6.0 REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE DIRECTORS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND PROMOTION FORUM (HRAPF)

We have audited the accompanying consolidated Financial Statements set out on pages 9 - 26 of Human Rights and Promotion Forum (HRAPF) which comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at December 31, 2015, the Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year then ended, the Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes. We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit and to provide reasonable basis for our opinion.

##### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Board of Directors and Management of Human Rights and Promotion Forum (HRAPF) are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with international Financial Reporting Standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

##### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

**Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (HRAPF)  
Report and Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2015.**

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**Opinion**

The financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Human Rights and Promotion Forum (HRAPF) as at December 31, 2015, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with the: international Financial Reporting Standards, and Companies Act 2012 of Uganda

**Report on other Legal Requirements**

As required by the Uganda Companies Act 2012, we report to you, based on our audit, that:

- i) We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief was necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- ii) In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the company, so far as appears from our examination of those books; and
- iii) The company's statement of financial position and statement of comprehensive income are in agreement with the books of account.

*Dativa & Associates*

**DATIVA & ASSOCIATES**

**CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS**

Date: *22nd July, 2016*

**Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (HRAPF)**  
**Report and Finance Statements for the year ended December 31, 2015.**

**7.0 STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
 DECEMBER 31, 2015**

Income	Notes	2,015 UGX	2,014 UGX
Grants & Donations	11.3	1,688,585,632	1,291,970,645
Funds for Fiscal Hosting	11.4	261,644,000	640,747,425
<b>Total Grants</b>		<b>1,950,229,632</b>	<b>1,932,718,070</b>
HRAPF Fund	11.5	6,880,335	18,393,593
Realised Exchange Rate Gains	11.24	34,772,583	311,877
<b>Total Income received during the year</b>		<b><u>1,991,882,550</u></b>	<b><u>1,951,423,540</u></b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Non Project Expenditures (HRAPF FUND)	11.6	7,114,115	4,248,741
East African Convening and Appeal in Kasha J Case projects (UHAI)	11.7	6,704,725	97,483,232
Support to Legal Aid for minority Groups Project (HIVOS)	11.8	174,070,801	162,218,655
Strengthening Legal Support to Sexual Minorities in Uganda (NED)	11.9	101,383,077	18,978,041
Co-Funding for a Vehicle (AJWS)	11.10	9,859,700	68,670,435
Transport for HRAPF (MIVA/OneMen)		-	85,150,000
Consortium on Monitoring Violations Based on Sex Determination, Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation (Benetech)	11.11	36,352,820	21,027,750
Legal Aid Infrastructure Project (AJWS II)		-	228,713,702
Legal Aid infrastructure Project (FGHR II)	11.12	595,880,190	208,292,135
Security Enhancement Project (FGHR)		-	75,747,418
Access to Justice Project (AJWS-DRL)	11.13	54,625,557	73,075,113
Access to Justice Project Year 5 (AJWS I)	11.14	45,002,491	-
Addressing Legal barriers on access to safe abortion in Uganda project (AJWS II)	11.15	5,548,770	-
Boosting Advocacy against the NGO bill 2015 (FGHR)	11.16	32,183,200	-
Legal Strategizing meeting (CSCHRCL)		-	14,159,000
Resource Mobilisation Project (AJWS)		-	14,888,987
HIV/AIDS Human Rights Advocacy Project (PACF)	11.17	1,099,000	112,039,040
Beyond Strategic Litigation Project (FOSI)		-	2,963,842
Documentation Project (RLP)		-	12,724,780
Fiscal Hosting Projects (UHAI and HGAP )	11.18	98,078,130	637,378,540
Strategic engagement with duty bearers on non-discrimination and marginalization in Uganda (GIZ)	11.19	104,724,612	-
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b><u>1,272,627,188</u></b>	<b><u>1,837,759,411</u></b>
<b>Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year</b>		<b><u>719,255,362</u></b>	<b><u>113,664,129</u></b>

**Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (HRAPF)**  
**Report and Finance Statements for the year ended December 31,2015.**


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**8.0 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2015**

	Notes	2015	2014
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash and bank balances	11.20	1,178,432,118	479,136,531
Prepayments	11.21	36,766,376	9,525,380
Staff advances	11.22	<u>12,368,479</u>	<u>4,180,640</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u><b>1,227,566,973</b></u>	<u><b>492,842,551</b></u>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>			
Current liabilities	11.23	28,498,940	12,887,130
HRAPF Accumulated Fund		<u>1,199,068,033</u>	<u>479,955,421</u>
<b>Total Accumulated Fund</b>		<u><b>1,227,566.973</b></u>	<u><b>492,842,551</b></u>

The Financial Statements were discussed and approved at the <sup>25<sup>th</sup></sup>.....Board of Directors' meeting held on <sup>9<sup>th</sup></sup>.....of <sup>July</sup>.....2016.

  
 .....  
 Ms. Sheila Muwanga  
**Board Chairperson**

  
 .....  
 Mr. Edward Ssemambo  
**Secretary**

**Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum  
(HRAPF)**

Plot 390 Professor Apollo Nsibambi Road,  
Namirembe, Kampala  
P.O Box 25603 Kampala  
Tel: +256-414-530-683

Email: [info@hrapf.org](mailto:info@hrapf.org), Website: [www.hrapf.org](http://www.hrapf.org)  
Facebook: [hrapf.uganda](https://www.facebook.com/hrapf.uganda) | Twitter: [@hrapf](https://twitter.com/hrapf)