



Freedom of Association

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE UN UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW 40TH SESSION OF THE UPR WORKING GROUP ON FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION IN UGANDA

INTRODUCTION:

This document contains recommendations excerpted from the joint report submitted to the UN Universal Periodic Review 40th Session of the UPR Working Group submitted on 15th July 2021 by Civicus, Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI), Justice Access Point (JAP) and African Institute of Investigative Journalism (AIJ). The recommendations herewith seek to address concerns relating to Freedom of association in Uganda.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Amend the NGO Act, 2016, which restricts the right to freedom of association, to bring it into conformity with the Constitution and the ICCPR.
- b. Stop implementation of the NGO validation directive and instead strengthen the capacity of the National Bureau for NGOs to monitor civil society through the District NGO Monitoring Committees and Sub county NGO Monitoring Committees established under the NGO Act, 2016.
- c. Protect and enable the right of all Ugandans to form associations and belong to groups in line with constitutional provisions and international human rights standards.
- d. Carry out independent investigations into attacks on offices of CSOs and bring to justice all those responsible for these acts.
- e. Senior government officials and members of the security services should publicly condemn acts of vandalism targeting the offices and equipment of CSOs.
- f. Extend a standing invitation to UN Special Procedures, particularly the Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association.

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