

NEWSLETTER

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NEWS EDITION ON PROMOTING DEMOCRATIC POLICING & CIVIL LIBERTIES IN UGANDA



Editorial Team

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The Summary Edition

This news edition encompasses activities implemented by Justice Access Point (JAP) in collaboration with other stakeholders for the period of nine months. It encompasses the Strategic Reflection Dialogue on the Implications of the Supreme Court Ruling on the Trial of Civilians in Military Courts in Uganda; the Stakeholders' dialogue on sharing Knowledge, Fostering Collaborations, Building Capacity & Setting Strategies for Creating a more Peaceful and Democratic Electoral Environment in Uganda; Experiential Sharing Podcasts of JAP- NOREC Exchange Fellows hosted in Uganda 2025; Public Awareness Campaign on Exploring 'Democratic Policing & Trust in Uganda; covers the Second Annual Convention on Policing in Uganda; Effective Response to Civil Liberties' Promotion and Protection in Uganda and the Youth Dialogues on Violence Prevention and Conflict Transformation Ahead of the 2026 General Elections in Uganda.

The above summarizes are geared at JAP's mission, vision and strategic objectives of fostering a more just and equitable society in Uganda.

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The Strategic Reflection Dialogue on the Implications of the Supreme Court Ruling on the Trial of Civilians in Military Courts in Uganda

Supreme Court ruling in the case of *Attorney General v. Hon. Michael Kabaziguruka* on 31st January 2025 was a landmark decision, which declared the trial of civilians in military courts unconstitutional, marked a pivotal moment for the justice sector reforms in Uganda. On 18th February 2025, JAP convened a stakeholders meeting comprising of executive representatives from civil society organizations, legal professional and other community leaders to reflect & strategize on the implications of the Supreme Court ruling in Uganda. The meeting provided a platform for expert analysis of the proposed UPDF bill and reflected on the democratic principles, transparency, and accountability mechanisms and paved way for recommendations to the government of Uganda.



Stakeholders during and after the strategic dialogue on the Supreme Court Ruling on the Trial of Civilians in Military Courts in Uganda at Fairway hotel



The Stakeholders' dialogue on sharing Knowledge, Fostering Collaborations, Building Capacity & Setting Strategies for Creating a more Peaceful and Democratic Electoral Environment in Uganda

In abide to build capacity and set strategies for creating a more peaceful and democratic electoral environment in Uganda, JAP convened a stakeholders' dialogue of (State and Non state actors) were knowledge was shared, fostered collaborations between the key actors including senior representatives from the Electoral commission, Uganda Human Rights commission and Civil society fraternity. The dialogue took place on 25/04/2025 at Fairway Hotel, Kampala Uganda. The dialogue enhanced the collaboration amongst key actors on the democratic electoral environment in Uganda ahead of 2026 general elections.



Representatives from the Uganda Electoral Commission, Media and Civil society Organizations sharing Knowledge, Fostering Collaborations



Representatives from Uganda Police Force, Uganda Human Rights Commission and CSO fraternity at the dialogue Setting Strategies for Creating a more Peaceful and Democratic Electoral Environment in Uganda



Pictorials of participants from Uganda Human Rights Commission , Independent Electoral Commission, Uganda Police Force & Civil Society Organizations after the dialogue on a Peaceful and Democratic Electoral Environment in Uganda at Fairway Hotel

Experiential Sharing Podcasts of JAP-NOREC Exchange Fellows hosted in Uganda 2025

On June 20th, 2025, the Norec Exchange Fellows hosted by JAP from Kenya and South Africa shared their valuable insights, experiences, and best practices in peace building and conflict prevention to a wider audience through podcast series by sharing their cross-cultural learnings and exchange experiences from Uganda.

The experience shared increased JAP NOREC Exchange program visibility, understanding and enhanced collaboration between organizations, and communities working on peace and conflict issues. The podcasts, amplified the voices and experiences of participants, promoting peace and conflict prevention in Kenya, South Africa, and beyond.



<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2512855/episodes/17368413>



<https://www.buzzsprout.com/2512855/episodes/17368099-derrick->

Public Awareness Campaign on Exploring 'Democratic Policing & Trust in Uganda

On 4th August 2025, JAP hosted a talk show on Exploring 'Democratic Policing & Trust in Uganda', bridging the gap between ideal standards & the everyday realities. Panelists included the Commissioner of Police - Anatoli Muleterwa-Head of community Policing Department UPF; Hope Bagota Senior Human Rights Officer - Directorate of Monitoring and Inspection UHRC and Mohammed Ndifuna Executive Director Justice Access Point (JAP).



Ms. Hope Bagota Senior Human Rights Officer - Directorate of Monitoring and Inspection UHRC & Mr. Mohammed Ndifuna Executive Director JAP



The forum provided a platform for citizens to share their experiences, concerns, and suggestions on policing issues, fostered a sense of community involvement and participation. By providing a platform for open and honest discussion, the show helped build trust between law enforcement and the community, promoted a more collaborative approach to policing. The talk show educated citizens about their rights and responsibilities, empowered them to demand better policing services and hold authorities accountable.

The Second Annual Convention on Policing in Uganda: Democratic Policing and Public Trust, Bridging Normative Standards with lived realities

On 5th August 2025, JAP convened the second Annual convention on policing in Uganda. The convention presented a conducive platform to evaluate progress in implementing the 2024 communique recommendations, identified current institutional and operational challenges in policing, explore the role of state and non-state actors in ensuring electoral security and protecting civic space and to share regional and continental innovations in rights based policing & accountability frameworks. Stakeholders reiterated the need to enhance trust building between the police and citizens in Uganda by addressing issues of excessive force, corruption, and lack of community engagement. A multifaceted approach was emphasized including strengthening community policing initiatives, improving police training, and promoting transparency and accountability within the institution. The establishment of an independent civilian police oversight Authority/ Commission to enhance police accountability and professionalism was emphasized. Police Officers were challenged to rethink policing and avoid engaging in partisan policing and focus on rights-based policing and accountability frameworks.



**Chairperson UHRC –
Mariam Wangandya**



**AIGP Dr Namutebi
Hadijah UPF**



**Dr. Sarah Bireete -
Discussant**



**Keynote address by
Dr. Businye Kabumba
Law Don Makerere
University**



**Moderated by
Sheila Muwaga**



**Moderated by Mildred
TUHAISE**



**Panelist Henry
Muguzi ED- ACFIM**



Mohammed Ndifuna
Executive Director
JAP



At the center is the Chairperson of the Uganda Human Rights Commission with executive members of CSO and legal fraternity at Hotel Fairway during the national convection on policing in Uganda



Delegates at the National Convention on the State of Policing in Uganda 2025 at Fairway hotel



The Capacity Building Workshop on Effective Response to Civil Liberties' Promotion and Protection in Uganda

On 12th August 2025, a capacity building workshop of key stakeholders (State and Non state actors) was convened on effective response to civil liberties' promotion and protection in Uganda. The dialogue focused on sharing best practices in identifying, responding to, and mitigating violations of civil liberties and restrictions on civic space in Uganda.

It fostered the multi-sectorial collaboration in protecting and defending civil liberties ahead of the 2026 electoral cycle, created a collaborative framework encompassing a referral system, rapid response mechanisms, and peer support network for coordinated victim assistance and advocacy. It further formulated concrete strategies for community-based monitoring and unified civil society reporting to regional and international human rights platforms (e.g., ACHPR, UN UPR).The workshop was pivotal in equipping key stakeholders with the skills and collaborative mechanisms to protect civil liberties and fortify a resilient civic space in the critical period leading to the 2026 elections in Uganda.



Participants during and after the capacity building training on effective response to civil liberties' promotion and protection in Uganda

Youth Dialogues on Violence Prevention and Conflict Transformation Ahead of the 2026 General Elections in Uganda

In August and October 2025, JAP hosted Youth dialogues on violence prevention and conflict transformation initiatives to promote peace and stability ahead of the 2026 General Elections in the districts of Kampala and Wakiso. The dialogues focused on promoting peace and preventing violence, empowered young people with knowledge, skills, and confidence to participate in peaceful electoral process in their communities, addressed the root causes of violence and conflict, such as inequality, exclusion, and political polarization, helped build bridges between different groups, promoting understanding, tolerance, and reconciliation; Best practices and experience sharing of peace building initiatives from Youth representatives from Kenya, Tanzania and South Africa under the NOREC exchange program were shared to participants for adoption to the Ugandan context.



Derrick Chestit Chemaket NOREC Participant from – Kenya and Mabidi Mpfeireleni Baby NOREC Participant from – South Africa sharing their experience on Violence Prevention and Conflict Transformation to the youth in Uganda



Young Peace advocates at a Dialogue on Violence Prevention and Conflict Transformation



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