

Dear Friends, Partners and Supporters

Mifumi's Campaign to reform Bride Price has recently taken centre stage of Ugandan Media.

Our fight to get communities to recognise and respect the rights of women, girls and children is ongoing. The practice of Bride Price is unconstitutional because it interferes with the exercise of consent of partners to marry. Mifumi has petitioned the constitutional court to scrap it.

We are striving to break the barriers to women's upward mobility and autonomy especially domestic violence, poverty, illiteracy and constraining cultural practices like bride price.

Domestic violence and bride price are identified as the most hidden forms of crime in our societies. It is a serious health problem and women's experiences have worsened globally. A Unicef report (1999) identifies Uganda as having the highest incidences of violence against women.

Mifumi pledges to promote protection for and support the needs of women and children experiencing domestic and bride price violations.

Through networking, research, training to women's groups, raising awareness to duty bearers, civil society, the police, judiciary and local counsellors, we hope to strengthen traditional justice for women and reform bride price. We are working with local and traditional courts, criminal and civil law bodies.

Through our work, we have learnt that women are our central actors. That men should be engaged in dialogue. That local people are a key resource. That

advocacy work must occur at all levels. That sensitisation and the publicity of our services can prevent backlash.

Thank you very much indeed for supporting our work.

We value your friendship.

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