

MIFLAMI



# NEWSLETTER

Edition #2

May & June 2023



### NAMAYINGO DISTRICT PASSES THE CHILD PROTECTION ORDINANCE

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PG 3 <<<

"Unfortunately, her dreams were shattered as her husband turned violent and abusive. He would come home late at night, intoxicated, and physically harm her. Adding to her distress..."

### MIFUMI'S EMPOWERMENT JOURNEY WITH CHEBET





## BREAKING NEWS

# NAMAYINGO DISTRICT PASSES THE CHILD PROTECTION ORDINANCE

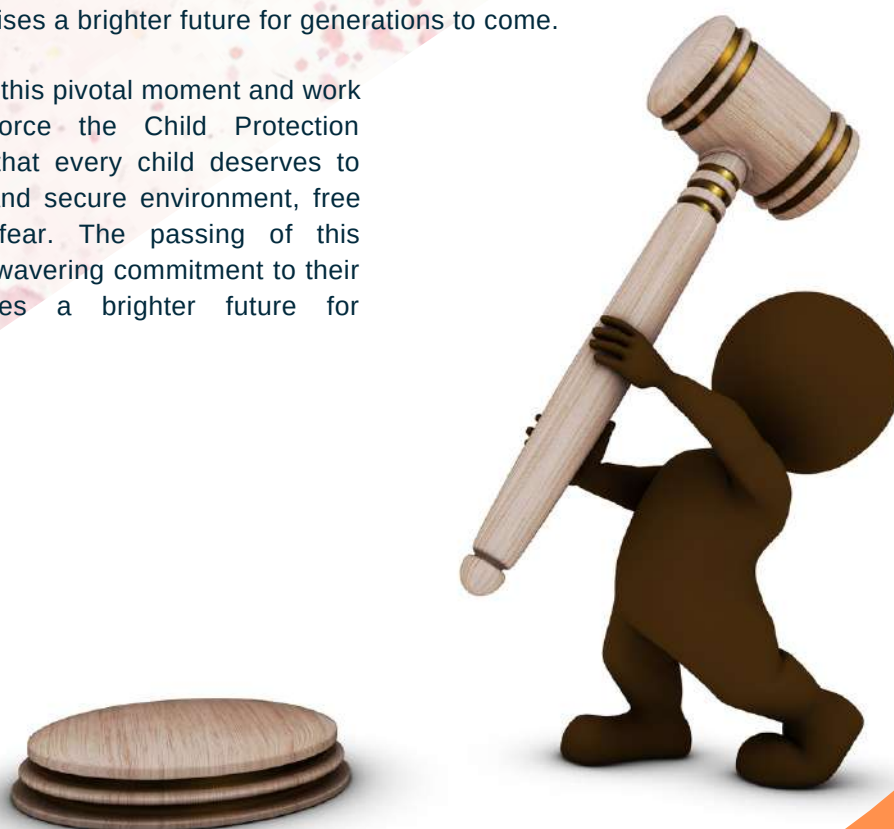
We are thrilled to announce that the local government has successfully passed the long-awaited ordinance on Child Protection in Namayingo District. This landmark achievement marks a crucial step forward in safeguarding our community's most precious asset: our children.

One key importance of this ordinance lies in its potential to combat heinous activities, such as night fundraising, that have plagued our district. These illicit practices have not only endangered the well-being of our children but have also led to devastating consequences, including defilement and high dropout rates in schools.

By implementing the Child Protection Ordinance, we aim to create a safer environment for our children, shielding them from harm and ensuring their right to education. This comprehensive legislation addresses the loopholes in our existing system and provides a robust framework for reporting, investigating, and prosecuting child abuse cases.

Together, let us embrace this pivotal moment and work hand in hand to enforce the Child Protection Ordinance. We believe that every child deserves to grow up in a nurturing and secure environment, free from exploitation and fear. The passing of this ordinance reflects our unwavering commitment to their well-being and promises a brighter future for generations to come.

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# ILLUMINATING LIVES

## MINISTRY OF HEALTH'S (UGANDA) TRANSFORMATIVE SUPPORT TO MIFUMI HEALTH CENTER

We were thrilled to receive incredible news at MIFUMI Health Center in Uganda. The Ministry of Health Uganda generously supported us, bringing a positive impact to our health center and the community we serve. Our mission of providing exceptional care to expectant mothers and newborns faced a major challenge – the lack of reliable electricity.

Nightfall would cast its dark veil upon our maternity department, leaving our midwives to rely on the faint glow of mobile phone torches during childbirth. It was a makeshift solution with risks of dropped phones and infections. But our prayers were answered when the Ministry of Health Uganda provided a comprehensive solar installation package. This gift transformed our maternity department, illuminating every corner and bringing a newfound sense of safety and security.

The solar system also included advanced equipment like a fetal Doppler, headlamps, and a temperature gun with rechargeable batteries. These resources revolutionized our practices, allowing us to monitor fetal health, perform surgical procedures with enhanced precision, and accurately measure temperature levels. We express our deepest appreciation to the Ministry of Health Uganda for their unwavering support, recognizing the challenges we face in our remote location.

With this newfound light and ongoing support, we are committed to continuing our mission of providing exceptional healthcare to our community. The Ministry's generosity has empowered us to reach greater heights and extend our care to more individuals in MIFUMI village. We are filled with renewed determination and gratitude as we pledge to nurture and safeguard the lives of the women and children we serve. Thank you, Ministry of Health Uganda, for igniting a ray of hope in our hearts.





# FROM SURVIVOR TO CHAMPION

## MIFUMI'S EMPOWERMENT JOURNEY WITH CHEBET

Chebet's journey to success was filled with challenges and hardships, but her determination and resilience helped her overcome every obstacle that came her way. When she got married, her husband, who was also an athlete, fell into a destructive pattern of drinking. Despite warnings from others, Chebet hoped for a better future with him.

Unfortunately, her dreams were shattered as her husband turned violent and abusive. He would come home late at night, intoxicated, and physically harm her. Adding to her distress, he made it clear that he would only support her if she gave birth to a baby boy, leaving her uncertain about her future.

Chebet's upbringing had already been difficult, as she grew up in a broken family with separated parents. The financial burden of education forced her to pursue athletics, but even that didn't bring her the stability she longed for. Eventually, she joined UWA (Uganda Women's Athletics), where she met another athlete who expressed interest in marrying her. Believing that marriage would provide the security she sought, Chebet accepted his proposal.

However, her new marriage proved to be equally challenging. Struggling as a single parent with limited resources, Chebet felt overwhelmed and disheartened. It was during this time that she discovered a glimmer of hope through the Kapseke Tailoring MIFUMI Survivors Group. This group consisted of eight women who had all faced similar situations—marriage followed by separation or abandonment.

Under the guidance of MIFUMI, the group received training in tailoring. The organization not only provided them with practical skills but also offered support and encouragement. They even supplied the materials necessary for the women to create their own clothing, which they could sell to support themselves and their children. Chebet embraced this opportunity and honed her tailoring skills, enabling her to generate income for her family.

Furthermore, the group discussions and mentorship sessions organized by MIFUMI had a profound impact on Chebet. The champions of the group, who had experienced marriage and subsequent return to their families, shared their stories and provided valuable advice. Inspired by their guidance, Chebet became passionate about raising awareness on important issues such as child marriage, child abuse, and the dangers of female genital mutilation (FGM). She also felt compelled to address the challenges faced by parents who struggle to provide for their children's basic needs.

Now equipped with the knowledge and skills acquired through MIFUMI, Chebet not only sews and sells clothes to sustain herself and her child, but she also actively advises and supports others who face similar difficulties. Drawing from her own experiences, she serves as a source of inspiration and offers practical guidance to those in need. Chebet has transformed her hardships into a platform for advocacy, championing the rights of women and children in her community.

With every stitch she sews and every word of advice she imparts, Chebet stands tall as a symbol of resilience and empowerment. Her success story resonates not only with those who have faced adversity but with anyone striving to overcome challenges and create a better future for themselves and their loved ones.

**Written by Michelle Wandia**





CHEBET GLORIA



# STITCHING HOPE

## EMPOWERING SURVIVORS THROUGH SKILLING OPPORTUNITIES

At MIFUMI, we empower domestic and gender violence survivors through skilling opportunities. We offer courses in tailoring, hair braiding, shoe making, and more. These skills provide not only financial independence but also a path to healing and self-expression.

In our shelter, survivors gather with hope in their eyes and determination in their hearts. They immerse themselves in their chosen crafts, creating beautiful garments, intricate braids, and handcrafted shoes. With each stitch and braid, they reclaim their lives and find solace in their newfound skills.

Our skilling opportunities bring numerous advantages. Survivors gain economic stability, becoming entrepreneurs who break free from the cycle of abuse. But the impact goes beyond financial independence. The survivors become beacons of strength, inspiring others and showing that triumph over adversity is possible.

MIFUMI's commitment to empowering survivors transforms lives. We equip them with practical skills and instill the belief that they are capable of greatness. Through skilling opportunities, we illuminate a path to a world where every survivor can rise, shine, and craft their own extraordinary stories of triumph.





# THE HAVEN WITHIN

## EMPOWERING WOMEN & CHILDREN AT THE MIFUMI TORORO GENDER BASED VIOLENCE SHELTER



The MIFUMI Tororo Gender Based Violence Shelter in Uganda stands as an inspiring success story, transforming the lives of countless survivors with its unwavering commitment to providing a safe haven and comprehensive support. Under the exceptional leadership of Beatrice Atyang, the shelter has become a beacon of hope for those affected by gender-based violence.

At the heart of the shelter's success lies its dedication to creating a secure and nurturing environment. Survivors find solace within its walls, knowing they are protected from the harm and trauma they have endured. The shelter offers a range of vital services to address the holistic needs of survivors, including counseling, legal aid, and access to medical care. By addressing physical, emotional, and legal aspects, MIFUMI Tororo ensures survivors receive the support they require to heal and rebuild their lives. Beyond the immediate assistance, the shelter also fosters empowerment and normalcy. It nurtures a sense of community among survivors, providing them with a supportive network where they can share their experiences and draw strength from one another. By creating an atmosphere of solidarity and understanding, MIFUMI Tororo encourages survivors to envision a brighter future and take steps towards realizing it.

The success stories emerging from the MIFUMI Tororo shelter are truly remarkable. Survivors who once felt broken and hopeless have found the courage to reclaim their lives and become advocates against gender-based violence. Their resilience and determination inspire others to break the silence and seek help. With each triumph over adversity, the shelter's impact ripples beyond its walls, raising awareness and challenging the societal norms that perpetuate violence.

In essence, the MIFUMI Tororo Gender Based Violence Shelter is not just a physical space but a sanctuary of empowerment, resilience, and hope. It serves as a testament to the transformative power of providing comprehensive support to survivors, reminding them that they are not alone and that a brighter future awaits. Through its tireless efforts, the shelter continues to change lives and contribute to the ongoing fight against gender-based violence in Uganda and beyond.

**Written by Michelle Wandia**



28 SATURDAY VISION  
June 10, 2023

## PARENTING

**Suzan Osinde Adikini, 55, is a women rights activist and matron of MIFUMI shelter for domestic violence survivors in Tororo district. Her conviction stems from an abusive marriage and unpleasant childhood experience where her mother locked her and two siblings in the house and set it on fire. Adikini narrated her story to RITAH MUKASA.**

## DAD BATTERED OUR MOTHER

**A**dikini was born to the late Jack Osinde Otege and Alice Lulewa, a banker who later became a teacher.

Otege was a town clerk in Hoima and Mbale districts, before working with foods and beverages in the 1970s. He had 17 children with different women. Lulewa had four with him.

Adikini says she grew up in a hostile home, owing to her violent father who would return home drunk and beat up their mother for no reason.

With time, her mother suffered a mental break down.

When Adikini was about a year old, her mother locked her and her two siblings (two and three years) in the house and set it on fire. They lived in Naguru quarters in Kampala at the time.

"The neighbours who heard us cry broke the locks and rescued us," she says.

The family lost everything and the incident made news.

After torching the house, their pregnant mother disappeared to her parents' home in Mbale district and she later got married. She resurfaced when Adikini was seven years old. She attempted to kidnap her and her siblings from school, but she was arrested.

For some years, Adikini and her siblings lived with their single father.

"Dad later on married our stepmother, Yeresa Nyadoi Osinde, 92, who raised us as her biological children. We never missed our mother," she says.

Adikini says she treasures Nyadoi so much because she is what she is because of her. Her father died in 1977 and her mother in 1996.

Adikini attended Rock View Primary School and Kisoko Girls in Tororo district for her primary education, before moving to Rock High School for her O'level between 1982 and 1986. After, she acquired a certificate in secretarial studies from Uganda College of Commerce (UCC) Tororo in 1989.

Upon graduation, Adikini worked as secretary for Uganda Savings, Cooperative and Credit Association and later, at St Stephen Academy in Tororo district.

Along the way, Adikini courted

# MUM LOCKED US IN THE HOUSE AND SET IT ON FIRE



Adikini with her last born

a man hoping that the relationship would lead to marriage. However, when she conceived, he abandoned her. She tried to pursue him, but he was elusive. She would later learn that he was married. His wife attempted to kill Adikini's baby.

One day, she decided to take the baby for naming, but on reaching the man's home, his wife locked him, Adikini and their baby inside the house and set it on fire. His brother rescued them.

"I gave up on that man and decided to take care of my son," she says.

Years later, Adikini met another man with whom they cohabited. She later had four children with him, but the marriage was toxic. At that time, she was working as a secretary.

Her husband was violent. Every month, he ordered her to hand over her salary yet he did not provide for the family. Whenever she refused, he would batter her.

She was always nursing injuries that he inflicted on her.

"One day, he beat me when I was seven months pregnant. I bled and passed out. I feared to report him to Police," she says.

"I also saved money and built a decent house in his village, but he razed it down over flimsy reasons," she adds.

Adikini braved the abusive marriage for years, until she decided to walk away and raise her five children single-handedly. Her last born was two years then and is now 20 years old.

## LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

When Adikini separated with her husband, she grappled with depression, but luckily, around that time, she was recruited as secretary for MIFUMI savings group and later as independent domestic violence advisor.

MIFUMI is a women's rights organisation operating at the grassroots countrywide.

They offer support services for survivors of violence and abuse through their advice centres and shelters.

Adikini is currently a Tororo shelter manager, counsellor and sex and gender-based violence activist.

"I love helping women because I know how it feels to be abused. I also enjoy seeing

them happy with their families," she says.

"Our shelter offers battered and



Adikini says some of the women she tries to help stay in toxic marriages because their poor parents cannot refund the bride price

abused women a safe space to sit and recollect themselves in order for them to make informed decisions," she explains.

"By the time they move out, they have overcome the trauma they had been through."

Adikini says they receive several women; both educated and illiterate who are suffering in the hands of abusive men. They also handle defilement, rape and incest cases.

For example, recently, they received a case of a married man who impregnated a concubine and her teenage daughter. The mother and daughter could not see eye to eye.

"We brought the mother and daughter into the shelter, but they were fighting all the time. Counseling helped to calm them down," she says.

They looked for the girl's father and resettled her.

Adikini adds that victims of domestic violence are referred to the shelter from the advice centres, Police and non-governmental organisations.

"Some come when they are in bad shape. We record their details, notify Police and take them to hospital," she says.

The details include their names, age, number of children, location and age. They also record the details of the perpetrator and nature of the case.

Others are admitted and continuously counselled as they are given skills, such as baking, tailoring, making sanitary pads and liquid soap. They also learn backyard gardening such that by the time they leave, they can practice vegetable growing. They also leave with seedlings.

"A survivor can stay at the shelter for weeks when their case is being handled. If she is no longer safe in her home, we resettle her with relatives or friends, until the situation normalises."

Adikini says many survivors choose to go back to their homes fearing to separate with their children or lose the investments they contributed to.

In addition, bride price is another pull factor. Much as bride price refund was outlawed in Uganda, some communities still demand it upon separation. Therefore, women decide to stay in toxic marriages because their poor parents cannot refund the bride price.

On August 6, 2015, in a six-to-one majority decision, the Supreme Court ruled that the practice of requiring the refund of the bride price on dissolution of customary marriages violates the country's Constitution.

## GET IN TOUCH

Would you like to share your parenting story? Do you have any parenting issues you would like us to address? Please send an email to [parenting@newvision.co.ug](mailto:parenting@newvision.co.ug)



**Mufungiza****WHAT OTHERS SAY**

**SHIFAH KISAANI:**  
I work with Mufungiza, he is a very hardworking and committed man. He is always volunteering in the community.

**LATIF KAWULE:**  
Mufungiza is a very committed community person who is also passionate about uplifting women.



**LUCY MARY ATHIENO:**  
Mufungiza was a councillor for over 10 years. Organisations loved working with him because he is trustworthy.

# 55-YEAR-OLD GOES BACK TO SCHOOL

By Ritah Mukasa

To Eriasa Mufungiza, it is never too late for anyone to go back to school and pursue their dreams.

At 55 years, the resident of Kinawansa village in Bulamagi sub-county, Iganga district, decided to resume school 30 years after he dropped out.

Mufungiza says it does not matter that he is old enough to be a grandfather or a father of nine adult children. He also enjoys a blissful marriage with his two wives.

In school, teachers and students christened him 'student muzeeyi' (an old student), but that, too, did not derail him. He is focusing on his dream of becoming a lawyer and politician.

Last year, Mufungiza sat for his O'level exams at Bulamagi Community Secondary School and passed in third grade. He is currently saving for school fees to see him through A'level and university.

Mufungiza was born to Kamuyati Nabirye, a housewife, and Edirisa Mpambiro, a former parish chief. They are both residents of Kinawansa village in Iganga district.

**'I WAS A VIOLENT HUSBAND'**

Mufungiza was inspired to go back to school after he became a trained activist (champion) with MIFUMI, a women's rights organisation working at the grassroots throughout the country. He joined the organisation three years ago, after he had been looking for avenues through which he could help impact the lives of marginalised people.

"I believe that knowledge is power. I am passionate about eliminating sex and gender-based violence, which leads to loss of lives and trauma."

He says domestic violence cases are high in his sub-county owing to high levels of illiteracy, poverty, and cultural beliefs that hold women in

## GIVING EDUCATION A THIRD CHANCE

When Mufungiza joined MIFUMI, he started saving towards his education and by 2022, he had saved enough to enable him complete Senior Four.

He enrolled at Bulamagi Community Secondary School, which is a stone's throw away from his home. The teachers and all students knew him, but that did not scare him off.

"The headteacher offered me a half bursary and I paid sh80,000 per term," he says.

However, after settling into school, Mufungiza had another hill that awaited him to climb. He did not understand most of the subjects and did not see any chance of passing them. Nothing made sense to him.

Before registration, he travelled to the Uganda National Examinations Board (UNE) offices in Kampala, where he

explained his case and requested that he be allowed to sit for a few papers he was conversant with.

"He listened to me and promised to get back to me in two weeks," he recalls.

"He later told me on phone that my request had been granted due to my determination to go back to school, despite my age."

Mufungiza was allowed to sit for English, Fine Art, Lusoga, History and Islam. He passed them with credit and passes, but failed Islam.

"It hurt me that I failed my religion. I was confident to pass with a distinction, but I chose a tricky question and misfired," he says.

Mufungiza would read his books from the veranda.

"Passersby got used to seeing me read. I became a laughing stock, but I did not care," he says.

"I was happy I inspired two boys who had dropped out, reasoning that they had outgrown primary school. They are now in Senior One," he says.

an inferior position.

"I was also violent and abusive to my two wives. I would beat them up in front of our children for no reason," he says.

"Imams constantly preached against domestic violence in the mosque, but I remained adamant for years," he adds.

However, when he became an activist, Mufungiza started sensitising communities about all forms of violence, including emotional, economic and domestic.

He also works hand in hand with local leaders and Police. He traverses 27 villages while settling family disputes and helping victims of domestic violence to get justice.

Meanwhile, in the course of executing his duties, Mufungiza encountered challenges with interpreting the law, in order to help victims and fight human rights violations.

He could barely read or write well. "Local council committees would consult me on how to handle the

different cases they received. I would also visit health centres, Police stations, and courts of law while following up on cases," he says, adding: "All that needs some level of education, which I lacked."

**GOING BACK TO SCHOOL**

Mufungiza grew up with 12 siblings. He says his father strived to educate his children, but could not afford to see all of them through school.

In 1980, Mufungiza sat for his Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE)

and failed. He repeated the class in 1981 with his three siblings. They all passed, but their father asked them to stop at that level and give a chance to their younger siblings to complete primary school. That is how he dropped out of school, letting go of his dream to become a doctor.

At 13 years old, Mufungiza started working with his father in Kinawansa co-operative society. He would later become secretary and at 20 years old, he married his first wife.

"I benefited from mentorships from my seniors. I was hardworking and disciplined, but missed several opportunities owing to my level of education," he says.

In addition, he applied for office jobs, but was dropped because he did not have the minimum qualification of Senior Four.

Fast forward, at 30 years, he decided to go back to school in Senior One. His wife supported him and he enrolled at Fairland SSS, which was a few kilometres from his home. He had left the co-operative and worked as a builder.

"I enjoyed school because I was a unique student. Teachers gave me attention and, luckily, the students, too, respected me," he says.

Mufungiza adds that he had earlier on asked the school administration to allow him attend classes at his convenience and as such, he would show up at school at lunchtime, three days a week. He would wake up early to till the garden with his wife. After, he worked at construction sites before going to school. He had five children who were also in school at the time.

"At first, I was slow at writing because I did not know most of the spellings. I would copy from my desk mates as the teacher dictated notes," he adds. With time, he coped and made it to Senior Four.



# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS SHARE ORDEAL

By RITAH MUKASA

**E**xperts warn that violence against women can cause long-term physical and mental health problems to the women involved, their children and communities. However, breaking free from that bondage does not come easily, though some women have achieved it and turned into activists in their communities.

## HE RUINED MY ATHLETICS DREAM

Gloria Cherop, 22, is an athlete. Since her childhood, she aspired to make a mark on the international scene as a gold medalist. She had role models to look up to, some from her village in Mokotu in Kapchorwa district.

In 2018, after her O'level, Cherop smiled her way and she made it. She was recruited on the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) team and her family jubilated. Cherop's parents had separated because of domestic violence, leaving her and three siblings under the care of their mother, a tailor.

"Our father was violent. He would beat our mother in our presence and get away with it. We were traumatised," she says.

Cherop fell in love with a fellow athlete and moved in with him. She says, he promised her heaven on earth, only to discover that it was all lies. He was on the Prisons team.

"My boyfriend was an alcoholic and wife-beater. I would later discover that he had been married four times. His wives could not put up with his violence," she says.

"He would also beat me at leisure, even when I was pregnant," Cherop adds.

She contemplated aborting to continue with her career, but her mother stopped her. Cherop left him when she was seven months pregnant.

"He came and pleaded. I gave him a second chance, but he blew it up. I left again and when he heard that I had a baby girl, he rejected her," she says.

Around that time, Cherop was introduced to MIFUMI, a women rights organisation that works at the grassroots throughout the country. She trained in tailoring and joined a group of youth champions who traverse villages, sensitising women about their rights.

"We help domestic violence victims and fight female genital mutilation as well," she says.

## I HAVE BEEN RAISING MY KIDS ALONE

Anna Nyaketcho, 47, is a resident of Simwenyi village, Tororo district. She says, since she got married in the early 2000s, her husband, a businessman, had been abusive. He would return from his drinking spree in the wee hours of the night and unleash terror on her and her three children.

"He could knock once and kick the door open while hurling insults at us in a vulgar language. After, he would beat us up and lock us outside," she recalls.

In 2011, the champions held Nyaketcho's hand and helped her seek



Some of the SGBV survivors in Kalangala. Thirty six percent of women had experienced sexual violence

## WHAT LEADERS, EXPERTS SAY

**ISA KAGGWA**  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (CDO)

**MUGOYE SUB-COUNTY, KALANGALA DISTRICT**

We register over 30 cases of domestic violence per month. Defilement is also rampant owing to the fishing community where many men live recklessly, but champions and advice centres are helping a great deal. We also have many foreigners from Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan who come to work. Some are run-away criminals.



**ALEX CHESHARI, THE SUB-COUNTY CHIEF**  
**CHEPKWASTA, BUKWO DISTRICT**

We used to receive several cases of assault, denial of property and abuse of women's rights by men. Rape, defilement and early marriages were also common, but they have reduced, thanks to the champions who are spread across villages and the advice centre. They also address alcoholism, female genital mutilation and family neglect. They help victims get justice.



**EMMANUEL KAWEESE**  
SGBV SOCIAL WORKER IN KALANGALA

We conduct preventive and response interventions to curb domestic violence. For example, we do community awareness and handle cases at Police and court. We collect evidence, as well as offer psychosocial support. Many victims fear court so we hold their hands and see them through the process.



**FRANCIS DDAMULIRA WALUSIMBI,**  
RESPONSE CHAMPION

I am a tailor in Beta village, Kalangala district. I am a transformed husband. I used to beat up my wife and neglect my family, but one day, a champion intervened and counselled me. I was also inspired to become one. I record cases and do mediation with the local council or refer to the advice centre those that need Police and court intervention.



passed out, but I feared to report him to Police," Adikini says.

"I also saved money and built a decent house in his village, but he razed it down over flimsy reasons," she adds.

## USING ADVICE CENTRES TO CURB DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Dr Atuki Turner, the executive director of MIFUMI, says advice centres are public points where tortured women get help in form of counselling, getting treatment, reconciliation and legal redress. Those that need protection are housed at the shelter to recover.

"We also follow up even after the survivor leaves the shelter. We make sure they continue to be safe with their children," she says.

However, Atuki says, some cases are handled at the community level by the local councils and champions (activists) who are mostly survivors.

"Domestic violence happens to women across the world, but some resist it," she adds.

Atuki notes that it is mostly caused by women's disadvantaged position in patriarchal society, where men are dominant and women are inferior.

Lucy Mary Athieno, a Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) specialist, says they identify hot spots in every district and ask for space for an advice-centre from the authorities. They also recruit champions and train them to support victims. They receive, handle, and refer cases, as well as doing awareness and surveillance.

Similarly, Beatrice Atyang, an SGBV co-ordinator, says shelters also play a vital role in eliminating violence against women. They offer protection and temporary accommodation to women who feel unsafe in their homes. They can be admitted with their children who are below 16 years.

"Uganda had its first shelter in 2008 in Tororo district with a bed capacity of 28. We also offer them meals and skills," she says.

They work with Independent Domestic Violence Advisers, champions, advice centres and the Police. The gender ministry supervises shelters.

"A victim can stay while their case is being handled," she says.

## STATISTICS

National demographic data from 2020 reveals that 56% of married women aged 15-49 reported having suffered physical or sexual violence by a husband (Uganda Bureau of Statistics, 2021). More than one in three women (56%) had experienced sexual violence, most often from a partner and 28% reported victimisation by sexual violence in the past year.

Child sexual abuse is also pervasive, with 59% of women reporting sexual abuse in children. National data also shows that 33% of girls below the age of 15 years were forced at first sex. Of the women who said they had experienced GBV, only a minority reported it to Police.

Osinde's husband was violent. Every month he ordered her to hand over her salary

redress from Police, something that enraged her husband and his family. They accused her of being defiant and that she wanted to imprison him. He disappeared from home.

"I have been raising my children alone. I also became a champion and started a savings group to empower survivors. I have helped hundreds of women to live happy lives.

## I PASSED OUT WHEN I WAS PREGNANT

Away in Tororo town, Suzan Osinde Adikini, 55, is a matron of a shelter for

domestic violence survivors. She is a former secretary for Uganda Savings, Cooperative and Credit Association and St. Stephen's Academy in Tororo district. Adikini got married and had four children, but the marriage was toxic. Her husband was violent. Every month, he ordered her to hand over her salary yet he never provided for the family. Whenever she refused, he would beat her. She was always nursing injuries he inflicted on her.

"One day, he beat me when I was eight months pregnant. I bled and



# GET IN TOUCH WITH US

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