



The African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV)

January–March, 2025

Issue 1

NewsLetter

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Message From CEO



Happy New Year 2025!

The first quarter of this year has been marked by a significant investment in capacity building and advocacy initiatives with ACTV's key stakeholders and partners hence a cornerstone of our mission of advocating against torture and other forms of violence.

ACTV has conducted a robust series of training programs, empowering a wide range of stakeholders from State Prosecutors, Police and CID officers, high level engagement with the Prison service officers and capacity building for ACTV staff among others.

These trainings and engagements are not merely about imparting knowledge; they are about fostering a torture free community since according to the ACTV reports, the security agencies always rank as the number one torture perpetrators followed by the private individuals. By equipping these security officials with the tools and understanding they need, we are strengthening the fabric of our community and ensuring that survivors receive the support they deserve.

ACTV believes that investing in people is investing in change. Your support makes these vital training initiatives possible, and ACTV is deeply grateful for your partnership in building a torture free society.

The cessation of support from USAID which has led to ending implementation of the " Stop Torture Project" is news which has put a blip in the first quarter of 2025. ACTV has to become more resilient in order to navigate the dwindling funding landscape in order to continue to provide services to survivors of torture.

Yours sincerely,

Samuel Herbert Nsubuga
Chief Executive Officer- ACTV

Advocacy Initiatives



ACTV- CEO Mr. Samuel Herbert Nsubuga, launching the study during the meeting with the stakeholders at Fairway Hotel in Kampala



RESEARCH STUDY

In January 2025, ACTV officially launched its significant research study on the Barriers to the Effective Implementation of the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act 2012 (CAP 130). This study represents a valuable contribution to the existing legal understanding of torture within Uganda. Following the launch, ACTV was pleased to officially disseminate the findings of this vital research.

The study identified several key obstacles impeding the full effectiveness of the Act, including pervasive corruption, limited public awareness of its provisions, the limited capacity of the Police force, political interference, a climate of fear, prevailing cultural norms, restrictive religious norms, and further instances of political interference.

On Barriers to Effective Implementation of PPTA2012 (CAP 130) Launched

On March 25th, our efforts extended to the Kaabong district for the dissemination of the research report on "A study on the barriers to effective implementation of the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act, CAP 130."

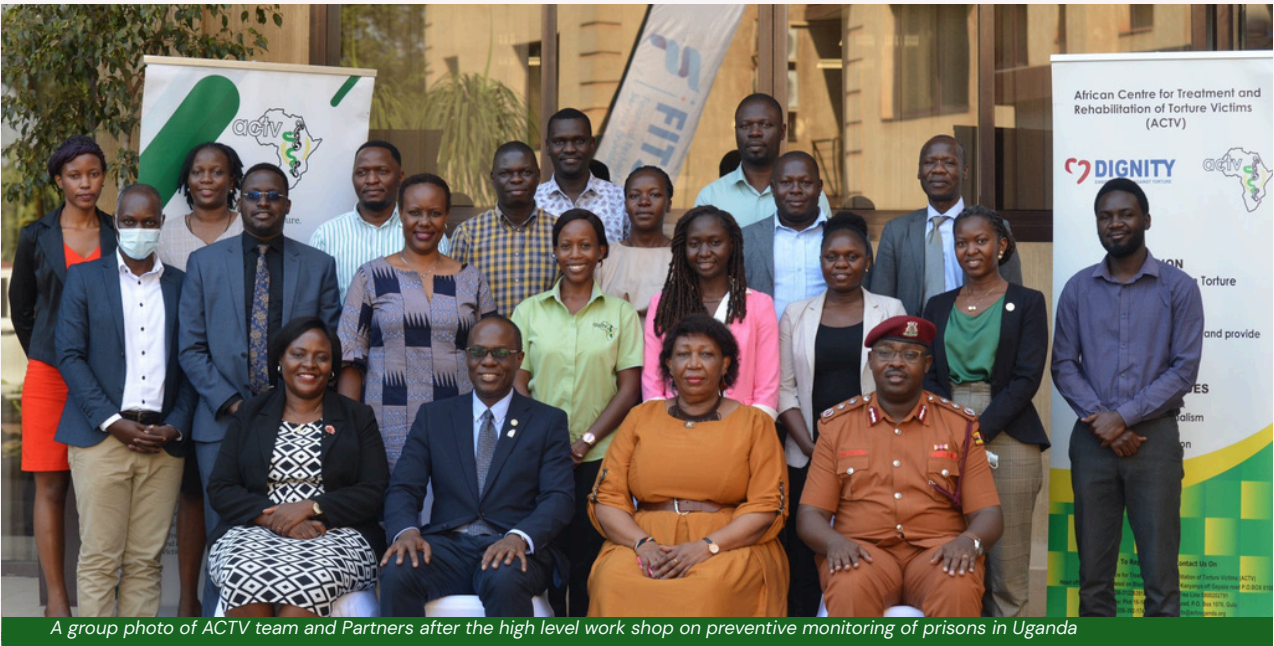


ACTV staff during the dissemination process of the study in Kaabong district

Workshop on Monitoring and Preventive measures on Prisons In Uganda

On 20 February, 2025, ACTV in partnership with the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) hosted a high-level workshop on Preventive Monitoring of Prisons. The activity brought together key stakeholders dedicated to improving conditions of prisons and sharing experiences upholding human rights within the National penal system.

The opening was presided over by Hon. Mariam Wangadya Mutonyi, the Chairperson of the UHRC. In her remarks, she emphasized that the goal of the workshop was to move beyond simply visiting prisons.



A group photo of ACTV team and Partners after the high level work shop on preventive monitoring of prisons in Uganda



Commissioner of Prisons [CP] Moses Ssentalo , Director Inspectorate and Quality Assurance at Uganda Prisons



Participants during the meeting at Fairway Hotel In Kampala



Hon. Mariam Wagadya, Chairperson of the UHRC, giving opening remarks during the workshop

"We are here to strengthen capacity, share experiences, and promote a deeper understanding of preventive monitoring," she stated.

"Our aim is to build a system that ensures all prisons operate within the framework of human dignity, the rule of law, and international human rights standards."

The event drew a diverse and influential group of participants, including representatives from the UHRC, the Uganda Prison Service, the Uganda Law Society, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Penal Reform International, Judiciary Uganda, and the Uganda National Medical Alliance for Prison Support, among others. This collaboration highlighted the collective commitment to fostering a more just and humane penal system in Uganda.

A pivotal session on "Effective Prison Monitoring Visits" was facilitated by Ms. Ruth Ssekindi, Director of Monitoring and Inspection at the UHRC. She urged participants to eliminate biases and provided crucial insights into best practices. Key topics covered included the fundamental reasons for conducting monitoring visits, effective methods for monitoring detention facilities, and the essential composition of monitoring teams.

Ms. Ssekindi also addressed the pressing issue of prison congestion in Uganda, suggesting that diversifying the judicial system could offer a sustainable solution to this chronic problem. This discussion highlighted the need for systemic reforms to alleviate the strain on the prison system.

"This workshop is a crucial step in our ongoing efforts to improve prison conditions and uphold human rights," stated an ACTV head of programmes Mr. Alex Kigoye. "By strengthening preventive monitoring, we are working towards a future where every individual is treated with dignity and respect, regardless of their circumstances."



Ms. Ruth Ssekindi, Director of Monitoring and Inspection - UHRC facilitating a session on effective prison monitoring visits during the work shop

Another insightful session was facilitated by the Commissioner of Prisons Moses Ssentalo, the Director Inspectorate and Quality Assurance at Uganda Prisons. His presentation centered on the vital aspects of collaboration and partnership with various stakeholders in the context of prison monitoring. Commissioner Ssentalo underscored the significance of external monitoring mechanisms, elaborating on how policies like an open-door approach actively work against speculation, promote transparency, and effectively eliminate inaccuracies regarding prison operations, especially when concerns about human rights violations arise.

The workshop concluded with a renewed commitment to continued collaboration and action. Participants pledged to work together to implement the recommendations and ensure that human rights are upheld in all Ugandan prisons. ACTV remains committed to following these developments and providing updates on our ongoing efforts to promote human rights and social justice.

Other work shops held in the quarter include;

On 27th March, 2025 A high level co-organised workshop with UHRC on Prison health in Uganda with the aim of delving deep on how best the health of inmates all over the country can be improved.



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March 24th -25th, 2025; Two days workshop for the Coalition Against Torture (CAT) on advocacy initiatives for torture free elections and the ratification of Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture



Group photo of CAT members after the two days workshop on advocacy initiatives on torture free election and the ratification of OPCAT

Capacity Building & Trainings



Uganda Police Force and ACTV Strengthen Partnership with Human Rights Training

In a continued effort to uphold human rights and combat torture, the Uganda Police Force and ACTV conducted a training session for Police Officers from Kampala South Metropolitan region. The training, held on 27th Thursday, February 2025, at the Nican Resort hotel, focused on crucial aspects of effective investigation and documentation of torture using a trauma-informed lens/approach.

The training, designed to equip 40 police officers (28 male and 12 female) with essential knowledge and skills, focused on Trauma and investigation. It involved a deeper understanding of human rights principles and legal obligations, the initiative aimed at improving the culture of reporting and accountability of torture victims within the Uganda Police Force.

CP James Kusemererwa the commissioner, Head of Human Rights in the Directorate of Human rights and Legal services Police emphasised the value of professional conduct, acknowledging torture as a persistent challenge and reiterating that Ugandan law. His call for officers the Freedom is non-derogable.

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Group photo of Police officers and ACTV staff after the training on torture and human rights at Nican Hotel, in Seguku-Kampala district



CP James Kusemererwa the commissioner of Police in the Department of Human Rights

“ Torture remains a recurring concern, a practice our laws expressly forbid yet practiced. I urge all officers to perform their duties with utmost professionalism, ensuring human rights is a lifestyle. ”

CP. Kusemererwa, discussed how torture is a recurring concern despite a robust legal framework and polices against the crime. He urged the Officers to perform their various tasks professionally to avoid violation of human rights.



Photos of Uganda police officers during the training session

Other sessions facilitated by ACTV include the prevention and prohibition of torture act (PPTA 2012 CAP130) and how its criminalises torture and its regulations 2017 there under having 7 forms which can be used by police to document cases of torture for further investigations.

Police Form 3 which is used at the moment is not tailor made for the investigation and documentation of torture explaining why the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs went ahead to pass the Regulations to the PPTA Cap.130. Unfortunately, the Regulations are gathering dust with Police Form 3 preferred to the Regulations explaining the possible under reporting of torture.

“ ***"In Uganda, where the scars of torture run deep, advocacy and collaboration are not just strategies, they are life lines. We must amplify the voices of survivors and unite with all stakeholders – Government, Civil Society, and communities – to dismantle the systems that perpetuate this abhorrent practice."*** ”

ACTV Officer



ACTV and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) in a joint capacity building for Police CIDs and State Prosecutors

In a significant effort to strengthen the justice system's response to torture within the Karamoja sub-region, In March 2025, ACTV organized and conducted a 2-days training in Moroto district. Officially opened by D/SSP Kalimbano Willy, Mt. Moroto Region. The training brought together 19 participants comprising State Prosecutors and CID officers from Uganda Police Force (17 male, 2 female).

The training focused on drafting a charge sheet for torture, application of the trauma informed approach in investigation, documentation and prosecution, coping with vicarious trauma and understanding the provisions of the PPTA Cap.130.

This initiative signifies a crucial step forward in combating torture and promoting justice in the Karamoja sub-region. ACTV, in partnership with ODPPUGANDA and Uganda Police Force, are demonstrating a commitment to creating a more effective and compassionate justice system for torture survivors. The same training was also conducted the Greater Masaka targeting 10 police CID officers and 10 State prosecutors in March 2025 at Next Hotel.

During the training in Masaka, Deputy DPP George William Byansi emphasised the necessity of collaboration within situations like ACTV to improve the effective implementation of the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act,Cap.130.



A group photo of ACTV staff and the State Prosecutors from ODPPUGANDA and CID officers from Uganda Police after the training in Moroto District in Karamoja Region



A group photo of ACTV staff and the State Prosecutors from ODPP UGANDA and CID officers from Uganda Police after the training in the greater Masaka



Deputy DPP George William Byansi (Right), ACTV Program Manager(Left) handing in certificate of participation to one of the trained officer in Greater Masaka.

ACTV Celebrates International Women's Day: Accelerating Action, Discovering Purpose

March 7th, 2025 – In order to recognize the invaluable contributions of its female staff, ACTV commemorated the International Women's Day under the theme; "Accelerate Action" besides having a talk session on "How to live a purposeful life as a woman."

The event, held at ACTV's Head Office in Kampala shone a spotlight on the 28 women who contribute towards the organization's mission of advocating against Torture, Gender-Based Violence and Other forms of violence and provide holistic care to survivors.

Mrs. Komakech guided attendees on a journey of self-discovery, prompting reflection on fundamental questions: "Who are we? Where do we come from? Why are we here? What can we do? Where are we going?"



Ms Komakech during her session with ACTV ladies at the ACTV head office in Kampala



Group photo of ACTV ladies with Mrs Komakech after the session at ACTV head office in Kampala

Her presentation was more than just a series of questions; it was an invitation to delve into the core of one's existence, to understand one's purpose and potential. Mrs. Komakech also introduced the "6 F's," a framework designed to empower women to navigate their lives with intention and clarity. The impact of Mrs. Komakech's talk left the attendees with a renewed sense of purpose and a deeper understanding of their roles within ACTV and their communities.

This celebration was not just about acknowledging our work; it was about empowering us to live our lives with intention," shared one ACTV staff member. "Mrs. Komakech's words were a powerful reminder of the strength and resilience we possess as women."

Mrs. Komakech herself expressed her gratitude to ACTV management for creating a supportive and empowering environment for women. She praised the organization for providing a conducive workspace and for facilitating opportunities for personal and professional growth through events like this.



ACTV ladies from the Gulu office posing for a photo in celebration of international women's day

"ACTV's commitment to empowering women is truly commendable," she stated. "By providing a platform for women to explore their purpose and potential, ACTV is not only strengthening its organization but also contributing to the advancement of women in society."

The International Women's Day celebration served as a powerful reminder of the vital role women play in ACTV's mission and in the broader community. As ACTV continues to "Accelerate Action" in its fight against torture, it does so with the strength, dedication, and purpose of its remarkable female staff.

Strengthening Our Team: Research Training at ACTV



ACTV team during their search training facilitated by ACTV Research and Documentation officer at Arch Apartment in Kampala

On February 26th and 27th, we invested in our most valuable asset – our staff! We held a two-day training at Arch Apartment Hotel, focusing on equipping our team with essential research skills. This initiative, organized by our dedicated M&E department, aims at integrating research practices into our daily work, enhancing the quality of care and rehabilitation we provide to survivors of torture.

By strengthening our understanding of research methodologies, we are better positioned to document best practices and improve our services. We believe that a stronger team, creates stronger services



ACTV Research and Documentation officer presenting during the research training

Other trainings held for staff include;
Strengthening Our Team: Research Training at ACTV

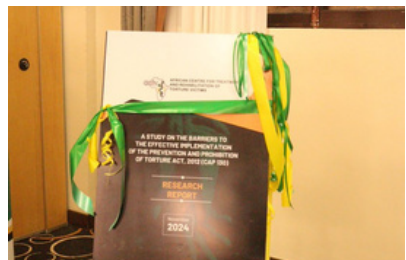


Report all the cases of torture and GBV to any near by Police station or reach out to us for support!

Snapshot of Quarter one events 2025



ACTV Q1 2025:
Advocacy & Workshop
Initiatives in Action



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JOIN OUR FUNDRAISING DRIVE

STATE OF THE ART



Imagine a community where survivors of torture find healing and support; join ACTV in building a rehabilitation home that will provide holistic care and restore dignity. Your donation will directly transform lives, offering hope where there was once only trauma.

DONATE VIA

Banking Details:

The Account Name: The African Centre for
Treatment and Rehabilitation Of Torture Victims
Bank Name: Standard Chartered Bank Uganda
Branch Name: Speke Road
Account Number: 0102814523000
Currency: UGX

Mobile Banking Details:

Airtel Pay:
Line: (+256) 0709763723
Name: African Centre for Treatment
and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims
Merchant Code: 4368027

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