



United Nations  
UGANDA

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**A Pocketbook for Police on  
BASIC HUMAN  
RIGHTS STANDARDS**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD	2
1.0 INTRODUCTION	4
2.0 WHAT A POLICE OFFICER NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS	6
3.0 WHAT A POLICE OFFICER NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT RIGHTS OF SUSPECTS	13
4.0 FREEDOM FROM TORTURE AND CRUEL, INHUMAN, DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT EXPLAINED	18
5.0 WHAT IS EXPECTED OF A POLICE OFFICER IN THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS	30
6.0 WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT UHRC	35

## FOREWORD

**T**HE Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) as the National Human Rights Institution has a very progressive partnership with the Uganda Police Force (UPF) dating from the late 90s. This is because we share the goal of safeguarding and ensuring respect for human dignity in all that we do. The UPF mandate of keeping law and order, protecting life and property, preventing and detecting crime, facilitating access to and delivery of justice keeps police officers in constant interaction with members of the public. This raises the potential for situations of human rights violations. Nonetheless, no matter how challenging their role might get, police officers have a constitutional obligation to respect and promote human rights.

Over the years we have built the capacity of Police to fulfil their mandate without violating the rights of the people they are meant to serve and protect. Several human rights training and awareness creation programmes have been implemented for the Police so that together we can prevent human rights violations. The fact that some of the violations occurred out of ignorance or due to inadequate awareness of the police officers about issues of human rights and the obligations to respect them

prompted the inclusion of a human rights module in the initial training of officers joining the force as well as refresher training for those in service. In 2009, in conjunction with UPF, we developed a Police Human Rights Training Manual to help build a force that complies with human rights standards provided for in the Constitution of Uganda and other instruments.

This pocketbook is drawn from that Manual to provide police officers with a handy, quick reference material that would be their constant companion as they do their work. Our aim is to equip the officers with a tool that consolidates the dos and don'ts of respect for human rights in police work, which they can easily refer to in order to fulfill their human rights obligations.

We are grateful to the United Nations in Uganda for the support towards production of this pocketbook. Our wish is that every police officer in Uganda gets and uses it so that we can improve the protection and promotion of human rights.



Med S.K. Kaggwa

Chairperson/Uganda Human Rights Commission

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Uganda has signed many international and regional treaties on human rights. These make it a requirement for Uganda to include human rights in the national laws. In line with this, Uganda has included human rights in the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995, as well as established institutions to protect and promote human rights, like the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) and the Uganda Police Force (UPF). The Constitution makes it an obligation for all organs, agencies of government, all security agencies, including police and all persons to respect, uphold and promote human rights.

The UHRC is mandated to, among other functions, implement programmes of continuous awareness creation on rights and responsibilities in order to enhance respect for human rights. In order to fulfill this mandate, the UHRC designs several programmes for various sections of people in Uganda. In view of this, UHRC has over the years been training members of security agencies, including UPF to enhance their capacity in the protection and promotion of human rights.

UHRC has since inception trained thousands of police officers in human rights. In addition, between

July 2011 and June 2012, the UHRC through its Gulu Regional Office trained 300 police officers in Acholi sub region under the Peace Building through Justice for all and Human Rights Project. Through such trainings and UHRC work in general, it has been established that the majority of the police officers deployed in Acholi Sub-region were Special Police Constables (SPCs) who had never been trained on the basic concept of human rights. Such inadequate knowledge is partly responsible for the violations of human rights by police officers.

In order to enhance the observance of human rights in the work of police, the Commission deemed it necessary to produce a user friendly pocket book that can be used as a quick reference for police officers. This pocket book should therefore be used by all police officers to enhance the protection and promotion of human rights in their work as required by the Constitution of Uganda, 1995.

This pocket book highlights what a police officer needs to know about human rights; the rights of suspects with particular focus on freedom from torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment; and what is expected of him or her in the protection and promotion of human rights. It concludes with basic information about UHRC.

## 2.0 WHAT A POLICE OFFICER NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS

### 2.1 What Human Rights are

- Human rights are entitlements people are born with. They are not given by the state, bought, earned or inherited.
- Human rights are protected by the law. This means that individuals or groups can claim them when they are interfered with or abused.
- Human rights are universal and non-discriminative. This means that they are for all people regardless of race, sex, religion, tribe, political belief, social or economic status.
- Human rights are inalienable. This means no one can separate or remove them from a human being.
- Human rights are indivisible. This means that all human rights are equally important and cannot be ranked.
- Human rights are interdependent and interrelated. This means all rights support each other for human dignity. The fulfillment of one right depends on the fulfillment of other rights.

Likewise, the violation of one right leads to the violation of the other rights.

- Human rights go hand in hand with duties and responsibilities.

## **2.2 The Laws that Protect and Promote Human Rights**

The protection and promotion of human rights is provided for in various international, regional and national laws as highlighted below:

- International laws like the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which is a cornerstone of all human rights standards.
- International treaties like the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).
- Regional Treaties like the African Charter on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR)
- National laws like the 1995 Constitution of Uganda, particularly Chapter 4 on human rights and fundamental freedoms.

- Other laws including the Police Act (2006) and Penal Code Act.

### **2.3 List of Human Rights as provided for in the Constitution of Uganda, 1995**

The Constitution under Chapter 4 provides for human rights and freedoms and some of these are:

- Equality and freedom from discrimination
- Right to life
- Right to personal liberty
- Freedom from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
- Freedom from slavery, servitude and forced labour
- Right to property
- Right to privacy of person, home and other property
- Right to fair hearing
- Freedom of conscience, expression, movement, religion, assembly and association
- Right to education
- Rights of the family e.g. the right of a man and

woman to marry and found a family

- Rights of women
- Rights of children
- Rights of persons with disability
- Rights of minorities
- Right to culture
- Right to vote
- Right to a clean and healthy environment
- Economic rights e.g. the right to work under safe and healthy conditions, the right to practise one's profession, the right to join a trade union and the right to maternity leave
- Right of access to information
- Right to just and fair treatment in administrative decisions
- Freedom to belong to a political organisation of one's choice
- Right to food
- Right to health

However, these are not the only existing rights, and the Constitution of Uganda duly recognises the additional rights that are not mentioned but

are in other human rights treaties, instruments and standards.

## **2.4 The duties and responsibilities of citizens**

Duties and responsibilities cannot be separated from human rights. In order to enjoy human rights, human beings have to fulfill specific duties and responsibilities that go hand in hand with the given right (s). The Constitution of Uganda in the National Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy No XXIX and other articles provide for duties and responsibilities. Citizens therefore have a duty to:

- Be patriotic and loyal to Uganda and to promote its well being
- Engage in gainful work
- Contribute to national development
- Contribute to the well being of the community
- Promote responsible parenthood
- Foster national unity and live in harmony with others
- Promote democracy and rule of law
- Know the provisions of the Constitution

- Respect the national anthem, flag, coat of arms and currency
- Respect the rights and freedoms of others
- Protect children and vulnerable persons
- Uphold and defend the Constitution and the law
- Protect and preserve public property
- Defend Uganda and render national service when necessary
- Pay taxes
- Register for electoral and other lawful purposes
- Cooperate with lawful agencies in the maintenance of law and order

## **2.5 Conditions under which human rights can be limited**

Although human rights are inborn, they can be limited under the law on the following grounds:

- To protect the human rights and freedoms of others
- Protect and safeguard public interest i.e. public order, public security, public health and public morality.

However, such limitations should be acceptable and obviously justifiable in a democratic society and should be necessary, proportional and provided for in the law.

## 2.6 Human rights which must not be limited

Despite the limitations mentioned above, the following rights and freedoms provided for in Article 44 of the Constitution of Uganda, **MUST** never be limited:

- 1) Freedom from torture and cruel, inhuman, degrading treatment or punishment;
- 2) Freedom from slavery or servitude;
- 3) The right to fair hearing; and
- 4) The right to an order of habeas corpus, which means a court order to produce a detained person before court.

### 3.0 WHAT A POLICE OFFICER NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT RIGHTS OF SUSPECTS

The Constitution of Uganda gives police officers the power to investigate, search, arrest and detain persons suspected to have committed or are planning to commit an offence. Such persons are referred to as suspects. Like any other human being, a suspect has rights and freedoms some of which may be legally limited because of his/her circumstances. As a matter of principle, every suspect **shall be presumed innocent** until proven guilty by a competent court or until the person pleads guilty before court.

#### *Rights of suspects on arrest*

- No one shall be subjected to arrest or detention without reasonable cause
- No one shall be deprived of his liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedures as are established by law
- On arrest, a person shall be informed immediately, in a language that he/she understands, of the reasons for the arrest and of his/her right to a lawyer of his/her choice
- A record of every arrest must be made in the lock up register and shall include:

- Particulars of the suspect
- the reason for the arrest;
- the time of the arrest;
- the time transferred to a place of custody;
- the time of appearance before a judicial authority;
- the identity of involved officers; and
- precise information on the place of custody;
- A record of the details of interrogation or statement must be on file.
- The suspect should be appropriately searched and all his/her property recorded on the official Attestation of Prisoner's Property (APP) form.

### ***Rights of suspects during detention***

A person arrested, restricted or detained shall:

- Be treated humanely and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human being
- Be informed of the reason for detention and any charges against him/her
- Be kept in humane facilities, designed to preserve health, and shall be provided with adequate food, water, shelter, clothing, medical services, items of personal hygiene and allowed to exercise

- Be accorded respect for his/her religious and moral beliefs
- Be kept in a place authorised by law
- Be informed of his/her right to free police bond
- If not earlier released, be taken to court as soon as possible but in any case not later than 48hours from the time of his/her arrest
- Have the right to appear before a judicial authority for the purpose of having the legality of his arrest or detention reviewed without delay, and shall be released if the detention is found to be unlawful
- Not be subjected whatsoever to any form of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
- Where necessary, be provided with an interpreter during interrogation
- Not be compelled to confess or to testify against him/herself
- Be allowed to request that the next of kin be informed of the restriction or detention as soon as is practicable
- Be allowed access to medical treatment including access to private medical treatment at his/her request and cost.

Where a person is restricted or detained, the next of kin, lawyer and personal doctor shall be allowed reasonable access to that person.

### ***Special considerations for specific categories of suspects***

#### **Women**

An arrested or detained woman shall:

- Not suffer discrimination, and shall be protected from all forms of violence or exploitation
- Be supervised and searched by female officers and staff
- Be detained separately from male detainees
- If pregnant or breastfeeding, be provided with special facilities in detention

#### **Children in conflict with the law (juvenile offenders)**

The minimum age of criminal responsibility shall be twelve years. The Police is empowered to dispose of cases at their discretion without recourse to formal court hearings and therefore detention of children shall be an extreme measure of last resort, and shall be for the shortest possible time.

While arresting a child, the police shall:

- As soon as possible after arrest, inform the child's parents or guardians and the Secretary

for Children's Affairs of the Local Government Council for the area in which the child resides, of the arrest.

Upon arrest of a child with or without a warrant and the child cannot immediately be taken to court, the police shall:

- Inquire into the case and if the case is not a serious one, release the child on bond on his or her own recognisance or on a recognisance entered into by the parent of the child

An arrested child shall:

- Under justifiable circumstances be cautioned and released
- Where release on bond is not granted, be detained in police custody for not more than 24 hours before being taken to court.
- Not be detained with an adult person
- If female, be under the care of a woman officer while in custody
- Receive visits and correspondence from family members
- Have his/her privacy respected. Complete and secure records about the child shall be maintained and kept confidential.

## 4.0 FREEDOM FROM TORTURE AND CRUEL, INHUMAN, DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT EXPLAINED

### 4.1 Understanding torture and cruel, inhuman, degrading treatment or punishment

Torture means any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purpose as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by, or at the instigation of, or with the consent or acquiescence of, a public official or other person acting in an official capacity.

In Uganda, the definition of torture has however been widened under the Prohibition and Prevention of Torture Act 2012 to include individuals and non state actors who shall be held individually responsible for acts of torture. Torture excludes pain or suffering arising from lawful punishments.

#### ***The meaning of cruel or inhuman treatment***

There is a close relationship between torture and acts that are regarded as cruel or inhuman. The main difference lies in the severity of the pain inflicted and the pertaining circumstances. Different

circumstances determine whether an act of cruel or inhuman treatment may amount to torture. Cruel or inhuman treatment includes acts which cause physical, emotional and mental pain or suffering to a person but which are less severe or intense than acts of torture. An example of cruel or inhuman treatment is corporal punishment.

### ***The meaning of degrading treatment or punishment***

Degrading treatment or punishment constitutes acts which cause a person to lose his/her dignity and self-respect or which are humiliating to the person. Examples of such acts include undressing a person in public; slapping or kicking or caning a person in front of his/her family or neighbors or friends; and forcing a person to eat or carry food which is a taboo to his/her cultural or religious beliefs.

## **4.2 The laws that protect freedom from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment**

### ***International Treaties***

The major international instruments that Uganda has ratified prohibit torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. These include: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Art 5), International Covenant on Civil and Political

Rights (Art 7), the Convention Against Torture, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Art 37), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Art.15), and the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

### ***Regional treaties***

At the level of the African continent, the major regional human rights instruments ratified by Uganda also prohibit torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. These include the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (Art.5) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (Art.16, 17).

### ***National laws***

Torture is specifically prohibited under Article **24** of the Constitution of Uganda which states that: *"No person shall be subjected to any form of torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."* Article **44** also makes the freedom from torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment non-derogable, which means it cannot be limited whatsoever. Security officers are obliged under Article **221** to observe and respect human rights and freedoms in the performance of their functions. Article 20(2) of the constitution also stipulates that *"The rights and freedoms of the individuals and groups .... shall be respected,*

*upheld and promoted by all organs and agencies of Government and by all persons”.*

The Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act passed by Parliament in April 2012, is the law that operationalises the constitutional provisions that prohibit torture. (Refer to section 4.7 of this pocketbook). The freedom from torture is also provided for under the Police Act which allows a Magistrate to order an investigation where a person alleges torture. Torture is also an offence under the Anti-terrorism Act 2002 with a penalty of up to five years imprisonment. The Penal Code Act also prohibits acts of torture which are criminalised as assault or causing grievous bodily harm.

The Prohibition of Genital Mutilation Act (2010) provides for the offence of female genital mutilation and aggravated female genital mutilation while the Domestic Violence Act (2010) also provides for the protection and relief of victims of domestic violence and the punishment for the persons responsible for the crime.

### **4.3 Likely situations where torture could occur**

- When carrying out arrest.
- When carrying out investigations.
- On the way to the police post / detach / unit / station

- During questioning / interrogation
- In custody / detention
- When suspects are taken out to work.
- During suspects' parade.

#### 4.4 Likely acts of torture

While doing their work, some police officers commit certain acts on suspects which amount to torture and these include:

- Rape and other forms of sexual abuse
- *Kandoya* – tying the suspect's arms at the back. In some cases, the suspect's feet have also been tied with the arms at the back.
- Forcefully removing finger nails, toe nails, teeth, eyes and hair.
- Water torture "liverpool" or forcing the suspect to lie down face up, mouth open, while the tap is turned on for water to gush into the mouth.
- Beating suspects, including under the feet with metal rods, batons, pistol fists, sticks with nails, and gun butts.
- Hitting pressure points like ankles, breasts and knee joints.
- Using death threats as well as threatening

language against the suspects. Such threats include putting the muzzle of a pistol or gun into the suspect's mouth, showing suspects fresh grave, dead bodies, infection with HIV, cocking the gun over the suspect's head, asking a suspect to lie down and shooting beside him/her.

- Putting the suspects in the back of the vehicle where the arresting officers sit on or step on them.
- Mutilating body parts, including private parts, fingers and toes.
- Blindfolding of suspects
- Hanging suspects upside down.
- Undressing suspects.
- Parading suspects before the media.
- Denying suspects food, water, medical care and medication.
- Sleep deprivation by subjecting suspects to blinding light, a lot of noise, constant monitoring and keeping them in wet cells.
- Forcing suspects to lie face down on sharp hardcore stones.
- Tying heavy objects on suspect's private parts.
- Subjecting suspects to electric shock, including

forcing them to urinate on live electric wires.

- Injecting suspects with unknown substances.
- Burning suspects with vehicle tyres, other rubber and plastic materials.
- Forcing suspects to watch others being tortured.
- Ordering attack on suspects by dogs
- Exposing suspects to attacks by crocodiles, snakes, and insects like wasps and red ants.
- Exposing suspects to extreme cold or heat such as keeping suspects in pits covered by heated iron sheets.
- Spitting or defecating or urinating on suspects.
- Subjecting subjects to toxic drugs and mind-altering substances.
- Handcuffing suspects for a long period of time sometimes in uncomfortable positions, even if kept in the cell, including handcuffing suspects who have hearing and speech disabilities because that cuts off their way of communication.
- Forcing suspects to carry faeces with bare hands.
- Solitary confinement and detention of suspects in extremely unhygienic conditions.

- Forcing suspects to box the concrete wall or floor with their bare knuckles otherwise referred to as *making chapatti*.

#### **4.5 Effects of torture**

##### ***Physical effects such as:***

- Injuries and severe pain
- Impotence
- Permanent and temporary disabilities.
- Epilepsy
- Death
- Chronic fatigue/ chronic tiredness
- Chronic pain syndromes

##### ***Psychological effects such as:***

- Mental illness and disability
- Trauma
- Low self-esteem
- Anxiety and poor sleep patterns
- Sexual malfunctioning
- Depression
- Loss of trust
- Fear

- Radicalisation where instead of deterring criminals it creates hard feelings and fanatics

### ***Socio-economic effects***

- Loss of livelihood
- Broken families
- Children dropping out of school
- Cycles of revenge and violence
- Loss of funds in tribunal compensation awards for violation of the freedom from torture, which funds government would have otherwise spent on development programmes

### **4.6 Common unacceptable excuses for torture**

According to the law, freedom from torture **cannot** be limited under any circumstances. Although some security agencies have tried to justify acts of torture, their justifications are unacceptable. Some of the excuses they give are:

- That torture provides the best solution in dealing with complicated situations such as the existence of serious crimes / difficult threats such as terrorism, rebellion, invasion and political sabotage.
- That torture yields information quickly and is an easy way out especially when there is pressure from superiors.

- That it breaks down diehards and/or hardcore criminals

It has been internationally acknowledged that torture does not yield benefits. Experience has shown that:

- Suspects can admit to anything, including creating stories to get temporary relief from torture;
- It is difficult to know whether a suspect has information or not, so innocent people could end up being tortured;
- Torture violates the principle of '**innocent until proven guilty**' which is provided for in the Constitution of Uganda;
- Torture is not useful as it is a human rights violation and is barbaric;
- Evidence obtained through torture is not acceptable in courts against the accused and on the contrary, it can be used to prosecute the torturer; and
- Even if torture was to be tolerated, experience has shown that it is never confined to serious crimes because suspects of petty offences and political opponents have also been tortured.

## 4.7 Highlights of the Prohibition and Prevention of Torture Act 2012

On the 26th of April 2012, Parliament passed the Prohibition and Prevention of Torture law. Below are some of the highlights of the law:

- The new law provides a wide definition of torture to include individual persons and non-state actors among those that can commit torture. (*Section 2*)
- It provides that individual persons and non-state actors shall be held individually responsible for acts of torture. (*Section 2*)
- Any information/evidence obtained by means of torture is inadmissible in court. However such evidence can be used against the alleged perpetrator of torture. (*Section 14&15*)
- Torture is an international crime. A person living in Uganda who has committed the act of torture elsewhere can be tried under this law.
- The law proposes a maximum sentence of 15 years imprisonment on conviction of the crime of torture and life imprisonment where there are serious circumstances. (*Section 5&6*)
- Perpetrators often find solace in the defense

of 'executing orders from above'. However, on superior responsibility, the law provides an exception to the principle of vicarious liability and makes the defense of '**orders from above**' inapplicable. The law makes supervisors whose juniors have committed the offence equally responsible if he/she knew or consciously disregarded information that the junior was torturing. (*Section 10*)

- A person in Uganda suspected of the crime of torture can be returned to a country where the crime was committed or to the trial court.
- A person accused of torture shall not be granted amnesty.

## **5.0 WHAT IS EXPECTED OF A POLICE OFFICER IN THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

### **5.1 Qualities and Functions of a police officer**

The Constitution of Uganda requires a member of the police force to be nationalistic, patriotic, professional, disciplined, competent and a productive citizen. The same Constitution requires a police officer to protect and promote human rights. Accordingly, the Constitution in Article 212 and the Police Act provide for the following functions.

- (1) To protect life and property
- (2) To preserve law and order
- (3) To prevent and detect crime
- (4) To cooperate with the civilian authority and other security organs established by the Constitution and with the population generally
- (5) To maintain security within Uganda

Besides the above functions, a police officer as a citizen of Uganda has the same duties stipulated in the Constitution of Uganda as explained in section 2.4.

## 5.2 Basic standard of behavior for a police officer

- **Honesty and integrity:** A police officer should conduct himself or herself in the most decent and dignified manner at all times as an example of orderliness. A police officer should be law abiding and should not indulge himself/herself in corruption but help to combat it.
- **Authority, respect and courtesy:** A police officer should act with a lot of self control, tolerance and respect human rights and dignity of all persons including persons with disability, diplomats and foreign nationals.
- **Equality and diversity:** A police officer should act with fairness and impartiality in all situations. He or she should treat humanely all persons including the vulnerable without discrimination or bias.
- **Use of force:** A police officer should only use force which is legal, necessary, proportionate and reasonable in all circumstances. He or she should provide to the superior a full account of the circumstances whenever force is used.
- **Orders and instructions:** A police officer should only give and carry out lawful orders and instructions as provided for within the policies, law and regulations.

- **Diligence:** A police officer should take maximum care in the exercise of his or her duties and responsibilities.
- **Confidentiality:** A police officer should deal with information in a professional manner, access, use or disclose it according to the law.
- **Fitness for duty:** A police officer should always be physically and mentally fit to properly carry out his or her duties and responsibilities.
- **Discipline:** A police officer should conduct himself/herself in a manner and behaviour that does not discredit the force or undermine public confidence in the police force.
- **Non partisanship:** A police officer should not publicly take part in partisan politics.
- **Gender sensitivity:** A police officer should be gender sensitive in the process of performing his or her duties

### 5.3 What a police officer should not do

- A police officer should not use his or her authority or office for undue gain
- A police officer should not arrest any person without reasonable cause
- A police officer should not confiscate any property unlawfully

- A police officer should not receive any undue benefit for services he or she provides by virtue of his or her employment
- A police officer should not torture or punish or treat suspects in a cruel, inhuman or degrading manner
- A police officer should not compromise law enforcement on account of relationship, patronage or any other influence.
- A police officer should not consume alcohol in a public place, while on duty, or in uniform or in possession of a weapon.
- A police officer should not release a detained suspect without authority
- A police officer should not behave in a cruel, disgraceful or indecent manner.

#### **5.4 Penalties for disciplinary offences**

The UPF has a disciplinary code of conduct which provides for among other things, penalties for disciplinary offences that breach the code of conduct, including:

- Dismissal from the police force
- Discharge from duty

- Demotion or reduction in rank
- Fine not exceeding one-third of the offender's salary
- Serious warning
- Stoppage or withholding of increment in salary
- Communal labour
- Confinement to residence or barracks
- Recovery of the cost or part of the cost for any loss or damage caused by default or negligence

## 6.0 WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT UHRC

The Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) was established in November 1996, to protect and promote human rights in Uganda. It was established and operationalised under the 1995 Constitution of Uganda and the UHRC Act respectively. UHRC's vision is of a society that respects human rights and fulfills civic obligations. Its mission is to protect and promote fundamental human rights and freedoms in Uganda for sustainable development.

### Functions of the UHRC

- To investigate complaints of alleged human rights violations whether on its own initiative or after receiving a complaint from a person or group of people.
- To visit jails, prisons and other places of detention to find out the conditions of the inmates and make recommendations for improvements;
- To increase respect for human rights through continuous research, education and information;
- To recommend to Parliament effective actions that can be taken to promote human rights;
- To educate or teach people about the Constitution
- To educate and encourage the public to defend

the Constitution at all times against all forms of abuses and violations;

- To teach people about human rights, their duties and responsibilities;
- To monitor how government is fulfilling its obligations under international treaties and conventions on human rights.

### **Powers of UHRC**

The Constitution gives the UHRC powers similar to those of the Court to:

- Issue summons or other orders requiring any person to appear before it or produce any document or record to aid its investigations;
  - Question any person about any matter it is investigating;
  - Require any person to give any information he or she knows about a matter under investigation; and
  - Commit persons for contempt of its orders
- If the Commission is satisfied that a human right or freedom has been violated, it may order:
- The release of a detained or restricted person;
  - Payment of compensation; or
  - Any other legal remedy or redress.

# UHRC FIELD OFFICES

## **Kaberamaido Field Office**

Township Road, Kaberamaido Town Council  
Next to St. Janani Luwum Church

## **Kapchorwa Field Office**

Plot 7 Nyerere Road, Kapchorwa  
P. O. Box 155 Kapchorwa

## **Kitgum Field Office**

Plot 117/119 Uhuru Drive, Kitgum  
Tel 0715137779

## **Kotido Field Office**

Napeyok Lane, Off Senior Quarters Road, Kotido  
Next to World Vision Offices

## **Lira Field Office**

Plot 12, Bua Atyeno Road, Junior Quarters  
Lira Municipality

## **Nakapiripirit Field Office**

Kololo House on Police Road  
Branching Off from Bridges Restaurant on Moroto Road

## **Pader Field Office**

Off E. Y. Komakech Road, Pader Town Council  
Opposite PACMECS Offices



# UHRC OFFICES

## Uganda Human Rights Commission Head Office

Plots 20/22/24 Buganda Road, Kampala  
P. O. Box 4929 Kampala Tel: 0414 348007/8  
Fax: 0414 2552261 E-mail: [uhrc@uhrc.ug](mailto:uhrc@uhrc.ug)  
Web site: [www.uhrc.ug](http://www.uhrc.ug)

### Arua Regional Office

Plot 70A Weather Head Lane Road, Arua  
P. O. Box 406 Arua  
Tel: 0476 420213  
Fax: 0476 420214  
E-mail: [uhrcarua@uhrc.ug](mailto:uhrcarua@uhrc.ug)

### Central Regional Office

Plot 98 Old Kiira Road,  
Nsimbiziwome Zone, Ntinda  
P.O. Box 4929 Kampala  
Tel: 0414 232190/271847  
E-mail: [uhrckampala@uhrc.ug](mailto:uhrckampala@uhrc.ug)

### Fort Portal Regional Office

Plot 3/5 Mugurusi Road, Fort Portal  
P. O. Box 960 Fort Portal  
Tel: 0483 423176  
Fax: 0483 422571  
E-mail: [uhrcfortportal@uhrc.ug](mailto:uhrcfortportal@uhrc.ug)

### Gulu Regional Office

Plot 25 Aswa Road, Gulu  
P. O. Box 728 Gulu  
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