

Uganda Sexual Violence Information

This guide purpose is to provide information on services, and resources available at the country level to support sexual violence survivors and to help focal points complete the country-specific information template to respond to sexual violence. By adding a guide dedicated to responding to sexual violence for each country, Crossroads reinforces its commitment to a survivor-centered approach by giving survivors control of the decision-making process following an incident of sexual violence.

Please contact your Volunteer Support Advisor, or someone you trust at Crossroads International to support you. We are here to offer you the accompaniment and support you need.

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Steps to take

STEPS	WHAT? WHERE? HOW?	Notes)
1	Your safety is a priority. Consider whether or not you are in a safe place? If you are not feeling safe, it is important to reach out to someone you trust at Crossroads for support. You do not have to go through this alone. Crossroads staff have received a base level of training to help you receive the support you need.	
2	If you choose to report the incident, the first step is to go to the nearest police station to report the assault/incident. After the complaint is submitted, you will be referred to a Police Doctor to have a Police Form 3 filled out. This also requires a medical examination. The Police Form 3 is used by police doctors to document physical or other injury. The form is divided into two sections - the first part is filled in by the police and includes basic details of the crime. The second part is filled in by the doctor who documents physical injuries observed on the survivor during examination. The medical examination is carried out either by police doctors or other authorized medical personnel who note down physical findings and draw conclusions on the type and classification of violence. It is important to note that the police doctor does not provide medical treatment, but only documents	Complete step 2 before step 3. (It is important to report first to police as the forms from the hospital can be rejected as being 'tampered with' if obtained before police recommendation)

	<p>the physical injuries in the Police Form 3. Once this is done, the police doctor then makes a referral to another clinic where you can receive further medical care. The medical fees paid to the police doctor do not include the cost of clinic treatment and medication.</p> <p>Note: Before filing a complaint at a Police Station and undergoing a medical examination, it is recommended to avoid activities which may damage evidence, such as bathing/showering, changing clothes, using the restroom, combing hair, and cleaning up.</p> <p>Note: Whenever possible, please have any witnesses to the incident accompany you to the police station as their statements (and appearance in court) can add strong merit to the case.</p> <p>Note: While the process is supposed to be free, in reality, you are advised to bring a small amount of money to facilitate costs associated with photocopying the Police Form 3, fuel to search for the perpetrator, the medical exam for Police Form 3. etc. in case requested (carry about 50,000 ugx).</p>	
3	<p>After filing a police report, you will be authorized to seek medical attention at either a health center, public hospital or private hospital to treat any possible injuries and to check for injuries you may not be able to see. You will also be able to request/receive necessary medications. Many public and private hospitals also have qualified nurses who may provide a base level of counselling on the traumatic event you have gone through.</p> <p>Uganda has three types of health facilities – first, health centers (with various grades. Grade III and IV are recommended in incidents of sexual violence as they have a greater capacity); second, hospitals (public hospitals, the most notable being Mulago Hospital in Kampala); and private hospitals (some of which are listed in the country safety and security guide).</p> <p>Private hospitals are more costly; however, they normally provide for a wider range of services and medication. Public health centers are supposed to be free, but due to a lack of resources, they often still cost money.</p> <p>Please also see Appendix 1 for a list of supporting organizations (including medical facilities) following an incident, especially for survivors in limited-resource situations.</p>	Step 2 mandatory to move on to step 3
4	<p>After medical tests and filing, you wait for a court schedule when you or your legal representative can appear before a local jurisdiction magistrate. The Police are to follow up with you for further steps on your case.</p> <p>There can be several constraints to the case making it to court, and as such, the assistance of civil society organizations or NGOs (such as FIDA-Uganda) can be helpful in knowing how to best ensure your case is properly handled and you receive the support you need. Legal assistance is also recommended to ensure any gaps in the current system for persecuting sexual violence offenders can be mitigated as much as possible.</p>	Note: Cases can take up to a year + for multiple court proceedings and require the survivor to be present.

	<p>Note: Cases can take up to a year + for multiple court proceedings. As such, the survivor would need to be available in country to appear for court. There are also transportation costs associated with travelling to court, as it is a capital offense, and as such, handled at the High Court of Uganda. This also leads to delays in processing. All witnesses (including police/doctors involved in your report), and actual witnesses to the event will also be required to attend court dates, which can be a limitation in funding is not offered to facilitate their transport.</p>	
5	<p>After such an event, it is important to seek emotional and psychological support when you are ready. For a list of resources where you can access psychological support, please see section 4. Please also know Crossroads staff and volunteers are available to help you identify and reach out to appropriate resources.</p>	

Medical services

Service	Detail (what tests or material is available)	Cost
1) A rape kit	<p>Rape kits are not readily available in Uganda. Forensic medical evidence is admitted to a case only through the Police Form 3, which is filled out when a survivor files a case at the police station; This form is issued only at police stations and can only be filled in my government approved medical personnel. For locations which have the capacity, DNA evidence is collected, however there is a lack of such services in Uganda.</p> <p>There is one DNA testing facility in Kampala that serves the entire country and one police forensic laboratory in Naguru, Kampala.</p> <p>Victims of sexual assault have in the past been able to obtain free clinical forensic services from Mulago Hospital. However, funding is no longer available, and in any event this hospital is only accessible to women within a radius of 20-30 km.</p> <p>Given these realities, you are advised to ask for a referral by Police when filing a case to find out where appropriate services may exist.</p>	<p>250,000 – 500,000 ugx (estimated given the cost of other forensic testing, though we were unable to access this information).</p>
2) Blood work	<p>Sexually transmitted infections (STIs): testing for STIs including syphilis & chlamydia are available. The cost ranges depending if the survivor is accessing a health clinic or hospital. Testing for gonorrhea and trichomoniasis is not always available but is more likely to be available in private hospitals.</p>	<p>10,000- 20,000 ugx/test</p>
	<p>HIV: Testing is available in almost all medical facilities in Kampala.</p>	<p>10,000 – 20,000 ugx</p>

	Rapid HIV tests can be ordered through online pharmacies through apps such as SafeBoda/Jumia Food (but are not reliable as a medical diagnosis).	
	Others: pregnancy tests are available (though usually tested through urine), as well as testing for Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C. Note: Urine pregnancy tests can be ordered through online pharmacies through apps such as SafeBoda/Jumia Food.	2,000 – 10,000 (pregnancy test), 10,000 – 20,000 ugx for Hepatitis B/C
3) Medications	PLAN B (emergency contraceptive): Plan B, emergency contraceptive, the ‘morning after pill’ is available in Uganda at most health centers and hospitals, and select (especially all large/major) dispensaries/pharmacies (without requiring a prescription). It is commonly known by a brand name called ‘Postinor’. It can usually be ordered through online pharmacies through apps such as SafeBoda/Jumia Food. <i>Treatment should be taken with 72 hours of the incident.</i>	6,000 - 12,000 ugx
	Antibiotics: Antibiotics treatment for STIs and other infections are readily available in health facilities; however, at times, the preferred anti-biotic that is used to treat infection in Canada may not be available, but a more generic alternative.	5,000 – 20,000 ugx/antibiotic prescribed
	Post-exposure for HIV: Post exposure for HIV is available from health center’s and hospitals, however, it does require a consultation/counselling with a medical professional. It cannot normally be bought over the counter at a dispensary/pharmacy. Treatment should be taken with 72 hours of the incident (but the sooner, the better).	100,000 ugx
	Others:	
4) Ultrasound (depending on the extent of injuries and type of trauma)	Available at all private hospitals and most health centers, especially health center’s grade III and IV.	30,000 – 50,000 ugx

You should also use this section to highlight important information such as:

What hospitals can administer rape kits	Police stations are intended to work with specialized medical professionals called ‘police surgeons’ – these professionals document evidence, including forensic evidence if the capacity exists. However, a kit to collect forensic evidence outside the process of reporting a case do not exist or were not found readily accessible during the research fort his template. As Crossroads will cover the cost of any forensic testing, it would be advised to ask the police during the time of filing your case where you can collect forensic medical evidence for the case, even if you incur a personal cost. They can direct you accordingly.
What will the hospital do with your information once you have given your statement and completed the tests?	After carrying out the tests, the results become evidence the victim can use in their case against the perpetrator. The hospital is supposed to give the results/information, in writing, to the survivor. The hospital is also supposed to keep the information from the tests confidential to be used for purposes intended by the survivor. The hospital does not have the authority to disclose the results from the tests to anyone except the survivor, the police, and the courts or legal representatives. The disclosure should for purposes of seeking justice. However, Ugandan laws and policies do not require that cases of sexual violence remain confidential within the investigatory process or court proceedings. As such, during these next steps, a survivor’s information is not well protected.
What is the age of consent?	18

Contact information for local survivor support NGOs

NGO name	Address	Contact Information	Services provided
FIDA Uganda	Plot 4 Robert Mugabe Road, off Chwa II Rd, Kampala	Head Office number – +256-414-530-848 Toll free Iganga – +256-800 -111-439 Toll free Lamwo – +256-800-111-438 Toll free Kampala: +256-800-111-511 fida@fidauganda.org https://fidauganda.org/	Legal counsel
ActionAid Uganda	P.O. Box 676, Kampala Plot 2514.2515 Ggaba Road	Tel: +256 (392) 220002/3 Info.uganda@actionaid.org www.actionaid.org/uganda	General International Development NGO

Hope after rape counselling centre	Plot 10, Badiru Road (off Hoima Road), Near Mosque, Nansana town Council.	+256 – 392945397 admin@hopeafterrape.com http://hopeafterrape.com/	Advocacy, Psycho-social support (counselling)
MIFUMI – UGANDA	PLOT 1, Masaba Road, P.O.Box 274, Tororo, Uganda PLOT 13, Martyrs’ Drive, Ntinda, P.O Box 7890, Kampala, Uganda	UGANDA Help line – 0800 200 250 MIFUMI Uganda +256 41 466 946 mimumfi@mimumfi.org https://mifumi.org/	Shelter/advice after domestic violence
Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP)	Plot 16, Tufnell Drive, Kamwokya. P.O Box 6770, Kampala, Uganda	+256 414 531249 info@cedovip.org https://www.cedovip.org/	Survivor support, advocacy, capacity building
Action for Development (ACFODE)	ACFODE HOUSE Plot 623/624, Dan Mulika Close – Bukoto	+256 39 3114890 info@acfode.or.ug https://www.acfode.or.ug	Women’s rights, prevention of GBV

Legal law enforcement/response

Note: Many definitions from the Penal Code Act are still in operationalization. However, progressive change has been seen in the more recent ‘Sexual Offenses Bill’ of 2019. These have not yet been approved as an Act, but are undergoing revisions. They are included in red text so as to alert survivor’s to follow up if the law has changed at the time of the incident.

Age of consent	18
Consent	Consent: Current law does not solidify an operational definition of consent. Ugandan law doesn’t address intimate-partner rape (marital rape or date rape) – these are not considered within the operational definition of the law. Under the Sexual Offenses Bill, 2019:

	<p>““consent” means the voluntary, specific, informed and unambiguous indication of a person's wish by which he or she, signifies agreement to performance of a sexual act;”</p> <p>“Notwithstanding that a person has consented to performing a sexual act with another, he or she may withdraw such consent at any time before or during the performance of the sexual act”</p>
Domestic violence / Intimate partner violence	<p>Domestic Violence is any act committed in the domestic sphere, which harms, injures, or endangers the health, safety, life, limb or well-being, whether mental or physical, of the victim. It includes sexual, emotional, verbal, psychological and economic abuse: harassment, harming, injury or endangering the victim with a view to coercing him or her [The Domestic Violence Act 2010].</p> <p>Note: “sexual abuse” includes any conduct of a sexual nature that abuses, humiliates, degrades or otherwise violates the dignity of another person.</p> <p>Note: marital rape remains a taboo subject within Ugandan societies and is not recognized directly in the law, making it nearly impossible to prosecute. In addition, the law does not specifically address acquaintance rape also known as “date rape.”</p>
Sexual harassment	<p>In accordance with the Penal Code, any person who intends to insult the modesty of any woman or girl, utters any word, makes any sound or gesture or exhibits any object, intending that such word or sound shall be heard, or that such gesture or object shall be seen by such woman or girl, or intrudes upon the privacy of such woman or girl, commits a misdemeanour and is liable to imprisonment for one year.</p> <p>The Employment (Sexual Harassment) Regulations 2012 prescribes that those who contravene the sexual harassment related provisions commit an offence and are liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding six currency points or imprisonment not exceeding three months or both.</p> <p>From the Sexual Offenses Bill, 2019: “Sexual Harassment. A person who- (a) makes direct or indirect sexual advances or requests whether verbal or written to; (b) displays sexually suggestive pictures, objects, written materials or sexually suggestive gestures to ; (c) engages in unwelcome touching, patting, pinching or any other unsolicited physical contact with; or (d) makes sexually oriented comments, jokes, obscene expressions or offensive flirtations with ; an employee, student, patient or other person under his or her authority knowing or having reason to believe that such conduct is not welcome or offensive, as a pre-condition for preferential treatment in employment, promotion, recommendation, academic progress, healing or other favour and that by its nature has a detrimental effect on that other person commits an offence and is liable on conviction, to a fine not exceeding two thousand currency points or to imprisonment not exceeding ten years or both.”</p>
Sexual Assault	According to the Penal Code, “sexual assault” includes-

	<p>(a) an indecent assault; (b) the non-accidental touching of the sexual organ of another; (c) the non-accidental touching of another with one’s sexual organ, or (d) the penetration of a body orifice of another for a sexual purpose. (3) A person does not consent to an act which if done without consent constitutes an assault under this section if- (a) the person’s consent was obtained by misrepresentation as to the character of the act or the identity of the person doing the act; (b) the person is below the age of fifteen years; or (c) the person’s understanding and knowledge are such that the person was incapable of giving consent. (4) In determining the sentence of a person convicted of an offence under this section the court shall take into account, among other things- (a) whether the person used or threatened to use violence in the course of or for the purpose or committing the offence; (b) whether there has been any penetration in terms of subsection (2)(d); or (c) any other aggravating circumstances.</p> <p>From the Sexual Offenses Bill, 2019: “Sexual assault. (1) A person who unlawfully- (a) touches the anus, breasts, penis, buttocks, thighs or vagina of another person; (b) exposes or displays his or her sexual organ to another person; (c) exposes or displays the sexual organ of another person. (d) utters any word, makes any sound or gesture or exhibits any object, intending that such word or sound shall be heard, or that such gesture or object shall be seen by another person; or (e) intrudes upon the privacy of a person, with intent to insult the modesty of that other person, commits an offence and is liable on conviction, to imprisonment for a term of one year or a fine of twenty four currency points or both.</p>
Sexual Violence	<p>Sexual violence is any act which violates the autonomy and bodily integrity of women and children <u>under the international criminal law</u> including but not limited to; rape, sexual assault, grievous bodily harm, mutilation of female reproductive organs among others. It can also be seen as a form of violence against women (and men, who can also be sexually harassed) and as discriminatory treatment. However, there is no legal definition within Uganda’s current legal framework.</p>
Rape	<p>In the modern court system, the definition of rape is established within the Ugandan Penal Code of 2007. According to the Penal Code amendments in Chapter 120, Section 123, rape is defined as “having unlawful carnal knowledge of a woman or girl, without her consent, or with her consent, if the consent is obtained by force or by means of threats or intimidation of any kind or by fear of bodily harm, or by means of false representation as to the nature of the act, or in the case of a married woman, by impersonating her husband.” (Penal Code, 2007).</p>

	<p>Unfortunately, the operational definitions of rape do not recognize sexual violence against men as a legitimate form of rape in Uganda.</p> <p>From the Sexual Offenses Bill, 2019: “Rape. (1) A person who performs a sexual act with another person- (a) without that other person's consent; or (b) incapable of consenting to the sexual act commits an offence and is liable on conviction, to imprisonment for life” (2) An assertion of having obtained consent of another person shall be negated where the alleged consent was obtained by- (a) threats; (b) duress; (c) undue influence (d) misrepresentation; or (c) intimidation of any kind. 2019 (3) In this section, a person is incapable of consenting to a sexual act if at the time of performance of the sexual act he or she was- (a) (b) (c) (b) (") (d) (e) (0 asleep; unconscious; in an altered state of consciousness due to the influence of medicine, drug, alcohol or substance that adversely affects his or her judgment; or (d) mentally impaired. (4)A person who attempts to perform a sexual act in circumstances referred to in sub section (1) commits an offence, and is liable on conviction, to imprisonment not exceeding eight years.</p>
<p>Sexual Exploitation</p>	<p>From the Sexual Offenses Bill, 2019: Sexual exploitation. (1) A person who- (a) causes, encourages, induces, entices, incites another person to be sexually exploited; or (b) controls any of the activities of another person to the effect that that person is sexually exploited; within or outside Uganda for gain for himself or herself or another person commits an offence and is liable on conviction, to imprisonment for a term offifteen years. (2) A victim of sexual exploitation shall not be penalized for practicing or engaging in acts constituting the sexual exploitation.</p>