



## THE HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE UGANDA (HRCU)

### TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE RESEARCH STUDY ON THE TEN (10) KEY CRITICAL HUMAN RIGHTS CHALLENGES FOR THE 11<sup>TH</sup> PARLIAMENT

*"The human Rights Center Uganda (HRCU) through its research and documentation focus areas seeks to contract a consultant to conduct research on the Ten Key/Critical Challenges to be addressed by the 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament during its tenure"*

#### BACKGROUND/ABOUT HRCU

The Human Rights Centre Uganda (HRCU) is a non-governmental and not for profit organization that was established in 2008 with the aim of contributing to a favourable working environment for the promotion and protection of the rights and work of human rights defenders (HRDs) in Uganda. Its vision is a society where every individual enjoys his/her universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms and has a mission to contribute to the promotion, protection and fulfillment of human rights, particularly the rights of human rights defenders. HRCU's key objectives include; strengthening the capacity of HRDS to do their work, enhance knowledge and awareness amongst key stake holders, contribute to a conducive policy, legal and institution framework for HRDS in Uganda and strengthen HRCU's capacity to effectively deliver its mandate.

HRCU's target groups include state and non-state human rights defenders such as police, Judicial Officers, Local Government leaders, Directorate of Public Prosecutions, Prison officers, leaders and representatives of civil society organizations, community based organizations, human rights defending groups within communities. HRCU works closely with strategic institutions like Uganda Human Rights commission, Parliament of Uganda and the Justice, Law and Order Sector (JLOS) that are directly charged with a mandate among which is to protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms.

HRCU conducts its work through four main focus areas namely *Capacity building* through which it enhances the knowledge of HRDs and empowers them with skills on different aspects of human rights promotion and protection such as personal and digital security and safety, Human Rights Based Approach to implementing laws, fundraising and resources mobilization, international, regional and national protection mechanisms/ human rights instruments; *Research and documentation* including annual reporting on the working environment of HRDs in Uganda; *Advocacy and networking* through creation of forums and platforms for HRDs to share information and lay practical strategies for improving their working environment and *Legal aid and referrals* for human rights defenders having legal questions and challenges in the course of their work. In order to effectively execute its mandate, HRCU has great consideration for organizational capacity and growth and in this regard, it ensures that its Board,



Management and staff regularly attend and participate in capacity development sessions aimed at equipping them with up-to-date knowledge relevant for their day to day implementation of activities within HRCU's mandate.

## **RATIONALE FOR THE RESEARCH/STUDY**

HRCU aims at promoting learning and networking for and amongst HRDS to address emerging issues and challenges in their working environment.

Parliament is one of the arms of government of Uganda. It is a constitutional body established under Article 77 of the constitution and among other functions, it is charged with ensuring that it applies human rights based approach to legislation on any matter for peace, order, development and good governance of the country. Through its collaboration and work with Parliament over the past years, HRCU has created platforms that promote learning and networking for HRDs to address emerging issues and challenges in their working environment.<sup>1</sup> HRCU is currently working with partner organizations such as National Coalition of HRDs in Uganda (NCHRDU), DefendDefenders and Defenders' Protection Initiative to advocate for a specific law for the protection of human rights defenders.

Given that Uganda has a new Parliament (11<sup>th</sup>), it becomes very relevant for HRCU to establish a cordial working relationship with it so as to advance the promotion and protection of the rights and work of human rights defenders in Uganda. In order to effectively do this, it is pertinent that HRCU understands the structure and operations as well as projecting into some of the challenges that the 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament is likely to be faced with. This study is thus commissioned at such a time as this in order to clearly understand some of these aspects.

## **PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH/STUDY**

To find out/understand the ten critical human rights challenges and other key emerging issues for the 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament of Uganda for the period of its tenure. The study is also intended to pick key recommendations to be implemented in the promotion of constitutionalism and good governance.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSULTANCY**

By contracting the Consultant, HRCU aims to:

- 1) Review/understand the ten critical human rights challenges and key emerging issues for the 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament to address during its tenure.
- 2) Pick key recommendations to inform advocacy initiatives to improve the performance of the 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament and strengthen the promotion, protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Uganda.

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<sup>1</sup> Since 2014, HRCU has organized and conducted 8 annual human rights defenders' forums and 10 regional human rights defenders' forums.



## SCOPE OF WORK

The study shall include organizing and conducting interviews with selected members of the 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament especially those on the Human Rights Committee and the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee to understand the key challenges they are likely to face during their five-year tenure.

The Consultant shall then prepare and present to HRCU the findings of the research/Study clearly indicating action points/recommendations for HRCU to work with the 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament to address advocate for improvement of the working environment of HRDs including Parliamentarians in Uganda.

## LOCATION OF THE RESEARCH

The study shall be conducted in Central region, Kampala District

## REPORTING

In the performance and conduct of this research/study, the Consultant shall report to Head of Programmes, HRCU or any other designated supervisor.

## QUALIFICATIONS AND COMPETENCES

### Academic

The Consultant should have relevant academic qualification in the field of Law, Human Rights, Peace and Justice, Constitutionalism and Governance, Political Science, Public Policy and Advocacy or such related fields. A Postgraduate or Masters qualification in any of the mentioned or related fields is an added advantage.

### Working experience

- A Minimum of Five (5) years' experience in research, data collection, and ability to demonstrate expertise in research, documentation and advocacy work in the field of human rights, constitutionalism,/legal advocacy.
- Experience carrying out research for Human Rights Not-for Profit Entities

### Competence

The Consultant should demonstrate expertise in research, documentation and advocacy work on key issues within the field of human rights with a bias in working with the institution of Parliament or other government ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs).

## DELIVERABLES

- Upon receipt of the Terms of Reference, the Consultant shall be required to submit to HRCU an Expression of Interest and Inception report highlighting the



methodology and tools that shall be used in conducting the research. The Consultant shall also submit a proposed budget for the consultancy. These shall be discussed and agreed upon between the Consultant and HRCU Management before the actual work commences.

- The inception report shall not exceed five (5) pages; Font size 12, Times New Roman; Single spacing).
- Where HRCU does not approve any of the above-mentioned deliverables it shall submit its comments to or share feedback with the Consultant who shall make the necessary adjustments and re-submit the relevant deliverables to HRCU for final approval and consideration.

### ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Consultant shall perform his/her/their work with all due diligence, efficiency and economy in accordance with appropriate professional standards. He/she/they shall be required to carry out the consultancy in person and no delegation or assignment to any other person shall be accepted.

In the performance of his/her/their work, the Consultant shall have ethical consideration for:

- Confidentiality
- Being non-partisan
- Commitment to the consultancy
- Proficiency

### DURATION OF ASSIGNMENT

- This Consultancy shall be executed within thirty (30) working days from the date of signing of the contract for the consultancy.
- Work shall be carried out through comprehensive research and shall be a one-off assignment to have the final research report.

Activity	Deliverables	Timeframe (working days)
Submission of Expression of Interest, Inception report and budget	Inception Report	1
Initial meeting with HRCU to discuss terms of reference and inception report	N/a	1 day
Conduct comprehensive research/interviews on the Ten Critical and Key emerging	N/a	20 working days



issues for the 11 <sup>th</sup> Parliament		
Compilation of findings from interviews and sharing draft report with HRCU	Research findings/report	4 days
Review of draft findings through validation meeting with selected key stakeholders/actors	N/a	1 days
Incorporation of comments and feedback and preparation of final report of the ten critical issues	Final document/report/findings of the Ten Critical issues	3 days

### Submission of application

Interested applicants wishing to carry out this assignment should submit their application and curriculum vitae to the Senior Human Resource and Administration Officer, HRCU - Ms. Stella Nalukwago via [snalukwago@hrcug.org](mailto:snalukwago@hrcug.org) or [info@hrcug.org](mailto:info@hrcug.org) before 5:00pm on **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021.**