

History of Street Law

Street Law derives its name from the English saying of "the man on the Street". The idea was conceived at George Town University in Washington DC, USA in 1972. It was born out of the need by academic staff in the University's Law School to give students practical legal skills in the course of their legal studies. The Law students accompanied by their Lecturers moved to Police Stations in Washington DC to provide legal aid to indigent juveniles arrested and detained.

They advised juvenile offenders on how to secure release, prepare their defense once charged in court, their right to bail and how to conduct themselves in court. The scheme was later enhanced by legal education to the public and to the students and teachers in schools. It became very popular, was adopted by other universities and later spread to various continents of the world.

The idea of Street Law was introduced to Uganda in 1993 by a three member visiting team of three people from the Street Law Inc. Their mission was initiating Street Law programme in Uganda. It was initially founded on a tripartite arrangement as a programme of The Association of Women Lawyers in Uganda (FIDA), Legal Aid Project of Uganda Law Society (LAP) and the Human Rights and Peace Center of the School of Law Makerere University. It has since mutated into an autonomous organisation, registering as a company limited by guarantee in Uganda with affiliation to the parent Street Law in the USA.

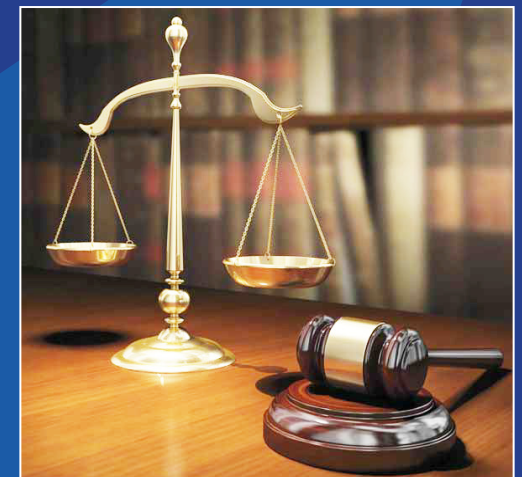
Street Law Uganda has been carrying out activities on human rights education in various districts, publication of human rights education and training as well as reading materials for the public and children; legal aid with the latest focus being legal representation for indigent pro-democracy activists benefitting more than 2,000 activists in the last four years. Others are strategic litigation and advocacy for policy and legal reforms, one of the kind was advocacy on the Public Order Management Law.



STREET LAW (UGANDA)

Contact Information

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Our Vision

A society where human rights and freedoms are enjoyed by all.

Our Mission

To address legal challenges of men, women, and children who are politically, socially and economically oppressed through legal representation, education and advocacy with the aim of promoting human rights, the rule of law and good governance in Uganda.

Purpose

To foster access to justice, respect for human rights, the rule of law and democracy in Uganda.

Organisational Values

- a. Fairness
- b. Non-discrimination
- c. Human dignity
- d. Transparency
- e. Accountability
- f. Sacrifice
- g. Objectivity

Programs Areas

1. Access to justice

- i. Civic and political activists
- ii. Land evictions and ethnic minorities
- iii. Juvenile justice

2. Advocacy for Human Rights and the Rule of Law

3. Institutional capacity strengthening and sustainability

Strategic Objectives

- SO 1: To increase access to justice for victims of political and economic repression
- SO 2: To promote and protect the rights of children in contact with the law including juveniles in conflict with the law
- SO 3: To enhance civic consciousness about human rights and the rule of law
- SO 4: To strengthen and sustain Street Law (Uganda) institutional capacity Street Law Strategies include the following:-

Foot Lawyering: reaching out and taking legal aid services to the ordinary person in the community or on the street wherever they will be and enhancing awareness on land rights, rights of children in conflict and in contact with the law and human rights and the law

Advocacy: engaging with the Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) to advocate for targeted reforms aimed at increasing access to justice and fostering equity and equality.

Research: evidence based research and studies in relevant focus areas to inform policy and law reform.

Community Empowerment: promoting rights enjoyment and democratic governance, citizens sensitised and mobilized to demand for these rights.

Networking and Partnership Building: building strategic partnerships, networking with likeminded organizations such as Human Rights, Network, LASPNET, FIDA, Human Rights Watch, Coalition for Human Rights Defenders, Law Society, Parliament and JLOS core institutions

Strategic litigation: Strategic and public interest litigation as a tool for advocacy on law, policy reform, rule of law and good governance.

Referral pathways: Referral of cases of human rights abuses beyond Street Law (Uganda) mandate to the respective

government and non-government institutions including among the Legal Aid Service Providers.

Publications: Development and dissemination of publications on children's rights, land rights of persons in distress and economic repression and human rights and the law including rights of an arrested person to be distributed to ordinary men and women at community level or on the street, workshop participants, juveniles in schools, students in institutions of higher learning, market places and other areas of citizen convergence.

Training: for law enforcement and government and private security agencies on human rights responsiveness in enforcement of law and order. Training of paralegals and community based human rights monitors.

Street Law Uganda Organogram

