



## SECTION II: MASTER'S STUDENTS' RESEARCH ABSTRACTS



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# **Assessment of the effectiveness of the Uganda Human Rights Commission in promoting human rights and human security in Uganda.**

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**Keywords:** *human rights, human Security, Uganda Human Rights Commission*

## **Introduction**

There is significant debate in the literature having to do with what constitutes human rights. At the most basic level, human rights are the rights one has simply because they are human (Donnelly 2008). Framed this way, the concept puts all individuals on equal footing: human rights are inalienable and universal. Accordingly, if one is a human being, one is entitled to human rights.


## **Objectives of the study**

The study set out to achieve the following objectives:

1. to assess how the Uganda Human Rights Commission implemented its core functions in the promotion of human rights and human security,
2. to assess the challenges limiting the Uganda Human Rights Commission's capacity in promoting human rights and human security,

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3. to examine the strategies implemented by the Uganda Human Rights Commission for the promotion of human rights and human security.

### **Methodology**


The study employed case study, mixed methods designs and used both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Data were collected on 100 respondents who were selected using the simple random and purposive sampling procedures. Self-administered questionnaires and interview guides were the main data collection instruments.

### **Key findings**

It can be concluded on the whole that promoting equal and effective access to justice to be at the forefront of promoting and ensuring human rights are not abused thus contributing to an environment where human rights needs can be met. This was indicated by 92.5% who agreed.

The findings revealed that the commission provides frameworks to address adequate, effective, and prompt reparation for harm suffered. This was indicated by 87.6% who disagreed. However, little had been achieved due to the challenges the commission faces in providing prompt reparation of harm.

The field findings revealed that the Commission should provide a comprehensive and contextual account of peoples' concrete needs and the factors endangering their survival. This was indicated by 67.6% who agreed. However, 31.1 % disagreed. It can be concluded on the



whole that the Commission should provide a comprehensive and contextual account of peoples' concrete needs and the factors endangering their survival.


The findings also revealed that the commission promotes access to relevant information concerning violations and reparation mechanisms.

The findings also reveal that in trying to promote human rights, the commission creates and sustains within society the awareness of the provisions of this constitution as the fundamental law of the people of Uganda.

It was also revealed that the commission formulates, implements, and oversee programmes for awareness of people's civic responsibilities as indicated by the majority of the respondents

### **Key recommendations**

Using a people-centred approach can go a long in enabling UHRC to involve other stakeholders that directly deal with the people at the grassroots to gain an opportunity for the organisations to perform some of their other functions like receiving complaints, giving legal advice and assistance, provide some complainants with information on the status of their complaints. Through this, UHRC will be able to monitor and get information on the situation of human rights and get feedback from the people on its human rights services. This would also provide an opportunity to assess the capacity and knowledge gaps of partners like police, CSOs, political and civic leaders



within a given community and this would inform UHRC's planning for further training and sensitisation. Through this, UHRC could also get pointers to critical thematic areas that could inform the process of selection of topics for formal researches to undertake on Human rights.

### **Key references**

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