

# UGANDA

## THE PROBLEM

### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Violence against women and children is one of the most pervasive and devastating crimes in our world today.

Unchecked, it has a disastrous impact on women's health and participation in society, social development of children, unity of families, social fabric of communities and the well-being of society as a whole. Fear of stigma, social pressure and lack of trust in justice service providers can prevent women and children from seeking protection from law enforcement, leaving violent men free to abuse until victims can trust the systems in their community to protect them.

IJM's teams in Uganda strengthen justice systems by working with police, courts and other local leaders to dramatically improve the justice system response to these crimes so women and children are safe. We also work to train communities on their rights and how to report crimes, elevating the voices of survivors to advocate for change in the justice system.

## THE FACTS



**Nearly 50% of Ugandans** agree that domestic violence against women is justified under certain circumstances.<sup>1</sup>

**More than half of ever-married** women have experienced some form of physical, sexual, or emotional violence from a partner.<sup>2</sup>

In Uganda, a woman loses an average of at least **11 paid work days a year** due to incidents of intimate partner violence.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Uganda Demographic Health Survey, 2018, <sup>2</sup>ibid, <sup>3</sup>Uganda SIGI

## IJM UGANDA, TRAINED GOVERNMENT AND PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS PROGRESS SINCE 2004



**2,350**

Victims of violence against women and children relieved



**123**

Criminals convicted for violence against women and children



**13,187**

Prosecutors, local leaders, and other community members trained



**“I believe in future there is going to be a time when men are no longer violent towards women because I noticed that these days, men actually are afraid to beat up their wives. I believe they’re afraid of the law...of what will happen to him should he try to be violent.”**

*FLORENCE, a survivor of domestic violence*

## Florence's Story

Florence grew up with her three sisters in Northern Uganda. As a child, her dream was to become a teacher. Sadly, during the violent Lord's Resistance Army conflict in Northern Uganda, Florence and her family had to relocate to a camp for safety. She was unable to continue her education.

When she returned from the camps, Florence was a widow and a single mother of three, earning an income by working in a market. Florence thought she had found a man who would love and care for her and her three children after her husband's death. Sadly, after one year he turned brutally violent, attacking her multiple times over the course of several days. Some members of the community even encouraged his actions. Atim, Florence's 5-year-old daughter, begged him to stop, afraid he would beat Florence to death.

“It really, really, really upset me,” Florence remembered. She fled to her aunt's house, where she suffered pain in her back, waist and chest from the beating. Eventually, Florence reported the abuse to authorities. The police worked with IJM to bring the case to court, where the perpetrator was sentenced to two years in prison.

Florence now says she is happier. “I have nothing to worry about. [The man] who was the source of my anguish is in jail. And right now, I am peaceful.”

Florence even has hope that across Uganda the day will come when women can live free from fear in their own homes. Florence continues to be ambitious in her own enterprises, making plans to raise animals and start a small trade so that she can make a good living and send her children to school.

## IJM UGANDA MILESTONES

**2004** – IJM Uganda opens first office in Kampala

**2012** – Launched a partnership with local authorities to end land theft in Mukono through collaborative casework and capacity building, and opened a second office in Northern Uganda

**2018** – 50% reduction in land theft in Mukono measured in an external evaluation

**2018** – IJM Uganda pilots work addressing domestic violence and sexual violence against children, expanding into Western Uganda

## CASEWORK SUBTYPES

**Sexual violence:** Women and children experience crimes like rape, sexual assault, molestation and other forms of sexual abuse.

**Land theft:** Powerful relatives or neighbors can steal a widow's meager property with violence or lies, leaving widows and orphans homeless.

**Domestic violence:** Women are particularly vulnerable to violent abuse by their spouses or partners.



PO Box 2227, Arlington, VA 22202  
T 703.465.5495  
F 703.465.5499

LEARN MORE: [IJM.ORG](https://www.ijm.org)

**INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION** is a global organization that protects people in poverty from violence.

All text and images (C) 2022 International Justice Mission. To protect IJM survivors, we have used pseudonyms, obscured some images and included photos that do not depict actual victims where appropriate. Consent gathered for all images.