

**THE CENTER FOR POLICY ANALYSIS
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**AN ANALYSIS OF THE SEXUAL OFFENCES BILL (2015);
A POSSIBLE END TO THE INCREASING SEXUAL OFFENSES IN UGANDA**

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ABSTRACT

If the Police crime reports since 2011 are anything to go by, there continues to be an increase of rape and defilement cases for women and girls in Uganda. Despite existing provisions on the law prohibiting the sexual offences, such as the provisions in the Penal code on assault, indecent assault, defilement, rape, attempted rape, etc. the number of sex related offences has continued to increase with rape and defilement featuring most prominently. Over 197 cases have been reported in the media between June and September 2013, and the annual Police crime report of 2011 shows that 7,690 cases of rape and defilement were reported, yet sexual violence remains the least reported crimes due to incidences of blaming victims and victimization of survivors.¹

The Sexual Offences Bill therefore seeks to serve the purpose of combating sexual violence and consolidating laws of sexual offences, providing for punishment of perpetrators of sexual offenses, providing for procedural and evidential requirements during trial of sexual offenses and other related matters. It also seeks to provide for procedural and evidentiary requirements during trial of sexual offences. The Bill if passed will fill in the gaps that exist in the current laws making the legal framework more adequate.²

The scars of sexual offenses victims continue to linger in our society; dictating how they are perceived by society and they in turn perceive society and relate with different groups of people. It is against this background that I commend the steps taken into trying to end such violence by proposing the Sexual Offenses Bill.

While the Sexual Offenses Bill is a much needed effort to having a codified law on sexual offences, care should be taken not to re-criminalize the offences whose relevance has been overtaken by the rapid developments in the human rights field and evidence of their unenforceability.

This paper is an analysis of the Bill as it stands while acknowledging the problems within, the challenges that might be ensued while enacting the law, recommendations and conclusions.

¹ http://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1332019/sexual-offences-key-sexual-violence

²

<http://voices.justiceandreconciliation.com/community-voices/2014/05/29/ugandas-national-legal-framework-on-sgbv/>

