

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT COALITION ADVOCACY PAYS OFF: CABINET APPROVES THE NATIONAL GENDER BASED VIOLENCE POLICY 2016

Cabinet approved the Elimination of Gender Based Violence (GBV) policy for Uganda in its Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 seating.

This was announced by the State Minister for Gender and Culture Hon. Peace Mutuzo on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 at Hotel Africana during the National dialogue on unifying action for medico-legal services for GBV survivors.

*"I celebrate with all of you today because the Cabinet Memo on the GBV policy was unanimously passed. Everyone in Cabinet poured their hearts out on the need for a policy" said Hon. Peace.*



In August 2015 The DVA coalition met with Hon. Muruli Mukasa the, then Minister for Gender Labor and Social Development.

This followed continued lobbying by the Domestic Violence Act Coalition over the years for Cabinet to have the policy passed to pave way for the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act 2010.

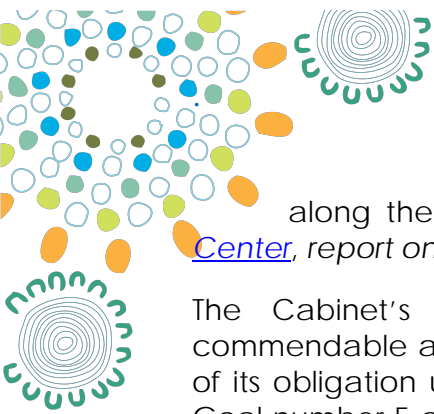
<http://www.cedovip.org/index.php/news-events/latest-news/85-ministry-of-gender-commits-to-have-the-national-gbv-policy-finalized-by-end-of-year>

*"As CEDOVIP we have been grappling with having government to allocate resources for the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act, but it has not been possible without the policy. We are glad that as promised in 2015 by the former Minister of Gender Labour and Social Development Hon Muruli Mukasa, Cabinet has*

The absence of a National GBV policy had become a barrier to addressing GBV in this country since funds could not be allocated for the implementation of the Domestic violence Act by the different key government sectors. The policy aims to align government's priorities with the real needs of the population, generate buy-in across government sectors, and make better use of all available resources. Having the GBV Policy passed therefore mandates that; government should allocate resources for the implementation of GBV laws including the Domestic violence Act 2010, Anti-Female Genital Mutilation Act 2010 and Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act 2009, sectors are now clear on their mandates, are able to plan for sector specific activities/outputs, set specific outcomes and allocate funds towards their implementation as mandated by the National Action Plan.

Since 2011 the approval for the GBV Policy had stalled but with continued lobbying by civil society and other development partners, enabled government to realize the enormous costs of domestic violence indicating that government loses over 77 billion Uganda shillings annually to address domestic violence (see *CEDOVIP report on Costing of Domestic Violence*) to the economy including the recent World Bank suspension of over 400 million dollar infrastructure development projects due to the incidents of GBV

Members of the DV Act Coalition: Action Aid Uganda (AAU) • Action for Development (ACFODE) Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development –ACORD • Akina Mama wa Afrika –AMWA • Anti Domestic Violence Coalition –ADVC • Association of women Lawyers in Uganda FIDA • Care Uganda • Center for Domestic Violence Prevention-CEDOVIP • Center for Women in Governance -CEWIGO • Health Rights Action Group –HAG • Kamwokya Christian Caring Community- KCCC • MIFUMI project • Muslim center for Justice and Law • National Association of Women in Uganda- NAWOU • National Bahai Committee for the Advancement of Women -The Baha'i Faith • National Union for Disabled People in Uganda- NUDIPU • OXFAM • Plan Uganda • Platform for Labour Action -PLA • Raising voices • School of Women and Gender Studies- MUK • The Association for Rehabilitation and Re-orientation of women for Development-TERREWODE • Uganda Women Parliamentary Association UWOPA • Uganda Women's Network –UWONET • Women of Uganda Network –WOUGNET•



along the new kamwenge road. (See *Joy for children and Bank Information Center*, report on impact of the road construction).

The Cabinet's action of passing the GBV Policy is commendable and a significant step towards the fulfillment of its obligation under the Sustainable Development Goals; Goal number 5 and 16 that aim to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls by:

- ending all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- Eliminating all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilations among others.

*"Since the passing of the Domestic Violence Act in 2010, the public has been asking why the law is not being implemented; the biggest hindrance was the absence of a GBV Policy. However, our hope is that the Policy does not stay on paper. We would love to see its implementation and as CEDOVIP we are committed to be part of that process", Tina Musuya -CEDOVIP ED.*

With the policy in place we therefore look forward to see;

- Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning to mobilize, allocate and release resources for GBV related activities
- Strengthened national co-coordinating mechanism by ministry of Gender, labor and social development with sufficient authority and budget to develop, implement and monitor actions to address violence against women/girls.
- Sector Ministries (Health, Local Government, JLOS and Police) to translate national GBV policy into sector specific strategies and activities on GBV concerns.
- All Stake holders to address the problem of Intimate Partner Violence and overall VAW/G through tackling the root cause of violence which is power imbalance between men and women.



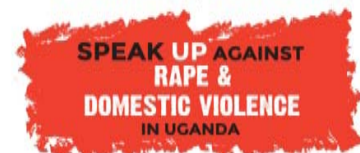
Domestic Violence Law: Keeping every Man Woman and Child In Uganda Safe at Home!

**LEARN** that cabinet ministers (2013/2015) committed to address **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE and RAPE**  
See Signatures Below



**UNITE** with other Ugandans to call on new cabinet ministers to pass the draft National Gender Based Violence Policy

**SUPPORT** budgets to implements the Domestic Violence Act,2010



Signatures by the (2013/2015) cabinet ministers (who committed to pass the GBV policy).



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