

IN HIGH GEAR: Preparations to Commemorate the International Human Rights Day (IHRD) 2020

1. Background:

Every 10th December, Uganda joins the rest of the world to commemorate the International Human Rights Day (IHRD) which is significant to all humanity because it is the day when the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted in 1948, by the UN General Assembly. This year, the Uganda Human Rights Commission, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Uganda and civil society organizations including; African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV), African Centre for Media Excellence (ACME), Human Rights Centre Uganda (HRCU), Chapter 4, Refugee Law Project (RLP) among others, will jointly celebrate this day to re-affirm their commitment to the respect, protection and promotion of human rights for all, in accordance with the Constitution of Uganda (1995) and other binding international human rights treaties and Conventions.

This commemoration will be based on the global theme which is ***“BUILDING BACK BETTER: Putting Human Rights at the Centre of the COVID-19 Recovery.”***

2.0 Proposed Activities

2.1 Joint press conference: to launch the commemoration week will be held on **Monday 7th December 2020** at UHRC Head office or hotel venue to be confirmed by one of the partners.

2.2 A Human Rights Essay Competition: aimed at engaging and encouraging independent thoughts, depth of knowledge, clear reasoning, critical analysis and persuasive style in presentation of issues on human rights.

- It will target students (youth) who will be required to elaborate on any article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to reflect on a wide range of emerging human rights issues in connection with covid-19 pandemic.
- Adverts calling for participation in the essay competition were published in the print media and the deadline for submission of Essay is December 1, 2020.
- Winners and runners up of the Human Rights Essay Competition will be announced and receive awards on the D-day at the Public Dialogue.

2.3 A Public Dialogue: This is the main commemoration event and will be held at Mystil Hotel or Hotel Africana – Kampala (A limited number of guests have been invited due to the need to observe COVID-19 SOPs, but the General Public is invited to participate online since the event will be live streamed on social media including Youtube and Zoom).

- The Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development Hon Frank Tumwebaze has been invited to officiate.
- The President of Uganda Law Society (ULS) has been invited to deliver a key note paper on the theme which will be discussed by panellists drawn from the Electoral Commission, PWDs, Police, another security organisation and UHRC.

- NTV will broadcast the event live on Thursday **10th December 2020**, starting at **2:00pm**.
- The theme/topic for the Public Dialogue is: ***“Promoting Human Rights and Accountability in the context of General Elections and COVID-19.”***

2.4 Media/publicity campaign using both conventional and social media platforms including:-

- Social media platforms (Face Book, Twitter, Instagram, WhatsApp, Websites etc) There are already existing hashtags ie#Buildbackbetter, #Ugandadecides and a more specific one for IHRD2020 to be created
- Live Radio talk shows on the theme in period preceding the D day, the D-day and after.
- Air radio spot messages on the theme in the period preceding the D Day
- Produce branded T-shirts with thematic messages for key participants of the online public dialogue
- Compile and air a televised 15 minute documentary on the human rights journey since the adoption of the UDHR in 1948
- Publish advertorials in the print media on the D Day
- Display branded Pull UP/Hang Up, tear drop and back drop banner at the joint press conference and public dialogue to enhance visibility and awareness of the theme