

The Role OF Human Rights Organisations in the Promotion and Protection of Women's Do,mestic Rights in Uganda: A case study of Uganda Human Rights Commission.

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# **DECLARATION**

I, Connie Rwankwene Nuwagaba, do declare that this dissertation is my original work and has
not been published or submitted for any other degree award to any other University before.
Signed
Date

#### **APPROVAL**

This is to certify that this dissertation entitled "THE ROLE OF HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS IN THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF WOMEN'S DOMESTIC RIGHTS IN UGANDA, A CASE STUDY OF UGANDA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION", was done under our supervision and is now ready for submission for examination with our approval for the award of the Masters Degree in Management Studies (Public Administration and Management) of Uganda Management Institute.

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# **DEDICATION**

This thesis is dedicated to my dear parents Mr. Sebastian Rwankwene & Mrs. Agnes Rwankwene, my brothers and sisters, for their encouragement and commitment socially, morally and financially throughout the course.

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#### List of abbreviations

CEDAW : Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women

HRW : Human Rights Watch

IPV : Intimate Partner Violence

NGO : Non Governmental Organisation

PRTCTNPR : Protection and promotion

UDHS : Uganda Demographic and Health Survey

UMI : Uganda Management Institute

UHRC : Uganda Human Rights Commission

WHO : World Health Organization

#### **Abstract**

The study sought to examine the role of human rights organizations in promotion and protection of women's domestic rights in Uganda with a case study of Uganda Human Rights Commission. Human rights organization role was the independent variable where as promotion and protection of women's domestic rights were the dependent variables. The study specifically examined human rights advocacy role, protection and remedial roles in promotion and protection of women's domestic rights. The study used cross sectional descriptive survey design where both qualitative and quantitative methods were employed. Data was collected from UHRC employees, women complainants, women activists and ordinary women from Rubaga and Central division, Kampala District.

From the findings, over all human rights advocacy role has a significant influence on the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights. Therefore creating awareness on human rights roles and making sure that the constitution of the country is functionalized as well laid out determines the manner in which women's domestic rights are promoted and protected in terms of having their rights to property, marriage and economic independence well respected. The protection role played by the Human Rights Commission has a significant influence on the manner in which women's domestic rights are promoted and protected. When cases are well inspected, assessed, investigated and facts established as they were, then women's domestic rights are largely protected from any one in intention to violate them. The remedial role the commission does in terms of deciding how the offended is compensated determines much of the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights since offenders are likely to fear if they learn of what one is likely to pay on violation of women's domestic rights.

It was therefore concluded that over all remedial role plays a significant function in promoting and protection of women's domestic rights since compensation is facilitated by this role. Specifically, human rights advocacy role greatly contributes to the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights as awareness created helps them to know where to go and what action to take. The protection roles help in the identifying, assessment and investigation of violations of domestic rights which helps to draw appropriate recommendations. The remedial role however is not very effective as the process takes too long to be effected. It was therefore recommended that more awareness on women's domestic rights is needed especially in rural areas, need to reduce on the procedures followed when handling women's domestic rights violations, need for a women's domestic rights violation desk to be established at the commission and smaller cases also need to be compensated.

#### **CHAPTER ONE**

#### **BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY**

#### 1.1 Introduction

The impetus to carry out this research arose from the perennial abuse of women's domestic rights. On a daily basis there are reports of cases of abuse of women's domestic rights in the form of domestic violence, despite the existence of various human rights organizations (World Health Organization, 2007) and in particular, Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) that is mandated to promote and protect human rights in Uganda.

The aim of this study was to examine the role of Uganda Human Rights Commission in promoting and protecting domestic rights of women. This chapter presents the background to the study; statement of the problem; purpose of the study; objectives of the study; research questions; hypotheses; conceptual framework; scope of the study; justification of the study, significance of the study and; definition of terms and concepts.

#### 1.2 Background of the study

#### 1.2.1 Historical background

On a global scale, at least one in three women is beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused by an intimate partner in the course of her lifetime (Heise et al, 2004). Women aged 15-44 are more at risk from rape and domestic violence than from cancer, motor accidents, war and malaria (Heise et al, 2004). Several global surveys suggest that half of all women who die from homicide are killed by their current or former husbands or partners (WHO, 2007; Jejeeboy, 1998; Kim, 1992). In Australia, Canada, Israel, South Africa and the United States, 40%-70% of female

murder victims were killed by their partners, according to the World Health Organization (WHO, 2007). In Colombia, one woman is reportedly killed by her partner or former partner every six days. Hundreds of women were abducted, raped and murdered in and around Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, over a 10-year period. It is estimated that, worldwide, one in five women will become a victim of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime. Violence against women during or after armed conflicts has been reported in every international or non-international war-zone. Between 250,000 and 500,000 women were raped during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda; between 20,000 and 50,000 women were raped during the conflict in Bosnia in the early 1990s (Ban Ki-moon, 2008) and all these indicate the violation of women's human rights.

The first attested use of the expression "domestic violence" in a modern context, meaning "spouse abuse, violence in the home" was in 1977 (Markowitz, 2000). Violence between spouses has long been considered a serious problem. The United States has a lengthy history of legal precedent condemning spousal abuse. In 1879, law scholar Nicholas St. John Green wrote, "The cases in the American courts are uniform against the right of the husband to use any physical chastisement, moderate or otherwise, toward the wife, for any purpose. Modern attention to domestic violence began in the women's movement of the 1970s, particularly within feminism and women's rights, as concern about wives being beaten by their husbands gained attention. Only since the late 1970s, and particularly in the masculinism and men's movements of the 1990s, has the problem of domestic violence against men gained any significant attention. Estimates show that 248 of every 1,000 females and 76 of every 1,000 males are victims of physical assault and/or rape committed by their spouses (Deal and Wampler, 2006).

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) set the stage for adoption of a wide range of specific instruments aimed at improving the position and rights of women on the international, regional and national levels. These include but not limited to, the Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and its Optional Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa and the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda. All these were initiated to address women's rights.

The global dimensions of violence against women are alarming, as highlighted by studies on its incidence and prevalence (Human Rights Watch, 2005). No society can claim to be free of such violence; the only variation is in the patterns and trends that exist in countries and regions. Specific groups of women are more vulnerable, including minority groups, indigenous and migrant women, refugee women and those in situations of armed conflict, women in institutions and detention, women with disabilities, female children, and elderly women. Therefore human rights organizations remain with a big task to ensure that women are protected from any form of violence (HRW, 2005).

The important and constructive role played by national institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular, in their advisory capacity to the competent authorities, their role in remedying human rights violations, is the dissemination of human rights information and education in human rights (Broomhall, 2003).

A recent review by Shongwe, (2009) in regard to domestic violence, of the seven sub-Saharan countries where the review was carried out showed that the percentage of women (15–49 years at the time of the survey) who had experienced physical violence (since age 15 years) was high,

and ranged from around one-quarter to one-third of women in Malawi, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe; by half of the women in Cameroon, Kenya, and Zambia; and by 60% of Ugandan women. Among ever-married women who had experienced physical violence, between 70–80% reported their husband as a perpetrator. Teachers were reported as perpetrators of violence among all women who had experienced physical violence from anyone since the age of 15 years: 26% in Kenya, 17% in Uganda, and 8% in Zambia and Zimbabwe (Shongwe, 2009).

#### 1.2.2 Theoretical background

In general terms, the study was guided by the Feminist theory which aims to understand gender inequality and focuses on gender politics, power relations and sexuality. Themes explored in feminist theory include discrimination, stereotyping, objectification (especially sexual objectification), oppression and patriarchy (Gilligan, 1977).

Although society on the whole, promotes its own social reproduction with nativity policies, in traditional society women, more than men, were expected to take on most of the responsibilities connected with social reproduction. These took the form of childbearing and attending to family needs and it's such that women domestic rights violations stemmed. Hence feminist theorists deciphered the basic paradox underlying women's condition in modern industrial societies. Although society promotes women's reproductive role full participation in the work force usually diminished a woman's ability to adequately care for families and children without substantive sacrifices of her own, particularly since the general structure of daily fulltime work in the twentieth century is largely modeled on men and not on women. Yet women, and not men, usually become or are expected to become the primary caretakers of their children. On the other hand, women's dedication to family, motherhood, and marriage usually diminished their ability

to remain independent, economically and otherwise, and to pursue meaningful professional choices of their own. (Adrienne, 1977).

#### 1.2.3 Conceptual background

Human rights are the "basic rights and freedoms to which all humans are entitled. They aim to identify the necessary positive and negative prerequisites for a "universal" minimal standard of justice, tolerance and human dignity that can be considered the public moral norms owed by and to individuals by the mere virtue of their humanity (Howard, 2006). Women's domestic rights refer to freedoms and entitlements of women and girls of all ages. These rights may or may not be institutionalized.

Domestic violence also known as domestic abuse, spousal abuse, child abuse or intimate partner violence (IPV), can be broadly defined as a pattern of abusive behaviors by one or both partners in an intimate relationship such as marriage, dating, family, friends or cohabitation. Intimate partner violence may consist of one or more forms, including emotional, psychological, physical, sexual, or economic abuse and is defined as one person in an intimate relationship using any means to control the other (Roxanne, 2010).

CEDAW (1995) defines Human Rights Organizations as organizations whose mandate is to guide the execution of activities in the promotion and protection of human rights.

Issues commonly associated with notions of women's rights include, though not limited to, the right: to bodily integrity and autonomy; to vote (suffrage); to hold public office; to work; to fair wages or equal pay; to own property; to education; to serve in the military or be conscripted; to enter into legal contracts; and to have marital, parental and religious rights. Women and their supporters have campaigned for the same rights as men (Alston, 1999).

As referred to earlier, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1948, enshrines "the equal rights of men and women", and addressed both the equality and equity issues. In 1979 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Described as an international bill of rights for women, it came into force on 3 September 1981. The United States is the only developed nation that has not ratified the CEDAW. The Convention defines discrimination against women in the following terms: Any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.

Violence against women and girls continues to be a global epidemic that kills, tortures, and maims physically, psychologically, sexually and economically. It is one of the most pervasive of human rights violations, denying women and girls' equality, security, dignity, self-worth, and their right to enjoy fundamental freedoms. Violence against women is present in every country, cutting across boundaries of culture, class, education, income, ethnicity and age. Even though most societies proscribe violence against women, the reality is that violations against women's human rights are often sanctioned under the garb of cultural practices and norms, or through misinterpretation of religious tenets. Moreover, when the violation takes place within the home, as is very often the case, the abuse is effectively condoned by the tacit silence and the passivity displayed by the state and the law-enforcing machinery (HRW, 2005).

#### 1.2.4 Contextual background

Human rights bodies play a central and strategic role in the development, observance and protection of human rights at international level. Their role is complementary to that of governments at domestic and regional levels to the extent that states have a responsibility to implement regional and international instruments. National institutions affirm the principle that while government bears the primary responsibility for the promotion and protection of human rights, all sectors of society must see it as their function to ensure that human rights are observed. Finally, national institutions are an important mechanism for ensuring accountability of government and civil society for the maintenance of human rights in society. (CEDAW, 2007)

According to a study conducted by researchers from the John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, approximately one in three women living in rural Uganda reported being physically threatened or assaulted by their current partner (Michael, 2004). The findings from the study suggest possible links between the risk of domestic violence and alcohol consumption and women's perceived risk of HIV of their male partner. Overall, the study found that 30 percent of women had experienced physical threats or abuse from their current partner and 20 percent reported experiencing violence during the year before the survey. Three of five women who reported physical threats or abuse experienced three or more specific acts of violence during the previous year. Nearly 50 percent reported receiving injuries as a result. Female to male domestic violence was less common. Five percent of the women said they had physically threatened or assaulted their male partners during the preceding year. All these assaults are never reported and for all those reported no effective action was taken (Michael, 2004). According to the 2006 Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS), 70% of women between 15-49 years of age

have suffered some form of physical violence (UBOS, 2006). The latest prevalence rate for domestic violence in a study by the Uganda Law Reform Commission (ULRC) as reported in the editorial of the Uganda weekly Observer of 31May-6 June 2007 is placed at 65%. According to the Domestic Violence Act 2009, now a law, the cases of death resulting from domestic violence rose from 137 in 2008 to 165 in 2009 (Domestic Violence Act,2009)

In Uganda, Human Rights Watch (HRW) is working with several local women's and human rights groups to hold the government accountable for its failure to prevent and remedy domestic violence, establish relevant medical protocols, and modify and transform harmful traditional practices. International human rights law has been a useful advocacy tool. By systematically failing to enact and enforce criminal laws and address violence against women in the home, the government in effect condones and endorses it. When government agents such as the police pay inadequate attention to domestic violence compared to other forms of violence, we argue that this violates provisions upholding the right to equal protection under the law and provides proof of tacit state complicity (HRW, 2005).

The UHRC serves to monitor and advance human rights in the country. It is an agency established under the 1995 Constitution Article 51 under the Bill of Rights found in Chapter four of the Constitution. It is based on the Paris Principles which are the guidelines for the establishment of National Human Rights Institutions (UNHRC Resolutions 1992/54 of 1992 and 48/134 of 1993). Its mandate, as spelled out in Article 52 of the Constitution, is to promote and protect human rights and to establish a continuing programme of research, education and information to enhance the respect for human rights, to create and sustain within society the awareness of the provisions of the constitution as the fundamental law of the people of Uganda,

to educate and encourage the public to defend the constitution at all times against all forms of abuse and violations and to formulate, implement and oversee programmes intended to inculcate in the citizens of Uganda awareness of their civic responsibilities and an appreciation of their rights and obligations as free people (Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995). Despite the above mandate of the UHRC, the role of the commission in the promotion and protection of women's rights in Uganda is not visible. In 2008, 890 complaints were received, of these, 566 were male, 316 female and 8 were institutions or other groups (UHRC 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Report, 2008). This would appear to be low compared to the widespread reports of domestic violence against women. Furthermore the Commission concentrates on individual and procedural rights leaving out structural problems of domestic violence against women which are fundamental. This study was cast against this background.

#### 1. 3 Background to the problem

Despite the existence of a significant number of human rights organizations in Uganda and UHRC as the lead agency, the domestic rights of women remain grossly violated (Domestic Violence Act, 2009). Over 40% of women are battered by their husbands, denied of the property when they loose husbands, suffer marital rape, do hard labor and are never allowed to work and have economic independence. For example in a survey of 5109 women of reproductive age in the Rakai District of Uganda, 30% of women had experienced physical threats or physical abuse from their current partner. Three of five women who reported recent physical threats or abuse reported three or more specific acts of violence during the preceding year, and just under a half reported injuries as a result (Michael et al, 2003). Some of these acts of violence against women go unnoticed and even when noticed, there is little intervention to rectify the situation and

women struggle to survive through this situation in the face of the UHRC. If the UHRC does not address the structural and procedural aspects of domestic violence against women, women will continue to suffer and this has serious implications to national development as women continue to be less productive as the result trauma from violated rights. This study therefore examined the role of Human rights organizations in the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights.

#### 1.4 Purpose of the study

The study sought to examine the role of human rights organizations in promoting and protecting domestic rights of women in Uganda with specific reference to Uganda Human Rights Commission.

#### 1.5 Objectives of the study

The following objectives guided the study;

- 1. Examine how the Human Rights Commission advocacy role influences the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights in Uganda.
- 2. Assess the contribution of the Human Rights Commission protection role towards the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights in Uganda.
- 3. Examine the extent to which Human Rights Commission remedial role impacts on the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights in Uganda.

#### 1.6 Research questions

The following questions were posed during the study;

1. How does the Human Rights Commission advocacy role influence the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights in Uganda?

- 2. How does the Human Rights Commission protection role contribute towards the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights in Uganda?
- 3. To what extent does the Human Rights Commission remedial role impact on the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights in Uganda?

#### 1.7 Hypotheses of the study

The research tested the following hypotheses;

- Human Rights Commission advocacy role significantly influences the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights in Uganda.
- 2. The Human Rights Commission protection role significantly contributes to the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights in Uganda
- 3. The Human Rights Commission remedial role has a significant impact on the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights in Uganda

#### 1.8 Conceptual framework

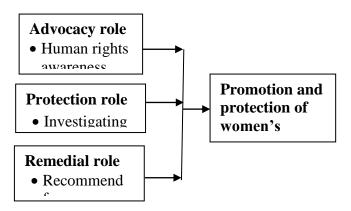
The conceptual framework presents the independent variable as human rights organizations' role and the dependent variable as the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights. The human rights organizations roles in which Uganda Human Rights Commission was considered a case, its conceptualized that these organizations perform advocacy roles where they are tasked to make people aware of their rights, make the constitution play its role in terms of encouraging people to use the constitution in order to exercise their rights at all times. The protection role ensures that all complaints are investigated and final verdict reached, assessment and inspection of cases of violation of women's domestic rights done and monitoring of the compliance of all

bodies on the available local and international conventions in a bid to protect women's domestic rights. The remedial role ensures that the verdict made is implemented in terms of compensation and ensuring further research. The manner in which all the above are done significantly determines the manner in which women's domestic rights are promoted and protected, in terms of their freedom to have property, conjugal rights, economic independence and right to leadership- right from their homes. However it's not only the roles of human rights organizations that affect the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights but there are other factors like insecurity and general economic situation that surrounds women among others.

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework of Human Rights Organisations' role in the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights

INDEPENDENT VARIABLE (IV)
HUMAN RIGHTS ORGNISATION ROLE

DEPENDENT VARIABLE (DV)
PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF
WOMEN'S DOMESTIC RIGHTS



**Source:** Adopted and modified from Donnelly (2003), Okin (1998) and Uganda Human Rights Commission 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Report (2008).

#### 1.9 Justification of the study

The study was justified by the fact that much as there are so many human rights bodies in Uganda, a lot of women continue to suffer in their families at the expense of inactive human rights policies and guiding principles. This comes amidst government efforts to ensure affirmative action where women must have equal rights with men. Women continue to cry foul because they can hardly speak out their problems or else they face great pressure from their husbands' family members and in extreme cases, divorce. Therefore there is great need to examine how the Human Rights Commission has contributed in promoting and protecting the domestic rights of women in Uganda. The study might help to draw attention to where weaknesses lie in protecting women's rights and draw conclusions that might help in the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights. If the contribution of the UHRC is not examined to establish its major challenges and appropriate recommendations made, women's domestic rights are likely to continue being grossly violated.

#### 1.10 Scope of the study

Geographically, the study was carried out in Kampala at the Head Office of Uganda Human Rights Commission on Buganda Road, its central region offices at Lubiri ring road Kibuye and Kampala District, Central Division. These offices were chosen because they handle most of the tasks related to women's domestic rights and they are accessible to the researcher in the process of research. A significant number of complaints are handled in these offices and therefore they are appropriate to provide all the required information.

Conceptually, the study looked at the role of human rights organizations as the independent variable and promotion and protection of women's domestic rights as dependent variable. Hence the study was confined to the study objectives.

The study covered the period from 1995 when the UHRC was established to date.

### 1.11 Significance of the study

The results of this study are expected to be of value to the following:

**Women:** The findings of the study are likely to enlighten women on how human rights bodies are supposed to protect them on various aspects regarding their domestic rights.

**Human rights promoters:** The information gathered in this study could be utilized by human rights promoters to know where the major weaknesses lie in promoting women's domestic rights and endeavor to suggest the way forward. This could be done basing on the recommendations that have been made and if implemented, this would help enhance the performance of human rights organizations in Uganda in promoting and protecting women's domestic rights.

Policy makers at UHRC: As individuals charged with formulating policies, their understanding of the role of having functioning human rights bodies remains a key task to them in order to improve the performance of human rights bodies that are addressing the problems of women. Therefore, findings from this study may help them in formulation of better policies. The policy makers may review their decisions on how best they can involve necessary bodies in the struggle to improve women's rights.

**Researchers:** The issues raised in this study are likely to lead to the involvement of various researchers in generating more knowledge from various perspectives. The findings of this study could form a basis for further research to those interested in finding more on human rights organizations and how they protect women's domestic rights.

**Researcher student:** The study will act as contribution to getting the masters degree and help the researcher understand deeply the major aspects of human rights bodies in protecting domestic rights of women and will suggest appropriate possible recommendations and in the long run the researcher could be consulted on this issue.

#### 1.12 Definition of Key Terms

**Human rights organization roles**: obligations undertaken by human rights organizations in ensuring that woman's domestic rights are promoted and protected among all stakeholders that ensure their fuctionalisation and practice.

**Advocacy Role**: An obligation assumed by human rights organizations in ensuring that all people in communities are fully aware of women's domestic rights and can be tasked to practice them.

**Protection role:** Task undertaken by human rights organizations to investigate and follow up all domestic rights violations on behalf of victims and other stakeholders.

**Promotion of women's domestic rights:** ensuring that women's domestic rights are fully acknowledged and respected among all people, institutions as well as communities.

**Remedial role:** An obligation undertaken by human rights organizations to ensure that all investigations are thoroughly done in each case or violation and recommendations are implemented to bring the perpetuators to justice.

## 1.13 Chapter Summary

Historically women's domestic rights have always been violated inform of marital rape, hard labor and denial of property ownership. Most of these used to go unreported even after adoption of various legislations regarding rights of women both at International and National levels. However, National Human Rights Institutions remain with a big role to play to ensure that women's domestic rights are promoted and protected in terms of enhancing capacity to report and seek legal redress.

#### **CHAPTER TWO**

#### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the review of literature related to the topic of study. The purpose of the review was to examine how the human rights advocacy role, protection and remedial role influence the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights. From the perspective of women's rights a lot of scholarly work is available. However, there is little that has been done specifically on Human Rights Commissions in general and none on Uganda. The literature was sourced from easily accessible libraries in Uganda such as Uganda Management Institute, UHRC, Makerere and the internet. For ease of presentation the review was structured into two sections one reflecting the study objectives and the other theoretical review.

#### 2.2 Theoretical review

The study was guided by the Feminist theory which aims to understand gender inequality and focuses on gender politics, power relations and sexuality. While providing a critique of these social and political relations, much of feminist theory focuses on the promotion of women's rights and interests. Themes explored in feminist theory include discrimination, stereotyping, objectification (especially sexual objectification), oppression and patriarchy (Gilligan, 1977).

The relationship between men and feminism has been complex (Kimmel, 1993). Men have taken part in significant responses to feminism in each 'wave' of the movement and have engaged with feminism. Philosopher Jeremy Bentham demanded equal rights for women in the eighteenth century. There have been positive and negative reactions and responses, depending on the individual man and the social context of the time. These responses have varied from pro-

feminism to masculinism to anti-feminism (Kimmel, 1993). In the twenty-first century new reactions to feminist ideologies have emerged including a generation of male scholars involved in gender studies, and also men's rights activists who promote male equality including equal treatment in family, divorce and anti-discrimination law (Kimmel, 1993).

Feminist theory aims to understand the nature of gender inequality. It examines women's social roles and lived experience. While generally providing a critique of social relations, much of feminist theory also focuses on analyzing gender inequality and the promotion of women's rights, interests, and issues. Violation of women's domestic rights starts when the issue of gender inequality refers to the obvious or hidden disparity between individuals due to gender. Gender systems are often dichotomous and hierarchical; binary gender systems may reflect onto the inequalities that manifest in numerous dimensions of daily life.

In this theory, cultural stereotypes are engrained in both men and women and these stereotypes are a possible explanation for gender inequality and the resulting gendered wage disparity which brings about domestic violation and violation of others rights. Women have traditionally been viewed as being caring and nurturing and are designated to occupations which require such skills. While these skills are culturally valued, they were typically associated with domesticity, so occupations requiring these same skills are not economically valued. Men have traditionally been viewed as the breadwinner or the worker, so jobs held by men have been historically economically valued and occupations predominated by men continue to be economically valued and pay higher wages.

Discrimination takes place as men and women are subject to prejudicial treatment on the basis of gender alone. Although this is the result of a more positive stereotype of women, this still contributes to gender inequality as this stereotype is only applied to women who conform to the caring or nurturing stereotypes, with the remaining women still being discriminated against as they are not viewed in this positive light. Also, this form of sexism has negative effects as well, as these notions of women include the idea that women are weak and in need of the protection of men.

Women's rights are entitlements and freedoms claimed for women and girls of all ages in many societies. In some places these rights are institutionalized or supported by law, local custom, and behavior, whereas in others they may be ignored or suppressed. They differ from broader notions of human rights through claims of an inherent historical and traditional bias against the exercise of rights by women and girls in favor of men and boys. Issues commonly associated with notions of women's rights include, though are not limited to, the right: to bodily integrity and autonomy; to vote (suffrage); to hold public office; to work; to fair wages or equal pay; to own property; to education; to serve in the military or be conscripted; to enter into legal contracts; and to have marital, parental and religious rights.

# 2.3 Influence of Human Rights Organisations' advocacy role on the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights

Human rights organizations remain with a big task to advocate for protection and promotion of women's domestic rights. It's assumed that at least each woman in every family has ever experienced a violation. According to the United Nations Declaration of the Elimination of Violence against Women, domestic violence against women is any physical, sexual or psychological act of violence occurring within a family. More specifically this encompasses battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, rape within

marriage, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women (García-Moreno et al. 2005). Therefore in what ever form women it exists in every family and therefore human rights advocacies must put more effort to ensure that at what ever level women's domestic rights are protected and perpetuators brought to book.

The dynamic and structural setting of different communities, calls for various ways human rights bodies are supposed to advocate for the promotion and protection of women's rights. It is increasingly being accepted that human rights can be experienced differently as a result of differing socioeconomic context in which the individual lives. Thus, specific categories of people, including women, persons with disabilities, and indigenous persons have sought to articulate how their circumstances influence their enjoyment of human rights. The reality of their circumstances must be acknowledged, understood and then be the basis of human rights policy and practice if human rights are to be truly functional. (Commission on Human Rights, resolution 1996). Therefore an effective role in promotion and protection of women's domestic rights is more articulated when intervening organizations take effort to understand the dynamics of the community in terms of social economic perspectives into which the community operates and its from this that effective strategies are developed.

Effective advocacy efforts are only made on understanding various gender streamlines that exist in various societies. Various nations have various cultures which define practices in each society; therefore if one does not study such cultures, what a woman rights activist may call a violation could be seen as norm by cultural members hence failed implementation of the program. It is within this context that the discourse of gender integration in the work of human rights mechanisms of the United Nations has to be placed. It is a call for recognition and understanding

of the social construction of gender roles, relationships and status as a fundamental factor in shaping the reality of women and men around the world. That reality includes our perceptions, including our understanding of the purpose of human rights principles and law. Gender determines the general and/or specific manner and circumstances in which women and men experience the enjoyment or violations of fundamental human rights. As one author put it, "Feminist analysis begins with the recognition that each of us views societal concepts and institutions from a different lens depending on our consciousness and our place in society."(Charlotte Bunch, 1998, 41)

Creating awareness among the population remains one of the advocacy roles that human rights bodies must ensure such that, the population know the importance of various aspects like education. The basis of the differential treatment of women may be a perceived need to protect women, or an assumption that women's gender roles make the differentiation justified. For instance, in many African and Asian countries girls and women are discriminated against in matters of access to education. The reasoning is that women are made for marriage and one does not need an education for the purpose. It is also assumed that girls and women will be maintained by a husband or a male relative. Other often cited reasons for discrimination include the fact that a man is the head of a family a fact used to justify discrimination in employment, in decision-making and in allocation of land, among others (Heise et al, 2004).

In so many countries, efforts have been made to establish mechanisms responsible for promoting women's human rights, to raise awareness and build capacity in regard to women's domestic rights, and to strengthen collaboration with non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders. Despite these developments, much more needs to be done to ensure the full and

equal enjoyment by all women of all human rights, as called for by the Beijing Platform for Action and other international legal and policy instruments (Heise et al, 1999).

As the result of poor or no awareness created on women's domestic rights, women continue to suffer in silence and ignorance. Throughout sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean, and South America, domestic violence is a pervasive problem that goes unreported and unpunished. An Amnesty International Report (2005), revealed that one out of three women in Nigeria had experienced physical, sexual or physiological violence in the family and 8 out of 10 women were not likely to report their case to a relevant body simply because they did not know where it was, did not know the charge to be reported and also feared stigmatization from family members. Even more alarming, women are more likely to be abused or murdered at the hands of intimate partners than by anyone else. Tragically, one woman is reportedly killed by her partner or former partner every six days in Colombia, and every six hours in South Africa (Krug et al, 2002). This leaves the human rights bodies with a very huge role of putting means to ensure that women's rights are made known to every one and all stakeholders.

Despite the existence of human rights organizations to protect women domestic rights, women continue to suffer the pervasiveness of the violence and its devastating consequences. For example, 95 percent of rural domestic violence cases are unreported, according to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). But even though so many incidents are never discussed, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) states that more than 50 percent of women in Tanzania and more than 71 percent in rural Ethiopia reported intimate partner violence. Even when these reports do come to light, effective prosecution is rare: according to USAID, the average rate of convictions in South African sexual assault court is 5

percent (Abuntu, 2007). Therefore owing to this analysis across civil society organizations, human rights organisations remain with a big task to execute in order to enforce awareness among women of their rights and ensure that when such cases are reported justice is dully enforced.

As a matter of principle human rights organizations must work with and in line with the guiding principles of the international human rights agencies. The advocacy component in this remains one of the key aspects that must be respected as it breeds into other steps that guarantee promotion and protection of rights at all levels. Although international instruments have only more recently recognized domestic violence as a human rights issue, the rights violated by domestic violence include core fundamental rights that are protected under international law, such as the right to life and to bodily integrity. One of the most significant obstacles to the recognition of domestic violence as a human rights violation was the belief that international human rights law did not apply to "private" harm. Under a traditional view of international law, human rights norms governed the conduct of States, and States were responsible only for the violations they perpetrated. Domestic abuse, in turn, has historically been viewed as a "private" issue. This kind of violence, occurring within the home in the context of an intimate relationship, was seen as outside the purview of State responsibility. Over time, however, the prevailing understandings of both domestic violence and State responsibility have changed. Domestic violence was viewed as less and less of a "private" issue and more as a legitimate and pressing concern of communities and governments alike (Carrin & Anne-Laurence, 2009). This form of thinking still prevail among people even those in the policy making positions that would have influenced the decision making channels to enforce more effective procedures for enhanced respect for women's domestic rights.

Human rights organizations role in promotion and protection of women's domestic rights does not start at advocacy and implementation levels but involvement in drafting the various instruments for enforcing human rights. The drafters of such legislation see the ombudsman as not just as a means of redress by citizens who feel mistreated by bureaucracy, but as an active promoter of human rights, raising awareness and educating the public. For example in order to ensure its function of promoting human rights awareness, the Nigerian law contains provisions for the ombudsman's collaboration with NGOs (CAPP, 2000).

Human rights NGOs have made significant progress in the area of human rights education particularly women's domestic rights and enlightenment in most countries especially developing nations partly because of women emancipation activists. As part of their human rights education programmes, many organizations organize workshops, seminars and conferences on human rights issues. Some organizations publish comprehensive annual reports on the state of human rights in their respective countries. These annual reports have become important benchmarks for evaluating the human rights conditions across nations. Some other organizations publish specialized reports, journals, magazines and newsletters on human rights issues. Others have produced radio programmes to educate the public and promote awareness on human rights issues (Shivji, 2009).

# 2.4 The contribution of the Human Rights Organisations' protection role towards the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights

The protection role largely lies in the legislative arms of government, which only delegates other bodies to work on their behalf. Assessing the functionality of laws that protect women from in humane acts like female genital mutilation which is practically an inhuman practice needs to be regulated by government. Genital mutilation reflects a stereotypical perception that woman, may legitimately be exposed to non-therapeutic surgery in order to comply with the gender-specific norms of their community. Also while the sexes may rank equally as initiators of unchastity and adulterers may be equally condemned, loss of virginity is a greater stigma and barrier to marriage in women than in men, and men bear no health risks for premarital preservation of their virginity. Therefore existence of protective human rights codes protects women from such and removes the stereo type aspect (Garcia-Moreno, 1999).

To protect women's domestic rights, organizations spearheading the cause must align themselves to the national and international set regulations and guidelines in regard to protection of women's domestic rights. Many countries have ratified international treaties prohibiting domestic violence. In the past decades, African nations have agreed to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women of 1979, the Dakar declaration (The African Platform for Action of 1995) and 2005 African Union protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, treaties condemning gender-based violence. However most of these organizations rarely do the protection role as it's taken as police work than human rights organization task.

In protection of women against domestic violence or any other form of violence, rape remains one of the offences that is difficult to handle in terms of gathering evidence proving that the offence actually happened save for embarrassment and stigmatization that a victim faces. It is estimated that worldwide, one in five women will become a victim of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime. In a randomly selected study of nearly 1,200 ninth-grade students in Geneva, Switzerland, 20 percent of girls revealed they had experienced at least one incident of physical sexual abuse. According to the 2005 multi-country study on domestic violence undertaken by the WHO, between 10 and 12 percent of women in Peru, Samoa and Tanzania have suffered sexual violence by non-partners after the age of 15. Other population-based studies reveal that 11.6 percent of women in Canada reported sexual violence by a non-partner in their lifetime, and between 10 and 20 percent of women in New Zealand and Australia have experienced various forms of sexual violence from non-partners, including unwanted sexual touching, attempted rape and rape (Watts, 2008).

Protection of women's domestic rights is largely sabotaged by harmful traditional practices. These are forms of violence that have been committed against women in certain communities and societies for so long that they are considered part of accepted cultural practice. These violations include female genital mutilation or cutting (FGM), dowry murder, so-called "honour killings," and early marriage. They lead to death, disability, physical and psychological harm for millions of women annually (Yakin Ertürk, 2006). To these cultures, it is seen this as a dominion of humanity than a violation of human rights, traditional leaders who hold a lot of influence in community continue to advocate for the practice of these cultural norms hence rendering it very difficult for human rights organizations to do their work effectively.

In ensuring protection of women's domestic rights, monitoring of compliance of government and other human rights bodies remains a significant mandate. States should continue to review and revise national legal frameworks on an ongoing basis to ensure compliance with their international obligations. Legal frameworks should also adequately respond to global policy directives and take advantage of good practice developed in particular areas. States should conduct gender-impact analysis of all new legislation. Efforts should be taken to ensure that national law enshrines equality between women and men. Effective, affordable and accessible means of recourse and redress for violations of women's rights must be available, including gender-sensitive courts and tribunals (Amnesty International, 2004).

Inspection and assessment of various issues concerning women's domestic rights remains another mandate of the human rights bodies. Mechanisms should be put in place to monitor the implementation of laws/provisions on gender equality and women's rights, and ensure a cohesive legal framework for the promotion and protection of women's human rights. Such mechanisms should be multi-sectoral and include collaboration between government, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, and they should conduct impact assessment of the laws and report back to Parliament on a regular basis, proposing amendments where necessary (Stalder, 2002).

# 2.5 The extent to which Human Rights Organisations' remedial role impacts on the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights

Implementation of the final recommendations by the human rights bodies remains a great challenge among most countries. In situations where legal reforms have taken place, a number of factors have hindered appropriate and effective enforcement of the findings and recommendations. In a number of countries, public officials, the general public and women themselves remain unaware of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), domestic laws and the human rights of women. The police and judiciary continue to show bias against women and lack in-depth understanding of legislation on women's rights and their duties under that legislation. Women's continuing distrust of mechanisms of redress and their lack of empowerment to claim their rights, as well as the cost of such mechanisms and delays in the administration of justice, have also been an obstacle (Crawford, 1998).

Effectiveness of the recommendations made in the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights largely depends on good governance which requires that all work of the State be informed by fundamental democratic principles underpinning human rights. The five pillars of good governance, transparency in decision-making processes, ensuring people's participation, responsibility in the exercise of power, accountability of the decision-makers and responsiveness to people's needs uphold the edifice of sustainable democracy (Cohen et al, 2003). A human rights lens on democracy and governance not only privileges justice and equity above all but most importantly takes the provision for human well-being by governments from mere promises into the realm of precise legal obligation that see delivery of results at end of the day.

Having effective recommendations is not an effort of one organization; it remains an effort of many players. These may include committee's responsibilities of implementation of government policies on women and family issues, coordinating programs for promotion of equality between men and women at local and central levels, implementation and evaluation of government programs, proposal of new legislation or amendments to existing legislation on children's and

women's rights in compliance with international standards, and support and coordination of NGOs activities in the field of women's rights (CEDAW, 1992). Clear collaboration of these bodies implies that efforts in solving some of the problems related to women's domestic rights violations are made easier for handling.

Human rights organizations are supposed to recommend for implementation of what has been established in the process of effecting justice. The implementation of findings where rights have been violated, compensation is limited by a significant number of factors inclusive of limited resources. In such situations national action plans are rarely budgeted for and their implementation is inadequately funded. Lack of sex-disaggregated data and research related to women has been an impediment for the development and evaluation of evidence-based legislation, policies and programmes of action. Insufficient political will to bring about gender equality and limited financial, human and technical resources are also barriers to implementation. Even where laws are in place, gaps between women's de jure and de facto equality persist. Women continue to experience discrimination and disadvantage, including in employment and public and political life, especially at decision-making levels, and lack access to health care, economic resources, and social benefits and services (Jacobs & White 1996).

Recommended research in various issues that affect women's domestic rights in regard to the persisting discriminatory practices and customs, and persistent social and cultural attitudes emphasizing traditional roles and stereotypes of women and the subordinate position of women in society and the family, continue to constitute major impediments to women's enjoyment of their human rights. The disproportionate impact of poverty on women and the compounding effect of multiple factors, such as race, ethnicity, religion, age, caste, class, disability, and sexual

orientation, leading to multiple forms of discrimination simultaneously, are further constraints on the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the realization of equality (WHO, 1999).

## 2.6 Summary of Literature review.

The literature heavily concentrates on advocacy which focuses on procedural issues of violation of domestic rights of women. This is a major gap. By concentrating on individual rights the discourse omits or ignores the structural aspects that hinder women in attaining their full rights. Even granting this there has been limited scholarly work on Uganda Human Rights Commission. This study will thus contribute to filling the gap.

#### **CHAPTER THREE**

#### METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Introduction

The chapter presents the methodology that was used to carry out the study. It presents the research design, study population, sample size, sampling methods, data collection methods and instruments, pretesting of instruments, procedure for data collection validity and reliability, data management and analysis and measurement of variables.

## 3.2 Research design

The study used a cross-sectional descriptive survey design that used both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Cross sectional descriptive survey design is the selection of a relatively large sample of people from a pre-determined population to which the researchers' interest lies, followed by the collection of a relatively small amount of data from those individuals. In this study, the researcher used information from a sample of those individuals to make some inference about the wider population. This was done with the use of questionnaires or interview guide (Converse & Presser 1986). Surveys are designed to provide a 'snapshot of how things are at a specific time. In survey research, independent and dependent variables are used to define the scope of study (Nachmias, 1981). In this study, survey methodology helped in measuring variables and examining relationships as recommended by Fowler (1993). Cross sectional descriptive survey design was adopted because it helped the researcher gather data from a sample of a wider population at a particular time and used such data to make inference about the wider population.

# 3.3 Study population

The study was carried out in Kampala District, Central Division (Uganda Human Rights Commission Head offices) and Rubaga Division (UHRC Central Region Offices). The study population included 61 employees of UHRC, 30 Women Rights activists, 46 women with domestic related complaints and 80 ordinary women in Kampala District, Central Division. These people were selected because they have experience on women rights violations. The total study population was 217.

## 3.4 Sample Size and selection.

According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), it's impossible to study the whole targeted population and therefore the researcher decided on a sampled population. The sample size of the study was 186 as presented below in the table and it was determined using Israel (1992) adopted from Yamane 1967 simplified formula as shown below.

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Table 1: Number of participants per category

Category	Population	Sample size	Sampling Strategy
Employees of UHRC	61	52	Simple random sampling
Women complainants	46	40	Simple random sampling
Women activists	30	28	Purposive sampling
Potential and accessible ordinary women	80	66	Convenience sampling
Total respondents	217	186	

# 3.5 Sampling Methods

The study used simple random sampling technique to select employees at UHRC and women with domestic related complaints. Simple random sampling is a form of respondents' selection where respondents are selected randomly and this is done to ensure that bias is avoided in selection of respondents (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003). A list of employees at UHRC was sought from the Human Resource Department to help in determining the respondents. A complaints record book was used to source for women complainants. Names of respondents of each category were written on pieces of papers and the first 52 and 40 respectively were contacted to be involved in the study. Women activists were selected using purposive sampling. Purposive sampling is a selection of respondents known to the researcher. In selection of these respondents a list of women rights activists was requested for from UHCR for contact to have an input in the study. The study then used convenience sampling to select potential and accessible ordinary women in Kampala, central division. Convenience sampling is a type of non probability sampling which involves the sample being drawn from that part of the population which is close at hand. That is, a sample population selected because it is readily available and convenient. The researcher using such a sample cannot scientifically make generalizations about the total population from this sample because it would not be representative enough (American Statistical Association, 2003). In sourcing for ordinary women using convenience sampling as explained, the first easily accessed 66 women were included in the study.

#### 3.6 Data Collection methods

The study utilized both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods. Primary data was obtained using questionnaires as well as interviews. Secondary data was sourced from reading literature in secondary sources.

### 3.6.1 Quantitative methods

The questionnaire was a method used to generate quantitative data.

## Questionnaire

This involved the use of self administered questionnaires to respondents in relation to the role of human rights organizations and how these have promoted and protected the domestic rights of women. In seeking for quantitative data, closed ended questionnaires in a scale (five likert) form were used. Questionnaire method was used because it helps to investigate motives and feelings in likert scaling (Creswell, 1994).

## 3.6.2 Qualitative methods

To obtain qualitative data, interview and document review were applied.

## **Interviews**

The interview method was used to explore qualitatively how human rights organizations have contributed to the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights. This method took the option of face to face interviews that sought to provide the required data as specified above. Interview method was used because it provides an excellent opportunity to probe and explore questions (Cress well 1994).

#### **Document review**

A document review method was used in sourcing for secondary data in all relevant documents in relation to how human rights organizations have contributed to the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights. These were sourced from journals, text books and other relevant reliable sources.

#### 3.7 Data collection instruments

Data collection instruments included questionnaires, interview guide and the documentary review checklist

## 3.7.1 Questionnaires

The study used a five-likert scale questionnaire which was administered to UHRC staff, women activists, ordinary women and some women complainants. The study had one set of questionnaire that was constructed strategically to capture all the necessary information from all categories of respondents in respect to the themes of the study which are human rights organizations' role in the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights and each objective had least 15 questions. Each item had at least 15 questions for purposes of intensive analysis of these objectives. Questionnaires were constructed in a five likert form to obtain the rating of various responses in the study. The questionnaire was administered door to door since most of the respondents in this category were known. The likert scale was used since it is very flexible and can be constructed more easily than most other types of attitude scales (Amin, 2005).

### 3.7.2 Interview guide

Face to face interviews with the help of an interview guide were conducted among some of the respondents in some of the categories. The researcher believed that these people could provide rich information in regard to the study. Interviews were used, since they are appropriate in providing in-depth data, data required to meet specific objectives, allows clarity in questioning and quite flexible compared to questionnaires.

#### 3.7.3 Documentary review checklist

The study also carried out reviews of existing documents primarily the mandate of the UHRC, its strategic plan, reports, minutes and data by other scholars in relation to how human rights organizations have contributed to the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights. This gave an overview of how much has been addressed in this line.

#### 3.8 Pre-testing (validity and reliability)

The data collection tools were pretested on a smaller number of respondents from each category of the population to ensure that the questions were accurate and clear in line with each objective of the study thus ensuring validity and reliability.

#### 3.8.1 Validity

Validity is the accuracy and meaningfulness of inferences, which are based on research results. It is the degree to which results obtained from the analysis of the data actually represents the phenomenon understudy. Therefore validity looks at how accurately represented are the variables of the study (Mugenda, Mugenda 2003). The study adopted content validity which is the degree to which data collected using particular instruments represents a specific domain of indicators or

content of a particular concept. To ensure content validity of instruments the researcher constructed the instruments with all the relevant items that measure variables of the study. The researcher also consulted the supervisor for proper guidance after which the researcher pre-tested the instruments and after pre-testing ambiguous questions were removed or polished so as to remain with the finest data required.

### 3.8.2 Reliability

According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), Reliability refers to the measure of the degree to which research instruments yields consistent results after repeated trials. In testing the reliability of instruments, the study adopted the test-retest method which involved administering the same instruments twice to the same group of subjects and this was done by selecting an appropriate group of respondents, the researcher then administered instruments to respondents and then readministered the same instruments to the same group after a week and the results of the two periods were correlated to obtain the coefficient of reliability of 0.891 in over all and .7723 in advocacy, .7714 protection, .7703 remedial and .8004 in promotion and protection (the dependent variable) since the coefficient is greater that 0. 7 as recommended by Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), the instrument was considered reliable.

#### 3.9 Procedure for data Collection

The researcher obtained a letter of introduction from Uganda Management Institute (UMI) to help with introductions to various respondents. After the construction of instruments the researcher took them for approval to the supervisor and there after they were taken for pretesting in selected few respondents. The researcher carried out a pilot run on a participating group in the study. Pretesting was done by picking 30 respondents from the study and giving them the same

approved questionnaires. Pretesting helped to know whether respondents interpret phrases and questions as the researcher wants them, it also helps to obtain a general assessment of respondents' ability to perform required tasks (e.g. recall relevant information, estimate frequency of specific behaviors, etc.) and it also helps to obtain ideas for question wording in case rephrasing of the original statements is needed. After pretesting, instruments were found to be reliable and administered to respective respondents.

## 3.10 Data Management and Analysis

In the study, the instruments that were used yielded both qualitative and quantitative data. After respondents answered questionnaires and interviews, raw data was cleaned, sorted and condensed into systematically comparable data. Data analysis was done using the Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS), which helped to summarize the coded data and produce the required statistics in the study.

#### 3.10.1 Quantitative data

In handling all the objectives of the study, the researcher used a computer package epinfo data entry package and then after data was transferred to SPSS where it was edited, cleaned and sorted. Univariate analysis of these objectives was used to obtain descriptive data in form of mean, variance and standard deviations since it was a five Likert questionnaire and this helped to give the general response towards each question in the likert scale through the mean values. In establishing the relationships, multivariate analysis in form of correlation and regression analysis where necessary was used to ascertain the magnitude of effect the dependent variable has on independent variable. In correlation and regression analysis, the level of significance was considered as; P=0.05.

### 3.10.2 Qualitative data

Data analysis of qualitative data in the three objectives of the study used content analysis where each piece of work answered in the interview guide was read through thoroughly to identify themes where it belongs. The number of times each answer appears was counted to obtain the number of responses in each respect.

#### 3.11 Measurement of variables

The independent variable in the study was the role of human rights organisations and this was looked at in regard to their advocacy role which is reflected in creating awareness among the community members, and functionalisation of the constitution by carrying out activities that are supposed to be carried out by the organisation. Also it was looked at in regard to its protection role which lies in carrying out inspections and assessments in the investigation process. Also the remedial role which was looked at in terms of recommendation for the type of compensation as well as identifying areas for further research in the field of human rights. The dependent variable was however looked at in regard to women's freedom to own property, have conjugal rights and women's freedom to be economically independent. The nominal scale was used in the measurement of variables in a likert scale format which ranged from 1 to 5, strongly disagree, disagree, not sure, strongly agree and agree respectively.

#### 3.12 Ethical considerations

The researcher obtained a letter of introduction from UMI and a letter authorizing data collection from UHRC main offices and other branches. This authorized access to all the respondents that were relevant to the study as stipulated in the methodology.

Research Assistants selected were offered a one days training on the content of the research collection instruments and how they were supposed to carry out the study and given different ways of posing questions.

Research assistants were trained on how to first seek consent of the respondents to participate in the research and they assured respondents of their confidentiality and privacy in regard to the information they gave. This gave the respondents confidence to give information in its full details especially women complainants.

#### 3.13 Limitations of the Study

Accessing some of the respondents proved to be a problem especially the women activists for whom I had to always reschedule appointments which were later honored.

Some of the ordinary women were very ignorant of the women's domestic rights and I had to labor hard to explain to them so as to get meaningful data

Some respondents were constantly unavailable whenever I checked on them to pick the answered questionnaires and I eventually gave up on them as time was running out

# 3.14 Chapter Summary

The study was carried out in Kampala district and it used cross sectional descriptive survey design where both qualitative and quantitative approaches were used. The sample size of the study was 186 and these included Employees of UHRC, Women complainants, women activists and ordinary women. These were selected using simple random sampling, purposive and convenience sampling respectively. Data was collected using questionnaires, interview guide and document review checklist. Data was analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) to obtain descriptive and inferential statistics.

#### CHAPTER FOUR

### PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

#### 4.1 Introduction

The study examined the role of Human Rights Organizations in promoting and protecting domestic rights of women in Uganda with specific reference to Uganda Human Rights Commission. It specifically examined how the Human Rights Commission advocacy role influences the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights in Uganda, assed the contribution of the Human Rights Commission protection role towards the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights in Uganda and examined the extent to which Human Rights Commission remedial role impacts on the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights in Uganda. The study first presents qualitative results from interviews, which are presented in percentage and quotations as per respondents' views in regard to each objective of the study. It also presents inferential statistics in form of correlations which shows the magnitude of effect the independent variables have on dependent variables. The chapter also presents the response rate, which shows the actual number of respondents that participated in the study.

## **4.2 Response rate**

In the study as reflected in the table below a total number of 186 respondents were expected to participate in the study, but only 157 respondents participated representing a response rate of 84.4%, others did not return questionnaires for unknown reasons. According to Guttmacher Institute, (2006), response rate should never be less than 70%, whereas Amin (2005) argues that for any results to be relied upon, the response rate should never go below 50%. Therefore, the results obtained from the study are considered to be reliable based on the response rate of 84.4%.

**Table 2: Summary of study response rates** 

Category	Targeted respondents	No. actually involved	Percentage of response rate
Questionnaire			
UHRC employees	52	49	94.2%
Women complainants	25	20	80.0%
Women activists	18	13	72.2%
Ordinary women	46	41	89.1%
Sub Total	141	123	
Interviews		I	
Women complainants	15	12	80.0%
Women activists	10	6	60.0%
Ordinary women	20	16	80.0%
Subtotal	46	34	
Total	186	157	84.4%

Response rates are generally considered to be the most widely compared statistics for judging the quality of research findings (Biemer and Lyberg, 2003). Low response rate leads to a concern that non response error may render survey estimates irretrievably biased. Increasing non response has also encouraged some critics of survey research to challenge its very legitimacy as a valid research methodology (Huffingon, 1998). Guttmacher Institute, (2006) explains that one indication that survey results could be flawed is a low response rate. If the response rate is low (say, less than 70% of those selected), then the results may be biased because the people who participated are not representative of the target group as a whole.

## 4.3 Background information

In the study, the background information of respondents was established whereby their age was based upon to find out if the respondents were suitable to be involved in the study or not since only adults were expected to participate in the study as they are expected to have more reasonable thinking hence reliability of the answers. The gender of respondents was considered in the study because it would help in establishing the majority sex of people that participated in the study and the level of education helped to get views that are relevant and useful to the study since educated people are expected to have constructive arguments in regard to the subject under study. In the study, cross tabulations were used between gender and age of respondents since they are useful in establishing the co-variance between variables and results are presented below.

Table 3: Cross tabulations between gender and age of respondents

Gender of respondent * Age of respondent Cross tabulation								
	Age of respondent							
		below 20 years	20-30 years	31-40 years	41-50 years	51-above years	Total	
		Count	7	19	15	5	4	50
Gender of	Male	% within Gender of respondent	14.0%	38.0%	30.0%	10.0%	8.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	5.7%	15.4%	12.2%	4.1%	3.3%	40.7%
respondent		Count	16	27	11	12	7	73
	Female	% within Gender of respondent	21.9%	37.0%	15.1%	16.4%	9.6%	100.0%
		% of Total	13.0%	22.0%	8.9%	9.8%	5.7%	59.3%
Total		Count	23	46	26	17	11	123
		% within Gender of respondent	18.7%	37.4%	21.1%	13.8%	8.9%	100.0%
		% of Total	18.7%	37.4%	21.1%	13.8%	8.9%	100.0%

**Source: Field data** 

From the findings, it was revealed that of the male respondents, 5.7% were aged below 20 years, 15.4% were aged between 20-30 years, 12.2% were aged between 31-40 years, 4.1% were aged between 41-50 years and 3.3% were aged above 50 years.

In the cross tabulations of the female respondents that participated in the study, it was revealed that 13.0% of respondents were aged below 20 years of age, 22.0% were aged between 20-30 years, 8.9 % were aged between 31-40 years, 9.8% were aged between 41-50 years and 5.7% were aged above 50 years. Therefore most respondents that participated in the study were mature therefore had the ability to give credible answers for the study. Since the study was looking at women's domestic rights it was very appropriate to establish how many participated such that answers given would be out of experience in terms of their violated domestic rights. Their age also showed that most women who participated in the study were mature and had experienced the same hence giving more meaning to the study.

25, 20%

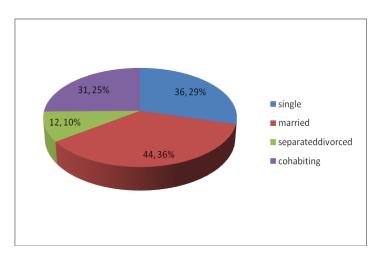
36, 29%

Primary level of education
Secondary level of education
Diploma
Bachelors degree
Post graduate

Figure 2: Education of respondents

From the study, it was revealed that 29% of respondents had secondary and primary level of education respectively, 15% had diploma level where as 20% had bachelors' degree and only 7% of respondents had post graduate level of education.

Figure 3: Marital status of respondents



From the study it was also revealed that majority (36%) respondents that participated in the study were married, 29% were single, 10% were separated or divorced where as 25% of them were cohabiting. There this justifies the cause of the study since majority respondents were married or engaged in a relationship; so it's assumed that they had some basic knowledge on the violation of women's domestic human rights hence giving the study their experience as it was faced.

Table 4: Period working or interacting with the organization

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
	less than 1 year	26	21.1	21.1
	2-4 years	55	44.7	44.7
Valid	5-7 years	22	17.9	17.9
	7 years and above	20	16.3	16.3
	Total	123	100.0	100.0

Source: Field data

From the findings in the table 4 above, it was revealed that majority 44.7% of respondents that participated in the study had worked in the organization for 2-4 years where as 21% of respondents had worked or interacted with the organization for less than one year. Also, it was revealed that 17.9% of respondents had worked with the organization for 5-7 years. Therefore

majority people that participated in the study have had some experience with human rights and particularly with domestic human rights.

# 4.4 The Human Rights Commission advocacy role influences the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights

The study sought to examine the role of Human Rights Organizations in the promoting and protecting domestic rights of women in Uganda with specific reference to UHRC. The study therefore, specifically examined the human rights advocacy role on the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights. The advocacy role was looked at with regard to human rights awareness and constitutional functionalisation among community members. Respondents were involved in answering questionnaires and interviews. Using thematic content analysis, results were analyzed according to the themes of study in this particular variable that is human rights awareness and constitutional fuctionalisation. Multiple responses from interviews were counted and given frequencies to show the number of times each response was said. Also in interviews, expressions that caught the researchers' attention and were related to the objectives of the study were captured and below are the results.

**Table 5: Human rights awareness (Interview Results)** 

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Seminars are conducted	12	6.6
Through sensitization Workshops which are conducted	24	13.3
regularly		
Radio programs	33	18.2
Though print media especially magazines and news papers	31	17.1
Through human rights education	19	10.5
Through monitoring and inspection of complainants	15	8.3
Submitting annual reports to parliament	11	6.1
Through partnership with organizations on this issue	8	4.4
Through pushing for reforms on certain laws that seem to	7	3.9
be biased towards women		
Through civic education	21	11.6
Total	181	100.0

Source: Field data

In the study respondents were asked of the way in which awareness of women's domestic rights is carried out and from 18.2% of responses, it was revealed that radio programs are the common modes through which women get information on their domestic rights. This is drawn from the fact that most family members at least have a radio therefore for any information dissemination, there is high likelihood of everyone getting information. In fact one of respondents explained that

For me I get all the information on radio, I use my radio so much to get all the information that is put across and that's how I have come to know about my domestic rights and where to report in case am battered or in case of any mistreatment from my husband

This implied that human rights role in creating awareness on the domestic rights of women has been largely accelerated by availability of radio programs which community members can easily listen to and this has helped community members especially women to know their rights. This cuts across both rural and urban areas.

From the findings, it was also revealed by 17.1% of respondents that Human Rights Commission has endeavored to create awareness through print media especially magazines and news papers which are largely accessed by people in urban areas and are largely accessed by literate people. Therefore for those who do know how to read and write are likely to loose out on accessing information that may enlighten them on their domestic rights and how to handle the situation in case they are violated. Also it was revealed from the findings that through sensitization Workshops which are conducted regularly (13.3%), women's domestic human rights are disseminated to community members and other stakeholders especially women. These are always organized by UHRC in partnership with other organizations.

It was also revealed that awareness creation has been achieved through monitoring and inspection of complainants (8.3%) and people that are involved get to know of various women's domestic rights that are violated. As people lodge in their complaints, they are taken through various questions and through this they are able to get knowledge on various aspects related to women's domestic rights and how probably to handle the situation.

**Table 6: Effectiveness of the awareness programs (Interview results)** 

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Creates awareness among all stakeholders especially	24	16.8
women		
Through awareness women are able to have a starting	13	9.1
point just in case of a problem		
Empowers women to claim for their rights	15	10.5
Awareness on women's domestic rights is something the	16	11.2
commission has not addressed in specific terms but they		
are always addressed along other human rights		
Awareness helps to break the stereo type domestically	11	7.7
Also it helps to enact the laws that protect women	9	6.3
Handling of cases where women are denied the right to	14	9.8
ownership of property		
Promotes change of attitude towards women by men	12	8.4
Promotes sense of belonging especially to women	15	10.5
When women's rights are violated they are able to enforce	14	9.8
them using police, army, commission or any other relevant		
body.		
Total	143	100.0

Source: Field data

In establishing the effectiveness of the awareness programs, it was revealed from 16.8% of respondents that these programs have been able to create awareness among all stakeholders especially women and these have helped them to know their rights. Through awareness programs women are able to have a starting point just in case of a problem (9.1%) and this greatly helps them to deal with their domestic problems. How ever from one section of respondents, it was revealed that awareness of women's domestic rights is something the commission has not addressed in specific terms but they are always addressed along other human rights (11.2%).

This explains the fact that the commission has not put great effort in ensuring that women's domestic rights are given top priority but are only addressed along others hence the weaknesses. From the findings, it was revealed that awareness creation among the public on women's domestic rights has in some way helped to change the attitude of men which they have always had towards women 8.4% and this has greatly changed the attitude of men towards their wives in fact one married resident of Ndeba had this to say

By the way my husband has never scorned or slapped me.... This has been made possible with the existence of so many human rights organizations in Uganda and so much sensitization on women's domestic rights which is done on radios, TVs.

Therefore the existence of massive sensitization of the public on women's domestic rights has greatly helped to improve on the perception people used to have towards women as property of men and this has greatly helped to promote and protect their rights.

Also from the findings, it was revealed that as the result of the existence of human rights organizations, when women's rights especially domestic ones are violated, they are able to enforce them using police, army, commission or any other relevant body. Therefore with the presence of human rights organizations, women feel protected and men have to act responsibly in order not to violate their women's rights or risk being reported, hence this has promoted and protected women's domestic rights.

As the role of human rights commission, in its advocacy efforts, it's supposed to ensure that the constitution is put into practice and every stakeholder in the process plays their role. The results on people's views on how the commission has helped in doing this are presented below.

**Table 7: Constitution Functionalisation** 

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Handling of complaints	31	14.6
Awareness through workshops	27	12.7
Constitutional education to the public to emphasize its implementation	22	10.4
and respect		
Through awareness creation to the public of the provisions of the	14	6.6
constitution through recommendations to government and other		
stakeholders		
Through the different participation of women in terms of political	33	15.6
participation free from husbands interference		
Educating people about it as well as distributing copies to some selected	24	11.3
institutions		
In the report the commission has always emphasized promotion, respect,	27	12.7
and protection of human rights enshrined in the constitution		
Holding the state responsible and accountable in the promotion of the	34	16.0
constitution by the respective government functions		
Total	212	100.0

Source: Field data

From the findings, in interviews it was found out that the UHRC holds the State responsible and accountable in the promotion of the Constitution by the respective government functions (16%) and ensuring that rights in such perspectives are respected and protected. Therefore the UHRC ensures that women's domestic rights as stipulated in various legislations are put to use and no one violates or overrides them irrespective of their social, economic or political status. It was also established that the commission ensures functionalisation of the constitution through handling of people's complaints of different magnitudes and ensuring that each process is covered and the complainant is well handled throughout the whole process. The commission has helped in the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights by ensuring that women

participate in political programs free from husbands' interference (15.6%) and this has been greatly enabled by the existence of human rights organizations in the country that sensitize the public on women's freedom to participate in politics with out men's interference through battering them or any other violation as the result of their participation in such programs.

It was revealed that in emphasis of women's domestic rights in the constitution, the commission in its annual reports has always emphasized promotion, respect, and protection of human rights (12.7%) in general which also include women's domestic rights and this has greatly contributed to promotion and protection of women's domestic rights.

The study also presents results that were obtained in the questionnaire and responses are presented descriptively in terms of their mean. This was done to get the over all response in each question and results are presented below.

Table 8: Advocacy role of human rights organizations

Item	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
The human rights body always develops information that regards women's domestic rights.	4.12	1.00	123
The human rights body always conducts research on violation of women's domestic rights	2.17	1.00	123
The human rights bodies usually publish researched results	4.29	.64	123
The human rights bodies always disseminate information in most of the media houses like TVs, Radios, and News papers among others.	4.12	1.00	123
The human rights bodies help women to understand their domestic rights	4.17	1.00	123
The human rights bodies help people respect women's domestic rights	4.29	.64	123
The human rights bodies usually carry out education programs on women's domestic rights	4.10	.82	123
Most of the awareness on women's domestic rights is done through print media	4.11	.80	123
Most of the awareness on women's domestic rights is done through TVs and Radios	4.20	.72	123
Makes the work of the Commission in line with women's domestic rights known to community members at grassroots	3.76	1.11	123
Human rights bodies always strengthen respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms	4.08	.95	123
Protects people from violation of their rights	3.73	1.09	123
Respect for human rights and linkage to national and international human rights norms and standards	3.55	.91	123
Valid N (list wise)			123

Source: Field data

In the study, it was revealed that human rights bodies always develop information that regards women's domestic rights (4.12). As its mandate, the human rights commission in its advocacy role, it's supposed to develop information and disseminate it. However despite its development,

the rate at which it is disseminated to the general public is not the standard one since some women especially those in rural areas can hardly get access to this information.

In regard to research, it was disagreed (2.17) that human rights body always conducts research on violation of women's domestic rights in particular. This explains the aspect that human rights commission rarely carries out research on women's domestic rights. Therefore this leaves a huge gap of doubt on whether the commission has up to date information on violations of women's domestic rights leave alone the few women who report their cases to different, human rights organizations. From the study, it was revealed that human rights bodies usually publish researched results (4.29) on other fields where it conducts research. In case these results are on the violation of women's domestic rights the literature published leads to increased knowledge of women's domestic rights hence their promotion and protection against any violation.

Therefore since most factors have a standard deviation of below 1 or equal to one, this explains that there is a central explanation that advocacy role has a significant role it plays towards the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights. This is explained by the fact that much of the awareness is done through media especially radio and TV, publication of researches and by carrying out educational programs.

From the findings, it was also agreed that human rights bodies always disseminate information in most of the media houses like TVs, Radios, and News papers among others (4.12). As a way of disseminating information to the public the commission uses common media modes of disseminating information to the public. These modes are quite effective since almost every one in the community has a TV or radio and can get information on promotion and protection of women's domestic rights. In the study it was emphasized by respondents that most of the

awareness on rights is done through TVs and Radios (4.2) since they are the most common media forms present in every household.

From the study it was agreed that human rights bodies help women to understand their domestic rights (4.17) since they usually carry out education programs on women's domestic rights (4.10) in various forms at different levels in the community and this greatly contributes to the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights. This awareness done by the human rights bodies helps people respect women's domestic rights (4.29) in various ways and this bridges the gap for human rights and linkage to national and international human rights norms and standards (3.55) which further helps to strengthen the whole process of promotion and protection of women's domestic rights.

The hypothesis was further subjected to correlation analysis to establish the magnitude of effect advocacy has on promotion and protection of women's domestic rights and results are presented in the correlation table below.

Table 9: Correlation between advocacy and promotion, protection of women's domestic rights

	Correla	tions	
		ADVOCACY	PRTCTNPR
	Pearson Correlation	1.000	.911(**)
ADVOCACY	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	123	123
	Pearson Correlation	.911(**)	1.000
PRTCTNPR	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	123	123

Source: Field data

From the study, it was revealed that there is a positive significant relationship between the advocacy role human rights organizations play and their promotion and protection of women's domestic rights. This is evidenced by the obtained correlation coefficient of .911(\*\*) with a significance value of .000. This implies that the more advocacy is carried out, the more women's domestic rights are promoted and protected and vice versa. Therefore the channels used in advocating for women's domestic rights largely determine the number of people that are likely to get informed of women's domestic rights.

# 4.5 The contribution of the Human Rights Commission protection role towards the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights

The study sought to examine the contribution of the human rights commission protection role in the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights. The variable protection was looked at in terms of investigating the complaints, assessment and inspection of complaints. Respondents of the study were involved in interviews where frequencies of each response were obtained as well as expressions that existed in the study were presented and results are presented below.

**Table 10: Investigation of complaints** 

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Identification of domestic rights violations which are criminal in nature	30	26.3
Reference of such criminal violations to police for effective handling	26	22.8
The commission has been very effective in investigation of alleged violation of women's domestic rights	12	10.5
The commission has not been very effective, because there have not been explicit programs planned to specifically address women's domestic rights.	18	15.8
By and large, investigations have been fairly effective and a good number of complainants have been compensated	9	7.9
A fund has been established in the Ministry of Justice to ensure timely payments of compensation	11	9.6
The commission has done a commendable job only that, it's limited by resources and scope of coverage in the country.	8	7.0
Total	114	100.0

Source: Field data

From interview findings, it was revealed that human rights commission in its protection role, it identifies domestic rights violations which are criminal in nature (26.3%). Identification of these gives the human rights body knowledge that indeed these violations exist in the community. This is followed by reference of such criminal violations to police for effective handling (22.8%) by different stakeholders in the process. This is often done when the commission sees criminal elements in the cases that require effective handling.

However it was reported that in its protection role, the commission has not been very effective, because there have not been explicit programs planned to specifically address women's domestic rights (15.8%). In fact one respondent explained that

The commission has not handled particularly violation of women's domestic rights but has always instead handled all the rights in general

This explains the fact that the commission has not handled very diligently, women's domestic rights in particular, hence leaving a big gap for women's domestic rights to be violated since no much effort is put in the process.

From the study, it was also revealed by some respondents that by and large, investigations have been fairly effective, a good number of complainants have been compensated (7.9%) The commission has done a commendable job only that, it's limited by resources and scope of coverage in the country. However this is a very low percentage that commends the success of the commission. Also it was revealed that a fund has been established in the Ministry of Justice to ensure timely payments of compensation (9.6%) and this has largely contributed to promotion and protection of women's domestic rights.

**Table 11: Assessment and inspection** 

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Following up the progress of the cases forwarded to police	22	27.2
for handling for effective handling		
Hears and documents any complaints from people	21	25.9
Follows up the compensation process of victims	15	18.5
The complaints desk that was set up to receive and	23	28.4
document any complaints regarding the violation of		
human rights		
Total	81	100.0

**Source: Field data** 

In the process of assessment and inspection of violation of women's domestic rights, the commission follows up the progress of the cases forwarded to police for handling (27.2%) and ensures that appropriate decisions are taken and appropriate action towards the offender is done. It was also revealed that the commission hears and documents any complaints (25.9%) from community members as away of exercising its role and making sure that women are protected from any violations especially at home.

Also as a mode of assessment and inspection of women's complaints, the commission has a complaints desk that was set up to receive and document any complaints regarding the violation of human rights in fact one of the respondents had this to say

The commission has specifically instituted a desk that is supposed to handle women related complaints and domestic issues being so sensitive they are handled by professional people in legal matters and other fields like counseling

This has helped the commission to refer some of these cases to police and others to other organizations that can effectively handle the process of arbitration on behalf of these people. This helps to build confidence in the organization and women to feel protected from any intimidation by their husbands at home or any other person.

Also results from the questionnaire were also obtained to get the descriptive results inform of mean and standard deviations that generally show the over all responses obtained from each question and below are the results.

Table 12: Protection role of women's domestic rights

Responses	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Respect for human rights and linkage to national and international human rights norms and standards	3.55	.91	123
Goes to court to adjudicate for the rights of people	3.93	.64	123
Human rights bodies do the follow up of cases at what ever cost on behalf of those offended	4.00	.75	123
Empowers women and vulnerable people	4.1220	.9966	123
Seeks for redress of various complaints on behalf of complainants	4.1707	.9976	123
Receives complaints for handling on behalf complainants	4.2927	.6367	123
Empowerment of vulnerable people and groups	4.0976	.8240	123
Visits detention centre's to assess violation of women's rights in prison or detention centers	4.1138	.8017	123
Visits scenes of incidence in case of any domestic human rights violation	4.1220	.9966	123
Follows up all the proceedings of the violation of women's domestic rights	4.17	1.00	123
Suggests alternative ways of resolving disputes especially among families	4.29	.64	123
Valid N (listwise)			123

**Source: Field data** 

In the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights, it was revealed that the commission ensures that there is respect for human rights and linkage to national and international human rights norms and standards (3.55). This helps the country to remain on good terms with other countries and international bodies that are in the struggle to protect women's domestic rights and other rights at large. Also this ensures that women are protected both locally and internationally from any violations.

It was also agreed that the human rights body goes to court to adjudicate for the rights of people (3.93). The commission in the effort to protect women's domestic rights they put in effort and go to court to adjudicate for the rights of complainants. In this the Human rights body (ies) do the follow up of cases at what ever cost on behalf of those offended (4.00) and ensures that justice prevails no matter what. However this hardly applies to all the rural women whose rights continue to be violated as the result of their ignorance on the prevailing laws that protect their lives from any harm. Therefore the commission empowers women and vulnerable women (4.1220) in all forms

From the findings, it was revealed that human rights organizations receive complaints for handling on behalf complainants (4.2927) and seek for redress of various complaints on behalf of the complainants (4.1707). This helps the complainants to get proper attention other than when they would be alone in following up the whole process and this significantly contributes to the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights at all levels. It was also revealed that as a protection role the commission visits detention centres to assess violation of women's rights in prison or detention centers (4.1138) inclusive of sexual harassment and denial of their other rights. It was also agreed that human rights bodies visit scenes of incidence in case of any

domestic human rights violation and follow up all the proceedings of the violation of women's domestic rights (4.17) and in case of very serious complications, suggest alternative ways of resolving disputes especially among families rather than court.

Given the standard deviations that are below 1, the protection role greatly contributes to the promotion of women's domestic rights specifically in terms of, receiving complaints for handling on behalf of complainants, following up the cases by going to court to adjudicate for the rights of women as well as suggesting alternative ways of resolving disputes on behalf of complainants.

The hypothesis was then subjected to correlation analysis which presents the magnitude of effect the human rights protection role has on the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights and below are the results.

Table 13: Relationship between human rights protection role with promotion and protection of women's domestic rights

Correlations			
		PRTCTN	PRTCTNPR
	Pearson Correlation	1.000	.883(**)
PRTCTN	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	123	123
	Pearson Correlation	.883(**)	1.000
PRTCTNPR	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	123	123
** Correlation is s	significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed	d).	

Source: Field Data

From the findings, it was revealed that there is a positive and significant relationship between the human rights protection role and promotion and protection of women's domestic rights. This is evidenced by the obtained correlation coefficient of .883(\*\*) with a significance value of .000. This implies that the manner in which inspection of certain cases in violation of women's domestic rights is done significantly contributes to way in which women's domestic rights are promoted and protected at the commission level and at the local level where women are faced with the problem.

### 4.5 The extent to which Human Rights Commission remedial role impacts on the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights

The study sought to examine the ways in which human rights commission remedial role contributes to the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights. Respondents were involved in interviews and answering of questionnaires. In interviews, expressions and phrases that were relevant to the objectives of the study were obtained and results are presented in the table below.

**Table 14: Recommendation for compensation** 

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Compensation done for grave violations of domestic rights	30	15.5
Most domestic violations are handled through mediation this	24	12.4
results into memoranda of understanding regarding remedies		
Most of the parties required to make payments fail to honor	18	9.3
the terms agreed in the memorandum of understanding and		
this stresses the commission in following up such		
After human lodging the complaint UHRC writes a decision	23	11.9
under which it grants compensation		
When ever complaints are genuine and all processes are	30	15.5
complete complainants are compensated		
They are only delayed by delay in payments or compensation	13	6.7
which is not done by UHRC		
After thorough investigation of violation the matter is referred	20	10.4
to the commission which recommends for compensation		
when convinced that the violation occurred		
Compensation is done, when it finds a violation of rights	19	9.8
involved by the victim, which is with in the jurisdiction of the		
of the commission		
The effectiveness of the compensation process is very limited	16	8.3
given the systematic and structural constraints with in the		
Ministry of Justice which is responsible for paying the		
damages		
Total	193	100.0

**Source: Field data** 

As a role of the Human Rights Commission, after thorough investigations, the human rights commission is supposed to recommend for appropriate compensation to the victims by the offender and from the findings it was revealed that compensation is done for grave violations of

domestic rights (15.5%) and when ever complaints are genuine and all processes are complete. This implies that for those who do not have serious complaints they are not given any much attention in the process. In fact one of the complainants lamented that

If you want compensation through human rights commission, you must afford to be very patient, because it's a very long process and it takes a lot of time, may be when the case is big, in fact that's why most people keep quite.......Nabisere at central regional office; 21August 2010.

This explains the fact that, the effectiveness of the compensation process is very limited given the systematic and structural constraints with in the Ministry of Justice which is responsible for paying the damages. To get compensated through UHRC in any human rights violation is quite hard since the process is too long and takes a lot of time to be completed. This makes the majority number of people to give up the process, hence continued violation of women's domestic rights silently.

From the findings it was revealed that complainants must first lodge their complaints with UHRC, this is then followed by thorough investigation and the commission recommends for compensation when convinced that the violation occurred (10.4%) Compensation is done this is done when it finds a violation of rights involved by the victim, which is with in the jurisdiction of the commission.

However other respondents reported that most domestic violations are handled through mediation which results into memoranda of understanding regarding remedies (12.4%) and then compensation is granted. However most of the parties required to make payments fail to honor the terms agreed in the memorandum of understanding and this stresses the commission in

following up such (9.3%) and this takes a lot of time, which affects the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights.

**Table 15: Research and development** 

Response	Frequency	Percentage
The commission has not carried out any research in the area	21	26.3
of women's domestic rights		
Sexual violence and property rights	12	15.0
Rights of children	10	12.5
Right to education	11	13.8
It recommends research to be done on women's domestic	9	11.3
rights		
Minority group and people with disability	11	13.8
Human rights produces guidelines on human rights based	6	7.5
approach on the form of violation		
Total	80	100.0

**Source: Field Data** 

Research and development is another aspect that contributes to the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights. From the findings it was however found out that the commission has not carried out any research in the area of women's domestic rights (26.3%), this explains the fact that women's domestic rights are not given top priority at the commission and this leaves a lot of women's rights in danger of being violated. However respondents suggested that research can be done in various other areas like sexual violence and children's rights at home.

Table 16: Remedial role of human rights organization

Response	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Suggests recommendations for further action on certain cases	4.10	.82	123
Suggests type of compensation to be given to various complainants	4.12	1.00	123
Helps to establish the rightful kind of compensation for each complainant especially in the violation of women's domestic rights	4.17	1.00	123
Looks for alternative ways of ensuring that compensations are done	4.29	.64	123
Carries out regular research on women's rights violation	2.10	.82	123
Suggests further areas for further research in line with domestic human rights violation	4.11	.80	123
Identifies areas that need more attention and addressing	4.20	.72	123
Recommends for implementation of the existing laws especially on protection of women	3.76	1.11	123
Research on better ways of resolving conflicts in communities	4.08	.95	123
Valid N (listwise)			123

**Source: Field Data** 

From the study, it was revealed that as one of the remedial roles, the human rights commission suggests recommendations for further action on certain cases (4.10) and suggests type of compensation to be given to various complainants (4.12) as well as helps to establish the rightful kind of compensation for each complainant especially in the violation of women's domestic rights (4.17). This stems from the fact that some of these complainants do not know the process of compensation so the commission helps to decide for them so as to have a fare consideration for the abuse experienced. By doing this, the commission looks for alternative ways of ensuring that compensation for women whose rights have been violated (4.29) are given due attention in the process and are compensated appropriately.

The study was also subjected to correlation analysis to establish the relationship between the role of human rights remedial role on the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights and below are the results.

Table 17: Correlation between the human rights commission remedial role and promotion and protection of women's domestic rights.

Correlations			
		REMEDIAL	PRTCTNPR
REMEDIAL	<b>Pearson Correlation</b>	1.000	.926(**)
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	123	123
	Pearson Correlation	.926(**)	1.000
PRTCTNPR	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	123	123
** Correlation is	significant at the 0.01 level (2-tail	led).	

Source: Field Data

From the findings, it was revealed that there is a positive significant relationship between remedial roles in place and women's promotion and protection of their domestic rights. This was evidenced by the obtained correlation coefficients of .926(\*\*) with a significance value of .000. This explains the fact that recommendations made, always prevent others from inflicting damage on others especially husbands who beat their wives.

#### **CHAPTER FIVE**

### SUMMARY, DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### **5.1 Introduction**

The study examined the role of human rights organizations in promoting and protecting domestic rights of women in Uganda with specific reference to Uganda Human Rights Commission. This chapter presents the summary, discussion, conclusions, and recommendations of the study and these are presented according to the findings in chapter four.

### **5.2 Summary of findings**

The study examined the role of human rights organizations in promoting and protecting domestic rights of women in Uganda with specific reference to Uganda Human Rights Commission. The study was guided by specific objectives which were to; examine how Human Rights Commission advocacy role influences the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights in Uganda, assess the contribution of the Human Rights Commission protection role towards the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights in Uganda, examine the extent to which Human Rights Commission remedial role impacts on the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights in Uganda and establish other factors that influence the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights in Uganda. The study used cross-sectional descriptive survey design that used both qualitative and quantitative approaches in the process of the research.

From the findings, it was revealed that the advocacy role of human rights organizations in Uganda play a significant role in the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights. This is drawn from the fact human rights awareness created among community members enables them to understand what they are entitled to and what they are not. The commission makes sure

that the constitution functions as it is supposed to and this helps community members to do what they are supposed to do without any interference from other community members. Also, the human rights organizations protection role in terms of the manner in which complaints are investigated, assessed and inspected significantly contribute to the manner in which women's rights are promoted and protected. The remedial role of human rights organizations is very significant in the promotion and protection of women's rights in terms of the manner in which recommendations for compensations are done and areas for further research agreed.

### **5.3 Discussion of findings**

# 5.3.1 The Human Rights Commission advocacy role influences the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights

The study examined the role of human rights organizations in promoting and protecting domestic rights of women in Uganda with specific reference to Uganda Human Rights Commission. The study therefore, specifically examined the human rights advocacy role on the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights. The advocacy role was looked in regard to human rights awareness and constitutional functionalisation among community members.

From the study, it was revealed that there is a positive significant relationship between the advocacy role human rights organizations play and their promotion and protection of women's domestic rights. This is evidenced by the obtained correlation co efficiency of .911(\*\*) with a significance value of .000. This explains that the way in which awareness of women's domestic rights is cut spread a cross the population determines the number of people likely to get knowledge on women's domestic rights and hence can be able to promote and protect those roles. Also the more awareness programs directed to people the more they are likely know of

their rights and how to preserve them. This is in line with Heise et al, (2004) who explains that creating awareness among the population remains one of the advocacy roles that human rights bodies must ensure such that, the population know the importance of various aspects like education. The basis of the differential treatment of women may be a perceived need to protect women, or an assumption that women's gender roles make the differentiation justified. For instance, in many African and Asian countries girls and women are discriminated against in matters of access to education. The reasoning is that women are made for marriage and one does not need an education for the purpose. It is also assumed that girls and women will be maintained by a husband or a male relative. Other often cited reasons for discrimination include the fact that a man is the head of a family a fact used to justify discrimination in employment, in decision-making and in allocation of land, among others.

From the findings, radio programs remain a common channel of information dissemination, this as result of majority people possessing radios. Hence when radio programs are aired every community member has the chance and ability to listen and learn. In this, the Danish Centre for Human Rights, (1999), in an attempt to increase public awareness about human rights issues especially women's domestic rights, programmes were developed for radio and television. These included a television programme highlighting the proceedings of a seminar on the establishment of a Human Rights Court, and a series of short bi-monthly television live phone-in programmes.

Print media is also another important aspect that the commission uses in creating awareness among the members of the public. From the findings, it was also revealed by 17.1% of respondents that human rights commission has endeavored to create awareness though print media especially magazines and news papers which are largely accessed by people in urban areas

and are largely accessed by literate people. Therefore for those who do not know how to read and write they are likely to loose out on accessing information that may enlighten them on their domestic rights and how to handle the situation in case they are violated. Also it was revealed from the findings that through sensitization Workshops which are conducted regularly 13.3%, women's domestic human rights are able to get disseminated to community members and other stakeholders especially women. These are always organized by UHRC in partnership with other organizations and these have greatly helped to disseminate information to various people. According to Charlotte, (1998), effective advocacy efforts are only made on understanding various gender streamlines that exist in various societies. It is a call for recognition and understanding of the social construction of gender roles, relationships and status as a fundamental factor in shaping the reality of women and men around the world. That reality includes our perceptions, including our understanding of the purpose of human rights principles and law. Gender determines the general and/or specific manner and circumstances in which women and men experience the enjoyment or violations of fundamental human rights.

These programs have been carried out, but their effectiveness in promotion and protection of women's domestic rights remains another issue altogether. From the findings, it was revealed from 16.8% of the respondents that these programs have been able to create awareness among all stakeholders especially women and these have helped them to know their rights. Through awareness women are able to have a starting point just in case of a problem (9.1%) and this greatly helps them to deal with their domestic problems. Awareness on women's domestic rights remains a very significant aspect in promotion and protection of women's domestic rights but this has not been very emphasized by the commission. It was revealed that awareness on women's domestic rights is something the commission has not addressed in specific terms but

they are always addressed along other human rights (11.2%). This explains the fact that the commission it self has not put great effort in ensuring that women's domestic rights are given top priority but are only addressed along others hence the weaknesses.

Human rights organizations use police, army or any other relevant body to help victims seek for justice. Hence the existence of human rights organizations makes women feel protected from all forms of violence as long as they have the capacity to report them. Therefore men are obliged to act responsibly in order not to violate their women's rights or risk being reported for penalty.

As the role of human rights commission, in its advocacy efforts, it's supposed to ensure that the constitution is put in practice and every stakeholder in the process plays their role. In ensuring this human rights commission holds the state responsible and accountable in the promotion of the constitution by the respective government functions (16%) and ensuring that rights in such perspectives are respected and protected. Therefore the human rights commission ensures that women domestic rights as stipulated in various legislations are put to use and no one violates or overrides them irrespective of their social, economic or political status. It was also established that the commission ensures functionalisation of the constitution through handling of people's complaints of different magnitudes and ensuring that each process is covered and the complainant is well handled throughout the whole process. The commission has helped in the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights by ensuring that women participate in political programs free from husbands' interference (15.6%) and this has been greatly enabled by the existence of human rights organizations in the country and trying to sensitize the public on women's freedom to participate in politics without men's interference through battering them or any other violation as the result of their participation in such programs.

The advocacy role of Uganda human rights commission especially in dissemination of information to people remains a key aspect. In the study, it was revealed that the Commission always develops information that regards women's domestic rights (4.12). As its mandate, the human rights commission in its advocacy role, it's supposed to develop information and disseminate it. However despite its development, the rate at which it is disseminated to the general public is not the standard one since some women hardly get access to this information.

In regard to research, it was indicated (2.17) that the Commission does not conduct research particularly on violation of women's domestic rights. Therefore this leaves a huge gap of doubt on whether the commission has up to date information on violations of women's domestic rights leave alone the few women who report their cases to different human rights organizations. From the study, it was revealed that human rights bodies usually publish researched results (4.29) on other fields where it conducts research. In case these results are on the violation of women's domestic rights the literature published leads to increased knowledge of women's domestic rights hence their promotion and protection against any violation.

Dissemination of information is largely done through media houses like TVs, Radios, and News papers among others (4.12). As a way of disseminating information to the public, the commission uses common media modes of disseminating information to the public. These modes are quite effective since almost every one in the community have a TV or radio and can get information on promotion and protection of women's domestic rights.

# 5.3.2 The contribution of the Human Rights Commission protection role towards the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights

The study sought to examine the contribution of the human rights commission role in the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights. The variable protection was looked at in terms of investigating the complaints, assessment and inspection of complaints. From the findings, it was revealed that there is a positive and significant relationship between the human rights protection role and promotion and protection of women's domestic rights. This is evidenced by the obtained correlation coefficients of .883(\*\*) with a significance value of .000. This implies that the manner in which inspection of certain cases in violation of women's domestic rights is done significantly contributes to the way in which women's domestic rights are promoted and protected at all levels where women are faced with the problem. When violations are thoroughly investigated the perpetrators of the crimes fear to commit the crime lest they are reprimanded. In this, Stalder, (2002) explains that, inspection and assessment of various issues concerning women's domestic rights remains another mandate of the human rights bodies. Mechanisms should be put in place to monitor the implementation of laws/provisions on gender equality and women's rights, and ensure a cohesive legal framework for the promotion and protection of women's human rights. Such mechanisms should be multi-sectoral and include collaboration between government, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, and they should conduct impact assessment of the laws and report back to Parliament on a regular basis, proposing amendments where necessary.

Human rights commission in its protection role, it identifies domestic rights violations which are criminal in nature. This gives it knowledge that indeed these violations exist in the community.

This is followed by reference of such criminal violations to police for effective handling (22.8%) by different stakeholders in the process. This is often done when the commission sees criminal elements in the case that require effective handling.

In some situations, it was reported that the commission has not handled some issues very diligently, women's domestic rights in particular, hence leaving a big gap for women's domestic rights to be violated since no much effort is put in the process. From the study, it was also revealed by some respondents that by and large, investigations have been fairly effective and a good number of complainants have been compensated (7.9%). The commission has done a commendable job only that, it's limited by resources and scope of coverage in the country. However this is a very low percentage that commends the success of the commission. Also it was revealed that a fund has been established in the Ministry of Justice to ensure timely payments of compensation (9.6%) and this has largely contributed to promotion and protection of women's domestic rights at all levels, though this is still benefiting the urban dwellers than local rural people. This leaves so many women in the country side whose rights are violated at risk.

In the process of assessment and inspection of violation of women's domestic rights, the commission follows up the progress of the cases forwarded to police for handling (27.2%) and ensures that appropriate decisions are taken and appropriate action towards the offender is done. It was also revealed that the commission hears and documents any complaints (25.9%) from community members as away of exercising its role and making sure that women are protected from any violations especially at home. In doing this, the commission also ensures that the government plays its role by ensuring that it provides all avenues possible to ensure that

complainants are dully compensated. This is in line with Amnesty International, (2004) which stresses that ensuring protection of women's domestic rights, monitoring of compliance of government and other human rights bodies remains a significant mandate. States should continue to review and revise national legal frameworks on an ongoing basis to ensure compliance with their international obligations. Legal frameworks should also adequately respond to global policy directives and take advantage of good practice developed in particular areas. States should conduct gender-impact analysis of all new legislation. Efforts should be taken to ensure that national law enshrines equality between women and men. Effective, affordable and accessible means of recourse and redress for violations of women's rights must be available, including gender-sensitive courts and tribunals.

Also as a mode of assessment and inspection of women's complaints, the commission set up a complaints desk that was established to receive and document any complaints regarding the violation of human rights and women's domestic rights. This has helped the commission to refer some of these cases to police and to other organizations that can effectively handle the process of arbitration on behalf of these people. This helps to build confidence in the organization and women to feel protected from any intimidation by their husbands at home or any other person.

In the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights, it was revealed that the commission ensures that there is respect for human rights and linkage to national and international human rights norms and standards (3.55). This helps the country to remain on good terms with other countries and international bodies that are in the struggle to protect women's domestic rights and other rights at large. Also this ensures that women are protected both locally and internationally from any violations.

It was also agreed that the human rights body goes to court to adjudicate for the rights of people (3.93). The commission in the effort to protect women's domestic rights they put in a step and go to court to adjudicate for the rights of complainants. In this the Human rights body (ies) do the follow up of cases at what ever cost on behalf of those offended (4.00) and ensures that justice prevails no matter what. However this hardly applies to most women whose rights continue to be violated as the result of their ignorance on the prevailing laws that protect their lives from any harm. Therefore the commission empowers women and vulnerable women (4.1220) in all forms.

### 5.3.3 The extent to which Human Rights Commission remedial role impacts on the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights

The study sought to examine the ways in which human rights commission remedial role contributes to the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights. The remedial role was looked at in terms of the recommendations made and research done by the commission to establish areas that need a lot of attention.

In the study, it was revealed that there is a positive significant relationship between remedial roles in place and promotion and protection of women's domestic rights. This was evidenced by the obtained correlation coefficients of .926(\*\*) with a significance value of .000. This explains the fact that recommendations made, always prevent others from inflicting damage on other especially husbands who beat their wives. Conducting research in the area of women's domestic rights implies that weaknesses in the system are identified and given due diligence. When recommendations are made and implemented, they may lead to reduced violation of women's domestic rights. However there are many challenges especially in the legal system. This is explained by Crawford, (1998) that though legal reforms have taken place, a number of factors

have hindered appropriate and effective enforcement of the findings and recommendations in the violation of rights.

As a role of human rights commission, after thorough investigations, the human rights commission is supposed to recommend for appropriate compensation to the victims by the offender. From the findings it was revealed that compensation is done for grave violations of domestic rights (15.5%) and whenever complaints are genuine and all processes are complete. This implies that for those who do not have serious complaints they are not given any much attention. The procedure for compensation is also usually lengthy. This explains some of the challenges the commission is facing. Jacobs &White (1996) explain that in the implementation of findings where in some situations those whose rights have been violated compensation, is limited by a significant number of factors inclusive of limited resources. In such situations national action plans are rarely costed and their implementation is inadequately funded. Lack of sex-disaggregated data and research related to women has been an impediment for the development and evaluation of evidence-based legislation, policies and programmes of action. Insufficient political will to bring about gender equality and limited financial, human and technical resources are also barriers to implementation. Even where laws are in place, gaps between women's de jure and de facto equality persist. Women continue to experience discrimination and disadvantage, including in employment and public and political life, especially at decision-making levels, and lack access to health care, economic resources, and social benefits and services.

From the findings it was revealed that after complainants have identified and streamlined their complaints, they must first lodge their complaint to UHRC, this is followed by thorough

investigation and the commission recommends for compensation when convinced that the violation occurred (10.4%). Compensation is done when it finds a violation of rights involved by the victim, which is within the jurisdiction of the commission. Therefore by looking at the process, it seems rather long and therefore people prefer keeping quite on any violations of their domestic rights than reporting and they go through the long process.

Most domestic violations are handled through mediation and this results into memoranda of understanding regarding remedies where compensation is granted. However most of the parties required to make payments fail to honor the terms agreed upon. This stresses the commission in following up such cases which takes a lot of time and ends up affecting the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights.

Research and development is another aspect that contributes to the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights. From the findings it was however found out that the commission has not carried out any research in the area of women's domestic rights (26.3%), this explains the fact that women's domestic rights are not given top priority at the commission and this leaves a lot of women's rights in danger of being violated. How ever respondents suggested that research can be done in various other areas like sexual violence and children's rights at home.

#### 5.5 Conclusions

From the findings of the study, the following general conclusion and specific conclusions for each objective were reached as presented below;

### 5.5.1 General conclusion of the study

Based on the correlation coefficients obtained in each respective component of the independent variable- human rights organizations' role; Advocacy (.911), Protection (.883) and Remedial (.926). Over all, the main role of Uganda Human Rights Commission in promotion and protection of women's domestic rights is reflected in the form of recommendations made and how they are implemented or enforced. This is a crucial stage as it stresses how far one is reprimanded on violating women's domestic rights. If one is punished heavily then others are likely to fear violating women's domestic rights.

# 5.5.2The Human Rights Commission advocacy role influences the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights

Having a proper and effective advocacy system in place through which information is passed on to the community in regard to the forms of women's domestic rights and how they are violated, remains a key aspect in the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights.

The majority women are able to access knowledge of their domestic rights through air waves. Media most especially radios and TVs as majority own these forms of information sources. However they do not take any kin interest in ensuring that such information is made of use by reporting any violations. Women choose to keep quite when their rights are violated hence

human rights commissions role in promotion and protection of women's domestic rights is rendered of less value as most do not utilize its services.

Dissemination of information is not widely done, as it is only disseminated to people within urban areas especially Kampala and less often to rural area people. This renders most women in rural areas ignorant of their domestic rights hence continue to be violated.

The commission is not very effective in the functionalisation of the constitution since it particularly deals with big cases that have political or economic influence on the country leaving those considered minor to be handled by other organizations and rarely does a follow up of such. This gives low morale to those who would be interested in bringing their cases forward for handling since they have a perception of not being considered serious.

## 5.5.3 The contribution of the Human Rights Commission protection role towards the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights

When women are helped to identify their violated rights, establishing causes of such, directed to proper places for reporting and effective follow up done the protection role of human rights organization in promotion and protection of women's domestic rights is well spelt out. However the commission has not been effective in doing this as most women's rights continue to be violated in silence as the result of weaknesses with in the commission.

A lot of time is taken in the investigation process and it's during this period that corruption, maligning and bribery take place and affect proper procedure of the case. This has cropped into lack of trust towards the commission and lack of morale to report any violations hence rendering the commission's role more or less irrelevant.

# 5.5.4 The extent to which Human Rights Commission remedial role impacts on the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights

The form of recommendations made in cases of violation of women's domestic rights largely determines whether other people are likely to violate women's domestic rights. When heavy punishments are recommended for violators, other people are likely to fear. Hence the commission's recommendations remain a significant step in reducing the level of violations of women's domestic rights.

The determinants of compensation and time taken to compensate a victim remain issues of great concern in ensuring promotion and protection of women's domestic rights. Compensation is only done to grave violations of women's domestic rights, after thorough investigations, meaning that small cases are simply ignored or referred to relevant bodies where they can seek arbitration. When small cases are referred to other human rights agencies, complainants are at times mistreated or asked for bribes hence loose morale to continue with the case. The process of getting compensation in case of violation of rights is very long and complainants end up giving up along the way and for such persons their rights will continue to be violated for life.

The commission hardly carries out research on women's domestic rights, this leaves a lot of gaps in the process of promoting and protecting of women's domestic rights.

### **5.6 Recommendation**

From the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made

# 5.6.1 The Human Rights Commission advocacy role influences the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights

The Human Rights Commission needs to source for funds either from the donor or government to create more awareness on women's domestic rights, through radio programs and other means that reach the masses in the country especially in the rural areas. Radio programs need to be intensified in all local dialects such that people get to know of women's rights and when such rights are violated where they can report.

The Human Rights Commission can partner with other local NGOs to effectively disseminate information to all citizens on women's domestic rights. Information dissemination can be done through portraits of women's domestic rights violations and their corresponding punishments on posters in social gathering places like churches and market places among others. These posters could also indicate where to report in case of any violation. With such information, community members will learn a lot and they will respect women's domestic rights.

The Commission should source for resources from private development partners and government which can be used to form and empower Local Council One (LCI) women's domestic rights violation tribunals. This can be implemented at all the local council ones in the country and equip them with ways of how to handle such cases and ways of reference.

# 5.6.2 The contribution of the Human Rights Commission protection role towards the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights

The Human Rights Commission and other State agencies together with development partners should endeavor to reduce the procedures involved in investigation of violations, because complainants are involved in a lot of paper work which discourages victims from lodging in their complaints and stand to suffer silently.

The Commission needs to institute a well facilitated women's domestic rights violation desk at its offices to deal exclusively with issues of women's domestic rights. This will reduce the weaknesses which are currently prevailing in the process.

### 5.6.3 The extent to which Human Rights Commission remedial role impacts on the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights

The commission needs to consider compensation for smaller cases too in their proportion of magnitude such that even the perpetrators of these cases are brought to book. This will largely discourage any form of women domestic rights violation.

The Commission should also source for funds from donors to carry out regular research on women's domestic rights so as to get up-to-date information on women's domestic rights violation in the country.

### **5.7 Chapter Summary**

Human Rights Organisations in Uganda especially Uganda Human Rights Commission have a significant role to play in the promotion and protection of Women's domestic rights. They can do this through creating awareness on women's rights to all Ugandans, providing avenues for effective legal redress and full implementation of recommendations. This can be enhanced through partnerships with Government, NGOs, donors and other development agencies

### 5.8 Areas for further research

The influence of women's economic independence on the violation of women's domestic rights

The influence of women emancipation programs on women's domestic rights violation

The impact of political insecurity on women's rights violation

The influence of poverty on women's domestic rights violation

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#### **Appendices**

# Appendix 1: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR UHRC EMPLOYEES, WOMEN ACTIVISTS, WOMEN COMPLAINANTS AND ORDINARY WOMEN

Questionnaire Number	
Questionnaire Number	

I am requesting you to fill this questionnaire, which is aimed at collecting data on the role of Human Rights Organizations' in promotion and protection women's domestic rights with a case study of Uganda Human Rights Commission. You have been selected to be one of our respondents in this study. The information provided will be treated with strict confidentiality and shall not be used for any other purpose except for academic purposes. The study will ensure your anonymity and confidentiality. Thank you very much for your cooperation

#### **SECTION A**

Dear respondent,

#### **Background Information of Respondents**

Kindly tick one of the options given

- 1. Age
  - 1. Below 20 years
  - 2. 20-30 years
  - 3. 31-40 years
  - 4. 41-50 years
  - 5. 51 and above
- 2. Gender
  - 1. Male
  - 2. Female
- 3. Marital status
  - 1. Single
  - 2. Married
  - 3. Separated/divorced
  - 4. Cohabiting

~	Primary level													
2.	Ordinary level	Ordinary level												
3.	Advanced level													
4.	Diploma													
5.	Bachelors' degree													
6.	Post graduate													
7.	7. Others specify													
5. Hov	v long have you been working with or dealt with Uganda human rights C	Com	mis	ssio	n									
1.	Less 1 year													
2.	2-4 years													
	5-7 years													
4.	More than 7 years													
SECT	ION B													
Key	e following questions please tick the number of your choice					For the following questions please tick the number of your choice  Key								
	1. Strongly disagree													
_														
	Disagree													
3.	Disagree Not sure													
3. 4.	Disagree Not sure Agree													
3. 4.	Disagree Not sure													
3. 4. 5.	Disagree Not sure Agree													
3. 4. 5. Huma	Disagree Not sure Agree Strongly Agree													
3. 4. 5. Huma	Disagree Not sure Agree Strongly Agree n Rights Organization Advocacy role n rights awareness	1	2	3	4	5								

4. Level of education

3.	The human rights bodies usually publish researched results	1	2	3	4	5
4.	4. The human rights bodies always disseminate information in most of the media houses like TVs, Radios, and News papers				4	5
5.	The human rights bodies help women to understand their domestic rights	1	2	3	4	5
6.	The human rights bodies help people respect women's domestic rights	1	2	3	4	5
7.	The human rights bodies usually carry out education programs on women's domestic rights	1	2	3	4	5
8.	Most of the awareness on women's domestic rights is done through print media	1	2	3	4	5
9.	Most of the awareness on women's domestic rights is done through TVs and Radios	1	2	3	4	5
10.	Makes the work of human rights commission in line with women's domestic rights known to community members at the grassroots	1	2	3	4	5
Con	stitution Functionalization					
1.	Human rights bodies always strengthen respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms	1	2	3	4	5
2.	Protects people from being violated of their rights	1	2	3	4	5
3.	Enables people participate in a free world	1	2	3	4	5
4.	Respect for human rights and linkage to national and international human rights norms and standards	1	2	3	4	5

# **Human rights Organization Protection role**

	Investigation of complaints					
1.	Goes to court to adjudicate for the rights of people	1	2	3	4	5
2.	Human rights bodies do the follow up of cases at what ever cost on behalf of those offended	1	2	3	4	5

3.	Empowers women and vulnerable people	1	2	3	4	5
4.	4. Seeks for redress of various complaints on behalf of complainants		2	3	4	5
5.	Receives complaints for handling on behalf complainants	1	2	3	4	5
	Assessment and inspection					
1.	Visits detention centres to assess violation of women's rights in prison or detention centers	1	2	3	4	5
2.	Visits scenes of incidence in case of any domestic human rights violation	1	2	3	4	5
3.	Follows up all the proceedings of the violation of women's domestic rights	1	2	3	4	5
4.	Suggests alternative ways of resolving disputes especially among families	1	2	3	4	5
5.	Monitors government compliance with international treaties that protect women	1	2	3	4	5

# **Human Rights Organization Remedial role**

Rec	commend for compensation						
1.	Suggests recommendations for further action on certain cases	1	2	3	4	5	
2.	Suggests type of compensation to be given to various complainants	1	2	3	4	5	
3.	Helps to establish the rightful kind of compensation for each complainant especially in the violation of women's domestic rights	1	2	3	4	5	
4.	Looks for alternative ways of ensuring that compensations are done	1	2	3	4	5	
Res	Research and development						
1.	Carries out regular research on women's rights violation	1	2	3	4	5	
2.	Suggests further areas for further research in line with domestic human rights violation	1	2	3	4	5	

3. Identifies areas that need more attention and addressing		1	2	3	4	5
4.	Recommends for implementation of the existing laws especially on protection of women	1	2	3	4	5
5.	Research on better ways of resolving conflicts in communities	1	2	3	4	5

# Promotion and protection of women's domestic rights

1.	As the result of human rights organizations activities women are able to	1	2	3	4	5
	own property of their own in their marital homes					
2.	As the result of human rights organizations activities women are allowed	1	2	3	4	5
	to do business that earn their families income					
3.	Women know of their marital rights and how they operate	1	2	3	4	5
4.	Women in families are respected by their husbands	1	2	3	4	5
5.	Women have the right to be leaders in their communities	1	2	3	4	5
6.	Husbands allow their wives to become leaders	1	2	3	4	5
7.	Husbands accept that women must do their own business	1	2	3	4	5
8.	Men respect women's views and suggestions in managing families	1	2	3	4	5
9.	Men equally participate in all domestic activities at home	1	2	3	4	5
10.	Men greatly respect women's sexual rights	1	2	3	4	5
11.	In case of sexual abuse domestically most women can report to relevant authorities	1	2	3	4	5
12.	Men can willingly stay home and look after the kids	1	2	3	4	5

# **Moderating Variables**

# **Insecurity and Economic situation**

1	Poverty among families has a great influence on violation of women's domestic rights	1	2	3	4	5
2.	Women's economic independence contributes to violation of women's domestic rights	1	2	3	4	5
3.	Wars greatly contribute to violation of women's domestic rights	1	2	3	4	5
4.	Safety of women's living surroundings contributes to violation of women's domestic rights	1	2	3	4	5
5.	Political representation has a significant influence on violation of women's rights	1	2	3	4	5
6.	Women's economic dependence contributes to violation of women's domestic rights	1	2	3	4	5

# Appendix 2: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR ORDINARY WOMEN, SOME WOMEN COMPLAINANTS AND WOMEN ACTIVISTS

Interview Guide Number.....

Dear respondent,
I am requesting you to participate in this interview, which is aimed at collecting data on the roll of human rights organizations in the promotion and protection women's domestic rights with case study of Uganda Human Rights Commission. You have been selected to be one of or respondents in this study. The information provided will be treated with strict confidentiality and shall not be used for any other purpose except for academic purposes. The study will ensure you anonymity and confidentiality. Thank you very much for your cooperation
1. What is your age?
3. What is your marital status?
2. How long have you been working or known about Uganda Human Rights Commission?
3. How does Uganda Human Rights Commission conduct awareness on women's domestic rights in Uganda?
4. How does this awareness help the promotion and protection of women's domestic rights

5.	How does the Uganda Human Rights Commission ensure that the constitution is functionalized in Uganda?
	How has Uganda Human Rights Commission been effective in investigating violation of women's domestic rights?
7.	When does Uganda Human Rights Commission recommend for compensation of any complainants?
	How effective are the recommendations made for compensation in case of human rights violation?
9.	What kind of research does Uganda Human Rights Commission do or recommend to be done?
• • •	

# **Appendix 3: Reliability Analysis**

### Reliability among variables

### Advocacy

***** Method 1 (space sav	ver) will be used for this analysis *****	
RELIABILITY AN	NALYSIS - SCALE (ALPHA)	
Reliability Coefficients		
N of Cases = $123.0$	N of Items = $12$	
Alpha = .7723		

#### Promotion

***** Method 1 (space saver) will be used for this analysis *****		
RELIABILITY ANALYSIS - SCALE (ALPHA)		
Reliability Coefficients		
N of Cases = $123.0$ N of Items = $12$		
Alpha = .7714		

#### Remedial

***** Method 1 (space saver) will be used for this analysis *****		
RELIABILITY AN	VALYSIS - SCALE (ALPHA)	
Reliability Coefficients		
N of Cases = $123.0$	N of Items $= 9$	
Alpha = .7703		

#### Promotion and protection

***** Method 1 (space sa	aver) will be used for this analysis *****	
RELIABILITY A	NALYSIS - SCALE (ALPHA)	
Reliability Coefficients		
N of Cases = 123.0	N of Items = 12	
Alpha = .8004		

#### Other Factors

***** Method 1 (space save	r) will be used for this analysis *****
RELIABILITY ANA	ALYSIS - SCALE (ALPHA)
Reliability Coefficients	
N of Cases = $49.0$	N of Items = 5
Alpha = .6912	

# **Appendix 4: Letter of introduction from UMI**

# **Appendix 5: Letter of Authorization from UHRC**