



Republic of Uganda

By Annelie Anton

POSITION OF UGANDA REGARDING RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN THE DRC

General information

Uganda has a progressive legal framework for women's rights, but enforcement and traditional norms remain challenges. The 1995 Constitution guarantees gender equality and reserves seats for women, contributing to around 34% female parliamentary representation. The Domestic Violence Act (2010) and Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act (2010) protect women from serious abuses. Land and succession laws also strengthen women's property and inheritance rights. However, customary practices, limited access to justice and economic barriers continue to restrict women's rights, particularly in rural areas.

Position on the matter

Uganda officially supports the protection of women and girls affected by conflict in the DRC. It supports women's participation in peacebuilding through regional and Women, Peace and Security initiatives. Uganda has participated in East African Community led peace efforts and other African regional frameworks addressing the DRC conflict. However, its position is complicated by its military presence in eastern DRC and wider security interests. Ugandan forces have operated in the DRC against the Allied Democratic forces, a terrorist group, since 2021. Uganda has also faced allegations of supporting M23, which it denies. Therefore, Uganda is likely to favour African-led solutions, regional cooperation and sovereignty over strong external intervention. Its support for women's rights is therefore genuine in principle, but closely shaped by its security and geopolitical interests in eastern DRC.



Proposed solutions

Uganda could advocate for the full implementation of the Luanda and Nairobi Peace Processes, with stronger security-sector reforms and measures to neutralize armed groups responsible for violence against women. It would promote women's meaningful participation in peace negotiations under UNSCR 1325, ensuring gender perspectives are included in regional peacebuilding. Uganda could strengthen cross-border humanitarian support for Congolese refugees, including protection, medical care, psychosocial support and legal assistance for survivors of SGBV. Through the ICGLR, Uganda could support regional training for police and judicial authorities to improve the investigation and prosecution of sexual violence and cross-border crimes.

Potential Blocks

Uganda could form with the other Nations within the EAC through regional peace initiatives in the DRC. Uganda's commitment to UNSCR 1325 also supports cooperation with states promoting women's participation in peacebuilding. China could also be an ally because it emphasizes sovereignty, dialogue and African-led solutions. Sweden and other Western states may oppose Uganda's approach by favouring stronger international accountability and intervention.





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