



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

CELEBRATING THE EUROPE DAY THE AFRICAN CENTRE FOR TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION OF TORTURE VICTIMS (ACTV)



STRENGTHENING AND ENHANCING TORTURE PREVENTION, REHABILITATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN EAST AFRICA

The African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV) extends its congratulations and joins the European Union delegation in Uganda in the celebration of the Europe Day, 9th May 2016.

Since October 2013, African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV) in partnership with the Independent Medico-Legal Unit (IMLU) and Center for Victims of Torture (CVT) with support from the European Commission have been implementing a 30 month project titled "Strengthening and enhancing Torture prevention, Rehabilitation and Accountability in East Africa" which is ending on 30th June 2016. The project has registered key achievements.

Key achievements of the Project to date:

1. The project simplified the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act (PPTA) 2012 into easy to read and understand English language which has been disseminated widely
2. The simplified version of the PPTA was translated into four local languages of Luganda, Luo, Rukiga-Runyankore and Kiswahili
3. 200 criminal justice actors from Prisons, Police, the Army, Magistrates were trained on the PPTA and sensitizations for 4218 Probation Police Constables and 788 cadets conducted on the same law.
4. Four torture related cases are being litigated in the Courts of law.
5. The capacity of 30 media personnel was built to report on torture related cases.
6. The project has provided holistic services (medical, legal, social, and psychological) to over 1000 torture survivors in Uganda and Kenya.
7. A mental health approach for delivering psychological counselling in prison setting was developed and piloted in Kigo Prison, the first of its kind in Uganda with an average of 90% recovery for the survivors of torture.
8. The project has supported the formation of the Uganda Torture Survivors Association; an association that brings together Ugandan torture survivors as a recovery support system.

9. Strengthened working relationship with the Uganda Human Rights Commission through providing expert witness for the compensation of torture survivors during tribunal hearings.

Voices from Project Beneficiaries

"I would like to thank ACTV for their timely action on issues. I am a torture survivor. Before I came to ACTV, I was hopeless, very, very hopeless. I lost my manhood as a result of torture and was on the verge of losing my marriage. However I underwent psychological counselling and my hope was renewed. I feel like I have been given a second chance at life..." ACTV Client

"The provisions in the PPTA are very clear and show that I will individually be held liable for torture, I really appreciate this training which has helped me understand this. I don't think I can torture since I now understand the Act..... this was not the case before..." Participant at Security Officers training on the PPTA

"I am a survivor of torture at Kigo Prison and I am grateful for the group psychological counselling I underwent. I was tortured before I came to the prison and as a result I had suicidal tendencies and was looking for any object to end my life and I secluded myself from all the other inmates. However I received group psychological counselling which helped me cope with my situation. I have now joined the drama group and we have formed a support group which meets every Saturday to talk about the challenges we face and provide support to each other in prison. We also engage in tree planting and I thank the prison administration which bought for us Eucalyptus seedlings which we have planted." Beneficiary of the Group psychological counselling at Kigo Prison

As the day is commemorated, ACTV is grateful to the European Union which has shown support for torture survivors and is contributing towards "A WORLD FREE FROM TORTURE" as is expressed in the voices of the project beneficiaries.

For more information contact:

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