

Women Advocates Restore Hope and Access to Justice for a Young Survivor of Sexual Violence



Woman Advocate - Mama Ekusu Miriam

A single act of support can change the course of a survivor's life. Yet for many women and girls in Karamoja, accessing justice after sexual violence is often hindered by fear, stigma, limited awareness of legal processes, and barriers within the justice system. Through the Women Empowerment, Action and Voice in Karamoja (WEAV) project, Karamoja Women Umbrella Organisation (KAWUO) is strengthening the capacity of community women advocates to support survivors, promote women's rights, and hold duty bearers accountable.

After participating in WEAV capacity-building trainings, a group of five women advocates led by Mama Ekusu Miriam learned about a young mother who had been defiled as a child and later abandoned by the man responsible. She was living in extremely difficult conditions with her seven-month-old baby, who was severely malnourished due to prolonged neglect.

The women advocates visited the survivor, listened to her story, documented the case, and supported her to report it to the Local Council Chairperson, who provided a recommendation letter for referral to the police. Although the advocates were initially referred to the Central Police Station because of the seriousness of the case, they encountered resistance from an officer who discouraged them from pursuing the matter and attempted to prevent the case from being registered.

Drawing on the knowledge, confidence, and leadership skills gained through the WEAV project, the women advocates remained determined. With technical support from KAWUO, they followed up with the relevant authorities until the case was formally registered and processed. The alleged perpetrator was arrested though later released on police bond, while the young mother and her child were referred to the Charity Sisters, where they received shelter, medical care, nutritional support, and psychosocial services that helped them recover.

Today, the impact of this intervention extends beyond one survivor. Mama Ekusu Miriam and her team have become trusted community champions, and women increasingly seek their support to report cases of domestic violence, sexual abuse, and other forms of gender-based violence. Their leadership has strengthened community confidence in reporting violations and contributed to greater accountability among local duty bearers.

This success story demonstrates how the WEAV project is empowering grassroots women to exercise leadership, claim their rights, and support other women to access justice. By investing in community women advocates, the project is helping create lasting change, where vulnerable women and girls have trusted local leaders who stand with them, amplify their voices, and ensure they are connected to protection and justice services.

Documentary Evidence

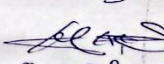
1. LC 1 Letter forwarding the case to police

To O.C police post south division
Office of LC 1
Chairperson
Old Campswahili
Camp Cell
Date, 4/06/2026

LC1 TELIMA

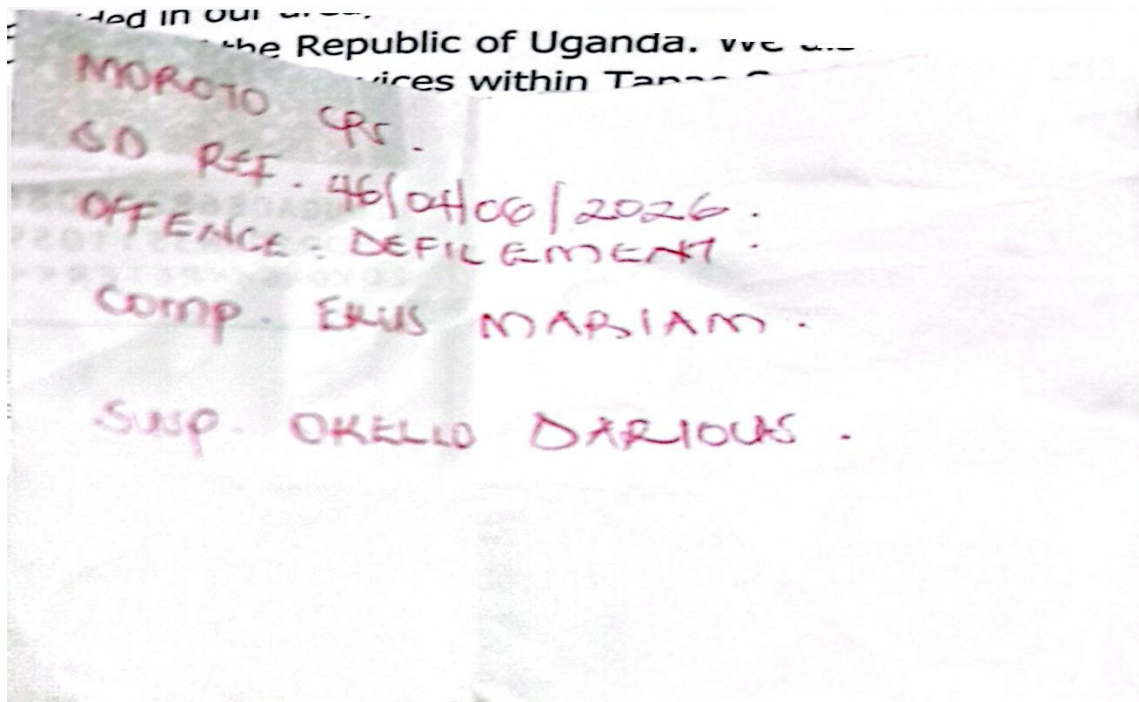
The above mentioned girl
is a resident of old camp
swahili chairperson, south
division moroto municipality
So sir the woman group
of old campswahili chair
Aburket came group reported
to my office the issue of
Telimas saw, and what I
decided is to forward the case
to your office of the child
protection unit, so that you
solve that issue sir.

Thanks yours faithfully,


LC1 Chairperson
Old Campswahili Chair
Tel 0778918832



2. Police SD Reference File Number for the defilement case registered by the women advocates



3. Child and family protection unit of the police referral letter to Charity Sisters

CHILD AND FAMILY
PROTECTION UNIT
(CFPU)
CENTRAL POLICE STATION
P. O. BOX 30
MOROTO
5th JUNE 2026

THE
ADMINISTRATOR
CHARITY SISTERS
MOROTO

RE: ODONGO DOMESTIC

The above named child
is a victim of domestic violence
and CHILD NEGLECT reported
to Police vide ref: 25/5/2026
The Mother of the child has
no breast milk for the baby.
The Mother has been referred
to your office for Counselling
and Support services.

Yours

ANURU JOYCE

D. C. P. U.

