

**MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT TO URGE GOVERNMENT TO STREAMLINE THE REMOVAL AND REINTERGRATION OF CHILDREN IN STREET SITUATION.**

*(Moved under rule 55 o the Rules of procedure of Parliament)*

WHEREAS Uganda ratified the United Convention Convention on the Rights of the Child and optional protocols thereto; the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC);

AWARE THAT Uganda has one of the youngest population in the world, where 70 per cent is under the age of 13 years, and it is estimated that there are close to over 15,000 children in Uganda aged 7-17 years, in the Districts of Kampala, Iganga, Jinja and Mbale living on the streets;

AWARE FURTHER THAT Uganda and indeed this Parliament have committed themselves to the full implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals including ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against torture of children;

COGNISANT THAT a resolution was passed by this Parliament on the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2017 under the title ***Motion for a Resolution of Parliament urging government to expedite the implementation of all laws and policies on children;***

COGNISANT FURTHER THAT a subsequent resolution was passed by this Parliament on the April 2018 on the occasion of commemoration of the eighth annual international day for street connected children under the theme: ***“Equality for street children starts here: Let’s make it happen”*** which aimed at bringing to the fore, issues specific to access to rights and other issues surrounding children on the streets;

CONCERNED THAT despite these encouraging unanimous adoption of the stated resolutions, in a bid to clean up the city the law enforcement agencies is rounding up children on the street and wrongly charging them with the offence of frequenting places with opium;

NOTING THAT these children find themselves in the streets due to various circumstances, for example, trafficking, violence in the homes, maltreatment, domestic violence, neglect, poverty, sexual abuse orphan-hood and have merely turned to the streets for survival;

APPRECIATING THAT under the UN General Comment No. 21 of 2017 where Uganda is a party, the Committee on the Rights of the Child provides authoritative guidance to States on developing comprehensive, long-term national strategies on children in street situations using a holistic, child

rights approach and addressing both prevention and response in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

APPREHENSIVE THAT Children in street situations are at risk of exposure to potentially life-threatening conditions associated with hazardous forms of child labour, traffic accidents, substance abuse, commercial sexual exploitation and unsafe sexual practices, and death due to lack of access to adequate nutrition, health care and shelter;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved by this Parliament that –

1. Government guarantees the protection of children especially those in street situation as enshrined in the UN Convention on the rights of the Child to which Uganda is a party.
2. Government ensures that there are coordinated efforts in rescuing the children following proper procedure.
3. The line Ministry comes up with long term solutions and avails resources to support proper implementation of the rescue programme to include rehabilitation and reintegration of these children.
4. Government addresses push factors alongside the rescue of these children as many of the children are victims of trafficking and other forms of violence.
5. Government puts in place mechanisms of protecting street connected children from violence and abuse and ensures children have access to justice when their rights are infringed upon.
6. Government puts in place child friendly mechanisms during rescue operations as opposed to the violent arrests by law enforcement agencies.

**Moved by: Hon. Centerinary Franco Robert (Kasese Municipality)** 

**Seconded by:**

**Hon. Akello Judith Franca (MP. Agago)** 

**Hon. Khainza Justine (MP. Bududa)** 

**Hon. Bitchetero Eragu Veronica (MP. Kaberamaido)**