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**THE ROLE OF UGANDA POLICE IN THE REALIZATION OF
RIGHT TO FAIR TRIAL OF YOUTH SUSPECTS OF DRUG ABUSE: A
CASE STUDY OF NAKAWA DIVISION KAMPALA**

BY

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2021/HD03/2042U

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH AND
GRADUATE TRAINING IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE AWARD OF A MASTER OF ARTS DEGREEE IN HUMAN RIGHTS OF
MARERERE UNIVERSITY**

November 2025

DECLARATION

I, Agaba Innocent, hereby declare that this dissertation is my original work and has never been submitted for any academic qualification/award in any University. To the best of my knowledge, where the work of others has been referred to, it has been duly acknowledged by means of complete referencing.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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APPROVAL

This dissertation has been submitted for examination under the academic supervision and approval of:

1. Dr. DICKSON KANAKULYA

Signature: _____ Date: _____

DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to the young people in Uganda, especially those in Nakawa Division, Kampala, who face the challenges of drug abuse and the justice system. Their fight for a fair and timely trial can be easily forgotten, but their stories highlight the need for equal rights for all. This work is for them, hoping it contributes to a future where their voices are clear, and justice is served quickly and fairly.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My deepest gratitude goes to my supervisors for their invaluable guidance and unwavering support.

I am thankful to my fellow classmates especially Joanita Nakimwero, who offered significant help plus the stimulating discussions and shared experiences.

My family and relatives deserve immense gratitude for their unwavering faith in me. Their constant encouragement, even during moments of doubt, provided the strength and resilience I needed to persevere.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to my incredible friends, especially those within the police fraternity and my superiors at work, their unique perspectives on law enforcement and financial support throughout this journey were invaluable. Your support has been instrumental in completing this dissertation.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS

A drug: Refers to any psychoactive substance that can alter the way the mind or body works, regardless of legal status or medical approval.

Drug Abuse: Refers to the use of drugs in a way that is destructive to the body or mind or in a manner that is detrimental to social well-being.

Drug addiction: Refers to a chronic condition where a person becomes physically and/or psychologically dependent on a drug.

Right to Fair Trial: Refers to the right of an accused person to receive a fair judicial hearing where a person who is charged with a crime has got the opportunity to be heard, has a right to representation, and shall not receive any form of arbitrary punishment.

Uganda Police Force: Is the principal security organ that is tasked with keeping law and order, carrying out the law, and preventing any commission of crime in Uganda.

List of Acronyms

EAC	East Africa Community
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
KYRF	Kampala Youth Recovery Foundation
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
SYRADO	Slum Youth Rehabilitation and Development Organization
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Education Fund
UPF	Uganda Police Force
UYDEL	Uganda Youth Development Link
YAP	Youth Advocate Program
YEF	Youth Empowerment Foundation
YEP	Youth Empowerment Project
YOTs	Youth Offending Teams

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the role of the Uganda Police Force (UPF) in ensuring the realization of the right to a fair trial for youth suspects of drug abuse in Nakawa Division, Kampala, between 2018 and 2023. It focused on the UPF's efforts to protect youths' rights during arrest and detention, ensure access to legal representation, and address challenges associated with facilitating fair trials. A mixed-methods approach was employed, combining quantitative and qualitative methodologies. The study involved 62 respondents selected through purposive sampling, snowballing and simple random sampling techniques. Data were collected using questionnaires and interviews and analyzed using the Microsoft excel tool pack 2016. The findings revealed some progress but highlighted significant challenges. Detention facilities were often substandard, case processing was delayed, and healthcare services for detained youth were inadequate. Access to legal representation was constrained by issues such as homelessness, lack of sureties, corruption, and limited resources. Youth suspects also faced barriers like inadequate family support, language difficulties, and lack of awareness of their legal rights. The study findings suggest recommendations for improving detention facilities, expediting case processing, enhancing healthcare provision, addressing homelessness, increasing resources for legal aid, and implementing anti-corruption measures. Additional recommendations included establishing follow-up mechanisms, providing language interpretation services, and introducing educational programs to inform youth about their rights. Finally, the study also suggests areas for further research, including the impact of legal representation on case outcomes for youth, the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures, and the role of social services in supporting youth suspects.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

Every individual is entitled to a fair trial in both civil and criminal matters. The right to a fair trial serves as a cornerstone for the protection of all human rights, ensuring that justice is administered impartially, independently, and competently. This right is critical for the practical availability of legal recourse through courts of law, which are the guardians of justice in a democratic society governed by the rule of law. Integral to this legal framework are the professions of prosecutors, lawyers, and the police, each playing a distinct yet interdependent role in upholding the principles of justice (Amnesty International, 1998).

The Uganda Police Force (UPF), as the primary law enforcement agency in Uganda, plays a pivotal role in ensuring the realization of the right to a fair trial, particularly for vulnerable groups such as youth suspects of drug abuse. The police are often the first point of contact in the criminal justice system, responsible for arresting suspects, conducting investigations, and preparing cases for prosecution (Uganda Police Act, Cap 303). Their actions and decisions at the pre-trial stage significantly influence the ability of courts to administer justice fairly. Upholding procedural safeguards during arrests, detentions, and interrogations is critical in preventing abuses that could compromise a suspect's right to a fair trial (Constitution of Uganda, Article 28).

Despite the legal frameworks in place, violations of fair trial rights remain a global concern. Amnesty International (1998) notes that youth frequently face systemic challenges, including violations of pre-trial and trial rights, particularly in cases involving drug abuse. The Human Rights Committee's jurisprudence under the Optional Protocol reveals numerous cases of youth subjected to unfair treatment, including prolonged pre-trial detentions, inadequate legal representation, and coercive interrogation practices. These violations undermine the fundamental principles of justice and disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, including youths who may lack the resources, knowledge, or support to advocate for their rights (Human Rights Committee, 2007).

In the Ugandan context, the UPF is tasked with ensuring that all suspects, including youths, are treated in accordance with national and international legal standards. However, challenges such as limited resources, overcrowded detention facilities, corruption, and lack of training in human

rights law often hinder the effective discharge of these duties (Human Rights Watch, 2021). For youth suspects of drug abuse, these challenges are compounded by societal stigma, homelessness, and the inability to access legal representation or sureties. These systemic issues underscore the critical need for reforms to enhance the role of the UPF in safeguarding the rights of youth and ensuring their access to a fair trial.

1.2 Background to the study

Globally, the issue of youth involvement in drug abuse and their interaction with justice systems is a significant concern. On any given day, between 160,000 and 250,000 youths are detained in prisons and detention centers worldwide due to accusations or convictions related to drug abuse (Nowak, 2019). These detention facilities often house the most disadvantaged members of society, including youths from low socio-economic backgrounds, racial and ethnic minorities, and those with disabilities (Webster, 2018). Overrepresentation of these vulnerable groups reflects systemic disparities in youth justice systems globally, including pre-trial detention and sentencing decisions (DeLone & DeLone, 2017; Maroun, 2019). These disparities compromise the principle of equality enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), Article 2, which demands equal rights protection for all youth without discrimination.

Detention and its associated challenges, such as inadequate legal representation, lengthy pre-trial periods, and limited access to social and health services, have detrimental effects on the well-being and future prospects of youth offenders. Research highlights that these systemic inequalities persist across multiple interlocking systems, including education, healthcare, and law enforcement, making marginalized youth disproportionately vulnerable to detention and its consequences (Dowd, 2018; McAra & McVie, 2018).

In Africa, drug abuse is a growing public health and social problem, particularly among the youth. About 28 million individuals in Sub-Saharan Africa are drug users, with over 37,000 annual deaths linked to drug-related conditions (East African Regional Report, 2019). East Africa has a 45.5% prevalence rate of drug abuse among youth, with projections suggesting the region will host one-third of all drug users in Africa by 2050 due to increasing urbanization and easy drug availability (Abbo et al., 2016). Uganda mirrors this trend, with drug abuse prevalence among youth aged 15-24 years estimated at 70.1%. Commonly abused substances include alcohol (23.3%), kuber

(10.8%), khat (10.5%), aviation fuel (10.1%), cannabis (9.2%), and cigarettes (5.9%), with males being twice as likely to engage in drug abuse as females (Nakibuuka et al., 2022).

In Kampala, drug abuse is especially prevalent in suburbs and slum areas, where cultural diversity and social challenges exacerbate the problem. Youth aged 15-24 years are the primary users, with substances like khat (52.6%), alcohol (25.6%), and marijuana (15.4%) being most commonly abused (Nakibuuka et al., 2022). The socio-economic and cultural dynamics in these areas, coupled with the limited capacity of law enforcement and judicial systems, pose significant challenges to the fair administration of justice for youth involved in drug abuse.

The UPF, as the primary law enforcement agency, plays a crucial role in ensuring the realization of the right to a fair trial for youth suspects. This includes upholding procedural safeguards during arrest, detention, and pre-trial investigations. The right to a fair trial encompasses the presumption of innocence, access to legal representation, and impartiality in judicial processes, all of which the UPF must safeguard (Annual Police Report, 2017). However, systemic issues such as corruption, inadequate resources, and lack of specialized training in human rights law hinder the police's ability to protect these rights effectively.

Efforts to classify drug addiction as a public health issue highlight the need for a multi-sectoral approach, where the UPF works alongside healthcare professionals, social workers, and legal experts to ensure that youth suspects receive fair treatment. This collaboration is critical to balancing law enforcement objectives with adherence to human rights principles.

This study examined the extent to which the UPF upholds the right to a fair trial for youth suspects of drug abuse in Nakawa Division, Kampala. By exploring international and national legal frameworks, as well as the practical challenges faced by the police, this research aimed to provide insights into the role of the UPF and propose actionable recommendations for improving the administration of justice for youth in Uganda.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

Youth drug abuse is a growing public health and social justice challenge in Uganda, with a prevalence rate of 70.1% among youths aged 15-24 years (Nakibuuka & Nalubega, 2022). Despite Uganda's constitutional guarantee of the right to a fair trial under Article 28, youth suspects of drug abuse often face significant barriers to justice.

The lack of fair trial mechanisms for youth drug abuse suspects undermines fundamental human rights, perpetuates inequalities, and violates the principle of non-discrimination enshrined in international and regional legal instruments such as the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Unfair judicial practices can lead to harsher sentences, prolonged detentions, and limited rehabilitation opportunities, which in turn jeopardize the prospects of youth reintegration into society.

The "Say No to Drugs" campaign by the Ministry of Health promotes awareness, while institutions like Butabika National Referral Hospital provide rehabilitation services for addiction. Legal frameworks, such as the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Control Act, aim to curb drug trafficking and abuse.

Despite the existence of constitutional protections and international commitments, there is inadequate focus on the role of the UPF in safeguarding the right to a fair trial for youth suspects. Police officers often lack the training or resources to balance law enforcement with adherence to human rights principles. Consequently, youth drug abuse suspects face challenges such as arbitrary arrests, delayed trials, and inadequate legal representation, violating their right to due process.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

1.4.1 General Objective

To analyze the role of the Uganda Police Force in the realization of the right to a fair trial for drug abuse youth suspects in Nakawa Division, Kampala.

1.4.2 Specific Objectives

- i. To assess the extent to which the Uganda Police Force protects the right to fair trial of youth during arrest and detention for drug abuse in Nakawa Division.
- ii. To examine the mechanisms employed by the Uganda Police Force to provide legal representation and access to fair trial among drug abuse youth suspects in Nakawa Division.
- iii. To analyze the challenges faced by the Uganda Police Force in realization of the right to a fair trial for drug abuse youth suspects in Nakawa Division.

1.5 Research Questions

The research questions guiding this study were as follows

- 1) How does the Uganda Police Force protect the rights to fair trial of youth suspects involved in drug abuse during arrest and detention in Nakawa Division?
- 2) What mechanisms are employed by the Uganda Police Force to facilitate legal representation and access to fair trial among drug abuse youth suspects in Nakawa Division?
- 3) What challenges does the Uganda Police Force encounter in their efforts to ensure the realization of the right to a fair trial among drug abuse youth suspects in Nakawa Division?

1.6 Conceptual Framework

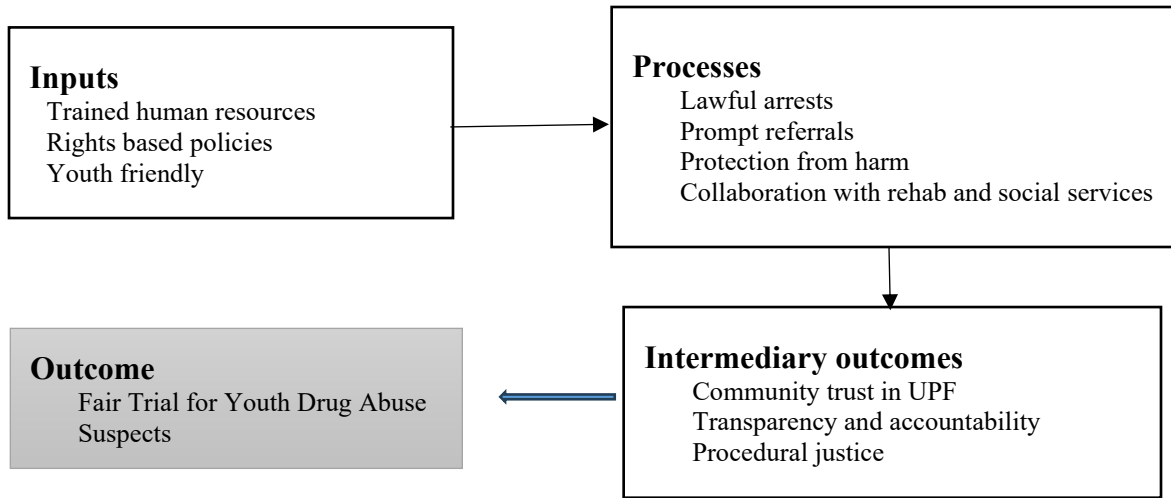


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

Narrative of the conceptual framework

The conceptual framework for this study is grounded in procedural justice theory, which explains why people accept the legitimacy of authority not solely based on outcomes, but on how they are treated by those in power (Tyler, 2003). According to this theory, fair procedures, respect, transparency, and impartiality are central and guide how the different elements of the framework connect. The conceptual framework highlights the relationship between the inputs, processes, and outcomes required for the Uganda Police Force (UPF) to uphold fair trial rights for youth drug abuse suspects. The framework identifies foundational inputs such as trained human resources, robust policies aligned with national and international legal frameworks, and appropriate infrastructure like youth-friendly detention centers. These resources ensure that the UPF has the capacity to uphold justice and human rights in handling youth suspects.

The processes are central to the UPF's role, emphasizing actions that promote fairness and avoid violations. Actions to undertake include conducting lawful arrests, informing youth suspects of their rights, ensuring prompt case referrals, and protecting them from harm. Additionally, the UPF should collaborate with rehabilitation centers and social workers to explore alternatives to incarceration. Conversely, actions to avoid include arbitrary arrests, prolonged detention, excessive force, discrimination, and obstructing suspects' access to legal representation or family support.

Through the implementation of these processes, the UPF can achieve intermediate outcomes such as fostering community trust in law enforcement, ensuring transparency and accountability, and upholding procedural justice. These outcomes create a system where police actions are viewed as fair and aligned with legal standards.

The ultimate outcome is the protection of fair-trial rights for youth involved in drug-related cases. By grounding policing practices in the values emphasized by procedural justice theory—fairness in process, neutrality, respectful treatment, and clear communication—the UPF can help ensure that young suspects are handled in a way that promotes dignity, equity, and the rule of law. This integrated approach strengthens justice delivery and aligns policing with the expectations of a rights-based criminal justice system.

1.8 Justification of the Study

This study is justified due to the growing concern over the vulnerability of youth suspects, particularly those involved in drug abuse, within Uganda's criminal justice system. Despite constitutional guarantees for a fair trial, there are significant gaps in the protection of these rights, especially during arrest, detention, and legal representation. The youth, who are disproportionately affected by drug abuse, often face challenges in accessing fair trials, leading to potential human rights violations.

By examining the Uganda Police Force's role in safeguarding these rights, this study aimed to identify the effectiveness of current practices and highlight areas for improvement. The findings of this study provide empirical evidence that can be used for policy reforms, training programs for law enforcement, and the establishment of better mechanisms for legal representation, thus contributing to the realization of fair trial rights for youth drug abuse suspects.

1.9 Scope of the Study

1.9.1 Content Scope

The primary focus of this study was analyzing the role of Uganda Police in ensuring the right to a fair trial for youth suspects under drug abuse in Nakawa Division, Kampala. For instance, it sought to establish the effectiveness of police interventions, rehabilitation programs, and advocacy efforts to reduce the problem within the youth drug abusers so that they can access the right to fair trial. The research recognized different factors that led to youth's engagement in crimes, such as drug abuse and other related criminal activities in Uganda, which included unemployment, poverty, peer influences, and lack of opportunities.

1.9.2 Geographical Scope

Nakawa Division is one of the five administrative divisions of the city of Kampala, the capital and largest city of Uganda. Nakawa Division lies in the eastern part of the city, bordering Kira Town to the East, Wakiso District to the North, Kawempe Division to the North-west, Kampala Central Division to the West, Makindye Division across Murchison Bay to the South-west and Lake Victoria to the South. Neighborhoods in the division include Bugoloobi, Bukoto, Butabika, Kiswa, Kiwaatule, Kyambogo, Kyanja, Luzira, Mbuya, Mutungo, Nabisunsa, Naguru, Nakawa and Ntinda. This is because the place has a high concentration of young people who are primarily

involved in drug abuse with less right to fair trial in courts of a judicature. The division also gave the researcher a sample of an urban area where police interventions and Uganda Police initiatives would be realized and observed up close. The researcher, in this case, was willing to engage the available local police departments, NGOs, and community groups in the Nakawa Division for the collection of these needed data and observations.

1.9.3 Time Scope

The study considered the period 2018 to 2023 to capture both before the new narcotics and psychotropic substances law took effect and the changes that began to emerge as the law moved toward enactment. The year 2018, reflects the most recent year for which the Uganda Police and local authorities in Nakawa Division had fully implemented, evaluated, and reviewed their strategies for addressing youth involvement in drug abuse and related criminal behaviour. This made it a practical baseline for understanding how policing approaches and community programs were functioning before the new legal environment.

During the year 2023, discussions and early actions around the law began influencing how cases involving young people were handled, especially regarding their right to a fair trial. Capturing this moment was important because it marked the beginning of a significant policy milestone that directly shaped policing practices, judicial processes, and youth outcomes.

Covering 2018 to 2023 therefore provided a balanced view of police roles and responses over time, showing both the established practices before the law and the transitional period leading up to its implementation. This range made it possible to assess changes, gaps, and emerging challenges in policing youth drug-related offences within Nakawa Division.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This literature review considers the past research done on the right to fair trial by the police in upholding youths' rights as suspects of crime committed from drug abuse and stereotypes an overview of the major theories, empirical studies, and key concepts underpinning this study.

2.2 Uganda Police Force protecting the right to fair trial of youth

The Common Standards for Policing in East Africa report (2017) were initially developed to support the objective of improved policing, first mentioned in the EAC Development Strategy 2006-2010. This objective proposed that a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between EAC police organizations be finalized, and that their training and grades be harmonized. While these first steps towards a regional policing model were primarily concerned with the more effective policing of cross-border organized crime, the Common Standards went further by articulating a framework for policing that spoke to the broader implementation of the EAC's four foundational pillars of good governance. These are: democracy and democratization; anti-corruption and ethics; the rule of law and access to justice; and right to fair trial and equal opportunities for all.

Police youth contact consists of any face-to-face interaction between a youth and one or more law enforcement police officers, including sworn police officers serving in municipal police departments; sheriff's departments; state police; and special jurisdiction agencies such as transit, park, and university police (Hyland, Langton, and Davis 2015). Contact can be youth-initiated or police-initiated and may occur in programmatic settings, such as police-led programs (e.g., police athletic leagues), or through day-to-day interactions in community and school settings to promote the right to fair trial. Some interactions also occur when youths are victims of crime. As gatekeepers to the justice system, police youth contact can result in informal solutions such as programs and services that divert youth away from system involvement, or arrest and further entry into the criminal and juvenile justice systems (LaMotte 2014). Such decisions during contact with youth can shape the options available to other juvenile justice decision makers in the system on the right to fair trial.

Youth contact with law enforcement explores perceived procedural justice on the right to fair trial and beliefs about police legitimacy. The four elements people use when judging fairness of

police procedures include 1) the opportunity to express opinions about the situation prior to formal police decision-making, 2) consistent and neutral decision-making and rules, 3) trust in the motives behind police actions, and 4) being treated with dignity and respect. Police use of these four elements in encounters with youth can improve attitudes and behaviors during police youth interactions and create an opportunity to enhance police legitimacy on the right to fair trial (Steinberg, and Piquero 2010).

Deterrence labeling suggests that crime can be prevented for example drug abuse through proactive policing strategies, which strengthen individuals' (and youths') perceptions that they will be caught for delinquent/criminal behavior (Nagin 2013). Conversely, labeling suggests proactive policing strategies may increase youths' involvement in delinquent/criminal behavior because of the negative label placed on youths like a drug addict. This debate is relevant to the discussion of police youth interactions, because contact with law enforcement (including just being stopped by police) could have long-term negative impacts on youths right to fair trial (Wiley and Esbensen 2016).

Given the environment within which youth crime occurs, usually two types of police officers interact with youths: patrol officers and School Resource Police officers (SROs). Patrol or street-level police officers are sworn police officers assigned to patrol duties within the community. In 2013, per the Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics, local police departments employed about 477,000 full-time sworn personnel (Reaves, 2015). About 68 percent of all sworn police officers in a police department are assigned to patrol duty and account for most police-public encounters. These police officers' responsibilities include observing and monitoring public spaces, controlling traffic or making traffic stops, responding to citizen calls for service, and conducting random preventative patrols of buildings and neighborhoods within their assigned beats or jurisdictions. Police can use their authority to issue citations, make arrests, and use force. Thus, patrol officers interact with youths for a variety of reasons, including traffic stops, drug abuse, accidents, or responding to calls for services especially on the right to fair trial.

The characteristics of the environment (e.g., crime level, police patrol presence, socioeconomic level, neighborhood disorganization) influence police behaviors and decisions to arrest (Cleary and Warner, 2016). Research suggests that in areas with high crime and neighborhood disorder, police officers anticipate more danger and threats to community safety; therefore, they are more

likely to use physical restraint, authority, and arrests. In terms of police youth interactions this promotes right to fair trial, Stouder, Fine, and Fox (2011) found that 73 percent of stops involving youths included at least one environmental factor such as the crime being committed in a high-crime area like drug addiction zone/school and the time of day or month. However, factors such as neighborhood disorganization are considered ineffective at predicting police behaviors with youth. Environmental factors also play a part in the role of SROs, who help with problem-solving on the right to fair trial. SROs also have more opportunities to have informal conversations with students and help refer them to perform community service.

2.3 Mechanisms employed by the Uganda Police Force in provision of legal representation to youth suspects

The police force has been engaged in community policing initiatives, conducting sensitization programs to educate communities on the risks associated with drug abuse and the rights of youth involved in criminal activities. These included organizing community meetings where former addicts shared their rehabilitation stories, challenged stereotypes, and encouraged families to seek help for their children (Nakawa Community Policing Report, 2016). Community engagement plays a vital role in addressing the problem of youth drug abuse through the right to fair trial.

Atieno's study, entitled "Community Policing: A Catalyst for Youth Rehabilitation in Ugandan Urban Areas" (2018), emphasizes that police and local communities must work hand in hand. This article underscores best practices for community policing that have been implemented in Nakawa Division and detailed highlights joint programs carried out with the police, local leaders, and social workers in rehabilitating youth who have fallen on the wrong side of the law. Community policing is visionary in nature; it is the participation of the communities in their safety. It encourages a close relationship between the police and the people, not in enforcing the law but also to work hand in hand while realizing and solving problems within communities. In Nakawa Division, Kampala, community policing is when police officers engage the public daily. These activities are occurring between town hall meetings, neighborhood watch programs, and local efforts such as school safety seminars. This arises from the realization that the youth experience unique challenges with drug abuse. Decentralization of decision-making empowers local law enforcement to tailor responses, ensuring they resonate with the specific needs of

Nakawa's diverse neighborhoods. By creating trust among people, the community creates strong collaboration and problem-solving solutions within the community in relation to the right to fair trial.

They also aid in youth's empowerment. A good reference is the Youth Empowerment Foundation, in Kampala, which deals with mentoring and counseling. The YEF provides professional mentors who offer emotional support and guidance to young individuals who are grappling with abuse of drugs. This is supported by the findings of supportive research, for example, a report from the Uganda Youth Development Link, shedding light on the positive impact of the mentorship programs in reducing drug abuse among the youth in urban areas and promotion of the right to fair trial. UYDEL report (2022), that consolidates with the Lutheran World Federation, implemented the Urban Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) phase Two in Rubaga, Nakawa and Makindye Municipalities in Kampala, Uganda for period of four years (2020-2023) with Financial Support from Icelandic Church Aid.

The NGOs, like Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL) and other engagement with the UNICEF international, come up with policy. They draw from their skills to pinpoint problems and necessitate the required changes to correct them. This has been reflected in community dialogues and sensitization meetings among parents, teachers, and community leaders in Nakawa Division, spearheaded by the Uganda Police and UNICEF (UNICEF Uganda, 2019). In fact, these types of partnerships offer the resources that are so urgently needed to supplement rehabilitation centers and furthermore promise to build the capacity needed to set police officers on required par levels in relation to the right to fair trial among youth drug suspects.

The Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) targets young people living in the slums, aged 13 to 24. It is, therefore, designed to build a powerful, stable, and organized community of youths that live in the slum boroughs of Rubaga, Nakawa, and Makindye of the city of Kampala. The project also targets that, by 2023, the vulnerable slum youth have increased access to employable skills and the hitherto non-realized rights to economic development will be respected and fulfilled. By 2023, the vulnerable slum youth will have increased access and utilization of youth-friendly sexual reproductive health rights services and information. These two directly contribute to the achievement of the global sustainable development goals that include end poverty in all its forms everywhere, promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, promote inclusive and

sustainable economic growth, employment, and decent work for all, and ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. Another vital factor which borders on youth support structures is educational empowerment; organizations like the Hope for Youth Uganda collaborate with local schools and businesses to provide this service. For instance, scholarships and resources for trainings and vocational training are provided for every person. According to Uganda National NGO Forum, (NGOs, 2020) the organization has carried out studies that documented problems of successful young people who, due to educational opportunity if interested in other career professions, feel that they had already overcome problems of drug addiction and sought other jobs only to excel and become successful in that carrier profession.

The Uganda Police Force underwent proceedings in which the legal aid organizations offered free legal representation to the juvenile offenders. Drug-related charges benefited specifically from such proceedings, ensuring that all arrested with such charges were indeed presented in court with asserting defense lawyers to defend their rights at the trials. Legal aid clinics have played a vital role in ensuring that susceptible groups in society, particularly the youth from Nakawa Division, Kampala, have access to justice in the face of drug abuse cases. The clinics are originally set up by legal professionals, NGOs, or even government institutions, aiming to give free but necessary legal assistance to people who cannot afford legal representations. In Nakawa, they have gone ahead to ensure the protection of the rights of young people charged with drug offenses. In short, the clinics are basically legal advice and counseling centers. Knowledgeable lawyers describe to them their legal rights and responsibilities involved within the complex legal framework. Therefore, this counseling is vital in enabling young persons to make informed decisions about their defense to stand fully aware along the proceedings.

The stance of the police force in Uganda has greatly changed over the years in relation to the rehabilitation of youths. A study by Kagame, M. et. al. (2021) states that the current approaches to treatment involve not only legal interventions but also psychological counseling, vocational training, and community reintegration and social support. The Uganda Police Force has, in recent years, embraced an approach to the rehabilitation of youths, more so in Nakawa Division, Kampala, from drug abuse. Counseling offers a platform for youths to explain the causes and helps in changing the behavior and behavioral orientation of the youth. There are also education factors that have come up as a maximum tool to groom rehabilitated youth with knowledge and life skills.

They will be able to access education which opens them up to a world of knowledge and makes them less prone to regression into criminal activities. There is also an apprenticeship and vocational program that has been put in place to ensure they acquire practical skills that include carpentry, tailoring, or culinary.

With such skills explained above, they can be self-reliant and have practical ways of being legally employed thus the successful reentry of the inmate. Studies such as that of Ochieng and Mukasa (2019), have driven vocational training through diversification of skills and success in reintegration into the market with an impact on the job market. Another core aspect of the new evolving strategies is community involvement. The Uganda Police create in the reformed youths a sense of belongingness and acceptance by local communities and NGOs. Community Support Networks are set up and provides them with mentorship, and manufacture for the emotional support and social interaction. Community involvement for this group has been emphasized, in line with research findings from community engagement studies such as the works of Kanya and Omoding (2017). Participation in community projects and social activities builds up their self-esteem and social skills hence significant in the reintegration success

2.4 Challenges Faced by Uganda Police Force in Force in realization of the right to a fair trial of youth suspects

According to O'Higgins (2000) the leading cause of youth engaged in crime is unemployment. The consequences of youth unemployment such as social exclusion can lead to drug abuse whereas crime and social unrest can damage society as a whole. According to the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) 2017 Statistical Abstract, in 2015, the national youth unemployment rate was at 6.2%. It is indicated that the youth unemployment rate in Kampala was thrice (15%) the national rate. Failure to obtain employment affects the livelihood of youths and puts them in a poverty trap which compromises their ability to access justice of right to fair trial. This is aggravated by the commercialized nature of justice, fuelled by the high costs of getting legal representation, court fees and charges arising from corruption tendencies in the Justice, Law and Order Sector (JLOS) institutions.

Accessing justice is a significant challenge for young people in Uganda. Despite important progress in recent years, in many cases prevention, protection, rehabilitation and reintegration are

not fully realized for youths who come into contact with the law (Centre for Justice Studies and Innovations, *Justice for All: Youth Too?* 2014). The processes of interacting with the justice system can be immensely frightening and damaging for youth victims and witnesses, as well as those accused of crimes and offences without accessing the right to fair trial among drug abuse youth suspects.

As a matter of fact, consistent with the demographic distribution, young people are disproportionately affected by limited access to justice services. Moreover, as indicated in this Report, the youths stand out as one of the vulnerable groups of people with a high demand for justice related services. It has been demonstrated that the role of the youths in socio-economic and political transformation in Uganda has been changing. Markedly, between 1996 and 2006, the role of the youths diminished, with visibility of this category emerging after 2006. The diminution arose from deliberate exclusion of youths from public affairs, as well as absence of fora for youths to interface, exchange information and act collectively (Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, 2014). This is seen among others through agitation for political reforms, representation and participation in governance.

The same Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development notes that many social and economic changes in Uganda have occurred over the past decade. This has been brought about among others by the Lord Resistance Army (LRA) war that reigned over Northern Uganda for almost two decades, the changing nature of the family (which has seen disintegration of this unit in some aspects) and health problems (including HIV/AIDS). These changes have had a marked impact on the lives of children and youths. Additionally, there is growing youth unemployment, changes in family patterns, increasing income disparities between the wealthy and the poor, and increasing number of refugees, which now stands at over 1,000,000 people. This is in addition to the virtual exclusion of sections of populations living in inner cities or poor rural areas from the relatively increased prosperity experienced by others. The above has had an impact on youths. For instance, lack of education has exposed some youths to risky behavior such as crime, sex work, substance use/abuse, child marriage, and drug trafficking in search of money.

The demand for social amenities such as education, water, housing and education is higher than the supply for the same. Similarly, justice services have not been spared in this regard in relation

to the right to fair trial in Uganda. According to the 2016 Report published by the Hague Institute for the Internationalization of Law (HiIL, 2016), 8 nearly 9 out of 10 Ugandans required access of some kind to the justice system, but their needs were not met. Of the 9 people that needed help, 3 of them gave up and their problems were not resolved due to lack of accessibility to right to fair trial. This was due to lack of knowledge, power or money, or some combination of the three. Nonetheless, although the HiIL Report shows the various justice needs of people, it does not specifically focus on the justice needs of the youth.

The Uganda Police Force faces a number of setbacks in its attempt to support the rehabilitation of youth who are involved in crime, especially in drug use, in the Nakawa Division, Kampala. One of the enormous challenges has been inadequate resources. Effective rehabilitation calls for vast funding, especially in counseling, vocational training, and education programs. Resources normally discourage the founding of rehabilitation centers and hence limit the capacity of those in place, therefore reducing their effectiveness. Another challenge is social stigma and community integration. Because the youth are indulging in criminal activities, they are stigmatized by the society, and he will not be considered if he sought reintegration. It is very tough since it is not easy for one to live in the community without earning a living to sustain themselves as most children do not have these qualifications.

This forced isolation makes one more prone to reoffend, and the cycle continues. There is also lack of coordination among the players. Effective rehabilitation requires that law enforcement, social services, schools, and community agencies closely work together. Recidivism remains to be the typical issue despite the continuous effort, thereby calling for consistent, long-term support programs. Youth that lack consistent supposed to have been rehabilitated that are back to drugs and crime highlight the need for comprehensive, long-term help. Issue of limited specialized training for law enforcers. Without proper youth psychology, addiction counseling, and restorative justice training, police officers will lead to punitive measures which will only run counter to be able to rehabilitate. Finally, lacking any in-depth research and data collecting undermines evidence-based practices. Any good rehabilitation programs will need constant evaluation, but when there is a lack of proper research that can be conducted on the amount of existing number of programs this latter is then hampered.

2.5 Identified Research Gaps

There is a limited literature on how police handle youth drug abuse suspects in light of promoting their right to fair trial. Given that youths are psychosocially different from adults, several researchers have sought to determine whether police are aware of adolescent development theory and have applied that knowledge during their interrogations with youths. Cleary and Warner (2016) note that police officers often interview and interrogate youths in the same way as adults, which highlights a need for more research on such training methods, whether they should be used universally, and if the application of such techniques has any impact on the outcomes of youth and police contact.

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This section provides details about various aspects of the research methodology adopted for the present study, covering the research approach, research design, study population, sampling procedure, sampling techniques, sample size, data collection methods, questionnaire survey methods, interview method, data collection instruments, data quality control, validity, reliability, data analysis and presentation, ethical considerations, and limitations of the study.

3.2 Research Approach

The research employed mixed methods that integrated both quantitative and qualitative approaches to fully investigate the role of the Uganda Police in upholding the fair trial rights of youth suspects involved in drug abuse cases in Nakawa Division, Kampala district.

Quantitative methods enabled the researcher to quantify key variables, identify trends, and establish statistical relationships within the data. Through structured questionnaires administered to respondents, quantitative data on factors such as arrest rates, trial outcomes, and perceptions of fairness among youth suspects were gathered. This approach provided statistical perceptions into the prevalence and significance of various issues related to youth drug abuse and fair trial rights.

Qualitative methods, using in-depth interviews complemented the quantitative data by offering rich, contextual understandings into the lived experiences and perspectives of key stakeholders. Engaging directly with police officers, youth suspects, and other relevant individuals, the researcher explored the distinctions of their interactions, uncovered barriers to fair trial rights, and discovered potential areas for improvement in the justice system.

3.3 Research Design

The research design adopted for this study was both descriptive and analytical, utilizing a cross-sectional research design, supplemented by qualitative methods to enrich the data and provide a deeper understanding of the issues.

With utilizing a descriptive approach, the study collected and analyzed data to depict the current practices and perceptions concerning the treatment of youth suspects. Surveys, and interviews

were employed to gather detailed information on arrest procedures, detention conditions, access to legal representation, and perceptions of fairness among youth suspects and stakeholders.

The research design incorporated analytical elements to explore the relationships between different variables and phenomena. Quantitative data analysis utilized statistical techniques, while qualitative data underwent thematic analysis to identify patterns, trends, and influencing factors.

3.4 Study Population

The study population comprised of various stakeholders involved in the criminal justice system, including youth suspects, law enforcement officers, legal practitioners, community leaders, and civil society representatives. Nakawa Division in Kampala, Uganda, was selected as the primary study area.

According to Kampala Capital City Authority (2019), in the Nakawa Division Physical Development Plan 2019-2040, Nakawa Division is home to a diverse urban population, including approximately 300,000 residents, with a significant proportion being youth aged between 18 and 30 years. The division comprises numerous slums and informal settlements, accounting for about 30% of the population, where drug abuse is prevalent due to limited access to social services and economic opportunities.

3.5 Sampling Procedures

3.5.1 Sample Size

A sample size was chosen from the study population to represent the opinions of the complete population because of the size of the population under investigation.

Table 1: Sampling frame for the study

Category	Sample Size	Sampling Technique
Youth Suspects under Drug Abuse (Nakawa)	27	Snowball/networking Sampling
Police officers	20	Purposive Sampling

NGOs (involved in youth rehabilitation)	3	Purposive Sampling
Community Leaders in Nakawa	6	Simple random Sampling
Other Community Members	6	Simple random

Out of the 74 people in the population, a sample size of 62 was chosen overall. From the Table of Krejcie and Morgan (1970) used to obtain sample size, the following was considered.

Population size (N) = 74

Margin of error (e) = 0.05

Sample Size n = 62

3.5.2 Sampling Techniques

A combination of purposive and convenience sampling methods was employed for participant selection. Purposive sampling was utilized to select participants who had been directly involved in drug-related offenses or had experience working with youth suspects under drug abuse, such as police officers, social workers in NGOs, and community leaders. Convenience sampling was used to select participants based on their availability and accessibility, ensuring a practical approach to data collection.

3.6 Data Collection Methods

The study employed mixed methods (qualitative and quantitative) for data collection. Qualitative methods involved interviews with police officers, youth suspects and other stakeholders, while quantitative methods involved administering questionnaires to youth suspects and law enforcement police officers.

3.6.1 Questionnaires

The questionnaire used in the research comprised both closed-ended and open-ended questions designed to gather quantitative data from various stakeholders who were involved in the study. The youth suspects of drug abuse were interviewed to assess their experiences with police interactions and perceptions of their right to a fair trial. Similarly, police officers were

interviewed to gather data on their practices, challenges faced, and perceptions regarding the fair trial rights of youth suspects. NGOs involved in youth rehabilitation centers were also surveyed to understand their perspectives on the role of police and the challenges in ensuring fair trials for youth suspects.

3.6.2 Interviews

In-depth interviews were conducted with key stakeholders to obtain qualitative perspectives. The interviews were conducted with police officers to explore their experiences, attitudes, and approaches toward handling youth suspects involved in drug abuse cases. Also conducted interviews with representatives from NGOs provided understanding into their collaborative efforts with the police, challenges encountered, and recommendations for improving the fair trial process for youth suspects.

3.7 Data Quality Control

Data quality control measures were implemented to ensure the validity and reliability of the collected data. These measures included;

3.7.1 Validity

According to Amin (2005), validity refers to the appropriateness of the instruments in measuring whatever they are intended to measure. In ensuring that the data collection instruments are valid, the researcher has precisely aligned the questions with the objectives of the research and checked them for accuracy through pilot testing. An example is where clear and specific questions that will measure the perceptions of respondents about police handling of the youth suspects in abusing drugs were contained in the questionnaire.

3.7.2 Reliability

Amin, 2005, describes reliability as the extent to which a research tool or instrument provides constant results or data on repeated studies. In this study, several strategies were employed to enhance the reliability of the data collection tool. I used a standardized the interview tool and had prior extensive training in interviewing for objectivity to minimize any possible biases.

3.7.3 Data Validation

Throughout the data collection process, continuous validation of the data was conducted to identify and rectify any inconsistencies or errors. During data entry, double-entry verification techniques were implemented to minimize data entry errors.

3.8 Data Analysis and management

The table presented offers a detailed breakdown of study variables and the methodologies utilized during the data management and analysis phase of the research. It functions as a structured framework connecting specific research objectives with corresponding data collection methods, tools, analysis procedures, and anticipated key outputs. This organized approach enabled a thorough comprehension of how data were collected, processed, and analyzed to effectively address each research objective. Such systematic structuring ensured the coherence and reliability of the data management and analysis process, thereby enhancing the validity of the study findings.

Table 2: Data Analysis

Specific Objective	Data/Variables of interest	Data Collection Method	Data Collection Tool	Analysis Procedures	Desired Key Outputs
1. Assessing the extent to which the Uganda Police Force safeguards the rights of youth suspects during arrest and detention for drug abuse in Nakawa Division	Rights of youth suspects during arrest and detention	Observational study, interviews	Observation checklist, interview guide	Qualitative content analysis, thematic analysis	Identification of rights violations, assessment of police procedures

2. Examining the mechanisms employed by the Uganda Police Force to provide legal representation and access to justice for	Mechanisms for legal representation and access to justice	Document review, interviews	Policy documents, interview transcripts	Comparative analysis, thematic analysis	Evaluation of legal support mechanisms, identification of gaps
youth suspects involved in drug abuse in Nakawa Division					
3. Analyzing the challenges faced by the Uganda Police Force in ensuring the realization of the right to a fair trial for youth suspects engaged in drug abuse in Nakawa Division	Challenges in ensuring fair trial rights	Surveys, interviews	Questionnaire s, interview guide	Quantitative analysis, thematic analysis	Identification of challenges, assessment of resource allocation

3.9 Ethical Considerations

This study observed protocols to ensure that all ethical issues involved in a research study were duly adhered to. After defending the proposal, recommendation letter was sought from the Department of Philosophy, College of Humanities and Social Sciences for permission to carry out the study. The researcher protected the anonymity, privacy and confidentiality of all respondents who sought the information they provided was held with utmost confidentiality and lastly the researcher respected the privacy of all participants who choose to withhold information or part of the information shared for their own protection and security (National Council of Higher Education, 2014).

Human Research Participants will have a right to, inter alia:

- a) Consent and participate in research or not, or withdraw at any time without penalty
- b) Be respected, including the right of their autonomy, culture, beliefs and values
- c) Information about the research (it is important to ensure that information is communicated in understandable language, format and in a conducive environment at all stages of the research)
- d) Protection against research related injuries, harm, exploitation, and any other forms of abuse
- e) Privacy and confidentiality of their participation, during and after the research

3.10 Limitations and delimitations of the Study

In this study, a number of limitations were encountered that potentially could have led to varying out-puts and results.

Some of the key informants were hard to reach, especially security personnel dealing with the cases of the youth suspects under drug abuse. Bureaucratic barriers were especially discovered to be a problem when one needed the cooperation of the police and other enforcement agencies. This was resolved through continuous engagement with the heads at the research sites for comprehensive planning and appropriate schedules for the interviews to minimize interruptions to the officers' duties.

Another limitation was the sample size, which was calculated according to established methods but might have been too small to effectively capture variation in perspectives and experiences of the target population. This implies a gap for the need for studies that could cover wider scope for better generalizability of findings.

It was tough to maintain anonymity and confidentiality when contacting or recruiting people from a group of victims of drug abuse. However, emphasized the essence of confidentiality among the participants considering the sensitive nature of the topic of study.

CHAPTER FOUR: PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

This section outlines the study's findings, which aimed to address the research questions in Nakawa Division. It begins with a summary of the response rate and participant characteristics. The data collected is then analyzed according to the study's objectives.

4.2 Response Rate

The response rate for any research study is a critical metric that reflects the level of participation and engagement from the target population. In our study, the response rate was determined by the number of participants who provided usable data compared to the total number of individuals approached to participate.

Table 3: Response Rate

Data Collection Instrument	Frequency	Percentage
Questionnaires distributed	86	100%
Questionnaires returned	74	85%
Interviews conducted	08	100%
Document reviews	06	100%

Source: Primary

The overall response rate for the distributed questionnaires was 85%, with 53 out of 62 distributed questionnaires being returned. This high response rate indicated a strong level of engagement and willingness among the respondents to participate in the study. An 85% return rate for questionnaires is generally considered excellent in survey research, ensuring that the sample is sufficiently representative of the population studied and that the data collected is reliable and valid.

4.3 Sample Characteristics and Background Information of the Participants

The study participants consisted of participants' demographics and relevant background information, such as age, gender, and education level among others as in most of the data collection instruments of questionnaires and interviews.

4.3.1 Gender Distribution

The gender distribution among the respondents showed a significant representation of both male and female participants. Out of the total respondents, 26(49.1%) were male and 27(50.9%) were female, indicating a balanced gender participation in the study.

Table 4: Gender Distribution

Gender of respondents

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Male	26	49.1	49.1	49.1
Valid Women	27	50.9	50.9	100.0
Total	53	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary

4.3.2 Age Distribution

The age distribution of the participants was predominantly within the 18-35 age range, with the majority falling into this category. Specifically, 36(67.9%) respondents were aged between 18-25, 10(18.9%) were between 26-30, and 7(13.25%) were 31-35. This distribution indicates that most participants were young adults, which aligns with the focus on issues related to young people and drug-related arrests.

Table 5: Age Distribution

Age distribution in Years

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 18-25	36	67.9	67.9	67.9
26-30	10	18.9	18.9	86.8
31-35	7	13.2	13.2	100.0
Total	53	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary

4.3.3 Education Level

The education levels of the respondents varied, encompassing a range of educational backgrounds.

Table 6: Education Level

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid University education	21	39.6	39.6	39.6
College	20	37.7	37.7	77.4
High school	9	17.0	17.0	94.3
None	1	1.9	1.9	96.2
Job training	2	3.8	3.8	100.0
Total	53	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary data

The diversity in educational backgrounds among respondents allows for a broad perspective on the issues related to drug-related arrests and police interactions. The majority having a university education with scores of 21(39.6%), college education 20(37.7%), high school had scores of 9(17%) suggests a potentially higher awareness of legal rights and procedures.

4.3.4 Employment Status and Roles

The respondents' employment status and roles were diverse, showing various sectors and positions.

Table 7: Employment Status and Roles

Employment status

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Police	25	47.2	47.2	47.2
Community leaders	5	9.4	9.4	56.6
Valid NGO workers	3	5.7	5.7	62.3
Others	20	37.7	37.7	100.0
Total	53	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary

The significant representation of police 25(47%) ensured that understanding of law enforcement perspectives was well-represented. The inclusion of community leaders had 5(9.4%), NGO workers had scores of 3(5.7%), and others had scores of 20(37.7%) provides a well-rounded view of community perspectives on the issues.

4.4 Presentation of field data findings According to Research Objectives

The data collected is presented and analyzed according to the three specific objectives of the study.

4.4.1 Protection of Rights during Arrest and Detention

Respondents shared their perceptions and experiences regarding the protection of youth suspects' rights by the Uganda Police Force during arrest and detention. The data revealed a range of views, with many expressing concerns about the fairness and treatment they received during these interactions.

Table 8: Perception of Police Fairness during Arrests

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Fair	32	60.4	60.4	60.4
Valid Unfair	21	39.6	39.6	100.0
Total	53	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary data

The findings reveal mixed perceptions of police fairness, with 32(60.4%) perceiving the treatment as fair, while 21(39.6%) found it unfair. This suggests that there are inconsistencies in how the rights of youth suspects are protected during arrest and detention. The data shows the need for standardized procedures and training to ensure that all youth suspects are treated fairly and their rights are consistently upheld.

One participant, a 29-year-old from Bugolobi, recounted, *"The police treated me like a criminal from the moment they saw me. They didn't even care about my side of the story. All they saw was a drug user."* Such sentiments and many more of the same do point out the need for more empathetic and just treatment.

Several respondents highlighted inconsistencies in police treatment. For instance, one respondent noted, "Sometimes the police treat young people fairly, but other times they are very harsh and unfair, especially if they think the person is guilty." Another participant mentioned, *"The police should do more sensitization programs, especially in the ghetto areas because that is where most of these crimes are being committed."*

4.4.2 Mechanisms for Legal Representation and Access to Justice

The respondents were asked whether they knew about and were allowed access to legal representation in their events with the police. It emerged that there is a deep divide in information and access to legal aid.

Table 9: Mechanisms for Legal Representation and Access to Justice

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	20	37.7	37.7	37.7
Valid No	33	62.3	62.3	100.0
Total	53	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary data

The data indicates a substantial gap in both awareness of legal rights and access to legal representation among youth suspects. 20(27.7%) youth were aware of the mechanisms for Legal Representation and Access to Justice in Nakawa division. 33(62.3%) of respondents were unaware of their legal rights and lacking access to legal representation, it underlines the need for the Uganda Police Force to implement mechanisms that enhance awareness and provide better access to legal aid. This could include educational programs and partnerships with legal aid organizations.

One respondent shared, *"When I was arrested, the police did not inform me of my rights. I only found out later that I was entitled to a lawyer."* Another mentioned, *"Legal aid is rarely provided unless you have connections, some big godfathers or can pay for it yourself."*

4.4.3 Challenges in Ensuring Fair Trials

Respondents gave perceptions on challenges that the Uganda Police Force faces to uphold the principle of fair trial, in handling youth suspects. Common challenges noticed were corrupt practices, lack of motivation, and failure to have/ insufficient facilities.

Table 10: Challenges Faced by Uganda Police Force (UPF)

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Corruption	25	47.2	47.2	47.2
Lack of motivation	16	30.2	30.2	77.4
Inadequate facilities	12	22.6	22.6	100.0
Total	53	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary data

The data reveals significant challenges hindering the Uganda Police Force's ability to ensure fair trials. Corruption is identified as the most significant issue with the scores of 25(47.2%), affecting nearly half of the respondents followed by lack of motivation with 16(30.2%) and inadequate facilities are substantial barriers had 12(22.6%). These findings suggest the need for systemic reforms to address corruption, improve resources, and enhance police officers' motivation through better working conditions and incentives.

A police officer commented, *"Corruption is a major problem. Many times, suspects are released if they or their families can pay something."* Another Police respondent noted, *"The lack of adequate facilities makes it hard to detain young suspects on drug abuse with capital offense suspects due to overcrowding, which is not ideal."*

Rehabilitation service provision for youth

Table 11: Rehabilitation service provision for youth

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Criminal justice system	23	43.4	43.4	43.4
Uganda Police Force	12	22.6	22.6	66.0
Health sector (Butabika hospital)	18	34.0	34.0	100.0
Total	53	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary data

The data indicates rehabilitation service provision for youth are mostly offered by the Criminal justice with scores of 23(43.4%) followed by Ministry of Health under Butabika hospital with scores of 18(34%) and lastly are the UPF with the scores of 12(22.6%). This therefore, analyses the *“Role of the Uganda Police in upholding the fair trial rights of youth suspects involved in drug abuse cases in Nakawa Division, Kampala district”*.

Counseling, legal guidance, and educational support are extended even after the formal programs for rehabilitation are over in the aftercare services so that the positive outcomes are maintained. Research-borne interventions have a better likelihood of returning positive outcomes that are long term, so data collection and analysis are an intrinsic part of the evolving strategies.

4.5 Descriptive Analysis of Qualitative Findings

An interview with some police officers from the Criminal Investigations Department at Jinja Road Police Station provides in-depth understanding into the current practices, challenges, and some areas of best practice in handling youthful suspects that are alleged with drug-related offenses.

4.5.1 Communication and Rights Information

One police officer emphasized the importance of informing youth suspects of their rights upon arrest. This includes the right to remain silent, the right to legal representation, and the right to medical care. The police officer had this to say; *“we usually find interpreters for suspects who do not understand English or Luganda so that we fully understand each other but when we fail to get an interpreter, we have to continue our way”*.

The practice of clearly communicating rights aligns with the theoretical framework's emphasis on transparency and support for suspects. However, the reality of implementing these practices is challenged by language barriers, which can impede effective communication. Ensuring that all suspects understand their rights is crucial for a fair legal process, and while interpreters are utilized, their availability and effectiveness can vary.

4.5.2 Legal Aid Mechanisms

One police officer described measures that were in place to ensure that young suspects were provided with legal representation, which is highly commendable. The department collaborates with legal aid organizations and the Uganda Law Society's Legal Aid Clinic to ensure that young suspects who cannot afford the services of a private lawyer are provided with free legal representation. With all these mechanisms in place, access to justice and legal aid were still largely scanty.

Such partnerships in legal aid would point towards a step desired in ensuring that all have equal access to justice. These may be inhibited by the system and deficient resources that exist generally in third world countries. A pressing challenge that remains is how to ensure that legal aid for all youth is available in time when investigation is ongoing. Much more expansive, robust, and enhanced legal aid support systems therefore are called for.

There is an issue of state complaints where most of the youth suspects do not have private complainants; therefore, the state is usually the complainant, hence, a court process is automatic. This simplifies the proceedings in courts but at the same time may lead to a long detention period due to inefficiencies within the system.

One police officer confirmed most police stations provide basic needs such as meals and sanitary attention to detainees, noting that things done for suspects are provision of meals and medical care if needed, and males and females are separated by cells.

Maintaining basic needs falls under human rights. In that regard, some police stations try to provide for such needs, however, it is the quality and appropriateness that is in question. In such a way, overcrowded cells and not sufficient nutrition have an effect on the well-being of the detainees; this means that there is a need to enhance facilities and resources that allow conditions to be humane.

4.5.3 Challenges in Ensuring Fair Trials

Another police officer identified a number of challenges in ensuring that youth suspects were accorded a fair trial. The challenges included no sureties to provide bond, language barriers, and poor detention facilities. Most of the youth suspects lacked any relative or guardian to provide surety for them, hence increased detention. Even language barriers formed a disadvantage, as some of the suspects could not understand what was being done to them according to the law and the rights they are supposed to enjoy.

The problems the police officers point out emphasize the systemic issues that inhibit the realization of fair trials for their case, absence of sureties for bond is reflective of wider vulnerabilities in society. The language problem, together with inadequate facilities, multiplies the challenges of the youth suspects.

One senior police officer commented on the dearth of proper rehabilitation and support programs for youth suspects. Most suspects, particularly those with no past record of crime, find the life in prison very tough and traumatic. Poorly developed support and counseling can probably be a reason for these influences of repeat crimes among them, blackening them from staying out of the criminals' hands.

On recidivism, the researcher notes that 'it was observed that many suspects are taken to court, remanded, and then return after serving their sentences, normally to offend again. This cycle demonstrates failure in rehabilitation and the need for readier packages for social integration. Another police officer espoused views on serial offenders. Some youth suspects are prolific

offenders who have gotten used to prison life, hence are detained longer than normal to safeguard the public's community.

Rehabilitation programs are very crucial for any humane and effective criminal system. The lack of such programs for young suspects assuredly has implications for their well-being now and, therefore, their future possibilities of being reintegrated into society later. Rehabilitation programs tailored for them and counseling on specific issues may further help understand the root causes leading to crime and help them settle back by easing their way through the processes of social reintegration.

It was observed that sensitization programs between the police and the community are very key, whereby police get to understand the challenges of handling youth suspects and the community understands legal processes and the importance of support networks. This should be encouraged with enhanced community policing programs at the sub-county levels.

Community sensitization and awareness are meant to provide a conducive environment for the suspect, especially the youth. Education on both sides can foster understanding and cooperation that might reduce stigma and increase support for at-risk youth. Such programs might make gaps between legal process and community resources smaller, thus ensuring more holistic support for a young offender.

CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter offers a detailed discussion of the research findings related to how the Uganda Police Force (UPF) handles youth suspects, with a particular focus on their rights protection, the effectiveness of legal representation mechanisms, and the challenges encountered in ensuring justice for these individuals. The study's objectives were geared toward examining the protection of youth suspects' rights during arrest and detention, assessing the functionality of legal aid services, and understanding the challenges preventing fair trials. This chapter compares these findings with existing literature, contextualizes the results, and explores the broader implications for youth justice in Uganda. The discussion is framed around the key themes that emerged during the research process.

5.2 Summary of Key Findings

The findings of this research are presented according to the objectives set out in the study. These objectives include examining the protection of youth suspects' rights, the mechanisms in place for their legal representation, and the barriers preventing fair trials. Below is a summary of the key findings for each objective.

5.2.1 Protection of Youth Suspects' Rights during Arrest and Detention

The protection of rights for youth suspects during their arrest and detention was found to be minimal and often inconsistent with the Uganda Police Act (1994). While certain procedural safeguards are outlined, such as allowing the suspect to contact family members, receive necessary medical care, and access legal representation, these measures are not always effectively implemented. The most pressing concern is the inadequate facilities for detaining youth suspects. The youth are often held in overcrowded lockups with substandard conditions, resulting in increased psychological and physical harm. This situation is compounded by delays in case processing, which leads to extended detention without trial.

The study also observed that these delays infringe on the constitutional rights of youth suspects, specifically their right to a speedy trial, as stipulated under Article 23 of the Constitution of

Uganda (1995). The Constitution mandates that a person arrested on suspicion of committing an offense should be brought before a court within 48 hours. However, the findings indicate that this provision is frequently violated, exacerbating the vulnerability of youth suspects.

A youth suspect from the study described their experience, saying, "I was locked up for over a week before my case was even heard. The cell was overcrowded and unhygienic, and we had to sleep on the floor with no proper blankets."

5.2.2 Mechanisms for Legal Representation and Access to Justice

The research revealed that while the UPF provides for legal representation and the granting of bonds, these mechanisms are often undermined in practice. Many youth suspects, particularly those who are homeless or lack sureties, struggle to secure their release on bond. The study also highlighted widespread issues of corruption within the police force, where suspects are expected to pay bribes before they can obtain bond, even when the surety requirements are met. One police officer interviewed admitted, "Sometimes, even when all legal requirements are fulfilled, the suspect still has to pay something under the table for a bond."

The Uganda Human Rights Act (1998) and various international human rights conventions emphasize the importance of access to justice for all individuals, including youth suspects. However, the research findings suggest that practical barriers, such as corruption, limited resources for legal aid services, and the socio-economic challenges faced by many youth suspects, prevent the full realization of these rights. Youth suspects, often from impoverished backgrounds, find it difficult to meet the requirements for bond or afford private legal representation, which hinders their ability to navigate the justice system effectively.

In discussing these issues, a legal aid worker noted, "We have the laws in place, but the real challenge is implementing them in a way that truly respects the rights of these young people."

5.2.3 Ensuring a Fair Trial: Challenges

The study identified several challenges in ensuring fair trials for youth suspects. One major issue is the lack of reliable relatives or guardians who can follow up on the cases of youth suspects, leading to delays and prolonged detention. Many youth suspects come from unstable family

situations or are homeless, which further complicates their ability to obtain legal aid and secure a fair trial.

The absence of proper healthcare services in detention facilities also emerged as a significant challenge. Most youth suspects detained by the police do not receive adequate medical care, which worsens their physical and psychological conditions. One detainee shared, "The medical care was non-existent. I had to suffer in silence until I was released."

Furthermore, language barriers often prevent youth suspects from fully understanding the charges against them and the legal processes they are involved in. This lack of comprehension hampers their ability to mount an effective defense, making the trial process inherently unfair.

Finally, the research highlighted that many youth suspects are unaware of their legal rights, which exacerbates their vulnerability. This lack of awareness results in a failure to access the legal aid they are entitled to, prolonging their detention and compromising their ability to defend themselves in court.

5.3 Discussion of Findings

This section discusses the findings in relation to existing literature, highlighting areas of convergence and divergence, and placing the findings within the broader context of youth justice.

5.3.1 Protection of Youth Suspects' Rights

The findings on the protection of youth suspects' rights are consistent with previous research that emphasizes the importance of safeguarding these rights during arrest and detention. International guidelines, such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), stress the necessity of humane treatment, appropriate care, and the protection of the rights of youth suspects during arrest and detention. The study found, however, that there is a significant gap between policy and practice in Uganda.

While the UPF has policies in place to protect the rights of youth suspects—such as allowing them to contact family members and providing medical care—these measures are often undermined by inadequate detention facilities, overcrowding, and delays in case processing. A

local NGO worker noted, "We have the laws in place, but the real challenge is implementing them in a way that truly respects the rights of these young people." This highlights the broader issue of policy implementation, which remains a major challenge in Uganda's criminal justice system.

The fact that youth suspects are often held in overcrowded and unhygienic cells for extended periods before trial suggests a systemic failure to provide adequate facilities that comply with international standards. As noted in the Nelson Mandela Rules, "All detainees shall have access to adequate food, water, shelter, clothing, and medical care." The failure to meet these basic standards for youth detainees exacerbates the psychological and physical toll of detention, highlighting the need for immediate reforms in detention facilities.

5.3.2 Legal Representation and Access to Justice

The study's findings on legal representation and access to justice underscore the importance of effective legal aid in ensuring fair trials and protecting the rights of suspects. The research revealed that, while legal representation and bond mechanisms are formally provided for, practical barriers such as homelessness, lack of sureties, and corruption severely hinder access to justice for youth suspects. These findings align with previous studies documenting similar challenges in other contexts, where legal representation is inaccessible due to financial constraints and systemic inefficiencies.

Corruption within the police force further compounds the issue. As noted by one police officer, "Sometimes, even when all legal requirements are fulfilled, the suspect still has to pay something under the table for a bond." This undermines the integrity of the legal system and compromises the fairness of the trial process.

The findings also highlight the need for targeted interventions to improve access to justice, particularly for youth suspects from marginalized communities. Reforms should address the root causes of homelessness, lack of sureties, and corruption, and enhance the availability of legal aid services. International human rights instruments, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), emphasize the importance of ensuring that legal aid is accessible to all, especially the most vulnerable populations.

5.3.3 Fair Trials and Procedural Justice

The research findings on ensuring fair trials for youth suspects reflect the broader theory of procedural justice, which emphasizes fairness, transparency, and respect in legal processes. The challenges identified in the study—such as the absence of reliable relatives or guardians, inadequate healthcare, language barriers, and lack of awareness of legal rights undermine the fairness of the trial process and the youth suspects' ability to fully participate in their defense.

The lack of reliable guardians is particularly troubling, as it prevents youth suspects from having adequate support throughout the legal process. Additionally, the poor health conditions in detention facilities, coupled with the failure to provide timely medical care, exacerbate the vulnerability of youth suspects.

As one detainee expressed, "*...Medical care was offered to me while in the cells. I had to suffer in silence until I was released,*" emphasizing the urgent need for reforms in the healthcare system within detention facilities. Furthermore, language barriers complicate the legal process, as many youth suspects are unable to fully understand the charges against them or the legal procedures, they are involved in.

Finally, the study highlighted the lack of awareness about legal rights, which is a significant barrier to accessing justice. Many youth suspects are unaware of their entitlement to legal representation or other protections under the law. This lack of awareness results in extended detention and further compromises the fairness of the trial process.

CHAPTER SIX: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Introduction

This chapter synthesizes the research findings, offers conclusions on the Uganda Police Force's (UPF) treatment of youth suspects, particularly those accused of drug abuse in Nakawa Division, and presents recommendations to improve their treatment, access to justice, and fair trial procedures. The conclusions are drawn from the study's three core objectives: assessing the protection of youth suspects' rights during arrest and detention, evaluating the mechanisms for legal representation, and analyzing the challenges faced by the UPF in ensuring fair trials. The chapter also highlights areas for future research, considering the limitations of the study.

6.2 Conclusions of the study

6.2.1 Protection of youth suspects' rights during arrest and detention

One of the critical findings of this study is that the UPF's efforts to protect the rights of youth suspects during arrest and detention remain inadequate despite some positive steps. While the police have taken initiatives like allowing suspects to contact their families, providing medical care, and offering legal representation during hearings, these efforts are often overshadowed by systemic issues such as poor detention conditions and delays in case processing. For example, youth suspects are frequently detained in overcrowded, poorly maintained facilities that lack basic necessities, such as adequate lighting, ventilation, and hygiene. A former detainee recounted their experience of being held in a small, overcrowded cell where the stench, noise, and lack of air quality made the situation unbearable. This underscores the need for immediate reforms to improve detention facilities, making them safer and more conducive to humane treatment.

Further, the study highlights the challenges associated with delays in bringing youth suspects to trial. Youth suspects are often kept in detention for extended periods without their cases being processed promptly. This not only violates their right to a fair and timely trial but also leads to emotional and psychological harm. These findings point to the need for a more streamlined approach to case processing to ensure that suspects are brought to trial within the legally mandated time frame.

6.2.2 Mechanisms for legal representation and access to justice

The study revealed that the mechanisms in place for providing legal representation and ensuring access to justice for youth drug abuse suspects are largely ineffective. Although legal aid services exist, several structural challenges undermine their effectiveness. Many youth suspects face barriers to accessing legal counsel due to factors such as homelessness, lack of sureties, and the overwhelming corruption within the judicial and law enforcement systems. Youths often find themselves unable to secure their release on bond due to the absence of resources, further delaying their access to legal representation.

A legal aid worker highlighted that many of the youth suspects are unaware of their right to legal representation, which exacerbates the challenges they face. This knowledge gap significantly impacts the youth's ability to defend themselves in court and results in unfair trial processes. Additionally, the study identified that the youth suspects often face a lack of support from their families and communities. This lack of reliable support systems is particularly problematic for those who come from impoverished backgrounds or unstable family situations. Addressing these challenges requires concerted efforts to improve legal aid services, raise awareness of legal rights, and provide support for vulnerable youth suspects.

6.2.3 Challenges in ensuring a fair trial

The study identified several barriers to ensuring that youth suspects receive a fair trial. One of the primary challenges is the lack of reliable relatives or guardians to follow up on the cases. This is particularly problematic for youth who come from broken homes or are homeless. Without a trusted guardian to represent their interests, these youth suspects face an increased risk of being neglected in the judicial process. Furthermore, the absence of proper healthcare services in detention facilities also hinders the fair treatment of youth suspects. Many youth detainees do not have access to mental health care or basic healthcare services, which is particularly troubling given the psychological impact of detention on young people.

Another critical challenge identified in the study is the use of language in legal proceedings. Many youth suspects are unable to fully comprehend the charges against them or the legal processes they

are undergoing due to language barriers. This lack of understanding undermines their ability to participate in their defense, thereby compromising the fairness of their trial.

Finally, the study revealed that ignorance of their legal rights is a widespread issue among youth suspects. Many do not know that they are entitled to legal representation or that they have the right to challenge their detention. This ignorance, coupled with structural barriers, leaves them vulnerable to exploitation and injustice.

6.3 Recommendations of the Study

6.3.1 Protection of youth suspects' rights during arrest and detention

The UPF should prioritize the improvement of detention conditions for youth suspects. Detention facilities should be upgraded to ensure that youth suspects are held in humane, safe environments. This includes providing adequate lighting, ventilation, sanitation, and space, which are essential to preventing the physical and psychological harm often associated with overcrowded, poorly maintained detention centers. The UPF should work to ensure that these facilities meet the minimum international standards for the treatment of detainees.

The UPF should streamline case processing to reduce delays in bringing youth suspects to trial. This can be achieved by allocating additional resources to expedite the judicial process for youth offenders, ensuring that cases are processed in a timely manner. This will prevent prolonged detention and ensure that youth suspects are not unfairly penalized by an inefficient judicial system.

The UPF should ensure that all youth suspects in detention have access to adequate healthcare, including mental health services. Given the traumatic experiences many youth suspects face in detention, psychological support should be provided as a priority. Regular health check-ups and access to necessary treatments are crucial for their well-being.

6.3.2 Mechanisms for legal representation and access to justice

The UPF should work closely with social services to tackle issues of homelessness and lack of sureties among youth suspects. One potential solution is the development of alternative solutions

for youth suspects to secure their release on bond, such as working with community-based organizations to find stable housing or alternative care arrangements.

Corruption within the police and judicial systems is a significant barrier to access to justice. The UPF should strengthen anti-corruption measures through regular audits, harsher penalties for corrupt officials, and the establishment of an independent oversight body to ensure accountability. Public awareness campaigns and the use of technology to increase transparency in legal proceedings can also help combat corruption.

The government should allocate more resources to legal aid services to ensure that all youth suspects have access to legal representation. Legal aid services should be expanded to provide comprehensive support, including information about legal rights, access to lawyers, and assistance with navigating the judicial system.

6.3.3 Challenges in ensuring a fair trial

The UPF should implement a robust system to identify reliable guardians or relatives for youth suspects to ensure they have support throughout the legal process. This could include working with social workers and community organizations to assist with case follow-up.

The UPF should collaborate with health authorities to improve healthcare services in detention facilities. This includes ensuring access to mental health care, as many youth suspects face significant psychological distress due to their experiences in detention.

The UPF should provide interpretation services to ensure that all youth suspects fully understand the charges against them and the legal processes they are undergoing. Providing legal materials in multiple languages can help ensure that youth suspects are not disadvantaged due to language barriers.

Educational programs should be implemented to raise awareness among youth suspects about their legal rights. These programs can be conducted within detention facilities or through outreach initiatives in communities with high levels of youth drug abuse. Educating youth about their rights will empower them to advocate for themselves and ensure that they receive a fair trial.

6.4 Suggestions for further research

While the findings of this study provide important insights into the treatment of youth suspects by the UPF, it also points to areas where further research is needed. Future studies could examine the impact of legal representation on the outcomes of youth drug abuse cases, explore the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures within the UPF, and assess the role of social services in supporting youth suspects. These areas of research are crucial for identifying gaps and implementing more effective interventions to protect the rights of youth suspects in Uganda.

In conclusion, this study highlights the critical need for reforms in how the UPF handles youth suspects involved in drug abuse cases. The recommendations provided offer a roadmap for improving the protection of youth suspects' rights, ensuring fair trials, and addressing the challenges faced by the UPF in realizing these goals. Through concerted efforts from the UPF, government, and civil society, it is possible to create a justice system that is more equitable and just for vulnerable youth.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Questionnaire

Questionnaire on the Role of Uganda Police in Fair Trials for Youth Suspects in Drug Cases

Introduction:

Thank you for helping with this study. Your answers will help us understand how the Uganda Police has helped young people accused of using drugs in Nakawa Division since 2018. Please answer honestly, and your answers will stay private.

Socio-demographic Information:

1. Gender:

- Male • Female

2. Age:

- Under 18
- 18-25
- 26-35
- 36-45
- 46 and above

3. Schooling:

- Primary school
- High school
- College
- Job training
- None

4. Job:

- Police

- Community leader
- NGO worker
- Other (please tell us)

Objective 1: How Well Does Police Protect Youth Rights?

5. Were you involved in arresting or holding young people for drugs in Nakawa?
 - Yes
 - No
6. If yes, how did the police arrest and hold the young people?
7. Do you think the police make sure young people know their rights when they are caught?
8. Do the police treat young people fairly during arrests and while in custody?

Objective 2: How Does Police Help Young People Get Legal Help?

9. Do young people get a lawyer when they are caught?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Not sure
10. How do the police make sure young people get legal help?
11. Do you think the way police help young people get legal help works well?

Objective 3: What Problems Do Police Face in Giving Young People a Fair Trial?

12. What problems do you think the police have in giving young people a fair trial?
13. How do these problems affect how well the police can do their job?

Closing Thoughts:

14. Do you have any other thoughts or suggestions about how the police help young people in drug cases?

Thank you for taking part in our study! Your answers will help us learn how to make things better for young people accused of using drugs.

Appendix 2: Questionnaire for Youth Suspects and those who's Rights were violated

Introduction

Thank you for participating in this survey. Your experiences will help us understand how young people accused of drug use are treated by the police in Nakawa Division. This survey covers experiences from 2018 to 2023. Your answers will remain confidential.

Socio-demographic Information:

1. Gender:

- Male • Female

2. Age:

- Under 18
- 18-25
- 26-35
- 36-42
- 46 and above

3. Education Level:

- Primary school
- Secondary school
- Tertiary Education
- Job training
- None

4. Have you ever been accused of using drugs by the police?

- Yes
- No

5. If yes, how many times have you been accused?

6. Were you arrested by the police for drug-related charges?

- Yes
 - No
7. If yes, were you informed of your rights during the arrest?
8. Were you provided with legal representation during the arrest and subsequent proceedings?
- Yes
 - No
9. If no, would you have wanted legal representation?

Rights Violation:

10. Have you ever felt that your rights were violated during your interaction with the police?
- Yes
 - No
11. If yes, please describe the situation where you felt your rights were violated:
12. How did the violation of your rights make you feel?

Support Services:

13. Did you receive any support services or counseling after your interaction with the police?
- Yes
 - No
14. If yes, how helpful were these support services?

Suggestions:

15. What improvements would you suggest to ensure fair treatment of youth accused of drug use by the police?
16. Is there anything else you would like to share about your experiences with the police?

Thank you for sharing your experiences with us. Your input will contribute to improving the treatment of young people by the police in Nakawa Division.

Appendix 3: Interview Guide

1. Introduction:

- Thank the interviewee for their participation.
- Explain the purpose of the interview: to explore challenges faced by police officers in dealing with youth suspects, the effectiveness of existing legal safeguards, and the role of NGOs in supporting youth rehabilitation efforts.
- Ensure confidentiality and inform the interviewee that their responses will be used for research purposes only.

2. Background Information:

- Ask about the interviewee's role and experience related to youth suspects and drug related offenses in Nakawa Division.
- Inquire about their experiences working with the police, legal system, or NGOs in addressing issues related to youth suspects and drug abuse.

3. Challenges Faced by Police officers:

- Explore the challenges encountered by police officers when dealing with youth suspects involved in drug-related offenses.
- Inquire about any obstacles or limitations in effectively carrying out their duties in relation to youth suspects.

4. Effectiveness of Legal Safeguards:

- Discuss the existing legal safeguards in place to protect the rights of youth suspects during arrest and detention.
- Inquire about the practical implementation of these safeguards and their effectiveness in ensuring fair treatment for youth suspects.

5. Role of NGOs in Supporting Youth Rehabilitation:

- Explore the role played by NGOs in supporting youth rehabilitation efforts in Nakawa Division.
- Inquire about the services and programs offered by NGOs to address the needs of youth suspects and prevent recidivism.

6. Flexibility to Probe Deeper:

- Allow flexibility to probe deeper into specific issues raised by the respondents.
- Encourage the interviewee to provide detailed examples or anecdotes to illustrate their points.
- Remain open to any additional perspectives offered by the interviewee.

7. Closing:

- Thank the interviewee for their time and valuable information.
- Reiterate confidentiality and provide contact information for any follow-up questions or clarifications.
- Assure the interviewee that their input will contribute to a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities in addressing youth drug abuse in Nakawa Division.

Appendix 4: Consent Form

Research Title: The role of Uganda Police in the realization of right to fair trial of youth suspects under drug abuse: a case study of Nakawa division Kampala (2018-2023)

Researcher: Ms. Agaba Innocent, Makerere University Kampala

Introduction: I am conducting interviews to learn about the experiences and thoughts of people involved with or affected by drug abuse among young people, as well as how the police handle these situations in Nakawa Division, Kampala. Your observations are important for my research. Before we begin, I want to make sure you understand why I am doing this research, what your role is, and what your rights are.

Purpose of the Interview: I want to hear about the challenges young people face when involved with drugs, how well the current rules protect their rights, and what help they get from groups like the police and NGOs. Your experiences as [explain participant's role or experience, if any] will help me understand these issues better.

Privacy: Your privacy is important. Anything you share during the interview will be kept private. Your name and details will not be shared in any reports or papers. Also, only I and approved people will see the interview information.

Voluntary Participation: You don't have to take part in this interview if you don't want to. And if you start but then want to stop, that's okay too. You won't get into trouble or have any problems because of it. Saying yes or no won't change how I see you.

Understanding and Agreement: By agreeing to this interview, you show that you understand what I'm doing and why. You agree to take part in the interview and let me use what you say for my research. If you want, you can ask for a copy of this form.

Contact Info: If you have any questions about the interview or anything else, you can contact me at 0701837660/divineagaba@gmail.com.

Participant's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Researcher's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Appendix 5: Table for determining sample size from a given population

Krejcie, Robert V., Morgan, Daryle W., “Determining Sample Size for Research Activities”, Educational and Psychological Measurement, 1970

N	S	N	S	N	S	N	S	N	S
10	10	100	80	280	162	800	260	2800	338
15	14	110	86	290	165	850	265	3000	341
20	19	120	92	300	169	900	269	3500	246
25	24	130	97	320	175	950	274	4000	351
30	28	140	103	340	181	1000	278	4500	351
35	32	150	108	360	186	1100	285	5000	357
40	36	160	113	380	181	1200	291	6000	361
45	40	180	118	400	196	1300	297	7000	364
50	44	190	123	420	201	1400	302	8000	367
55	48	200	127	440	205	1500	306	9000	368
60	52	210	132	460	210	1600	310	10000	373
65	56	220	136	480	214	1700	313	15000	375
70	59	230	140	500	217	1800	317	20000	377
75	63	240	144	550	225	1900	320	30000	379
80	66	250	148	600	234	2000	322	40000	380
85	70	260	152	650	242	2200	327	50000	381
90	73	270	155	700	248	2400	331	75000	382
95	76	270	159	750	256	2600	335	100000	384

Note: “N” is population size

“S” is sample size.

Appendix 6: Makerere University Letter of Data Collection

MAKERERE



UNIVERSITY

Department of Philosophy

21st February 2024

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: DATA COLLECTION FOR MS INNOCENT AGABA

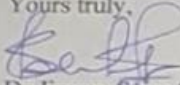
This is to introduce to you Ms Agaba Innocent (2021/HD03/2042U) who is a student of Masters of Arts in Human Rights at Makerere University.

As part of their academic work, students are required to undertake research work in order to get exposed to real-life situations whereby they test and/or apply theories which they learnt during their studies at the University.

Ms Agaba Innocent's topic is: *The role of Uganda Police force in the realisation of the right to fair trial of youth suspects under drug abuse: A case study of Nakawa Division, Kampala.*

Any assistance given to him will be highly appreciated. For further information, please, feel free to contact the Head of Department through johnbarug@yahoo.com

Yours truly,


Dr Jimmy Spire Ssentongo
Ag. Head,
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