

General Office: 340874/231563/9  
PS's Office: 256-41-340872  
TeleFax: 256-41-231584  
Telex: 61372 HEALTH UGA.



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

Ministry of Health  
P.O. Box 7272  
Kampala,  
Uganda

Ref. ADM 428/01

5<sup>th</sup> December 2012

To all Directors National and  
Regional Referral Hospitals

All District Health Officers

	<b>UNFPA</b>	<b>KAMPALA</b>
Because - Everyone Counts		
Date	12/12/12	
File Number	UGAT/4505	
Action Person	Rosehale + Florence Auma	
Signature	[Signature] 12/12/12	

→ Please share with all partners of Kway + BFI + DOS  
[Signature]

**MANAGEMENT OF GBV SURVIVORS AT REGIONAL REFERRAL AND DISTRICT HOSPITALS**

I wish to draw your attention to government of Uganda's effort to address Gender based Violence in the Country. You will be aware that Government with support to address Gender Based Violence in the Country. You will be aware that Government with support from development partners has amended Police Form 3A (PF3A), an instrument intended to ease access of GBV survivors to medical treatment and justice. Before the amendment of PF3A, the medical examination of sexual violence survivors and the subsequent completion of the form was the sole domain of the Police Surgeon. The amendment now allows for the examination of survivors and completion of the Police Form 3A by a medical doctor, clinical officer and/ or midwife.

It is the attention of the Ministry of Health that GBV survivors benefit from this important legal instrument to access both justice and medical treatment. Currently this access is not being given wholesomely due to a number of factors some of which relate directly to the health workers in the Health Facilities. These include:


1. Health workers are unwilling to complete the PF3A because they do not want to testify in court cases.
2. Medical workers are continuing to demand fees to examine survivors and complete the PF3A.
3. Survivors foot the cost of bringing medical personnel as witnesses in court and many a time most of the survivors cannot afford to facilitate the medical personnel.

The amended Police Form 3A is one of the procedural requirements for provision of evidence on sexual violence. It is required that law enforcement agencies record medical practitioners' evidence in case of rape and defilement. Therefore putting a user fee for a GBV related medical examination not only also restricts a survivor from access to justice but can also lead to serious legal consequences.

The purpose of this communication is to urge you all to realize that providing health services to GBV survivors should not be an additional burden to the health facility and the health worker. It should be done in full context of providing comprehensive medical care to patients.

I am therefore calling upon all Medical Directors, Hospital Superintendents and DHOs to provide support and leadership to ensure that the service is free and the Medical Personnel are given the support they need to support GBV survivors.

Thank you.



Dr. Aceng Ruth Jane

**DIRECTOR GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES**

Cc: All Government Health Facilities  
UNFPA Country Representative  
Executive Director MIFUMI  
Country Director Action Aid