

Police, civil society to fight violence

Victims. The Gender-based violence, in particular sexual and physical violence is widespread in Uganda and mainly committed against women and girls.

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KAGADI. The police and civil society workers in Kagadi District have started a campaign to fight the high prevalence rate of gender-based violence.

The Kagadi District Police commander, Mr Onek Romeo Ojar, said the police in partnership with World Voices, a local charity has embarked on a campaign dubbed community policing to avert the situation.

“ To those affected with domestic violence, through this partnership, we shall counsel them and advise on the legal directions rather than revenge,”

ONEK ROMEO OJAR, KAGADI DISTRICT POLICE COMMANDER

“We have embarked on community policing in partnership with

cultural leaders, the church and local organisations to mobilise people for sensitisation sessions, equip them with knowledge on how to desist from gender related offences,” Mr Ojar said.

Addressing the media in Kagadi District recently, Mr Ojar said gender-based violence offences are common among relatives and married people resulting from sharing resources among spouses and relatives.

Without giving statistics, Mr Ojar said violence has directly and indirectly affected the economic development of the district.

The major cases of gender-based violence, according to Mr Ojar include child neglect, assault, grievous harm, rape and defilement.

Mr Charles Jumba, the programme officer in charge of legal rights awareness at World Voices, said they are working to help people understand their rights and the law. “Violations against females in our communities are high where girls and women are not allowed to benefit from their parents’ property. We want to empower people to understand their rights to minimise disputes,” he said.