

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	319
Land:	Uganda
Kilde:	Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
Titel:	State-Sponsored Homophobia - A World Survey of Sexual Orientation Laws: Criminalisation, Protection and Recognition – Uganda
Udgivet:	2. juli 2017
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	22. august 2017

[EN](#) | [DE](#)

- **Source:**
IRB - Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
- **Title:**
Uganda: Requirements and procedures to obtain a birth certificate, both within and outside the country, including by a third party; description of the certificate, including information contained in the document (2015-May 2017) [UGA105807.E]
- **Publication date:**
02 June 2017
- **ecoi.net summary:** Query response on requirements and procedures to obtain a birth certificate from within and outside the country, including by a third party (2015 - May 2017) [ID 343329]
- **Countries:**
Uganda
- **Original link** <http://www.irb.gc.ca/Eng/ResRec/RirRdi/Pages/index.aspx?doc=457071&pls=1>

Recommended citation:

IRB - Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada: Uganda: Requirements and procedures to obtain a birth certificate, both within and outside the country, including by a third party; description of the certificate, including information contained in the document (2015-May 2017) [UGA105807.E], 02 June 2017 (available at ecoi.net)

http://www.ecoi.net/local_link/343329/474236_en.html (accessed 21 August 2017)



Immigration and
Refugee Board of Canada

Commission de l'immigration
et du statut de réfugié du Canada

Uganda: Requirements and procedures to obtain a birth certificate, both within and outside the country, including by a third party; description of the certificate, including information contained in the document (2015-May 2017) [UGA105807.E]

Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa

1. Establishment of the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA)

The US State Department's *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2016* for Uganda notes that the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA) was established in 2015, and "is responsible for registering all persons in the country for the purpose of national identification" (US 3 Mar. 2017, 30). An article in the *Daily Monitor*, a newspaper based in Uganda, reports that NIRA was established as an independent authority under the Ministry of Internal Affairs by the *Registration of Persons Act, 2015* (*The Daily Monitor* 6 Jan. 2016). The same source indicates that prior to the establishment of NIRA, the role of registering births and deaths "was carried out by Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) under the Births and Deaths Registration Act" (*The Daily Monitor* 6 Jan. 2016). A joint press release from the URSB and NIRA similarly notes that NIRA was established by the *Registration of Persons Act, 2015*, which "repeals the existing Births and Deaths Registration Act and transfers the [b]irths and [d]eaths registration function from [URSB] to [NIRA]" (Uganda 29 Dec. 2015). The press release further notes that "[w]ith effect from **January 01, 2016**, NIRA will take over the mandate of registration of [b]irths, [d]eaths and [a]doption orders from URSB" (Uganda 29 Dec. 2015, bold in original).

The NIRA website describes its mandate as follows:

To create, manage, maintain and [operationalize] the National Identification Register by

- Registering all citizens of Uganda;
- Registering non-citizens of Uganda who are lawfully residents in Uganda;
- Registering births and deaths[;]
- Assigning a unique National Identification Number to every person registered[;]
- Issuing National Identification Cards and Aliens' Identification Cards to all registered persons. (Uganda n.d.a)

2. Requirements and Procedures to Obtain a Birth Certificate

2.1 Birth Registration

Section 32 of the *Registration of Persons Act, 2015* provides the following:

32. Mode of registration of births.

1. A person giving notice of the birth of a child shall give the prescribed particulars, which shall be entered forthwith by the registration officer in the register, and the person notifying the birth shall certify to the correctness of the entry by signing or by affixing a mark to the register.
2. The registration officer shall before entering any information in the register, ensure that a person giving notice under subsection (1) provides the following particulars—
 - a. in respect of a birth; the name, sex, date, disability if any weight at birth [sic], place and district of birth;
 - b. in respect of the mother; the name, age, marital status, usual residence, nationality, National Identification Number or Alien Identification Number for citizens and Aliens respectively; level of education, profession or occupation, and previous births;
 - c. in respect of the father; the name, age, marital status, usual residence, nationality, National Identification Number or Alien Identification Number for citizens and Aliens respectively; level of education and profession or occupation; and
 - d. in respect of the informant, the name, capacity, nationality, National Identification Number or Alien Identification Number for citizens and Aliens respectively; signature of informant, and date of notification. (Uganda 2015)

The NIRA website lists the following requirements for registration of a birth:

1. A birth Notification Record.
2. A NIRA Birth declaration Form 3 complete and signed by one of the parents or guardian of the child.
3. The National Identification Number (NIN) of Notifier.
4. Photocopy of the National ID of the Notifier.

Note: For a birth that has occurred in a medical facility, a notification Record shall include a document duly signed and stamped by a Hospital Administrator or Superintendent.

For a birth that has occurred in the community, a notification Record shall include a document duly signed and stamped by a Division- Town Clerk, Sub county – Sub county Chief, and shall have the following particulars of the event:

- Date of [b]irth.
- Time of [b]irth.
- Registration [n]umber.
- Name of child.
- Names of [p]arents (Uganda n.d.b)

A copy of the NIRA Birth Declaration Form 3 has been attached to this Response (Attachment 1).

2.2 Registration of Births Occurring Outside Uganda

Section 34 of the *Registration of Persons Act, 2015* provides the following:

34. Registration of births occurring outside Uganda.

1. A person giving notice of a birth occurring outside Uganda of a child whose parent or guardian is a citizen of Uganda, shall produce to the registration officer the following evidence of the birth—
 - a. a certificate of birth issued by the appropriate authority in the foreign country, with an English translation of the certificate if it is not in English; or
 - b. if a certificate of birth are [sic] not issued in the foreign country, a certificate of the birth given by the doctor, midwife or other persons who attended to the birth, with an English translation of the certificate if it is not in English; or
 - c. if there is a Uganda Mission in the country abroad, a certificate of an officer of the Mission that the officer is satisfied, from the evidence produced and inquiries the officer has made, that the particulars of the birth given in the certificate are correct; or

- d. if there is no Uganda Mission in the country abroad, such other evidence as the Minister may prescribe in the Regulations.
2. The person giving notice of the birth shall certify in writing to the registration officer the correctness and authenticity of the evidence which such person submits.
3. Upon receiving the evidence required under subsection (1), the registration officer shall forthwith enter the prescribed particulars of the birth in the register of births occurring outside Uganda. (Uganda 2015)

2.3 Obtaining a Birth Certificate

Section 39(1) of the *Registration of Persons Act, 2015* provides the following:

1. Upon receipt of the application in the prescribed form and upon payment of the prescribed fee, the Authority shall issue a certificate in the prescribed form of the birth of any person compiled in the prescribed manner from the records and register in the Authority's custody. (Uganda 2015)

The NIRA website indicates that the fee to obtain a birth certificate is 5,000 Ugandan shillings (UGX) [approximately C\$1.88] for nationals, and US\$40 for foreigners (Uganda n.d.c). The same source further notes that the fee to obtain a "Certified Copy of an Entry in the Register" is 1,000 UGX [approximately C\$0.37] (Uganda n.d.c). A copy of NIRA Form 15, Application for a Certified Copy of Entry in the Register of Birth and Death, has been attached to this Response (Attachment 2).

The Observer, a newspaper based in Kampala, reports that in 2011, the URSB, in partnership with Uganda Telecom and UNICEF, launched the Mobile Vital Records System (Mobile VRS), which "enables birth notifications to be sent by mobile phones to URSB's server and enables health and government officials who have access to the internet and a printer to register and print birth certificates in real time" (*The Observer* 20 Dec. 2013). The website for Uganda Mobile VRS notes that the system "enables the use of a web based application and mobile phones (USSD) to register births and deaths in health facilities and communities respectively" (Uganda Mobile VRS n.d.). The website further notes that:

For deliveries outside health facilities, mobile phones are used by Notifiers to send via USSD, births and deaths notifications from the community level to a central Mobile VRS server at NIRA. This information is accessible to the respective Registration Officers of a given registration area, who verify it for completeness and consistency, before a birth certificate is printed, signed and issued to the registered child.

For deliveries in hospitals, birth records of new born babies are registered using a web-based system positioned at the hospital and their birth notifications are printed and issued to them immediately, while at the same time uploading this information into the central Mobile VRS server in real time. (Uganda Mobile VRS n.d.)

In a post from May 2017, NIRA noted that it would be registering births and issuing birth certificates at the Kampala Baby Expo from 6 May to 7 May 2017, and "[t]o enhance the acquisition process, birth certificate applicants [are required] to provide birth notifications from hospitals for children born in hospitals and Division or Sub county notifications for children born out of hospitals" (Uganda 3 May 2017). Further information could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate within the time constraints of this Response.

Information on whether a birth certificate can be obtained by a third party could not be found among the sources consulted by the research directorate within the time constraints of this Response.

2.3.1 Locations to Obtain Birth Certificates

A December 2013 article in the *Observer* reports that Mobile VRS "is now operational in all 135 government and missionary hospitals and 36 out of 112 districts across Uganda" (*The Observer* 20 Dec. 2013). An undated post on the Republic of Uganda's Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) [1] website notes that the system "is functional in all 135 government and missionary hospitals and in only 58 of the 112 district local governments," adding that birth registration in Uganda had increased from 30 percent in 2011 to an estimated 60 percent by the end of 2014 (Uganda n.d.d). The US State Department's *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015* for Uganda reports that Mobile VRS "operated in 135 hospitals in 58 districts" (US 13 Apr. 2016, 30).

The NIRA website indicates that its headquarters are located in Kampala, Uganda (Uganda n.d.e). The *Daily Monitor* similarly notes that the offices of NIRA are located in Kampala (*The Daily Monitor* 6 Jan. 2016). The NIRA website further states that "NIRA will open other service points across the country until the goal to cover the entire country is [completed]" (Uganda n.d.f). An April 2017 post by the Uganda Media Centre, "[t]he

Government of Uganda's Official centre for public Communications," indicates that "NIRA offices are located in all districts in the country. In Kampala, [NIRA's] offices are located at the five KCCA [Kampala Capital City Authority] Divisions for Kampala" (Uganda 15 Apr. 2017). Without providing further information, the NIRA website, in a post from May 2017, reports that in addition to its outreach at the Kampala Baby Expo, "a number of similar (Birth, Death and Adoption Order Registration) activities have been lined up across selected parts of the country, including in; Tororo, Gulu and Mbarara" (Uganda 10 May 2017).

The website of the Uganda High Commission in Ottawa states that "[a]pplications and authentication of birth certificates is not handled by the Ottawa Mission" (Uganda n.d.g). The website of the Uganda High Commission in London, UK similarly notes that the "Uganda High Commission does not handle any matters relating to births, deaths and marriage certificates" (Uganda n.d.h). The website of the Embassy of the Republic of Uganda in Washington, DC indicates that the embassy authenticates birth certificates (Uganda n.d.i). Further and corroborating information on locations where birth certificates can be obtained, within or outside of Uganda, could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate within the time constraints of this Response.

3. Appearance of Birth Certificates

The joint press release by URSB and NIRA notes that "all births, deaths, and adoptions certificates issued under the Births and Deaths Registration Act prior to **January 01, 2016** shall remain valid" (Uganda 29 Dec. 2015, bold in original). For a description of birth certificates issued prior to the establishment of NIRA, including information contained within them, refer to Response to Information Request UGA103781 of July 2011.

The Uganda Radio Network (URN), a news agency in Uganda, reports that effective 6 March 2015, the Ugandan government began issuing birth certificates with "enhanced security features," and cites a URSB official as stating that the new certificates include a unique barcode and number (URN 12 Mar. 2015). The same source indicates that the official declined to specify other enhanced security features (URN 12 Mar. 2015). The article further cites a Senior Registration Officer with the government as noting that the certificates would only be issued to new applicants, and that persons with previously issued certificates would only be issued the enhanced version if they required a replacement (URN 12 Mar. 2015). Further and corroborating information could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate within the time constraints of this Response.

Section 39(2) of the *Registration of Persons Act, 2015* provides the following:

(2) A certificate of birth issued under subsection (1) shall contain—

- a. the information concerning the child which shall include;
 - i. name;
 - ii. place of birth;
 - iii. date of birth;
 - iv. sex;
 - v. nationality;
 - vi. National Identification Number or Alien Identification Number of a child who is a citizen and alien respectively.
- b. the information concerning the parents of the child which shall include the name, nationality, National Identification Number or Alien Identification Number for citizens and Aliens parents respectively; and
- c. any other information as may be prescribed by the Minister. (Uganda 2015)

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

Note

[1] The JLOS "focuses on a holistic approach to improving access to and administration of justice through the sector wide approach to planning, budgeting, programme implementation, monitoring and evaluation" (Uganda n.d.j). It is comprised of: the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs; the Ministry of Internal Affairs; the Judiciary; Uganda Police Force; Uganda Prison Service; Directorate of Public Prosecutions; Judicial Service Commission; the Ministry of Local Government (Local Council Courts); the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development (Probation and Juvenile Justice); the Uganda Law Reform Commission; the Uganda Human Rights Commission; the Law Development Centre; the Tax Appeals Tribunal; the Uganda Law Society; Centre for Arbitration and Dispute Resolution; and the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (Uganda n.d.j).

References

- The Daily Monitor*. 6 January 2016. Sandra Janet Birungi. "[New Body to Register Births and Deaths](#)." [Accessed 1 June 2017]
- The Observer*. 20 December 2013. Sharad Sapra. "Uganda Making Progress on Birth Register." (Factiva)
- Uganda. 10 May 2017. National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA). "[Over Three Hundred Registered at the Kampala Baby Expo](#)." [Accessed 23 May 2017]
- Uganda. 3 May 2017. National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA). "[NIRA to Participate in the Kampala Baby Expo](#)." [Accessed 23 May 2017]
- Uganda. 15 April 2017. National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA). Uganda Media Centre. "[Announcement: NIRA Offices to Remain Open During Easter Weekend #GOUworks](#)." [Accessed 23 May 2017]
- Uganda. 29 December 2015. Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) and National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA). "[Transfer of Births, Deaths and Adoption Order Registration From URSB to NIRA Effective January 01, 2016](#)." Joint Press Release. [Accessed 18 May 2017]
- Uganda. 2015. [Registration of Persons Act, 2015](#). Act 4. [Accessed 17 May 2017]
- Uganda. N.d.a. National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA). "[NIRA Mandate](#)." [Accessed 18 May 2017]
- Uganda. N.d.b. National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA). "[Birth and Death Registration](#)." [Accessed 17 May 2017]
- Uganda. N.d.c. [National Identification and Registration Authority \(NIRA\)](#). "[Fees](#)." [Accessed 16 May 2017]
- Uganda. N.d.d. The Justice Law & Order Sector (JLOS). "[Mobile Birth Registration in Uganda](#)." [Accessed 17 May 2017]
- Uganda. N.d.e. National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA). "[Contact Us](#)." [Accessed 17 May 2017]
- Uganda. N.d.f. [National Identification and Registration Authority \(NIRA\)](#). "[Services](#)." [Accessed 17 May 2017]
- Uganda. N.d.g. Uganda High Commission, Ottawa, Canada. "[Birth Certificate](#)." [Accessed 23 May 2017]
- Uganda. N.d.h. Uganda High Commission, London, UK. "[Birth, death and marriage certificates](#)." [Accessed 23 May 2017]
- Uganda. N.d.i. Embassy of the Republic of Uganda, Washington, D.C., USA. "[Authentication of Documents](#)." [Accessed 23 May 2017]
- Uganda. N.d.j. The Justice Law & Order Sector (JLOS). "[Our History](#)." [Accessed 1 June 2017]
- Uganda Mobile VRS. N.d. "[About Mobile Vital Records System](#)." [Accessed 17 May 2017]
- Uganda Radio Network (URN). 12 March 2015. "[Government Starts Issuing Enhanced Birth Certificates](#)." [Accessed 19 May 2017]
- United States (US). 3 March 2017. Department of State. "Uganda." [Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2016](#). [Accessed 17 May 2017]
- United States (US). 13 April 2016. Department of State. "Uganda." [Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015](#). [Accessed 17 May 2017]

Additional Sources Consulted

Oral sources: Three law firms specializing in immigration and/or family Law in Uganda; Uganda – Embassy in Washington, DC, High Commission in Ottawa, National Identification and Registration Authority.

Internet sites, including: Amnesty International; BBC; European Union – Public Register of Authentic Travel and Identity Documents Online; ecoi.net; Factiva; Human Rights Watch; International Crisis Group; IRIN; Keesing's Document Checker; SlateAfrique; Uganda – Ministry of Internal Affairs, Uganda Records Services Bureau; United Nations – Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Refworld.

Attachments

1. Uganda. N.d. National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA). "[Notice of Birth of a Child](#)." Form 3. Regulation 8(1). [Accessed 18 May 2017]
2. Uganda. N.d. National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA). "[Application for a Certified Copy of Entry in the Register of Birth and Death](#)." Form 15. Regulation 24(1). [Accessed 23 May 2017]

published on  **ecoi.net**
European Country of Origin Information Network