



Working together for “An Acid Violence-free Uganda where Survivors live with Dignity.”

Acid Attack Violence in Uganda

What is Acid Attack Violence?

- Acid attack violence is a violation of human rights that involves premeditated acts in which perpetrators throw, spray or pour acid onto victims’ faces and bodies.
- Perpetrators target the face not with the intent to kill, but to maim and disfigure the victim, eliminating their identity and limiting their ability to engage in public life.
- Acid attacks occur at higher rates in locations where factories use acid in their manufacturing processes or in places where car batteries are refilled.
- Perpetrators usually attack victims with hydrochloric, sulfuric or nitric acid, which quickly burns through flesh and bone.

A Form of Gender-based Violence

- Research shows acid attacks are perpetrated against women and girls as an expression of control over their bodies.
- The most common reasons for acid attacks on women are the refusal of marriage, the denial of sex and sexual rejection of men and boys.
- Acid attack violence reflects and perpetuates the inequality of women in society and is prohibited by international law.

Effects of Acid Attack Violence

- Immense physical pain from chemical burns is a short-term effect of an acid attack.
- Long-term effects can include blindness, loss of facial features, permanent disfigurement and severe mental suffering.
- In extreme cases, victims are left with little to no ability to perform activities of daily living.
- The majority of survivors live in poverty, and 95% of survivors require unaffordable surgical interventions for the rest of their lives.