

# Civil society wants more consultations on sexuality education

By Jeff Andrew Lule and Elizabeth Mbabazi

A cross-section of civil society organisations (CSOs) has called on government to conduct countrywide consultations on the proposed National Sexuality Education Framework.

The CSOs said different people need to be consulted and sensitised about the framework to understand its importance.

**"Many just hear about it and have never been consulted, including religious leaders, yet they play a big role in society,"** Stuart Oramire, the programmes manager Joy for Children Uganda (JFC-U), noted.

In her statement on the status of the National Sexuality Education Policy Framework, the Minister of Education and Sports, Mrs Janet Museveni, recently clarified that sexuality education aims at developing and strengthening the ability of children and young people to make conscious, right, healthy, deliberate, safe and respectful choices regarding emotional and physical health and boy/girl relationships.

Oramire, who was addressing journalists at the JFC-U offices in Bukoto, Kampala yesterday, said: "A child between three and six years is given information relevant to that age and addresses particular risks that child faces. This will reduce child marriages and teenage pregnancies."

In their joint statement read by Erina Kahunde, the advocacy manager JFC-U, they called on the education ministry of Education to conduct nationwide meetings to build consensus with religious institutions that have contrary views about the policy.

The executive director of Raising Teenagers Uganda, Hope Nankunda, said there is also need to address the use of social media since many children can access all kinds of content, including the bad one, on various gadgets.