

**PRESS STATEMENT
For Immediate Release**

3rd November 2025

NO-BAIL FOR SEXUAL OFFENCES, A GAME CHANGER - NGOCC

1. The Non-governmental Gender Organisations' Coordinating Council (NGOCC) has welcomed the Cabinet's approval of the Criminal Procedure Code Bill, 2025, which introduces non-bailable offences for serious crimes such as defilement, rape and incest.
2. This move resonates with the organisation's calls for stiffer laws to address escalating sexual offences such as defilement cases.
3. Members of the public may wish to recall that on 3rd April 2025, NGOCC and many other stakeholders held a peaceful protest against the rising reported cases of GBV in the country. We presented a Petition to the Republican Vice President, Her Honor W.K. Mutale Nalumango, calling for action against the alarming and increasing cases of GBV that continued to negatively impact women and girls.
4. Among the submissions, we called for the amendment of the Criminal Procedure Code, CAP 88, to eliminate the provision for bail and bond for perpetrators of child defilement, ensuring stricter measures to deter would-be offenders.
5. Therefore, we commend the government for demonstrating commitment towards addressing sexual offences, with over 80 percent of the cases involving women as well as girls.
6. On the part of the government, this is a clear demonstration of their unwavering commitment to curb these heinous crimes, which threaten the well-being of women and girls.
7. We urge the stakeholders and lawmakers, in particular, to support this move by the Cabinet to bring this law into reality. These amendments will be a game-changer in the fight against GBV.

ISSUED:
for/NGOCC



Ms. Beauty Katebe
NGOCC BOARD CHAIRPERSON