



**International Conference:
Evidence in Global Disability and Health**

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ABSTRACT	
Title:	Exploring the contextual factors which perpetuate high rates of sexual abuse of people with disabilities in East Africa: a participatory study in Kenya and Uganda
Abstract text (limited to 300 words, should include background, methods, results and conclusions):	
<p>Background Working with Disabled Peoples' Organisations in East Africa, Advantage Africa identified that incidents of sexual abuse of people with disabilities were commonplace, and that support for survivors and responses from service providers were totally inadequate. A two year participatory research project was designed to explore the social, cultural and institutional factors which contribute to, and perpetuate, the high incidence of sexual abuse of people with disabilities in East Africa and to identify interventions which could change detrimental attitudes and practices. The research is framed within the UNCRPD and studies the external factors that allow perpetrators to commit abuse and escape justice.</p> <p>Methods A literature review and analysis informed the study. Qualitative methods (interviews and focus groups) were used to collect data from a range of relevant duty bearers and service providers. A local advisory group of people with disabilities was involved at all stages of the research and the core research team included people with disabilities.</p> <p>Results and Conclusions The research confirms that people with disabilities are perceived as more at risk of sexual abuse than the non-disabled population. Survivors of abuse are wholly dissatisfied with the social and institutional responses to their experiences. Many communities do not treat sexual offences such as rape with the seriousness that it warrants in law, and abuse of people with disabilities is often considered less serious.</p> <p>Often occurrences of abuse are dealt with locally, within families or by traditional 'courts' and this prevents reporting to formal authorities, often resulting in impunity for perpetrators. When cases reach formal services like hospitals, police and the judiciary the attitudes, knowledge and responses of professionals are largely inadequate.</p> <p>This paper will discuss possible interventions aimed at reducing rates of sexual abuse of people with disabilities and increasing reporting rates, access to support and justice for survivors.</p>	

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Deadline for abstract submission: November 30, 2015

Please submit your abstract to: disabilitycentre@lshtm.ac.uk

Restricted to one first author abstract per participant.

If you have any questions, please write to:

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