

September 3, 2015

Dan Ruben
Equal Justice America
Building II-Suite 204
13540 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, Virginia 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben:

AEquitas is a non-profit headquartered in Washington, DC that works with criminal justice professionals throughout the United States and in many countries around the world. AEquitas' mission is to improve the quality of justice in gender-based violence cases by refining prosecution practices that increase victim safety and offender accountability. AEquitas' staff is comprised of former prosecutors, with over 100 years of collective experience, who conduct legal research; provide 24/7 case consultation; serve as mentors and instructors; and publish resources. In meeting our mission, one of our main responsibilities is to develop resources related to the prosecution of these crimes and make them available to prosecutors worldwide.

AEquitas was very fortunate to have hosted Lillian Andama as our Equal Justice America Fellow this past summer. While working at AEquitas, Ms. Andama contributed both to our understanding of Uganda's laws, legal system and criminal procedure, a topic relevant to our ongoing projects on the Investigation and Prosecution of Human Trafficking in Uganda, and the positive environment of our organization.

Ms. Andama spent the majority of her summer term with AEquitas developing the "Guidance Manual on Prosecution of Domestic and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence" for Uganda (hereafter "Guidance Manual"). Lillian's description of her manual is set forth below:

The manual provides the basic working tools of a prosecutor, general guidelines for prosecutors of sexual and gender based violence cases, basic rules on prosecution of these cases and prosecution of child sexual abuse. In light of the research I conducted while pursuing my Masters degree at Georgetown University, I considered three critical areas that prosecutors will need to look at in prosecuting these cases including rules of evidence, witness intimidation and interviewing of victims of sexual abuse.

In developing this Manual, Ms. Andama reviewed AEquitas' resources as well as external resources on gender-based violence dynamics and prosecution strategies. From these resources, she drafted the Guidance Manual that addresses the role and ethical obligations of prosecutor, the specific challenges in gender-based violence cases, and promising practices to overcome those challenges. Throughout the development of the Manual, Ms. Andama was in communication with her colleagues in Uganda, including staff at the Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to solicit their feedback and begin the dialogue she will continue upon her return.

After reviewing volumes of information produced by AEquitas¹ and other organization, Ms. Andama was able to identify Uganda's most pressing needs to effectively address gender-based violence. For example, while conducting her research, Ms. Andama focused on AEquitas' work around witness intimidation, including the *Special Initiative on Improving the Justice System Response to Witness Intimidation*.² She identified witness intimidation as being a particularly pervasive issue in Uganda – as it is in the United States – and eagerly worked with our Attorney Advisors to incorporate their own personal experiences both domestically and training prosecutors and allied professionals internationally in responding to intimidation and other challenging issues.

One consistent challenge Ms. Andama considered all summer was how to best to get the DPP involved in the development and dissemination of the Manual in such a way to ensure buy-in from Ugandan prosecutors. Ms. Andama previously worked on legislation in Uganda and has many colleagues in the field of criminal justice and some as well within the DPP itself. She has been using her existing relationships to connect with the DPP to initiate a dialogue on how best to approach the prosecutors in Uganda to discuss the Manual and their overall response to gender-based violence. AEquitas staff working in Uganda will work to introduce Ms. Andama to their contacts in the DPP in order to facilitate Ms. Andama's ability to finalize and disseminate her manual.

In addition to spending a significant amount of her time thoughtfully developing the Manual, Ms. Andama also assisted AEquitas with preparing for international trainings on human trafficking that were held over the spring and summer in Rwanda and Uganda, respectively. Ms. Andama provided invaluable assistance and insight that assisted AEquitas staff assigned to these trainings to better understand and access the structure of the criminal justice system, hierarchy of legal authority, and relevant laws.

In conclusion, Ms. Andama was a motivated Fellow to work with who demonstrated her passion to bringing effective change to the implementation of legislation that protects the privacy and safety of victims of gender-based violence. We are excited to continue our work with her in Uganda. Please contact me at 202.596.4223 or jlong@aequitasresource.org if you have any questions or if I can provide you with any additional information.

All the best,



Jennifer G. Long
Director

¹ Library, AEQUITAS, www.aequitasresource.org/library.cfm (last visited Sep. 3, 2015).

² *Special Initiative on Improving the Justice System Response to Witness Intimidation*, AEQUITAS, <http://aequitasresource.org/Improving-the-Justice-System-Response-to-Witness-Intimidation.cfm> (last visited Sep. 3, 2015).