



## TotalEnergies EP Uganda

### Statement on Human Rights Defenders

The UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders of 1998 defines Human Rights Defenders as “any person or group who, personally or professionally, individually or with others, acts peacefully to protect and promote human rights”.

Consistent with its Human Rights commitments, it is TEPU’s policy to respect the rights to freedom of expression, freedom of association and freedom of peaceful assembly, as well as access to information in its engagement with stakeholders affected by its activities.

TEPU recognizes the legitimacy and important role of Human Rights Defenders (as defined in the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders of 1998) in the promotion and protection of human rights and further recognizes Article 38 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda that provides for civic rights and activities. TEPU also recognizes the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Position adopted in 2018 on Retaliation Against Civil Society and Project Stakeholders.

**“Accordingly, TEPU does not tolerate any threats, intimidation, harassment, or violence against those who peacefully and lawfully promote Human Rights in relation to our activities”.**

TEPU seeks to promote dialogue and exchanges with Human Rights Defenders in the framework of its activities. TEPU values engagement with all stakeholders in relation to matters related to Human Rights Defenders and the civic space. It welcomes in particular input by stakeholders raising grievances or providing information on incidents related to Human Rights Defenders (while protecting their confidentiality). As part of its ongoing engagement on these matters, TEPU will continue to pay particular attention to women and vulnerable groups.

Where appropriate, as recommended by the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, TEPU seeks to exert leverage to influence others to respect these principles.

Where it is alerted of allegations of threats, intimidation, harassment or violence against Human Rights Defenders in relation to its activities TEPU shall:

- Take immediate steps to obtain further information in order to understand the nature of the risk/harm and whether it is connected to TEPU’s activities
- Preserve the confidentiality of the persons concerned
- Where appropriate, contact the relevant officials which may include local, district, national police, Petroleum Authorities, Ministry of the Interior, Ugandan Human Rights Commission (UHRC)
- Insist on the need to respect the Human Rights of the Human Rights Defenders and in particular their safety, protection, right to fair trial and due process.
- Where appropriate, inform other entities which may include the UHRC, UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), relevant Embassies, relevant non-governmental organisations.
- Where TEPU employees or contractors are the subject of such allegations ensure that appropriate due diligence is carried out in accordance with TEPU procedures, including where appropriate taking swift action and applying appropriate sanctions.



## Expressing Concerns or Complaints as a Human Rights Defender

TEPU encourages the use of its Grievance Procedures for all forms of complaints and grievances related to its Projects including by Human Rights Defenders:

- I. TEPU has an office in Buliisa that is manned daily, this office is designed as a contact point for the community and grievances can be raised here.
- II. TEPU also has a toll-free number (0800 216 500) available and manned each day from 7am until 10pm.
- III. TEPU has Community Liaison Officers that regularly visit all areas of our operations and meet with communities, and they can be approached to air concerns, give feedback or raise grievances.
- IV. Email: an email ([ep.sacbugunqu.ugep@totalenergies.com](mailto:ep.sacbugunqu.ugep@totalenergies.com) )
- V. Traditional/district local authorities: issues can also be raised with local leaders for transmission to TEPU (eg LC%, LC3, LC1, District Community Development officer or subcounty chief)
- VI. Grievance Issues Report Cards: available at strategic locations such as entrance gates to park, lodges, UWA offices

TotalEnergies in Uganda also has an ethics process which is managed at corporate level: [ethics@totalenergies.com](mailto:ethics@totalenergies.com)

TotalEnergies encourages any Human Rights Defender who prefers not to contact the project directly, for reasons of confidentiality or anonymity, to contact a third party of their choice (e.g, a Non-Government Organisation, Embassy, etc). These will forward your grievances to our teams through the above mechanism or through TotalEnergies EP Uganda NGO & Human Rights team: [ep-ngo-human-rights-ugep@totalenergies.com](mailto:ep-ngo-human-rights-ugep@totalenergies.com)