**PERSONAL PROFILE: SIMON SSENYONGA**

Simon Ssenyonga is a lawyer with an interest in International Human Rights Law, Religious Freedoms and Social Justice.

Simon is an Advocate of the High Court of Uganda and subordinate courts thereto. He holds a Bachelor of Laws (LLB Hons) which he obtained from Makerere University, Kampala. In addition, he obtained a Diploma in Legal Practice from the Law Development Centre in Uganda.

Simon has spearheaded various worldwide initiatives geared towards social justice around religious freedoms. He has been extensively involved in public advocacy, litigation, research and project development for the religious freedoms and other relevant attendant rights in Uganda publicly challenging discriminations against religious freedoms. He has led or participated in various strategic litigation cases and various technical tools geared towards enhancing the realization of religious freedoms.

He has written and published extensively on issues concerning religious freedoms in leading national dailies. Simon often makes national, regional and international media appearances, engagements and commentary on topical issues around social justice on religious affairs, international human rights and public affairs.

In his career, he has served in various capacities and held important responsibilities in Uganda and abroad, and in the public and private sectors. In Uganda, he is a member, Board of Directors of the National Christian Students Association, Executive Committee Member of Uganda’s premiere university alumnus body, the Makerere University Convocation and also a member and advisor to several N on-Government Organizations. At a regional level, he is a steering committee member of the Great Lakes Youth Network for Peace and Development (GLYNPD).

At continental level, among other instrumental positions, he is a lead advisor to the African Youth Coalition for peace and development focusing on effective policy development to enhance youth participation through creating safe spaces for full realization of their religious freedoms and other attendant rights. He has successfully led key continental policy discussions on development of legal instruments and regimes that protect, promote and uphold religious freedoms such as the African Sovereignty Coalition.

At an international level, he is a member of the International Religious Freedom Roundtable participating with the Africa working group. He has extensively led and worked on key international projects funded by the United Nations, Konrad Adenuer Stiftung, Segal Family Foundation, among others. He has also worked with Restless Development, a global nonprofit agency that supports the collective power of young leaders to create a better world with a reach of over 16 countries including USA, UK, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Zambia, Lebanon,Madagascar among others.

At ICRAD, he is overseeing the establishment of ICRAD as the leading Global platform and safe space that builds capacities for the full realization of religious freedoms using our unique approaches in relevant national and international contexts and seeing that the gospel of Jesus Christ resounds to all the ends of the world.