

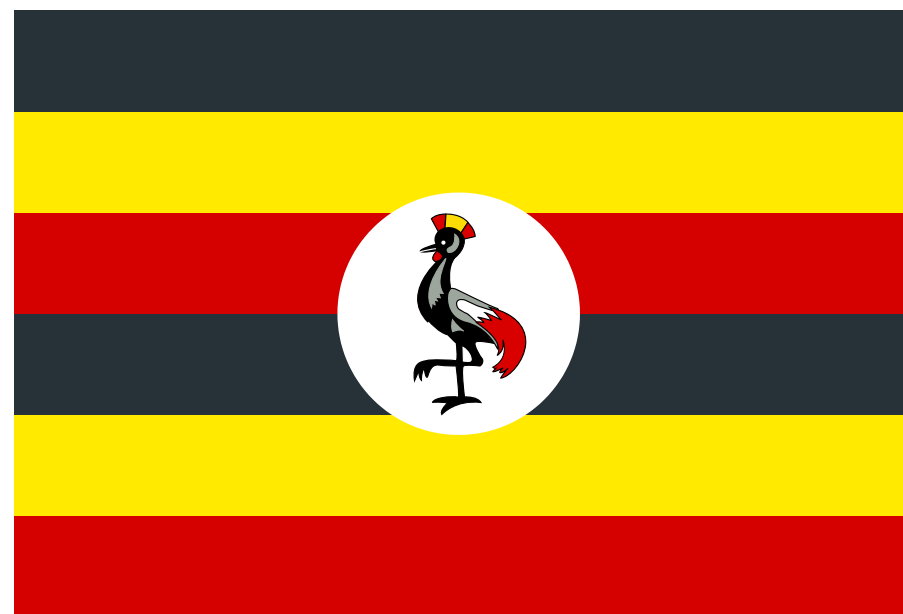
UGANDA

Country Profiles



This profile is a part of our Leading Multiculturalism: Canada's Impact on Global Diversity Policies series

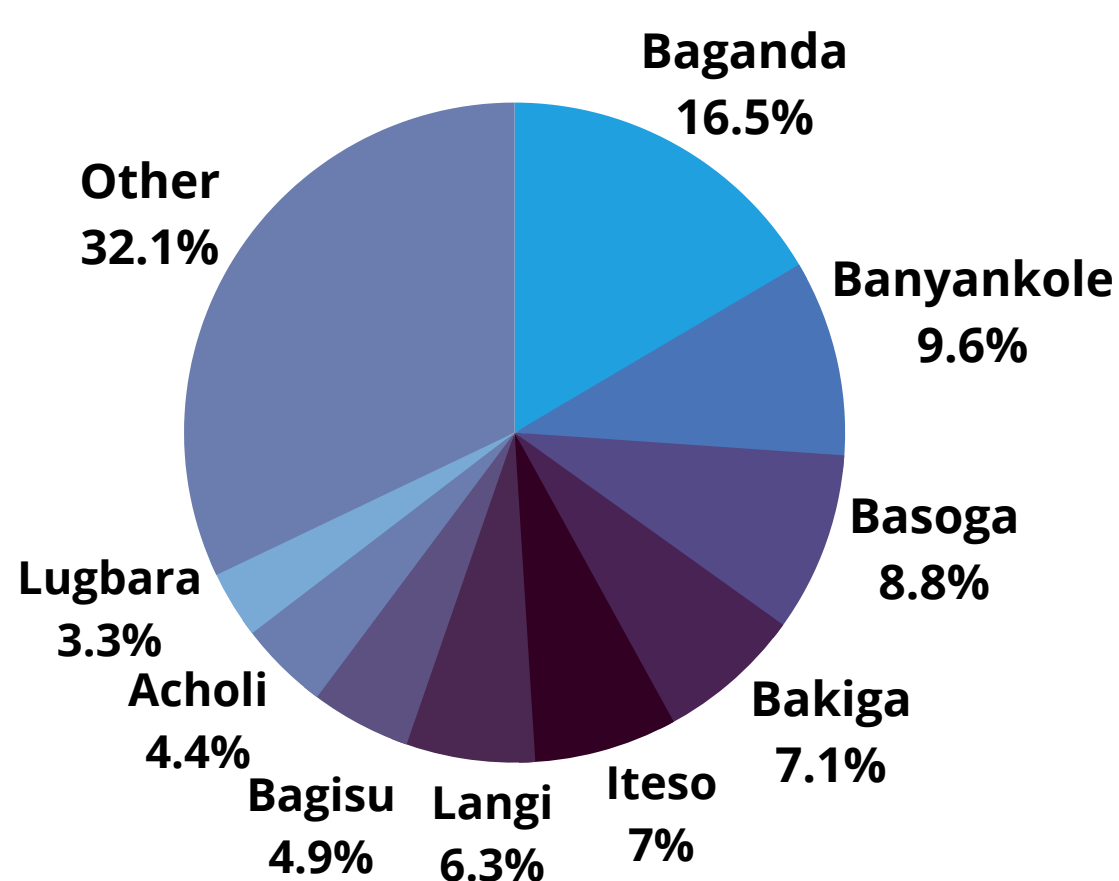
You can view all country profiles at: www.mosaicinstitute.ca/leading-multiculturalism



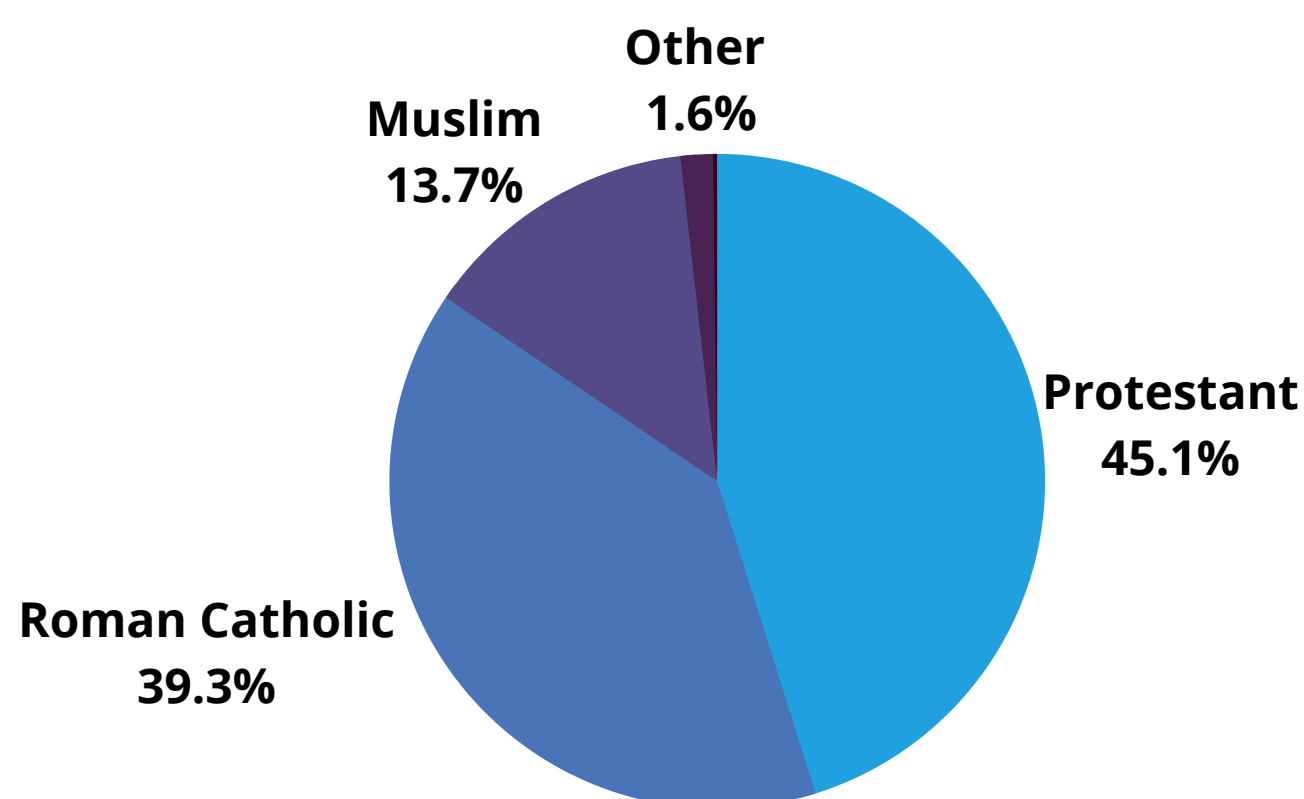
HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Uganda was a protectorate of the British Empire from 1894 to 1962. After independence, in 1972, the Asian minority was expelled from the country by the then president, Idi Amin. All migrant communities from Europe, Middle East, and Asia currently form about 1% of the population.

DEMOGRAPHICS



RELIGION



MULTICULTURALISM POLICY

- **Term:** "cultural heritage" and "unity in diversity".
- **Approach:** Top-down constitutionally and legally derived protections

DOMESTIC

- Constitutional and legal provisions exist for the protection of equal rights although no explicit recognition of multiculturalism exists.
- The Uganda National Culture Policy guides the coordination and preservation of cultures.
- Peaceful co-existence is also enshrined in the "Uganda's Vision 2025", established in 1998.
- No explicit multiculturalism policy exists but the Uganda National Culture Policy guides the coordination of culture at all levels to integrate culture with development and preserve the diverse cultural identities
- Affirmative action policies do not exist.

INTERNATIONAL

Treaties

- ✓ International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)
- ✓ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

Promotion on international scale

Yes

Uganda

Backgroundⁱ

- Population: 40.9 million (July 2018 est.)
- Demographics: Baganda 16.5%, Banyankole 9.6%, Basoga 8.8%, Bakiga 7.1%, Iteso 7%, Langi 6.3%, Bagisu 4.9%, Acholi 4.4%, Lugbara 3.3%, other 32.1% (2014 est.)
- Languages: English (official), Ganda or Luganda, Niger-Congo and Nilo-Saharan languages, Swahili (official), Arabic
- Religion: Protestant 45.1%, Roman Catholic 39.3%, Muslim 13.7%, other 1.6%, none 0.2% (2014 est.)
- Term: “cultural heritage”ⁱⁱ, “unity in diversity”ⁱⁱⁱ
- Top Down or Bottom Up: Top-Down

With a population of over 40 million, Uganda is one of the most populous and ethnically diverse African countries. Unlike Canada, a large section of Uganda’s population constitutes of local and indigenous ethnic groups with tribes like the Baganda people forming the majority at 16.5%.^{iv} Uganda was a protectorate of the British Empire from early 19th to late 20th centuries.^v After independence in 1972, Uganda’s Asian minority was expelled^{vi} and today, the migrant communities from Europe, Asia, the Middle East etc. account for about 1% of the population.^{vii} Approximately 80% of Ugandans live in rural areas and this includes a majority of all ethnic minorities.^{viii}

Adopted in 1995, Uganda’s constitution recognizes the importance of the country’s “cultural heritage” and its preservation for social, national, cultural, and economic development.^{ix} The Uganda National Culture Policy (2006) acknowledges “unity in diversity” as a key goal to promote peaceful co-existence amongst the diverse indigenous communities. This is also enshrined in the strategic framework “Uganda’s Vision 2025” developed by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in 1998.^x Uganda has also ratified numerous major international conventions for the promotion of social, cultural, and civil rights including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966) and the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005).^{xi}

While the country frequently promotes equitable development initiatives through the promotion and preservation of its cultural and ethnic diversity, Ugandans note a lack of proper implementation and representation of indigenous and ethnic minorities.^{xii} This is also reflected in Uganda’s non-adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007).^{xiii} In recent years, numerous NGOs and UNESCO reports have called on the Ugandan government to adopt measures such as recognizing indigenous minorities^{xiv}, properly implementing the 2006 National Culture Policy^{xv}, and taking affirmative action for the protection and promotion of indigenous and minority languages as enshrined in the Constitution^{xvi}.

Comparative Analysis: Domestic Legal

Approach

Government-led; top-down.

Uganda National Culture Centre (UNCC) Act 1959 (amended 1965) established the UNCC as a statutory body to “preserve, promote, and popularize” the diverse arts and culture of Uganda.^{xvii}

Historical Monuments Act 1967 aimed at the protection of historical heritage and cultural monuments.^{xviii}

Local Government Act (LGA) 1997 mentions cultural affairs as a decentralized activity.^{xix}

Poverty Eradication Action Plan (2004) notes culture as valuable and important for identity and capital formation.^{xx}

Social Development Sector Strategic Investment Plan (SDIP) 2003 acknowledges culture as important for social protection through indigenous knowledge, cultural industries, and cultural promotion.^{xxi}

The Uganda National Culture Policy of 2006 to guide the systems and coordination of culture at all levels to integrate culture with development and promote and preserve the diverse cultural identities.^{xxii}

Constitutional Protections

No mention of “culture” or “diversity” in the preamble.

Political Objectives (III) (i)(ii)(iii): explicit focus on national unity to “integrate” all peoples while recognizing the various “ethnic, religious...political and cultural” identities.

Cultural Objectives.(XXIV): ensures fundamental rights and freedoms for all Ugandans, preservation of all Ugandan languages, and encourages development of a national language.

Article 6 (1): English is the official language of Uganda; (2): any other language may be used in schools as a medium of instruction, or in government departments as per law.

Article 7: No state religion adopted by Uganda.

Article 29 (1)(c): freedom to practice and preach any religion.

Article 37: grants freedom of culture, language, tradition, creed and religion to all Ugandans.

Article 246 (1): allows religious and traditional leaders as per the aspirations of the cultural community that are separate from the national administrative and governance bodies.

Explicit Recognition of Multiculturalism

There is no explicit recognition of multiculturalism.

Comparative Analysis: Domestic Practical

Valuing and Active Promotion of Diversity

The National Equal Opportunities Policy was launched in 2006 to promote fundamental rights of “social justice and economic development”^{xxiii} but it does not address cultural minorities or marginalized populations by virtue of religion/ethnicity.

The UNESCO project “Re-shaping Cultural Policies for The Promotion of Fundamental Freedoms and The Diversity of The Cultural Expressions” was launched in Uganda in 2019 to strengthen the civil and

governmental capabilities for monitoring and reporting policies pertaining to the protection and promotion of cultural diversity.^{xxiv}

The 2011 “Ethnic Minorities in Uganda” report by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR) notes^{xxv}:

- lack of domestication of international covenants that protect the rights of ethnic minorities
- lack of clear recognition of all ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples and domestic laws for their protection
- absence of “inclusive and intercultural” education systems

Multiculturalism as a Means to Integration

Yes. Mentioned under the Political Objectives Section of the Constitution (see column one, “Domestic Legal”).

Affirmative Action Policies

The 2011 OHCHR report (noted above) recognizes an absence of a quota system to facilitate participation and representation of ethnic minorities.^{xxvi}

Comparative Analysis: International

International Treaties

Uganda’s National Culture Policy (2006) notes the country’s initiative to promote “cultural exchange” through “cultural tourism”, although it is unspecified if this is international or domestic.^{xxvii} It also notes the formation of The National Culture Forum (NCF) to network internationally to promote participation of the civil and private sectors.

ⁱ “Uganda,” The World Factbook, Central Intelligence Agency, accessed February 07, 2021, <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/static/a7ba07740985a4860f1346fb124c2191/UG-summary.pdf>

ⁱⁱ “The Uganda National Culture Policy”, Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development, accessed February 07, 2021, pg. 2, https://ocpa.irmo.hr/resources/policy/Uganda_Culture_Policy-en.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ “Uganda National Cultural Centre (UNCC)”, Government of Uganda, accessed February 06, 2021, <https://www.gou.go.ug/content/uganda-national-cultural-centre-uncc>

^{iv} “Uganda,” The World Factbook, Central Intelligence Agency, accessed February 06, 2021, <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/static/a7ba07740985a4860f1346fb124c2191/UG-summary.pdf>

^v Tudor Griffiths. “Bishop Alfred Tucker and the Establishment of a British Protectorate in Uganda 1890-94.” *Journal of Religion in Africa* 31, no. 1 (2001): 92-114. Accessed March 23, 2021.

^{vi} “Fall of Idi Amin.” *Economic and Political Weekly* 14, no. 21 (1979): 907-10. Accessed March 23, 2021. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4367633>.

^{vii} “Demographics of Uganda”, 2007 Schools Wikipedia Selection, accessed February 08, 2021, https://www.cs.mcgill.ca/~rwest/wikispeedia/wpcd/wp/d/Demographics_of_Uganda.htm

^{viii} “Ethnic Minorities in Uganda”, United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights Library, March 14, 2011, pg. 1, accessed February 07, 2021, <https://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/session12/UG/JS6-JointSubmission6-eng.pdf>

^{ix} “Constitution of the Republic of Uganda 1995”, Government of Uganda, accessed February 08, 2021, https://statehouse.go.ug/sites/default/files/attachments/Constitution_1995.pdf

^x “The Uganda National Culture Policy”, Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development, accessed February 07, 2021, pg. 14, 17, https://ocpa.irmo.hr/resources/policy/Uganda_Culture_Policy-en.pdf

^{xi} “The Uganda National Culture Policy”, Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development, accessed February 07, 2021, pg. 14, https://ocpa.irmo.hr/resources/policy/Uganda_Culture_Policy-en.pdf

^{xii} “Universal Periodic Review for Uganda on the Status of Human Rights. A stakeholder submission on The Situation of Cultural Rights in Uganda”, The Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda, March 2016, pg. 3, accessed February 08, 2021, https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjX3eSqht7uAhXIVN8KHfviB3oQFJA DegQIBhAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fuprdoc.ohchr.org%2Fuprweb%2Fdownloadfile.aspx%3Ffilename%3D3006%26file%3DEnglishTranslation&usq=A0vVaw3gqGJiU1zK_hfiL7Y5o2a

-
- xiii “Indigenous peoples in Uganda”, International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, accessed February 07, 2021, <https://www.iwgia.org/en/uganda.html>
- xiv “Ethnic Minorities in Uganda”, United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights Library, March 14, 2011, pg. 2, accessed February 07, 2021, <https://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/session12/UG/JS6-JointSubmission6-eng.pdf>
- xv “Universal Periodic Review for Uganda on the Status of Human Rights. A stakeholder submission on The Situation of Cultural Rights in Uganda”, The Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda, March 2016, pg. 3, accessed February 08, 2021, https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjX3eSqt7uAhXIVN8KHfviB3oQFjADegQIBhAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fuprdoc.ohchr.org%2Fuprweb%2Fdownloadfile.aspx%3Ffilename%3D3006%26file%3DEnglishTranslation&usg=AOvVaw3gqGJiU1zK_hfiL7Y5o2a
- xvi “Universal Periodic Review for Uganda on the Status of Human Rights. A stakeholder submission on The Situation of Cultural Rights in Uganda”, The Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda, March 2016, accessed February 08, 2021, https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjX3eSqt7uAhXIVN8KHfviB3oQFjADegQIBhAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fuprdoc.ohchr.org%2Fuprweb%2Fdownloadfile.aspx%3Ffilename%3D3006%26file%3DEnglishTranslation&usg=AOvVaw3gqGJiU1zK_hfiL7Y5o2a
- xvii “Uganda National Cultural Centre (UNCC)”, Government of Uganda, accessed February 06, 2021, <https://www.gou.go.ug/content/uganda-national-cultural-centre-uncc>
- xviii “The Historical Monuments Act, 1967”, UNESCO Cultural Heritage Laws Database, accessed February 08, 2021, https://fr.unesco.org/sites/default/files/ug_histmonuments1967_engorof.pdf
- xix “The Uganda National Culture Policy”, Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development, accessed February 07, 2021, pg. 13, https://ocpa.irmo.hr/resources/policy/Uganda_Culture_Policy-en.pdf
- xx “The Uganda National Culture Policy”, Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development, accessed February 07, 2021, pg. 2, https://ocpa.irmo.hr/resources/policy/Uganda_Culture_Policy-en.pdf
- xxi “The Uganda National Culture Policy”, Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development, accessed February 07, 2021, pg. 2, https://ocpa.irmo.hr/resources/policy/Uganda_Culture_Policy-en.pdf
- xxii “The Uganda National Culture Policy”, Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development, accessed February 07, 2021, pg. 15, https://ocpa.irmo.hr/resources/policy/Uganda_Culture_Policy-en.pdf
- xxiii “A New UNESCO project is “Re-shaping cultural policies” in Uganda”, UNESCO, November 04, 2019, accessed February 08, 2021, <https://en.unesco.org/news/new-unesco-project-re-shaping-cultural-policies-uganda>
- xxiv “A New UNESCO project is “Re-shaping cultural policies” in Uganda”, UNESCO, November 04, 2019, accessed February 08, 2021, <https://en.unesco.org/news/new-unesco-project-re-shaping-cultural-policies-uganda>
- xxv “Ethnic Minorities in Uganda”, United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights Library, March 14, 2011, pg. 2-3, accessed February 07, 2021, <https://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/session12/UG/JS6-JointSubmission6-eng.pdf>
- xxvi “Ethnic Minorities in Uganda”, United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights Library, March 14, 2011, pg. 2, accessed February 07, 2021, <https://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/session12/UG/JS6-JointSubmission6-eng.pdf>
- xxvii “The Uganda National Culture Policy”, Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development, accessed February 07, 2021, pg. 15, https://ocpa.irmo.hr/resources/policy/Uganda_Culture_Policy-en.pdf