

# United Nations judge ends up behind bars

Lawyers fought court battle for Ugandan convicted of forcing her housekeeper to work as slave

## Reeds

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A senior judge once tasked with upholding international law was this year convicted of trafficking a woman from Uganda and forcing her to work as a slave.

While the woman worked as an unpaid maid and nanny, Lydia Mugambe — a Ugandan high court judge and UN war crimes tribunal member — was pursuing a DPhil in law at the University of Oxford.

Reeds defended Mugambe during her trial at Oxford crown court in March, where she denied all charges, claiming that the woman came to the UK voluntarily to work for her family and was treated with "love, care and patience".

The jury convicted her and Mugambe was sentenced to six years and four months in prison.



**Lydia Mugambe**  
was sent to prison for modern-day slavery

At an inquest Reeds acted for the family of Alexander Lewis, 19, a motorcyclist who was killed in 2022 in Swansea after riding away when police constable Craig Shakespeare attempted to make him pull over. Lewis collided with a car after going through a red light with the officer in pursuit. He died at the scene after sustaining severe chest injuries. After a five-day hearing, the jury found that

although there was justification for the officer to continue the pursuit he could equally have abandoned it, and that the chase contributed to Lewis's riding that led to his death.

As a result of Reeds's submissions in the case, the coroner will issue a prevention of future deaths report — a formal recommendation to help prevent similar fatalities — to South Wales police and the Home Office

concerning guidance on single-crewed police vehicles during pursuits.

In a case that gained widespread media attention, Reeds acted for James Sheen, who was behind the theft of a solid gold lavatory worth £4.75 million from an art exhibition at Blenheim Palace in 2019. He was sentenced to four years' imprisonment in June, while already serving 19 years for other offences.

The lavatory, created by the Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan, was never recovered.

The Reeds partner Tom Brymer represented two Royal Air Force engineers who made off with a Paddington Bear statue from a bench in Newbury after a night out drinking in the town early this year.

Daniel Heath and William Lawrence tore the fibreglass bear from its seat and took it back to RAF Odham in a taxi.

The pair pleaded guilty at Reading magistrates' court in March to causing about £5,450 worth of damage. Each received a 12-month community order, 150 hours of unpaid work and a £2,725 fine.

District Judge Sam Goozee told them that their behaviour was "the antithesis of everything Paddington stands for — kindness, tolerance and acceptance".

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She said that the woman had been treated with love, care and patience

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