

UN WOMEN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

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Youth in Uganda Join UNiTE Campaign to End Violence against Women and Girls



UN Women, Uganda Youth Network and Salama Shield Foundation celebrated Orange Day with a group of thirty young people at Lyantonde Community Development Centre. Participants from ages 18-29 years took part in a group discussion on

Lyantonde, Uganda - On Orange day in July 2015 UN Women Uganda in collaboration with youth organizations participated in events to mobilize the youth to participate in campaigns to prevent violence against women and girls. The events were organized under the theme; **“Orange our Future: Engaging youth to prevent and end violence against women and girls.”**

With the aim of increased visibility of the youth’s voice on a future free from violence against women and

girls, UN Women came together with Let Girls Lead, Rhythm of Life, the Uganda Youth Network, Salama Shield Foundation and the Young Leaders Think Tank for Policy Alternatives to celebrate July’s Orange Day. The youth were invited to share messages to be disseminated on social media and other media platforms in regards to prevention of violence against women and girls and how the youth can mobilize communities to end it.

their understanding of the term ‘violence against women and girls’, what forms exist in Uganda, why such violence is perpetrated and how the youth can rally to prevent violence against women and girls. Decorated in bright orange t-shirts, the youth made personal commitments on how they will prevent violence against women in their communities by spreading awareness and celebrating future ‘Orange Days’ in Lyantonde district and other areas in Uganda.

Youth in Uganda Join UNiTE Campaign to End Violence against Women and Girls

Working with Let Girls Lead and Rhythm of Life, UN Women is also engaging female youth from ages 12-19 years who are recognized as 'Girl Leaders' in their communities to convey messages on violence against women and girls to the international community using social media platforms. "I commit to



prevent violence against women by being a voice for the voiceless", says 12 years old Noleen.

UN Women has also engaged Young Leaders Think Tank for Policy Alternatives, an initiative of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung to enhance youth participation in governance and policy formulation in Uganda. The Think Tank is a group of 20 highly qualified and committed young Ugandans who interact and work together on a regular basis in order to analyse policy issues and develop policy alternatives from the perspective of the young generation. Emmanuel, 31 years, made a personal commitment to start the fight to end violence against women and girls in his own home: "I have a wife and a daughter, and I think the campaign to end violence against women and girls, starts with me - at home. I should be able to treat my wife and my daughter with the respect that they deserve."

HeForShe Launched in Mpumalanga at the South African Bishops' Conference

Mbombela, South Africa - As the HeForShe campaign picks up pace in South Africa, UN Women launched the solidarity campaign in Mpumalanga in August. Speaking at an event as part of the South African Catholic Bishops' Conference (SACBC), Dr. Auxilia Ponga, Representative UN Women South Africa Multi-Country office quoted Pope Francis saying: "Instead of being just a church that welcomes and receives by keeping the doors open, let us try also to be a church that finds new roads..." Dr. Ponga went on to explain that "He was talking about reaching out to those who have left the church, or who are indifferent. But I would like to interpret this as the most important part of all of this. Be the church, or the leader, or the community that finds new roads to reach those who perpetrate abuse. To heal them, teach them, welcome and forgive them. It's not up to women to stop being hurt; it's up to men to stop hurting them. And that is what HeForShe is about. It is about taking responsibility for the part you play, and for your fellow man."

The event was attended by more than 2000 people, including Member of Executive Council (MEC) for Safety and Security, Vusi Shongwe, chaplains, bishops, vicars, and traditional leaders, Mozambique and South Sudan ambassadors to South Africa, as well as praise singers and



Entertainers at the HeForShe event who got everyone dancing

members of the local community.

At an interview with SABC after the event, the Chairperson of the Moral Regeneration Movement, Father Simangaliso Mkhathshwa spoke about the goals shared by UN Women and the church, saying "First of all we need to acknowledge the contribution of the United Nations Women initiating the HeforShe campaign. It's not the first time that the United Nations has shown concern for the oppression of women, especially gender based violence. We had a conference in Beijing that focused on that. We also had a World Council of Churches, setting aside a whole decade to focus on women's issues."

In Africa, the Catholic Church has the fastest growing number of Catholics in the world, with about 3.3 million Catholics in South Africa

alone. Through its Justice and Peace Commission it combats corruption and poverty, and is aiming to end gender based violence. Churches are known to be safe havens for those Africans fearing harm when there are xenophobic attacks, and for those displaced afterwards. Dr. Ponga stressed the church's contribution to helping those affected by HIV, and commended the church's efforts in the country.

There was song and dance to sum up the colorful ceremony, and a number of HeForShe sign-ups captured on computers and via SMS.

Mentoring and Empowering Programme for Young Women (MEMPROW) South African division launches in Johannesburg



MEMPROW girls at the social skills survival training

Johannesburg, South Africa - On a spring Thursday in Johannesburg's Parktown suburb, UN Women launched the South African division of MEMPROW, for which it is the funding partner. MEMPROW was founded in 2008 in Uganda; the programme focuses on girls and young women between 12 and 24 years of age, facilitating continuous mentorship to cultivate independence, leadership and responsibility. It develops analytical and critical thinking and fosters the determination to sustain gender activism. Of importance, MEMPROW's work is to keep girls in school. It also works to reduce gender-based violence and teenage pregnancies. MEMPROW provides spaces for girls and young women to protect and promote their rights in their schools and com-

munities as well as train mentors and address patriarchal mindsets among teachers and parents.

Programme directors who are academicians, businesswomen, and a former UN staff member attended the launch. UN Women South Africa Multi Country Office Representative, Dr. Auxilia Ponga who was also present addressed the most important guests, the MEMPROW girls and alumni, "There is a quote from Malala that sums up what MEMPROW, in association with UN Women, is aiming for: 'We cannot succeed', she says, 'When half of us are held back. We call upon our sisters from around the world to be brave, to embrace the strength within themselves and realize their potential.' That is what we are all

here to do. It's your potential. We are here to help you realize how great it is, how much you can achieve, how much you can overcome, and how many others you can care for, lead and empower yourselves." The event was a resounding success, with inspirational speaker Candice Mama delivering a provoking speech. A group of young dancers from 'Moving in Dance' were the stars of the show.

UN Women has committed to MEMPROW for one year, during which it will oversee the achievements of the mentorship and social survival skills training, as well as relationships with teachers, schools and parents throughout South Africa.

Celebrating Africa's Advancement on Gender Equality at the Nairobi +30 Women's Conference



H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta celebrating with Zipporah Kittony and other women who began the fight for women

Nairobi, Kenya - In a celebration held to celebrate Africa's advancement in Gender Equality and Women Empowerment 30 years since the 3rd World Conference on Women was held in Nairobi in 1985, the Nairobi +30 conference and expo was held at the Kenyatta International Conference center in August 2015. The conference themed "Making Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurship a reality for women in Africa", aimed to evaluate the progress made during UN Decade for Women and devise a new course of action for the advancement of women.

The celebration that was supported by UN Women Kenya brought together ministers in charge of gender and women affairs from across the continent. The event aimed at taking stock of the progress made in the last 30 years in the African women's movement.

H.E the President Uhuru Kenyatta who opened the Nairobi +30 confer-

ence and launched the two-thirds gender principal campaign to facilitate gender equity highlighted that since the 1st World Conference on Women was held in Mexico, major achievements have been realized in gender equity.

"Women now hold major leadership positions right across this continent. That advance has been matched by unprecedented economic empowerment," the President said, adding that more needs to be done, as indicated in the recent review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action.

Devolution Cabinet Secretary Anne Waiguru who was also in attendance stated that women empowerment is no longer an alternative in Kenya. "We are thankful for the women who have gone before us, who opened the door, and fought the hard battle in bringing gender issues to the development decision-making table. We are cognizant of the fact that were it not for strong

women who went before us, we would not be where we are today. We hope that as we advance this agenda, we may make them proud and honor their efforts," she said.

Kenya Women Parliamentarian Association Chairperson, Hon. Cecily Mbarire took time to celebrate women who participated in the fight for women mentioning; Phoebe Asiyo, Zipporah Kittony, Martha Karua, the late Prof. Wangari Mathai, among others. In her remarks she counted the gains achieved since the third world women conference in Kenya highlighting that the number of women in parliament had increased. Hon. Mbarire also mentioned to the President that much help was needed from him to push for the not more than two third gender principle.

The women in the Nairobi +30 conference were challenged to be ambassadors of the good work that the government had done for them.

The two day conference brought together ambassadors from the countries that have hosted the world conference of women namely; Mexico, China and Denmark alongside Government dignitaries and women from all over the country. The conference was a total celebration for women and a chance to prove that we are not there yet, and more needs to be done to achieve Gender Equality.

UN Women Uganda Embarks on Strategy to boost Women's participation in 2016 elections

Kampala, Uganda—As Uganda prepares for the general elections in February 2016, UN Women Uganda is in the process of developing strategy on Women in Leadership and Decision Making process and defining its support to women in the 2016 election race. Women face various challenges in their quest to get elected. One problem is where to vie for in elective posts—at their place of birth or where they are married into. Both options trigger negative commentaries from members of the respective communities. Unmarried women face stereotypes as people assume they cannot find or keep a husband or that they don't have appropriate skills to manage a household, let alone run a constituency. Women aim for affirmative action seats because chances are slim to get elected when competing directly for elected seats. Research done by Action For Development pointed out that majority of men would not vote for a woman on a direct seat, arguing that 'they already have their space', and that 'women should not try to compete with men'

The monetization of Ugandan politics forms a barrier for many, there is a serious need to shift to issue-based campaigning, which can be achieved through civic and voter education to make citizens understand the roles and responsibilities of politicians at different levels.



A local councillor from Northern Uganda, explaining on the requirements of good leaders to other

Lack of education hinders women to effectively occupy the affirmative action posts. Public speaking, knowledge of the English language, legislation and drafting policies and budgets skills are just a few of the areas in which women leaders need capacity building which needs to start an early age in life.

To ensure well-informed women leadership, UN Women conducted a variety of consultations with district councillors, members of parliament, development partners, Civil Society Organizations and the Electoral Commission of Uganda in Moroto, Mbarara, Kampala and Gulu. From the meetings, it was clear that women all over the country faced same issues when vying for leadership positions

Therefore, the planned UN Women interventions before the elections will mainly focus on strengthening

the electoral commission in ensuring a gender sensitive approach in the election process, including a gender strategy and sensitive voter education materials, and on supporting candidates, especially those running for direct seats. Furthermore UN Women will also work towards gender responsive media coverage and enhancing a fundamental change in political culture and mindset through engagement with local opinion leaders. The electoral strategy is being developed in collaboration with UNDP, OHCHR and the Office of the Resident Coordinator. UN Women will work towards creating an electoral process free from violence and harassment. This will be done through the set-up of a women's situation room, a mechanism which proved effective in countries like Nigeria, Kenya and Liberia.

Farhan Akhtar's Nairobi Concert on Gender Equality and Fight against Gender Based Violence

Nairobi, Kenya - Farhan Akhtar, an Indian film director, screen-writer, producer, actor, singer and campaign champion for the Men against Rape and Discrimination (MARD) was in Nairobi, Kenya this August 2015 for a concert that also doubled up as a call to action for the HeForShe Campaign.

The concert held at Parklands Sports Club in Nairobi, brought together both MARD; a social initiative designed to create awareness to instill gender equality and respect towards women, and HeForShe which is a solidarity movement that urges men and boys to be change agents and advocates for gender equality.



Farhan's live band, drove a positive response towards Gender Equality by calling on all men to show their commitment to

fighting gender inequality and violence against women by signing up for the HeForShe Movement.

During the concert 200 men and boys pledged their commitment to gender equality and to fight violence against women by signing up for the HeForShe Campaign.



40-hour Hackathon Produces Three App Ideas



The judges could ask the hackers two question each

Pretoria, South Africa - Hackathon is an event where computer programmers, software and hardware developers and graphic designers collaborate to build software and hardware projects over a specified 'marathon' time such as 24, 36, or 42 hours. This August, UN Women together with Geekulcha hosted a 40-hour hackathon for forty university students, as well as mentors and university leaders. Geekulcha is a network of young, ambitious 'tech minds', and a place to gain ICT development skills and training to create a culture of innovation and development among South African youth. In commemoration of women's month, the Hackathon focused on ideas for apps that empower women. Roughly 40 per cent of the hackers were female. The hackers worked on three projects over the course of the weekend. The first app

produced was a HeforShe app that would accelerate engagement with the campaign to make it sharable, by educating users about the campaign, and by making sign-ups easier for South African users, most of whom use their cellphones to access the internet.

The second app was based on promoting women's leadership. One of the challenges pinpointed was that women leaders need to be able to access relevant information at the right time, and without having to do hours of research. This app was conceived as an information hub for Women leaders with laws, services, contact information and other critical relevant information required to provide guidance to their constituencies. Furthermore, the app would be designed to be interactive and provide a platform for leaders to engage with their constituents, as

well as other leaders, on issues in the community.

The third app focused on violence against women. Gender Based Violence is very high in South Africa which increases the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV/AIDS and acts as a barrier for women's access to HIV prevention, care and treatment services. However, relatively few women speak out or report violence they experience. As a result there is lack of data on the extent and nature of violence experienced, in turn jeopardizing the ability to plan for effective response mechanisms. Thus, the app is designed to have two functions: to provide information on reporting abuse and seeking counselling, and HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment information, as well as collecting data on GBV among the users.

The apps were developed to different extents, and while none are on the app store yet, there is huge potential for each of them to help women, girls, men and boys in South Africa. The weekend was challenging, productive and lots of fun. The hackers were asked questions by the judges, given feedback and the winning team, 3MKV were given a shopping voucher sponsored by UN Women.

UP-COMING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
1-5 September	Global Leadership Retreat	New York
21-25 September	Senior Management Team Retreat	Nairobi

UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa– about us

UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls worldwide.

UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa covers 15 countries in the region:

Burundi

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office

Ethiopia

Kenya

Malawi

Mozambique

Rwanda

South Africa Multi-Country Office (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland)

Somalia

South Sudan

Sudan

Tanzania

Uganda

Zimbabwe



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