



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

FARUG'S 2020 IN-CAMERA



STRATEGIC VISION 1: STRENGTHENED ACTIVIST LEADERSHIP

GOAL 1: Strengthen Our Leadership as LBQ Womxn So As To create A World that is Just, Equitable And Non-Discriminatory for Ourselves And Our Communities

❖ TRAINING MEMBERS WITH HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACHES

In partnership with HRAPF, we launched the legal aid desk with an awareness session with LBQ women at FARUG premises. The legal aid clinic provides legal advice, legal first aid which includes police interventions, documentation of human rights violation as well as linkages to lawyers in cases where they need them, mediations between parties that are having disputes, information dissemination on legal issues, amongst others. This clinic operates Monday-Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00pm.



❖ **Movement Building project; Social Fridays (Gender and Sexuality, Peer Counselling, Regeneration circles, Queer feminism and Women's day).**

We created safe spaces for intersectional feminist dialogue amongst LBQ womxn; these spaces integrated feminist ideologies to our lives and work/activism, allowed us to tell our stories and use these stories to make sense of our experiences, to establish our values, to motivate and script our actions. These conversations have over a period of time are creating a strategy through which we can raise our voices and visibility in the broader LGBTI communities as well as within womxn's and sexual and reproductive rights movements.



GOAL 2: Expose LBQ womxn members and others to the politics of sexuality so that they appreciate that it is a fundamental element of personhood embodied in various forms of sexual expression and embedded in multiple spheres including pleasure, desire, reproduction, health, livelihoods, family, freedom of mobility, etc.

❖ **Queering SRHR project;**

Empowers Lesbian, Bisexual, Queer womxn for equal and inclusive access to SRHR information and services to make informed life choices. Acknowledges and improves access to sexual, reproductive health and rights for Lesbian, Bisexual, Queer womxn.

We run a series of monthly conversations that brought together LBQ womxn to share, understand and address the different SRHR issues that they face on a daily basis. (Covered conversations on gender and sexuality, mental health, menstrual health, Sexually Transmitted Infections).



❑ **Mental Health**



❑ **Gender-Based Violence**



Menstrual health



❑ **Trained LBQ SRHR advocates
from across the country**

That will influence an inclusive and affirming SRHR environment in their localities.



❑ Annual SRHR camps;

Trained LBQ womxn on menstrual health, carry out STI, Breast and cancers screening and also give out a Sanitary kit with menstrual and sanitary hygiene products.



☐ Awareness session on STIs



☐ Awareness session on STIs



FARUG HIV PROGRAMMING

- ❑ Providing support to LBQ PLHIV in need of treatment, care and social support, providing access to information about HIV amongst LBQ womxn with the aim advocating for non-discriminative access to health care as well facilitating prevention for those who are not positive by for instance providing free information.
- ❑ Covid Response; Safe guarding HIV service providers and beneficiaries, Virtual and phone-based awareness and prevention services and Adherence support.

❑ Adherence Support

Adherence meeting 1

As a measure of helping our members adhere to HIV treatment, FARUG conducted quarterly meetings for LBQ womxn living with HIV. These meetings allowed them to share how they are coping with antiretroviral treatment (ART) administration as well as encouraging others to live positively. The first quarterly meeting was facilitated by Men of the Night Executive Director. Members discussed a variety of issues related to proper adherence to their ARTs.



❑ Adherence support meeting 2

This aimed at encouraging LBQ PLHIV adhere to ARV treatment. Most of them face different challenges ranging from societal setting, individual and service provision sector. The COVID -19 outbreak greatly affected many of them to the extent that some reported taking drug holidays due to lack of food.



STRENGTHENING THE EXISTING HIV RELATED INTERVENTIONS IMPLEMENTED TO FOSTER RESPONSE, CARE AND MANAGEMENT OF LBQ WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV

DROP IN CENTER



The FARUG DIC continues to be open for access to LBQ women who can reach the premises. We operate an emergency number that LBQ women can use for any inquiries and any needs related to legal help, health, psychosocial counselling and GBV/IPV related counselling. These numbers are;

GBV Number: +256(0)757 709096
DIC Number: +256(0)39 323 912.
Toll-free number: 080-010-093

INTRODUCTION OF THE ORA-QUICK HIV SELF –TEST KIT. MAY 2020

Ora-Quick is a HIV self-test kit that is used by individuals who are not comfortable with going to the hospital for the HIV test. This kit is very conducive since it does not involve any pricking of the skin since most people fear blood and pricks.

Peers and staff were taken through the procedure of using this kit and they can now educate their peers on how to use the self-test kit. The introduction of this self-test kit is intended to supplement the fight against HIV infection and increase awareness of one's status.



July 23,2020. we have received another pack of Ora-Quick self-testing kits from our partner health center in Namugongo to serve LBQ women to know their HIV status amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Feel free to drop by at our Drop-in center or WhatsApp us on 0393239012 should you require one.

Outreaches

From the eight outreaches conducted, 269 LBQ womxn from divisions of Nakawa, Rubaga, Makindye and central division were tested and know their status.



❑ DIALOGUES WITH LBQ WOMEN ON HIV AND GBV

To empower LBQ womxn with knowledge on health rights, legal and policy framework on HIV/ STI in order to demand for the services.



❑ DIALOGUES WITH HEALTH WORKERS

To expand and increase access, uptake and utilisation of quality HIV/STI services (centers reached include Kitebi H/C IV, Kawala H/C III, Kiswa H/C III, Komamboga H/C III, Kisenyi H/C III and Reach out Mbuya)

KITEBI



STRATEGIC VISION 2: FREEDOM FROM VIOLENCE

Goal 1: Working towards changing the stereotypes, popular beliefs, and negative social norms (in addition to formal laws and policies) that justify and reinforce unequal power relations and increase violence against LBQ women.

Community based approach for preventing Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) project; Trained LBQ womxn in SRHR and GBV to foster engagement with Advocacy spaces. Also facilitated conversations on understanding and detecting violence, conversations (manifestations and indicators)



Disrupting narratives project; New Narratives Through Digital Media;

Strengthened/created safe spaces online for lesbian, bisexual and queer (LBQ) activists and human rights defenders (HRDs) in Uganda as well as increased the participation and online presence of LBQ voices in human rights platforms through (social media campaigns, podcasting and storytelling).



Wetegereze; a photo voice exhibition off our story telling component.



Podcast group during one of their shooting sessions



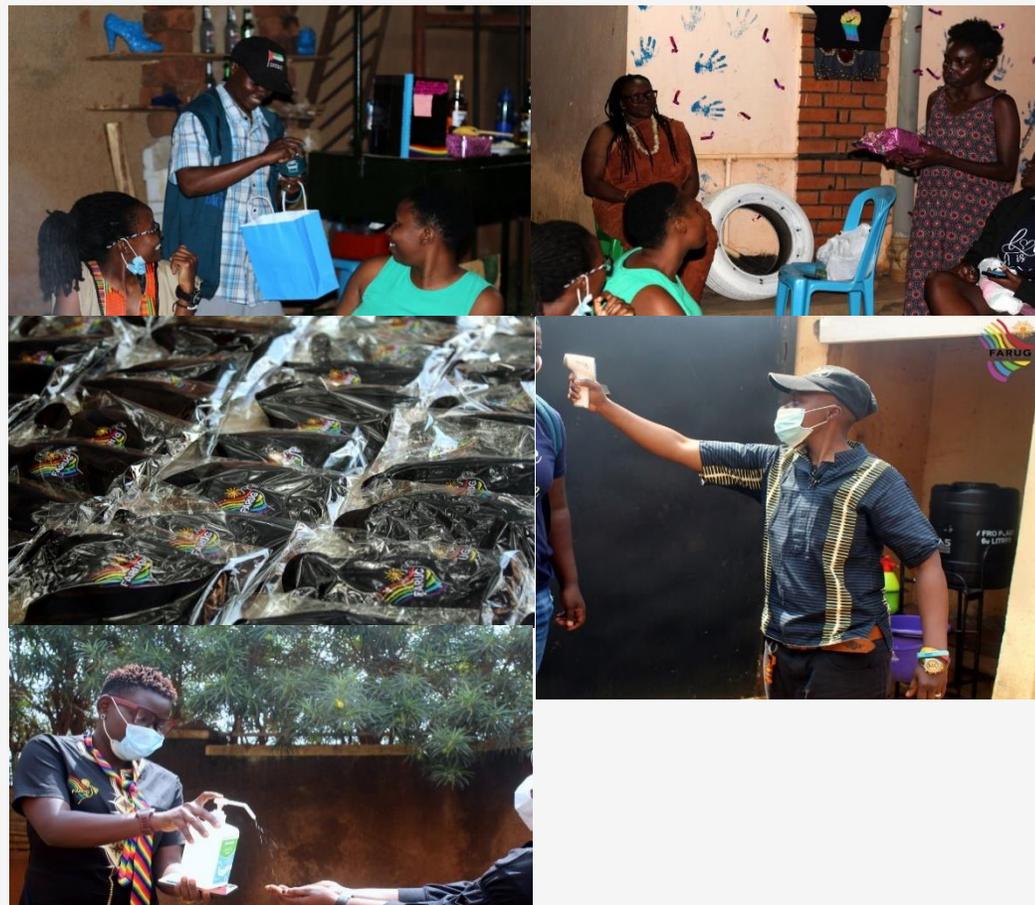
Storytelling and social media teams

GOAL 2: To promote well-being; the state of being healthy, fulfilled and thriving as a right and tool for movement building.

Rapid research for agile policy making project; studied and developed tools for rapid research cycles to understand the LGBTQ+ community members' contribution to policymaking and transparency by governments, against a backdrop of publicly available academic and policy research.



Resilience Project; Supported organizational objectives and current needs including adapting to the current challenges of COVID-19 (emergency response and wellness center)



STRATEGIC VISION 3: Strengthened Money Literacy, Improved Income And Economic Rights Among The Members

Goal 1: Train LBQ women in how money is made, spent, and saved, as well as the skills and ability to use financial resources to make decisions. These decisions include how to generate, invest, spend, and save money

This strategic vision has been realized through creation of platforms where LBQ womxn can show case their work. These platforms include our social media pages, whatsapp group we continue to find opportunity's where LBQ womxn can find market for their products or services. that show case the "The African beads jewelry I make assert many Queer women identity as African and Ugandan women" ~sybella a queer woman from Uganda. To support sybella and place your orders, please reach out to her through <https://chat.whatsapp.com/DRavVrB94Dm6hLUeq7bkYZ>



STRATEGIC VISION 4: A strengthened organisation able to deliver on its mission

Goal 1: Ensure that our organization is strong, sound and a great container for holding and sustaining all the activities.

Capabilities Management (Assessment and Elevation) - Learning and Development

FARUG M&E and KPIF project assistant attained knowledge in Data collection from METS. METS is a project under Makerere School of public health and they took the initiative to train the M&E and project managers under the KPIF project on effective ways of data collection and management.

LGBTQ ADVOCACY CHAMPIONS-7th Dec 2020

FARUG was part of a 3 days regional training for LGBTQ advocacy champions. This was aimed at developing a regional advocacy guide on access to sexual reproductive health rights and services for LGBTQ persons in central Uganda. This training was organized by Human rights awareness and promotion forum (HRAPF).

HOSTING KP ADVOCACY CHAMPIONS FOR MENTORSHIP

FARUG supported four LGBTI leaders from four organizations based in (Kitgum, Kasese and Kampala), in a mentorship program for KP advocacy champions.

Performance Management

FARUG staff and our intern actively participating in the KPIF Quarterly review zoom meeting



Goal 2: Strengthen our organizational governance board so that it can lead effectively and efficiently.

- ❑ **Policy Review;** FARUG reviewed its policies in line with the changing civic space.



- ❑ **Capacity Building:** FARUG has recruited four new staff on its team.

Goal 3:

Improve organizational research capacities, knowledge production and learning.

- ❑ **Knowledge production and learning**

FARUG Executive director completes her Human Rights Advocacy programme 2019 at the Colombia University in New York, USA. This will not only contribute to her development in her advocacy career and passion but a fundamental development to the entire LGBTIQ community.

- ❑ **Carrying out studies**

Our Programs Director shared the lived realities of LBQ womxn in central region in relation to SRHR at a dialogue on policy gaps in access to SRHR services for LGBTI persons between LGBTI community members, ministry of health, reproductive health, national disease control.

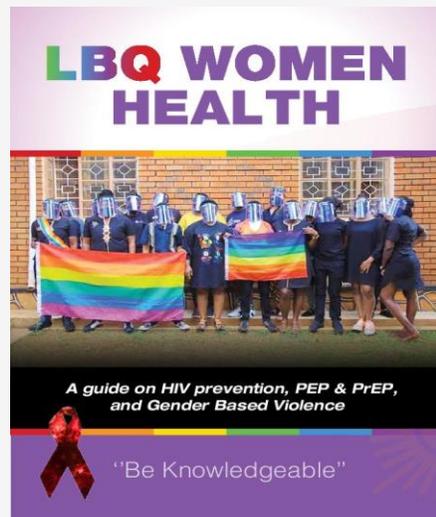
- ❑ **High profile events to generate media attention**

Press Conference 4th March 2020

FARUG was also part of the press conference held at Trans Equality Uganda (TEU) prior to the women's day celebrations. This conference occurred on 4th March 2020 where Mubiru Arthur and Frank Mwesigwa both Transmen working with FARUG participated. Activists in attendance shared their experience with the journalists on the challenges they face in societies they live. They argued their local leaders to support them in the fight against gender and sexuality-based hate and phobia.

Goal 4: Amplify voices and influence, inform public discourse, attitudes and behavior through creative media and communications strategies aimed at making LBQ women's rights and feminist agendas and movements more visible and important, so as to challenge all forms of discrimination.

- **Publications;** "LBQ WOMXN HEALTH"; A guide on HIV prevention, PEP, PrEP and Gender-Based Violence.



- ❑ **FARUG Executive Director shares a presentation at the Key Populations Stake holders meeting #UKPC2020. February 25, 2020**

She emphasized the need for equal accessibility to friendly, non-women in the fight against



UGANDA
KEY POPULATIONS
CONSORTIUM



Visibility during key national and international days

Recognizing World Suicide prevention day/International women's day

Today, World Suicide Prevention Day, let's remember: Using the correct pronouns & names for Trans-queer and Gender non-conforming/binary persons is #suicideprevention Refraining and protecting LGBTI persons from violence is #suicideprevention Creating safe communities and spaces for LGBTI persons is #suicideprevention

8th March INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2020
"I am Generation Equality"

Wellness Booth, Lots entertainment & SRHR

Please join us this Sunday for a joint Women's day Celebration at LMB Premises

TIME 10am-5pm

+256700638103 +256775586297

☐ Targeted Individual Fundraising

• Executive Director Held a Facebook Live Chat on April 21st 2020

The impact of COVID-19 is felt more strongly by LBQ women because of their sexuality and preferences. The Facebook live chat brought together LBQ women during the pandemic to discuss ways of mitigating the impacts of COVID-19. 28 participants attended this chat. Some of the issues that the Director highlighted were, the increased cases of intimate partner violence, homelessness of LBQ women and more rejections from family members.

CHALLENGES FACING LBQ PERSONS AMIDST COVID-19 MEASURES

Ssenfuka Joanita Warry,
Executive Director, Freedom and Roam Uganda (FARUG), Uganda

2020 is a year we will all live to remember. It is the year a deadly pandemic, COVID-19, hit us globally. In our country, everything went on hold after an abrupt lockdown.



The pandemic did not only attack our health but also affected us economically, spiritually, and mentally. Many LBQ suffered under the hands of their tormentors: due to discrimination from local area residents many didn't benefit from the food distribution by the government; many lost jobs and access to health facilities as employers found COVID-19 a convenient excuse to lay off workers. LBQ women living with HIV and those living in rural areas were disproportionately impacted by this.

As LBQ women activists, we continue to face misogyny, homophobia, and heteronormativity as we respond to the exigencies of our community members during this COVID-19 lockdown period. Power dynamics and social norms expose us and our members to a unique set of human rights violations: discrimination, even from our family members; lack of food, and difficulties in accessing health care, housing, and employment. While we make an effort to advance the well-being of all LBQ persons and achieving social justice in Uganda, we still face the struggle to access funding particularly as LBQ organisations in Uganda. During the lockdown period, we managed to issue a call to both donors and individuals to support LBQ organizing to which we received some positive responses.

Due to the strict measures put in place by our government many LBQ women were forced to move back to the homes of either their parents or other relatives. In consequence, during the lockdown, we registered many violent attacks towards LBQ women from either their families or community members. We also noticed an increase in cases of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). However, amidst all the

challenges, we made sure that we stayed active on the ground, identifying such cases, and intervening. We had standby counsellors to help the victims and, with the help of our legal partners, offered legal assistance to the different LBQ women who were victims of the lockdown. Our peer educators were available to make sure that members on ARVs received their medication and nutritional support. Even without any source of funding for emergencies, Leaders had to find means of providing food and other necessities, such as pads, to our members since they always ran to us for rescue and expected leader to be in position to help them at all cost.

This period has made me reflect on how best we can organise the LBQ community in Uganda, on how we can help members to plan ahead of such unprecedented risks. As a leader, it showed me gaps we tend to overlook as we attempt to care for our members.

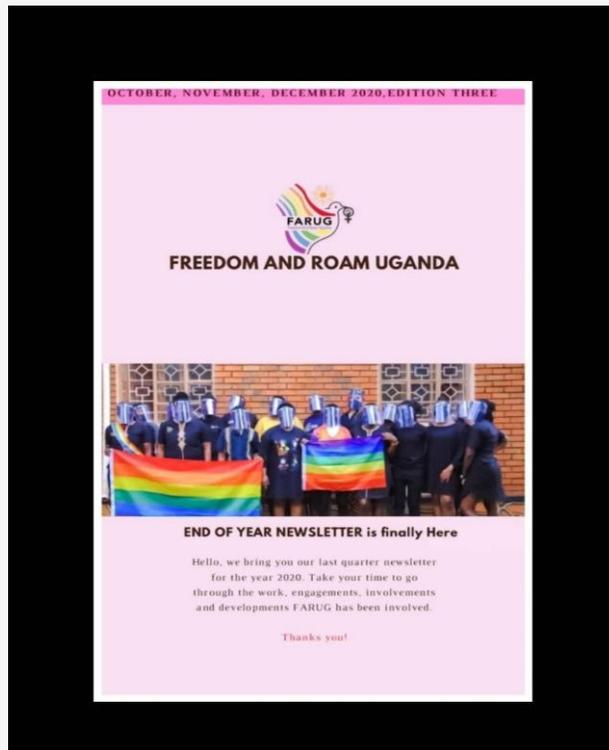
A friend asked me "who looks out for the leaders" since they spend so much time online and offline trying to look for solutions to the exigencies of the members. I told them "a leader will always put their members at the fore front of their plan for solutions. Every impact leader makes on others keeps them going."

However, I have noticed that concern has always popped up during different discussions with my fellow Leaders. We tend to overlook our well-being. Many of us LBQ leaders, fell victims to the different effects of the lockdown. We must accept that the lockdown has not



- ❑ **Quarterly Newsletter (Content requirements); Opinion pieces on issues affecting LBQ women in Uganda**

Three news letters were released in the year 2020 as they are quarterly.



- ❑ **Acquire and maintain a toll-free helpline**

FARUG has A Toll-free Line, 18 August 2020 Where to call to get all your HIV-related questions answered? You can call us through our DIC toll-Free number (0800100093) and get all your questions answered.

FRONTLINE AIDS

Where to call to get all your HIV-related questions answered?

Call us through our Drop-in-Center(DIC) toll free number 0800100093 to get all your HIV-related questions answered. When you need help we will be more than happy to serve you,

- We deliver HIV consumables (Condoms and lubricants), ART and PREP (Refills) and also OralQuick Self-testing kits.
- Offer free Counselling and Adherence support.
- Offer Legal Aid Services and information.
- Offer HIV/SRHR services, products and information.

www.faruganda.org 0800100093|Faruginfo@gmail.com

Networking with other HR Organisations

❑ Global Network of Rainbow Catholics

LBQ Women in Uganda are leading the discussion about sexual orientation and gender identity! Happy anniversary FARUG. Meet Freedom and Roam Uganda – FARUG and other GNRC members from Africa and the rest of the world in the on <http://rainbowcatholics.org/gnrc-members/>.

July 23,2020 FARUG is recognized by the Global network of Rainbow Catholics in Uganda

❑ Meeting with secretariat NCWHRD secretariat



- ❑ FARUG was present at the female sex Worker National Level Consultative breakfast meeting organized by Alliance of Women Advocating for Change



- ❑ LAUNCH OF A NEW PROJECT BY UGANDA KEY POPULATIONS CONSORTIUM 28/August/2020

FARUG team was present at the launch of new project by UKPC in partnership with UGANET and UNYPA “My body is not a democracy”, supporting national advocacy on bodily autonomy and integrity in Uganda.



UKPC committee meet, Sept 10 2020

On September 10 2020, the Steering Committee and Core team of UKPC meet and among the issues discussed were; Priorities on what its focus should be as we come close to the end of the year. Which stakeholders should the consortium work with? Update on the global fund.

Discussion on the framework of the operations especially around membership. Note:(FARUG ED is the focal person for LBQ persons across the country.



INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS DAY 10th Dec2020

The international human rights defenders' day was organized by defend defenders and the national coalition of human rights defenders on 9th December. This celebration brought together human rights defenders from different walks of life and sectors. Among them was the Executive director of FARUG Ssenfuka J Warry.



THE BOARD PICTORIAL



Glance at FARUG'S STAFF and PEERS

