

FREEDOM AND ROAM UGANDA NEWSLETTER

OUR THEME: **DISRUPTING DISCRIMINATION THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS**

In this Edition

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AWARENESS CREATION ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

SOCIAL FRIDAY

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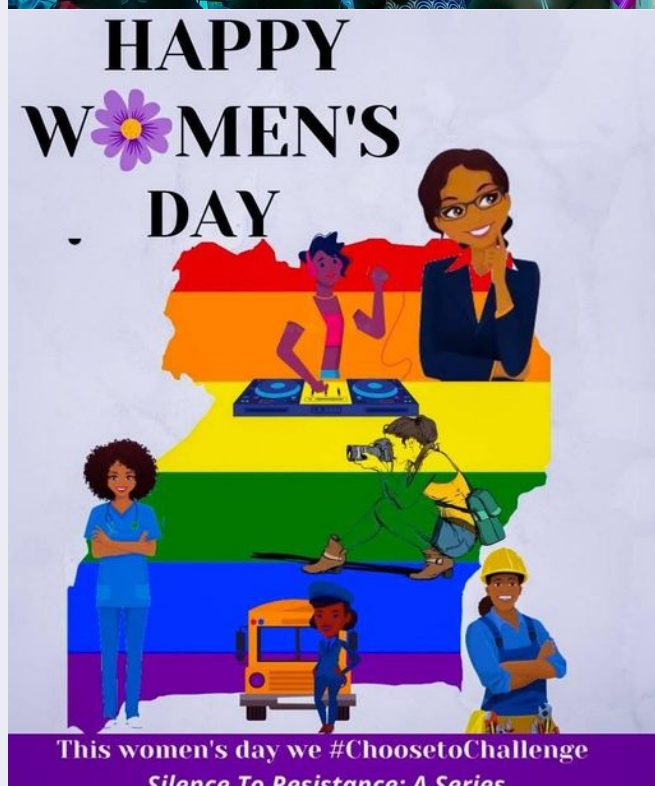
OUR BIG STORY THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's AGM covered 2019/2020 we were unable to have one last year due to COVID 19 outbreak. This follows the advert that was put up on 26 Feb 2021. This event brought together members, partners and friends of FARUG that included, Human Rights Awareness and promotion forum (HRAPF), Trans Equality Uganda (TEU), WONETHA, UKPC (Uganda key populations consortium), Sexual minorities Uganda (SMUG) and amongst others who were updated on the financial and programmatic achievements, shortcomings and stance of FARUG.

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WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

International women's day is globally celebrated and this does not exclude FARUG LBQ womxn just because of the diverse sexuality and gender. In line with this year's theme, we #choosetochallenge by showcasing a documentary on silence to resistance where the Coalition of African lesbians challenged homophobia at the African Commission, the journey of the coalition on being granted, and later painfully losing the NGO observer status. You can read a published copy of our women's day statement on our website and the link attached <https://faruganda.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/WOMENS-DAY-STATEMENT.pdf>



REGENERATION CIRCLES

Regeneration Circles are meant to restore our safety, worth, connection and imagination individually and as a movement. Stories stay, lessons leave, and we reflect, connect, practice and change. That fire that fuels us should not burn us out. This is what members/beneficiaries manifest from the regeneration circles.



FARUG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PROFILED BY KUCHU TIMES UGANDA/AFRICAN TV and RADIO

"In the beginning, people walked away from Feminist forums because of one's sexuality or the fact that they didn't know that LBQ womxn and Female sex workers were first women before sexual orientation or sex work. From a time when it was only one lesbian and one sex worker, one sex worker, our numbers have slowly increased as feminists since they started to embrace and involve us as women. There is a need for the inclusion of more LBQ women and FSWs in general women's rights movement building and organizing² because anything that affects any woman affects us too. find the full story on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/KuchuTimes/photos/a.740306909358297/3863713280350962/>

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FARUG Executive Director Ssenfuka J Warry.

THE STEPHEN LEWIS FOUNDATION (SLF) RECOGNISES FARUG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Inspired by women’s leadership and excellence- like that demonstrated by the 15 women profiled by the Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF)in the lead up to #internationalWomensDay- The director of development shared a personal reflection that was written in honor of women who create a movement so strong, so unbreakable, that we begin to see a real and sustained change in how women are treated across the globe.



QUEER WOMEN LEADERS UGANDA

Conversation hosted by queer women leaders Uganda and they had conversations about political violence and finding healing, pleasure and beauty amidst stresses and impact of the internet shutdown and elections were the main topics of the day. These conversations are key to enhancing mental health stability among key populations and thing that fosters productivity.



FEMINISM LEADERSHIP AND MOVEMENT BUILDING

MEMPROW conducted a feminist leadership and movement-building training for two days. The main objective of the training was to equip young women and girls with leadership skills and how they can economically form groups through which they can support themselves. They further had conversations about pillars of support that hinder movement building among women.



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STRENGTHENING WOMEN’S ABILITY

A workshop organized by Center for justice studies and innovations where discussions were held on how women’s groups can strengthen their ability to participate in local government budgeting and planning such that they can reduce gender-based violence and advance sexual reproductive rights in our communities.



SOCIAL FRIDAY

FARUG held its first social Friday on 30th January 2021 there have since been more conversations happening on a monthly basis. Each month the conversations range from Sexual Reproductive Health Rights topics to political consciousness such as Reproductive Health, Impacts of COVID-19 on LBQ Women, violence, and political unrest during campaigns and elections among others.



FARUG programs director and Executive director addressing members on the first social Friday 2021.



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Social Friday participation

LGBTI LEADERS MEET THE NEW UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (USA) AMBASSADOR TO UGANDA

On Friday 26 February our executive director and other Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex LGBTI leaders met the USA ambassador to Uganda, Natalie E Brown to discuss LGBT and intersex rights in Uganda. This brings more visibility and creates opportunities for LGBT persons in advancing advocacy and fighting for human rights for all.



FARUG Executive director and other directors with Natalie E Brown, the USA ambassador in Uganda

MEMPROW BOOTCAMP

Residential Bootcamp organized by The Mentoring and Empowerment Programme for Young Women-MEMPROW with the main objective of creating a youth peer-led SRHR advocacy group in women's movements. Topics discussed were women and young girl's health advocacy, Feminist leadership, and movement building.



Leah, our Administration officer participating during the boot camp

RESEARCH FINDINGS ON THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON LBQ WOMEN

Our Executive Director presented the research findings on the impact of Covid-19 on LBQ women in Uganda during the meeting organized by Network of African National Human Rights Institution- NANHRI



AWARENESS CREATION ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Human Rights Awareness and Promotion forum-HRAPF in partnership with Freedom and Roam Uganda-FARUG conducted an awareness session on Domestic Violence, Sexual Gender-Based Violence/SV/IPV, and coping mechanisms for victims of domestic violence. FARUG legal aid desk is always willing to serve members should they require information on redress as a victim of domestic violence. The numbers to reach us from are; 0757709096, Email; faruginfo@gmail.com



Members in full participation

ELECTION MONITORING OF WOMEN OBSERVERS IN WEST NILE REGION

Freedom and Roam Uganda together with the women’s situation room Uganda and women human rights defenders network Uganda carried out an election monitoring of the women observers in the West Nile regions of Arua and Koboko. The main objective was to ensure and find out the safety and wellbeing of the women election observers and also to appreciate the women of all diversities for the involvement in the electoral processes.



Leah, Our Administration officer participating in the election monitoring exercise

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HAPPINESS

March 20th is the international day of happiness. In 2013, the United Nation started celebrating the international day of happiness annually, in an effort to recognize the importance of happiness for people all over the world. The theme for the year is “happiness for all forever”, and to go alongside this, the UN wants to promote and inspire happiness as a fundamental human right and goal for all. Together we can take action to be happier and kinder.



OUR CLINIC MANAGER PARTICIPATED IN THE ZERO VIOLENCE TRAINING BY HRAFP

In the bid to fight domestic violence our clinic manager was trained on the ways of building and strengthening legal capacity to address and reduce violence and discrimination against women and girls (WAG) and LGBTI people across the commonwealth. This training was aimed at establishing zero violence. This was three days of training from 25-27th-march-2021.



CSMMUA MEMBERS RETREAT

CSMMUA retreat where member organisations reviewed their advocacy capacity assessment that was done in 2020. They also shared which work they have been up to and the key shifts that happen since the advocacy capacity assessment.



FARUG Programs Associates participating in the CSMMUA retreat.

CONSULTATIVE MEETING AT MAKERERE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

FARUG contributed to a consultative process organised by Makerere University School of public health on the legal, regulatory and policy environment for HIV prevention, care and treatment programs for key populations.

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FARUG MINI CLINIC

FARUG mini-clinic continues serving LBQ women with non-discriminatory health care services in a friendly and conducive environment.

Our clinic hotline; 0800100093 and WhatsApp:

0393-239-012

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.

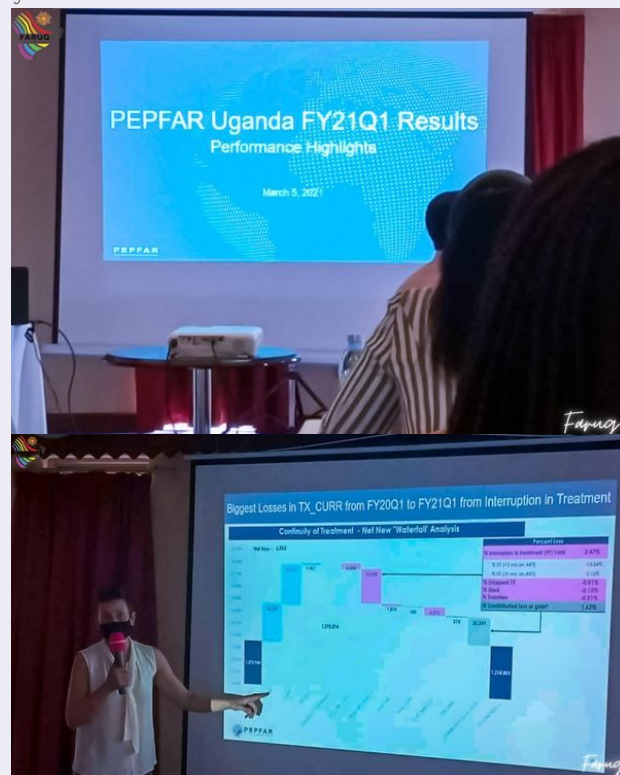


www.faruganda.org 0800100093|Faruginfo@gmail.com



CSO Pre-PEPFAR Oversight Response Team (POART)

performance review meeting in HIV response in Uganda for first quarter of the financial year 2021



CELEBRATING ZERO DISCRIMINATION DAY

On this zero-discrimination day, march 1st 2021 people joined Biggie in championing health and human rights for LGBTIQ communities in Uganda, her message is envisioned in the picture attached.

Ssenfuka Joanita Warry



"Leadership is different at different times; it depends on the people you are working with at any given time. I get excited to go to work every morning. The space where I work feels like a home away from home. We have built a good team and I am absolutely passionate about what I do. This inspires me and gives me strength."

Ssenfuka Joanita Warry is a human rights defender. She is the executive director of Freedom and Roam Uganda (FARUG), an organization that has been addressing discrimination against lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex people for close to two decades.

Warry also holds many other leadership positions, including her role as the chairperson of the LGBTI Catholic Club and as a board member of Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG), the largest network of LGBT organizations in the country. One of her most significant roles is as a committed activist on HIV and AIDS and related health issues affecting LBQ women, and creating opportunities for these women to be involved in national HIV planning and programming.

When asked about the impact that she has made, she says that it is difficult to separate her individual achievements from that of the organization she leads as well as that of the LGBTIQ community in Uganda. However, she reflects, "I have been involved in movement building, connecting different organizations to work together. That has led to the birth of many other organizations."

She is keen to highlight that there is still so much work to do, especially in reference to the rights of LBQ women, and is committed to breaking the cycle of victimization by educating more women about their rights.

"To celebrate this International Women's Day, I want to borrow a quote," she considers, "When women gather, good things happen."

"Finally," she thoughtfully concludes, "when I reflect on what has been happening during the COVID-19 pandemic, the majority of nurses and volunteers who have been feeding the underprivileged, are women. Collectively, women can change the world." This Zero Discrimination Day, March 1, join Warry in championing health and human rights for LGBTIQ communities in sub-Saharan Africa. [Learn about Partners in Pride](#) and the role you can play.

INCEPTION MEETING OF THE GENERATION PROGRAMME

One of our partners CEHURD introduced a new Generation Programme which is intended to out gender inequality in all forms. FARUG was honoured to be part of the inception meeting which detailed interactions of the programme and how to work together to achieve the objectives of the programme.



THE BYSTANDER EFFECT

Dialogue by MEMPROW whose main objective was to learn how to discourage or prevent violence especially sexual violence .e.g. being in a position to stop violence from happening in your presence. Participants learnt about what to do in case one is assaulted, how to collect evidence, how to report and how to follow up on victims of sexual violence.



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We appreciate the support given by Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa, Akina Maama wa Africa and WomanKind worldwide that made this event a success.



WEEKLY STAFF MEETINGS

As is custom, FARUG holds a weekly meeting for staff updates and feedback on our work and be able to evaluate ourselves in order to improve productivity.



STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING

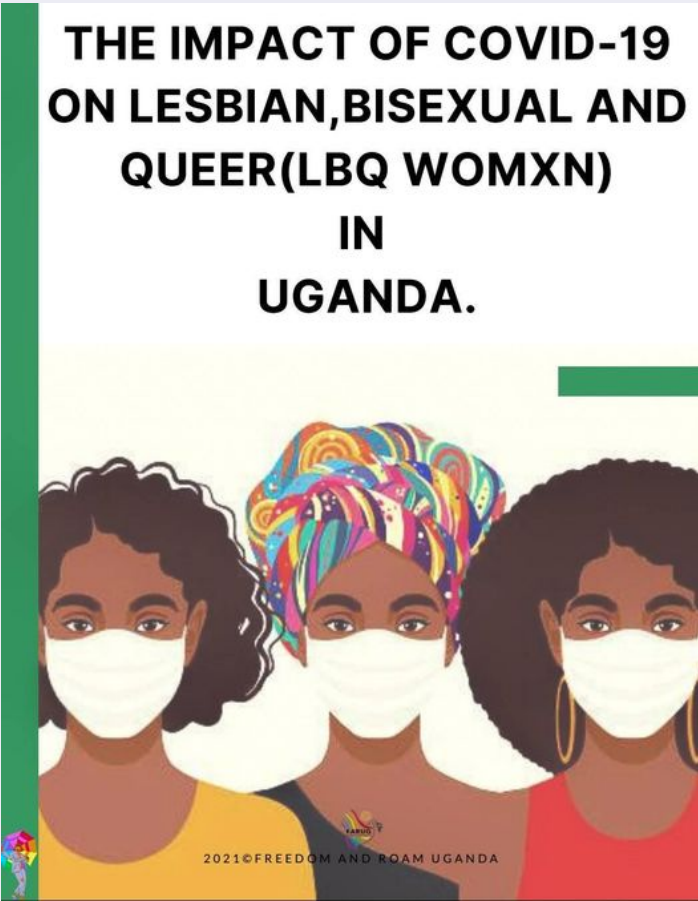
In the bid to continue serving our community efficiently, FARUG staff had a strategic planning meeting that was aimed at guiding the team on quality and organised response to LBQ women issues in Uganda. We were happy to be back in the office and fully ready to serve our communities



PUBLICATION ON THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND QUEER (LBQ WOMXN) IN UGANDA

The COVID-19 pandemic has left many people stranded, hopeless, jobless, and many devastating states. As Farug, our members shared how they have continued to thrive during and after the covid 19 outbreak.

Please visit our website for more stories on the impact of COVID-19 towards LBQ women, www.faruganda.org to download a free copy or you can click on the link below.
<https://faruganda.org/.../THE-IMPACT-OF-COVID-19-OF-LBQ>.



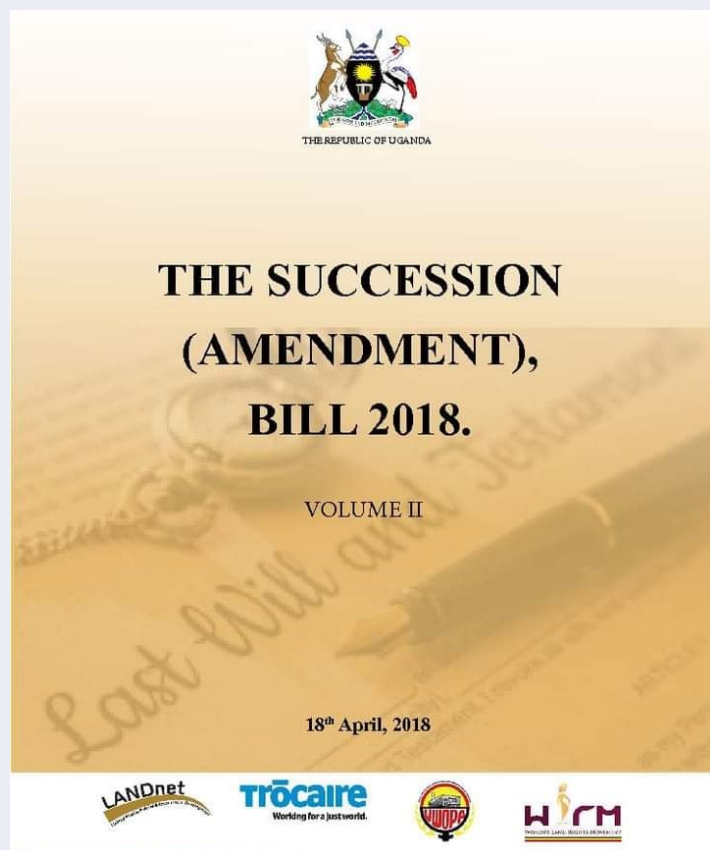
DATA AWARENESS AND DIGITALISATION WORKSHOP

A workshop hosted by Ice Breaker Uganda-IBU and Digital Human Rights Lab-DHRL. The main objective was to carry out a needs assessment as a way to develop and promote better digital data collection and storage practices, which goes a long way in aiding proper data collection among key populations in Uganda.



THE SUCCESSION AMENDMENT BILL

The parliament of Uganda passed the succession Amendment Bill 2018, a private member's bill that was moved by Hon. Rosette Mutambi in conjunction with @UWOPA. The bill currently awaits signing by the president of Uganda.



We continue to look forward to a world where being an LBQ womxn is normal

For questions or concerns:

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More info at:



FARUG2003



Far_Uganda



Far_Uganda



www.faruganda.org



"Break the chains"